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**BLACK ASPHALT TURNING RECYCLING GREEN ON STATE
HIGHWAYS**

CDOT Sets Pavement Recycling Record in 2009

DENVER, Colo., (January, 2010) – Associating “green” and “environmental sustainability” with highways and asphalt may seem to be a foreign concept. However, that is changing through new environmentally sensitive policies and construction practices that are resulting in record quantities of recycling and reusing of existing asphalt materials on Colorado’s highways.

The asphalt industry of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) have partnered to develop new paving standards that allow up to 25 percent of asphalt materials to be comprised of recycled material. The recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) materials are generated from milling the old surface of the roadway and using that material as part of pavement improvement projects. The result of the new standards was a record amount of 135,000 tons of RAP used on Colorado state highways in 2009. This represents a 70% increase from the 80,000 tons used in 2008.

“There is tremendous environmental benefit from using higher amounts of recycled asphalt pavement in our paving materials,” said Pam Hutton, chief engineer, Colorado Department of Transportation. “With the rising cost of construction materials and a greater emphasis on environmental sustainability and conservation of materials, it is important that we continue to capitalize on the many benefits recycled asphalt pavement provides.”

The recycled asphalt is generated from reclaimed pavement millings from roadways in the area and stockpiled at contractor facilities. The material is processed, screened and blended back with new material at contractor hot mix asphalt production plants.

“The quality control of the recycled asphalt material has improved greatly over the past few years and we feel confident that the new standards will ensure a high quality product,” stated Russ Otterstein, president, Premier Paving Inc., a Denver-based paving contractor. It is expected that the amount of recycling will continue to increase in the upcoming construction season and that local agencies will follow the practices as well.

“Asphalt pavements are 100 percent recyclable and the emphasis on environmental sustainability is a win-win for all involved – the contractor, the agencies, the tax payer and the environment,” stated Tom Peterson, executive director, Colorado Asphalt Pavement

Association. CAPA has coordinated the involvement of asphalt contractors and has been a long time advocate of more recycling. “Besides the cost benefit of recycling, the changes will save taxpayers by reducing the need for new materials and disposal cost,” Peterson added.

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The Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association (CAPA) is the statewide trade association representing the 7 million ton asphalt pavement industry of Colorado. Its mission is to advance the use and quality of asphalt pavements in Colorado. CAPA is the leading voice for the industry working with specifying and regulatory agencies throughout the state.