

## **Comments from 2020 Scholarship Program Attendees**

First off, I would like to thank CAPA for the scholarship to attend NCAT training course. The course was very well presented I was amazed of all the research projects that they do at NCAT's research lab.

I did not realize all the work that goes into creating a mix design that will perform up to our expectations. One of the things that I learned is that there can be a mix design created for your needs. When the instructors let the class have open discussion and you can listen and talk about how each state has different ways of doing things in the asphalt world. Overall, the class was well presented. I wish we would have been able to go on the track and see how the different sections were holding up. I liked the different rut tests that I had no idea any of them tests even existed. I now have the information to take back to the City and discuss how we can look at improving the streets in Commerce City beginning with maintenance, our mill and overlay program which needs improvement, and all the new paving we have going on in the new subdivisions. I can stress to the City Engineer the importance of doing maintenance before the streets are rated poor. I have a lot of information to take back to the City. Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to attend the NCAT training course.

**George Schenfeld, City of Commerce City Project Inspector**

The Asphalt Technology Course presented by NCAT was an in depth look into all aspects of the asphalt industry. The course addressed topics from theoretical development of mix designs to the study of common surface treatments. I was very impressed with the diverse background of the attendees, from myself on the agency side to material suppliers, and contractors from all over the country. I firmly believe everyone had multiple takeaways from the experience. I personally found the presentation on binders very informative. I took away a knowledge of why specific binders are utilized in different situations. I feel my mix design reviews going forward are no longer based solely on specifications, but I now have a knowledge of why a binder was selected and why in some case a variance from our specification is acceptable.

The sessions on preservation and surface treatments were also of great interest. As we all know from the local agency perspective the economical extension of our roadways useful life is of utmost importance. Any application that I can utilize to stretch the taxpayer's dollars is key. Of particular interest was the combination of surface treatments being tested on Lee County Road 159. Being able to physically walk the test sections and

observe the efficacy of different treatment combinations over an extended period was very interesting. I believe these sessions provided me with concepts I can directly apply in the future.

Finally, an unanticipated take away was the great opportunity to interact and get to know the other participants, especially the members of our Colorado Contingency. Whether during breaks, at lunch or dinner I feel the exchange of work-related information and just good old stories was very refreshing and valuable. The contacts I made at the Course will benefit me going forward equally as much as the knowledge gained. The NCAT Short Course was an amazing opportunity to be exposed to an

incredible amount of information. I would highly recommend the course to everyone in the asphalt industry.

**Richard Nickson, PE, City of Thornton, Pavement Management Engineer**

I would like to say thank you once again to CAPA and all involved for allowing awarding me the scholarship to go to the NCAT course in Auburn. After getting the experience to go and see a different side of the industry, all the hard work and dedication, that is put into something as simple as asphalt it is truly amazing. I now have a greater understanding and knowledge of my everyday work materials. The information I have gathered, and the networking with people is all what I was hoping to receive from this trip.

**Jeremy Clayton, City of Cherry Hills Village, Streets Crew Lead/Safety Officer**

I wanted to thank CAPA and NCAT for the opportunity I was given to increase my knowledge of Asphalt Pavement. After having attended this training in Auburn, it made me acutely aware of how little my knowledge base was when it came to asphalt pavement as well as preservation. During this class, I learned of all the different types of test that can be performed on all the different components of the asphalt mix, the different effects of different binders, how voids in the aggregate can change the properties of the mix as well as effects of the different binders in RAP/RAS. The depth of knowledge of all the instructors at the training facility was extremely impressive.

I was also very intrigued by the test track and how this can lead to greater advancements in pavement design. The test tracks ability to quantify the, durability, noise and ride quality of different designs as well as additives such as Ground Rubber Tires was enlightening.

I would highly recommend this course to any professional within the construction or engineering fields that deals with asphalt paving. Again, thanks to all that made this opportunity possible.

Thanks

[Jeff Hill, P.E., C.F.M.](#)

City Engineer, Federal Heights