City of Thornton

Thornton Infrastructure Maintenance Center
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Infrastructure Department
Street Operations
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RE: 2018 National Center for Asphalt Technology – Asphalt Technology Course

Mr. Tom Clayton

The Asphalt Technology Course presented by NCAT was a wonderful in depth look at all aspects of asphalt. The level of detail each topic brought provided multiple "Ah Ha" moments regarding elements of the asphalt mix. From binders to aggregate, this class dove deep into the what, why, and how of everything asphalt. The multiple lab session showed how to test for compliance within the specifications, as well as the experimentation that goes into building the asphalt of tomorrow.
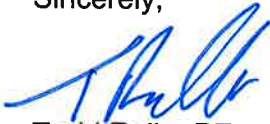
Different asphalt distresses where explained and what was causing those problems and where to start trouble shooting these problems. This was helpful from an agency standpoint, and showed that not distresses have the same cause. NCAT dove into perpetual pavement and how to achieve it, from a scientific direction with providing an approach is implementable and manageable. This perpetual concept is something I have strived to accomplish here at the city of Thornton. The advice given shed light on approach I had not thought of, and I cannot wait to try it here at the city. NCAT also provide an understandable approach to right pavement, right time, and right treatment for pavement management, working with your budget.

The applied techniques and best practices taught, gave me as a paving manager, great insight on how to improve our operation; from straighter cold joint seams, and segregation to compaction problems while rolling. The field trip to the asphalt plant was insightful and a great way to get hands on with materials I have not touched (RAP and RAS) in a ready to be added to the mix state.

The trip to the test track was extraordinary and I could have spent all week there. All of the data tracking and crack mapping had my engineering side all-abuzz. Then to have all of that data to tie back to a section of asphalt and determine why it failed. What impressed me the most is that given that collected data it could be determined when the pavement would fail again.

This class is the most in depth asphalt class I have even been to and highly recommend it to anyone associated in the industry.

Sincerely,

Todd Rullo, PE
Street Operations Manager