



## **SCAPA's Position during the COVID-19 Crisis**

### **Position Related to the Association**

- The safety and security of association members and our staff is our top priority.
- The association is closely monitoring and acting upon guidance from local, state and federal public health officials with regard to how best to protect the health, safety and security of its staff, vendors, stakeholders and the association interacts with.
- One of the primary missions of SCAPA is industry-specific communication and knowledge-sharing. This is never more important than during times of emergency.
- Much of the technology being utilized by the association during this time is very familiar to members and has been used for years to facilitate communication across a large state. The technologies include remote-work technology, cloud-based computing solutions, virtual meeting capability and other technology. The latest information security protocols and best practices are utilized.
- Another core mission of SCAPA is facilitating strong lines of communication between the asphalt pavement industry and public and private project owners. SCAPA has developed relationships with project owners over many years and will leverage these relationships to get useful information, quickly, to its members.
- Members can expect information from the association to be timely, accurate and presented in context so that member firms can use that information as they make their own business decisions.



## **Position Related to the Paving Industry**

- Safety is the No. 1 priority for the asphalt pavement industry.
- Asphalt roads form the backbone of the nation (and South Carolina's) vital infrastructure.
- Particularly in times of emergency, streets and highways are lifelines that facilitate the efficient movement of first-responders, essential goods and services to where they are needed most.
- The construction industry in general, and the asphalt pavement industry in particular, has a long and proud history of working in concert with emergency service personnel in times of crisis. During recent disasters, the industry has worked side-by-side with public agencies and first-responders during hurricanes, floods, winter storms, unrest and other emergencies to ensure that roads remain open and essential services are delivered unimpeded.
- As we have seen during natural disasters in South Carolina, asphalt is resilient, and can be repaired rapidly so that roads are returned to service promptly and the flow of essential goods and services continues unimpeded.
- The State must focus on making sure supply chains remain open, and that those who are providing those essential services can continue to do so.
- Closing down public works construction should NOT be done because it will add additional strains on our vital infrastructure.
- The asphalt pavement industry is well-versed in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other safety measures and best-practices to ensure safe workplaces for workers and others. The industry regularly communicates with local, state and federal occupational safety and health officials, as well as labor compliance entities and other regulators, when appropriate, to ensure that its operations are conducted in a safe and secure manner.



- One unique feature of the COVID-19 public health emergency is that large numbers of people are being asked to curtail activity that brings them in close contact with others, and in many cases “shelter in place” at home. This has reduced traffic congestion in urban areas, and has created an opportunity for paving crews to operate more efficiently. This could allow the industry to complete projects ahead of schedule and at a reduction of cost to the taxpayers.
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