

City of Wisconsin Rapids Wins Innovation Award from Asphalt Industry

December 5, 2025

An innovative solution can help to increase pavement smoothness and safety for all road users

Madison – The Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association (WAPA) awarded the City of Wisconsin Rapids with the 2025 Local Asphalt Award, for its work to advance innovation in asphalt pavements. The City was recognized at a ceremony on December 2 during WAPA's 66th Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The City of Wisconsin Rapids owns approximately 150 miles of local roads, and maintains an additional 30 miles of state connecting highways. Unlike other Wisconsin communities, the City has its own highly skilled construction and maintenance staff. Using an innovative technique, the city's 39-member crew has begun raising manholes after paving is completed, providing the traveling public with better ride quality and increased safety.

"Through its willingness to innovate, the city has demonstrated its commitment to creating smooth and safe asphalt roads," said Deb Schwerman, WAPA Executive Director. "The city's efforts have greatly improved its infrastructure and have enhanced the quality of life for its residents."

Paul Vollert, Public Works Superintendent, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Wisconsin Rapids.

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"Asphalt. Wisconsin rides on us." Established in 1948, WAPA is a statewide, non-profit organization representing the interests of the asphalt industry on a wide range of issues related to pavement design, construction, maintenance, specifications, costs, marketing, and policy at the local, state, and federal levels. WAPA's mission is to promote quality asphalt pavements that are safe, sustainable, durable, and cost-effective.

For more information, please visit www.wispave.org or contact Deb at deb@wispave.org.