

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association
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CALENDAR

(Always on-line [HERE](#))

[SIGN-UP NOW!](#)

Southern California Paving Contractor Gourmet Food & Wine-Tasting Event

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula

Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044

Details [HERE](#).

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Greetings!

This weekly bulletin contains the latest news and information of interest to the asphalt pavement industry in California. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested in asphalt pavements.

→ 'Complete streets' bill picks up opposition heading into last week of Legislative session

Legislation long opposed by CalAPA, a so-called "complete streets" bill that seemingly repairs everything except roads, is picking up opposition heading into the final week of the Legislative session.

SB127, authored by state Sen. Scott Weiner, D-San Francisco, creates a mandate for Caltrans to include pedestrian, bicycle and other "active transportation" enhancements in projects funded out of the department's maintenance program. A Caltrans analysis of the bill has found the cost to the state if SB127 passes to be in the many millions, if not tens of millions of dollars.

CalAPA was one of the early opponents of the bill, and the association's opposition letter is quoted in the Legislature's floor analysis of the bill. The bill has passed the state Senate and is awaiting final approval in the Assembly. The author has taken CalAPA to task in media reports for its opposition.



"Your bill, aimed at the 'complete streets' concept of multimodal design, has merit and in fact is already the stated policy goal of Caltrans, and the department continues to make great strides in this area," the CalAPA opposition letter to Wiener states. "However, as written, your bill is overly restrictive and may hamper the ability of engineers to make prudent decisions on safety improvements on the state highway system. In short, in this matter we believe engineering decisions are best made by registered professional engineers and technical experts, validated by independent research and field-tested, rather than accomplished through Legislation."

The association also has expressed concern that the bill runs counter to the intent of SB1, the "Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017," which was passed by the Legislature and later the subject of two ballot measures in 2018 to protect SB1 funds. Voters have been promised that raising state fuel taxes will be used to fix crumbling pavement and substandard bridges across the state. SB1 generates about \$5 billion per year for state and local transportation improvements.

An Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis notes that the ultimate cost of the bill is unknown, but "presumably (a) significant amount, likely in the range of millions of dollars to tens of millions of dollars annually."

"The bill makes no additional funding available for capital improvement projects and, despite recent increases in transportation funding made available by the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, demand for capital improvement dollars outstrips supply," the analysis states.

REGISTRATION OPEN!

CalAPA Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m. shotgun start

Temecula Creek Inn Golf Resort, 44501 Rainbow Canyon Road, Temecula.
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044
Sign-up [HERE](#).

*

SAVE THE DATES!

Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference, Wednesday & Thursday, Nov. 6-7

Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St., Sacramento

Contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044 for sponsorship and exhibitor information.

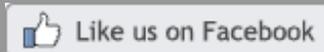
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SAVE THE DATE!

CalAPA Annual Dinner Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jonathan Club, 545 S.

Figuroa Street, Los Angeles. Contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044 for sponsorship and table-reservation information.

SOCIALIZE



CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 93 percent of paved roads in California and across the U.S. Why? Because it's smooth,

Numerous SB1 coalition partners that lobbied for the original bill in the Legislature, and fought against repeal efforts last year, stepped up efforts last week to make their opposition known. The final day of the legislative session is Friday. Bicycle advocates, meanwhile, have issued a call to their members to contact their member of the Assembly urging a "yes" vote on SB127.



"It's almost across the finish line, but we'll need your help to put pressure on your elected officials," an alert from the California Bicycle Coalition stated.

Information on SB127, including bill text, vote tallies and analyses, can be found [HERE](#). For tools to contact your local member of the Assembly, click [HERE](#).



CalAPA advocate Jeff Sievers (left) and PAC Chairman Brian Handshoe with Kenco Engineering (right) engage this week with Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian and Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguilar-Curry.

→ Tennessee transportation executive named new director of Caltrans

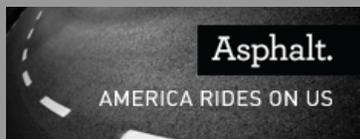
Gov. Gavin Newsom last week named a transportation executive from Tennessee to take over the helm as director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Adetokunbo "Toks" Omishakin, 43, has been deputy commissioner for environment and planning at the Tennessee Department of Transportation since 2011. His role also oversees transit programs for TennDOT.

Previously he was director of Healthy Living Initiatives in the Nashville's Mayor's Office, from 2008 to 2011.

Newsom also announced that James Davis, 54, of Davis, will serve as chief

quiet, safe, durable and 100 percent recyclable. Visit the [Asphalt Pavement Alliance](#) website learn more about why asphalt is the right choice now more than ever.



GET TECHNICAL

Are you an engineer, designer or technical professional who makes decisions on pavement type selection? The DriveAsphalt website has technical reports and other resources may be just what you're looking for. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



CalAPA

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BACK ISSUES

Did you miss an issue of the *California Asphalt Insider*? No problem! Past editions of the newsletter are available at the CalAPA newsletter [archive page](#).

MAGAZINE

deputy director for Caltrans. He has been special advisor to the director where, among other duties, he was overseeing the department's SB1 implementation. His official biography is [HERE](#).



**Adetokunbo "Toks"
Omishakin**

Omishakin becomes the 10th Caltrans director in 10 years and will oversee a massively complex government agency of more than 20,000 employees and a \$15 billion budget. The department has been on a hiring spree since the passage of SB1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, which has generated more than \$5 billion year for transportation improvements paid for by tax hikes on gasoline, diesel and vehicle registrations. Among Caltrans' responsibilities is maintenance of a 50,000 mile system of freeways and highways across the state.

"We look forward to working collaboratively with Toks Omishakin to improve transportation in California," said CalAPA Chairman Jordan Reed with George Reed Inc. "Tennessee, like California, recently enacted a gas-tax increase to support fixing roads and bridges, so he will be familiar with the challenge of converting tax dollars to road improvements quickly and efficiently in a manner that is most conspicuous to the traveling public. Also, his background in goods-movement will be valuable given California's prominent role as the gateway to the Pacific Rim."

In 2017, the Tennessee Legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, the "IMPROVE Act," which is an acronym for "Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy Act, meant to help pay for the state's \$10 billion backlog in road repairs. The legislation is estimated to provide \$250 million to the state Department of Transportation, \$70 million to counties and \$35 million to cities, according to news reports.

Omishakin is described by those who have worked with him as approachable and a good listener.

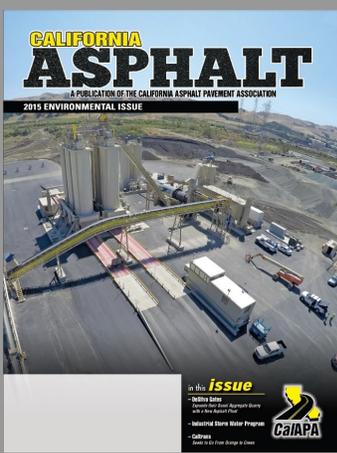
"The Tennessee Road Builders Association worked closely with Toks Omishakin during his tenure at the Tennessee Department of Transportation," Kent D. Starwalt, executive vice president of the association, told the *California Asphalt Insider*. "We have always found him to be bright, personable and always willing to listen to our concerns."

The appointment of Omishakin is subject to state Senate confirmation. The official announcement by the Governor's Office is [HERE](#). His official TennDOT bio is [HERE](#). A StreetsBlog California story about the appointment is [HERE](#). A YouTube video interview with him conducted by a ride-sharing program can be viewed [HERE](#).

➔ Free NAPA 'webinar' on work-zone safety to take place Sept. 10

The National Asphalt Pavement Association, a CalAPA partner, will hold a free "webinar" on Tuesday titled, "Work Aone Safety: Traffic Control Plans and Intrusion Prevention." Details on how to participate in the webinar can be found [HERE](#).

Road construction work zones are inherently dangerous places. Occupational injuries and fatalities within a work zone often occur from two causes: internal construction vehicle traffic or external third-party vehicular intrusions. The webinar will cover best practices



associated with keeping safe in the work zone. Training will include review of NAPA's online internal traffic control training modules and is targeted toward equipment operators, truck drivers, and ground laborers involved with all aspects of road construction.



The webinar is scheduled to take place Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. PDT.

For more information on this and other NAPA webinars, click [HERE](#). A compelling, NAPA-produced public service video on work-zone safety can be found [HERE](#).

CalAPA produces a highly regarded magazine, *California Asphalt*, and an annual membership directory. To view current and past issues of the magazine, click [HERE](#). For advertising sales information, click [HERE](#) or call Kerry Hoover with Construction Marketing Services at (909) 772-3121.

STAY INFORMED



Click [HERE](#) to receive *California Asphalt Insider* each week via e-mail FREE! Or visit our website at: www.calapa.net

GET CERTIFIED!



The Caltrans-industry Joint Training & Certification Program (JTCP) for materials technicians is holding classes in Northern and Southern California. Click [HERE](#) to visit our JTCP resource page to learn more.

→ Asphalt blog for Western states launched

A collaborative effort of the state asphalt pavement associations in the Western United States, the "Smooth Ride Sentinel" blog features articles from around the region that may be of interest to the industry and public works officials. You can view it [HERE](#).

A recent contribution from California spotlights the recent earthquake recovery work that was conducted in Southern California and was a collaboration of Caltrans and CalAPA-member Sully-Miller.



To submit story ideas contact Jon Young, executive director of the Hawaii Asphalt Paving Industry, editor of the blog, at (808) 847-4274 or via e-mail at: [jon\(at\)hawaiiasphalt\(dot\)org](mailto:jon(at)hawaiiasphalt(dot)org).

Editor's Note: The "@" symbol has been replaced by "(at)" and the period (.) character has been replaced by "(dot)" in the e-mail address above to deter e-mail spam bots.

→ Tech Term of the Week

Each week we highlight a word, acronym or other reference commonly used in the asphalt pavement industry in California.

DENSITY: 1. The degree of consolidation or compactness. 2. The ratio of weight to volume of a substance.

→ Paving Pointer of the Week

Each week we highlight a key point or best practice of interest to asphalt paving crews, inspectors and others working in the field. We welcome suggestions. More tips can be found in our Asphalt Parking Lot Construction Checklist [HERE](#).

PROJECT REVIEW: Every paving project should start with a detailed review of the project's contract, plans, and specifications. Any questions arising from this review should be directed to the design firm's engineers.

→ Quote of the Week

"Dragging your feet is no way to climb a mountain."

DESIGN!

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We can bring CalAPA's popular training classes to your facility at a date and time convenient to you! Click [HERE](#) to view our "hosted" training class flier, or contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044 for details. This service is available to public agencies and CalAPA members only.



Kristy Finstad

We hope you enjoy CalAPA's *Asphalt Insider*. We are committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information on technical issues, regulation, news, analysis, events and trends in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE
Executive Director
California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)®

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Learn more [HERE](#).

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