



July 30, 2026

Awards Committee
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
Auburn University

Dear Members of the Awards Committee:

On behalf of the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA), I am pleased to offer our strongest support for the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) for the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering's Center of Excellence Award. Since NAPA partnered with Auburn University to establish NCAT in 1986, the center has become a sustained, nationally respected model for university-industry collaboration—delivering practical research, technical guidance, and implementation support that have elevated Auburn's leadership and advanced the performance, sustainability, and competitiveness of asphalt pavement infrastructure.

NCAT's research excellence is evident in its pioneering work in asphalt recycling, structural pavement design, asphalt mixture performance evaluation, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with pavement construction. The quality of its publications and the real-world impact of its findings have earned NCAT recognition as a global authority in asphalt technology. The NCAT Test Track remains a one-of-a-kind proving ground for evaluating long-term pavement performance under live traffic, accelerating implementation of research findings into practice.

Equally impressive is NCAT's commitment to external engagement. From technical reports and webinars to hands-on training and conferences, NCAT leads the way in translating complex research into practical tools and solutions. The Center's ability to collaborate across sectors—with state DOTs, FHWA, and contractors—sets a national standard for industry engagement.

NCAT's sustained growth over nearly four decades demonstrates the durability, relevance, and practical value of its work. Its ability to align university research with the needs of public agencies and industry makes it a clear example of the sustained, high-impact excellence the Center of Excellence Award is intended to recognize, and NAPA is proud to offer its full support for this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey Copeland".

Audrey Copeland, Ph.D., P.E.
President & CEO