



MIKE POLAK, ARRA PRESIDENT

# A MESSAGE FROM THE ARRA: IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Recycling is more than environmentally sound — it saves money and traffic delays, too.

**D**uring the past 27 years of active research to improve techniques, equipment, and additive technology, the Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association and its members have created many very attractive pavement rehabilitation alternatives for asphalt pavement managers.

The recycling of asphalt pavements has progressed from an experimental technology to a practical and efficient science covering six disciplines: cold planing, hot recycling, hot in-place recycling, cold in-place recycling, full-depth reclamation, and soil stabilization. Together, these disciplines address just about every aspect of asphalt deterioration.

In addition to providing an environmentally accepted method of rehabilitation, asphalt recycling offers significant economical savings both in reduced cost of construction and in reduced user delays.

## EARLY YEARS

As with any emerging technology or process, the early years of the recycling and reclaiming disciplines have provided the field-tested guidelines for applications, techniques, and technologies for what is now a mature, established industry. *The Basic Asphalt Recycling Manual*, endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration in 2002, is a compilation of those guide-

day, pavement recycling technology cuts down on waste that might be added to landfills or stockpiled for future use. It protects the environment by reusing nonrenewable materials such as crude oil and aggregate. The technology provides cost savings not only to highway agencies but also to contractors doing the work. They use fewer virgin materials, resulting in a cost savings from fuel not used for trans-

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lines. This comprehensive, 270-page text guides pavement managers through a wide range of technologies designed to stem the deterioration of our infrastructure in a cost-effective, time-efficient manner.

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portation and manufacturing of those materials; this, in turn, conserves natural resources and reduces emissions.

These virtues were cited by the Federal Highway Administration when it issued its Recycled Materials Policy in February, 2002. After pointing out the vast size and advancing age of the U.S. highway system, the FHWA said, "Recy-



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cling and reuse can offer engineering, economic, and environmental benefits. Recycling materials should get first consideration in material selection. Determination of the use of recycled materials should include an initial review of engineering and environmental suitability. An assessment of economic benefits should follow in the selection process. Restrictions that prohibit the use of recycled materials without technical basis should be removed from specifications.”

The FHWA message was not a mandate to recycle, but it underscores what we all know about recycling: it is logical and makes good common sense. Both asphalt and aggregate are nonrenewable re-

sources and, while asphalt deteriorates with age, any aged asphalt pavement can be restored to its original or near-original consistency.

### **ON THE ROAD**

In the pages that follow, the versatility and economy of recycling and reclaiming are illustrated in real-world applications by real-world pavement managers and contractors. These profiles demonstrate that recycling is cheaper, faster, easier, and less disruptive than conventional methods of reconstructing asphalt-based roadways. The cost savings over conventional reconstruction methods can be large and they allow local, state, and federal agencies to

reconstruct more roadways each year.

As highways continue to break down under the stress of age and higher traffic counts, asphalt recycling remains the best method of reconstruction. The members of the Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association invite you to review the educational materials on our Web site, [www.arra.org](http://www.arra.org), or to contact us for more information about the techniques, technologies, and applications of today's asphalt recycling and reclaiming industry. ♦

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