

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD EARNED

The City of Eugene has earned a sustainability award for its innovative and pioneering paving practices. The Eugene Public Works Department received the 2009 Julian Prize for Sustainability for its use of warm mix asphalt concrete to repair streets. The award, which included a certificate for a tree to be planted in Eugene in recognition of the accomplishment, was presented at the fall conference of the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association in Grand Ronde.

Warm-mix asphalt concrete (WMAC) is a technology that intrigued City staff for its multiple benefits of reduced energy need to produce WMAC, reduced emissions, increased ability to use recycled materials, and enhanced pavement life. Working with the Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon and resources at the Texas Department of Transportation, staff developed a special specification for use of WMAC on City projects.

A pilot project was implemented on the paving of Roosevelt Boulevard last spring, and the results were so encouraging that staff expanded the option to use WMAC on most of this year's paving repair projects. Producers and contractors also saw great benefits in the use of WMAC, and chose to use WMAC on a total of 14 City paving projects, putting down a total of 55,000 tons of warm mix. Staff has calculated that this reduced greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 190 metric tons.

"Through research, cooperation with industry groups and a willingness to step outside of the box, the City of Eugene was able to work with local contractors and asphalt concrete producers to bring a new more sustainable paving product to market in the Eugene-Springfield area," says Matt Rodrigues, manager of the City's pavement preservation program. "And through the success of the WMAC implementation in Eugene, we have set the groundwork for expanded use of the product around the state."

Oct. 15, 2009