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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 15, 2015

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IRI Explorer Eases Analysis of Pavement Smoothness

New Web-Based Tool Uses FHWA Pavement Smoothness Data to Compare Maintenance Options, Life-Cycle Assessment Impacts; Introductory Webinar Set for April 29

Smoother pavements are associated with improved fuel economy, reduced wear-and-tear on vehicles, greater driver comfort and satisfaction, and longer pavement life. With the new web-based tool IRI Explorer, road owners, pavement designers, academics, and other users can draw upon extensive pavement smoothness data to examine how different pavement treatments act over time in different environments.

Working with 20 years' worth of data from the Federal Highway Administration's Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) database of projects, IRI Explorer — www.iriexplorer.com — makes it easy to study different pavement sections, their history, and the International Roughness Index (IRI) data recorded for each pavement. Pavement sections can be compared based upon materials used, maintenance applied, climate or region, and other factors.

IRI Explorer also includes an Emissions Estimator life-cycle assessment tool that helps project potential greenhouse-gas emissions for a roadway during construction and maintenance, as well as the emissions associated with use. Annualized emissions data can be used to directly compare pavements with different life cycles and maintenance strategies.

To introduce IRI Explorer to users, a webinar highlighting the tool's capabilities will be hosted by the Asphalt Pavement Alliance on Apr. 29, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register for the webinar, visit www.AsphaltPavement.org/webinar.

"Life-cycle assessments are an important tool for gauging and quantifying sustainability," said Meagan Sylvia, Senior Environmental Manager for The Lane Construction Corp., who consulted on the development of the tool. "IRI Explorer lets pavement owners better forecast the environmental impact of different maintenance and pavement preservation strategies."

Beyond the LTPP data, agencies and road owners can have IRI data for their road networks added to the tool. This data can be made public or access can be restricted to chosen users.

IRI Explorer was developed by Life Cycle Solutions (LCS), based in Houghton, Mich. which provides data analysis and modeling services for sustainable management of civil infrastructure systems. LCS specializes in using existing data sources to find new and robust opportunities to improve environmental and organizational sustainability. The IRI Explorer was created with funding from the National Asphalt Pavement Association and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations.

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IRI Explorer (www.iriexplorer.com) is a free web-based tool for analyzing pavement roughness trends using the FHWA's Long Term Pavement Performance program data. The tool provides the ability to review pavement performance and benchmark life-cycle emission estimates associated with construction maintenance and use of the roadway.

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (www.driveasphalt.org) is a partnership of the Asphalt Institute, National Asphalt Pavement Association and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations.

The Asphalt Institute (www.asphaltinstitute.org) is the international trade association of petroleum asphalt producers, manufacturers and affiliated businesses. AI promotes the use, benefits and quality performance of petroleum asphalt, through engineering, research, marketing and educational activities.

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (www.asphaltpavement.org) represents the interests of U.S. asphalt producers/contractors before Congress, federal agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities.

The State Asphalt Pavement Associations (www.asphaltpavement.org/sapas) represent the interests of asphalt pavement producers and paving companies at the state and local level across the United States.