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Coffee County Receives ADEM Grant to Utilize Recycled Scrap Tires in Road Resurfacing Project

Coffee County has received a Scrap Tire Marketing grant award from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. This award will provide approximately \$288,791 in grant funds to support the use of recycled scrap tires in Rubber Modified Asphalt. Rubber Modified Asphalt helps to divert scrap tires away from the landfills and brings them to a beneficial end use.

According to the Asphalt Rubber Technology Service of Clemson University, approximately 400 to 970 scrap tires can be beneficially used per lane-mile of pavement, depending on which grade is used. The funds will be utilized in the resurfacing of a portion of Coffee County Road 110 utilizing Rubber Modified Asphalt in lieu of traditional asphalt. The resurfacing will extend for approximately two miles. The two miles of resurfacing will utilize a “Balance Mix” design with a Recycled Rubber Additive. It will be evaluated and compared to the approximately five miles of traditional asphalt resurfacing, also on Coffee County Road 110, utilizing the Alabama Department of Transportation’s current “Superpave Mix.”

The National Center for Asphalt Technology has partnered with the Coffee County Commission, and the Center will provide the training, mix design services, and evaluate the performance of the rubber modified mixture. They will also evaluate and report on the performance of the sections.

Alabama generates more than five million scrap tires each year and another four million are imported into Alabama annually for disposal. ADEM is working to enhance the recycling rate of these scrap tires and reduce the number of tires that are sent to landfills. This effort not only conserves landfill space and extends the life of existing landfills but also conserves natural resources and provides economic benefits by enhancing the use of recycled materials.

The Department's efforts to enhance the recycling of scrap tires are supported through Alabama's Scrap Tire Fund, which is funded by a \$1 per tire fee that is charged for each new, used, or retreaded tire sold in Alabama.

"This project is just another example of ADEM utilizing its resources to provide environmental benefits and economic benefits for Alabamians," said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. "I appreciate the Coffee County Commission's willingness to use Rubber Modified Asphalt, which shows one of the many beneficial uses of scrap tires."

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