



August 28, 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

The Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) has received the report of the *Quality of Asphalt Review (the Review)*, a copy of which is enclosed.

The *Review*, commissioned by ORBA as an independent study, involved an extensive survey of owners and industry participants, cross-jurisdictional policy and academia and was managed by KPMG as an independent advisor; the technical analysis was conducted by the renowned and internationally-recognized Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI); a survey of owner and industry perceptions and non-technical elements was conducted by Global Public Affairs.

ORBA and the Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council (OAPC) are committed to continuous improvement in all aspects of the road building industry. In 2017, we commissioned the *Review*, the largest study of its kind undertaken by ORBA. Continuously improving the quality of asphalt pavements is a longstanding objective of the OAPC, formerly the Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association (OHMPA), which created the Quality of Asphalt Pavement Task Force in 2015 and subsequently led to the formation of the Quality of Asphalt Steering Committee. This extensive effort culminated in the current *Review*.

The recommendations resulting from the *Review* encompass technical and non-technical aspects of asphalt use, with the technical emphasis focused on strengthening specifications and conducting further research into increasing the content and quality of asphalt cement, proper use of tack coats, and improving materials and pavement design components. The non-technical recommendations highlight the importance of communication, with all parties moving forward in open consultation. The *Review* recognizes that owners, contractors, and academia play an important role, working together to continuously improve the safety and quality of Ontario's roads and delivering value during construction and maintenance through the use of evidence-based best practices.

With over 180,000 kilometres of municipal roads and provincial highways, Ontario has one of the largest road infrastructure networks of any subnational jurisdiction in the world. Many jurisdictions have experienced pavement issues and Ontario is no exception. With the *Quality of Asphalt Review* now complete and encompassing recommendations in seven broad categories, this roadmap provides an opportunity for key stakeholders to work together to continuously improve the quality of asphalt roads in Ontario. With this goal in mind, ORBA looks forward to working with public owners, contractors, academia and partner associations in facilitated workshops anticipated this fall.

Formed in 1927, the Ontario Road Builder's Association is proud to represent the road building sector in Ontario. Our members build virtually all of the provincial and municipal roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure across the province. The road building sector directly employs



in excess of 30,000 workers at peak season and impacts all Ontarians. The recent amalgamation of OHMPA with ORBA has further strengthened our Association's voice on behalf of the road building industry.

We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you have about ORBA or the *Quality of Asphalt Review*. Please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Hurd, Director, Policy and Stakeholder Relations, ORBA at [andrew@orba.org](mailto:andrew@orba.org) or 905-507-1107, ext. 223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Smith", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steve Smith, P.Eng.  
Chair  
ORBA Quality of Asphalt Steering Committee