

AI in Asphalt Technology - An Introductory Workshop

Dates: Monday August 24 - Wednesday August 26, 2026 (2.5 day workshop)

Format: Virtual

Instructor: Dr. Raj Dongre; Organized by Western Research Institute

Instructor BIO



Dr. Raj Dongre, Ph.D. is a nationally recognized asphalt materials expert with more than 30 years of experience in asphalt binder and mixture research, performance testing, specifications, and implementation. He has served as a consultant to the Federal Highway Administration since 1994 and has made major contributions to Superpave binder and mixture specifications, performance-based testing, and asphalt materials innovation. He is an inventor of the Asphalt Binder Quality Test (ABQT), a field-deployable, machine-learning-enhanced test for rapid prediction of Performance Grade, and has also developed other widely recognized asphalt technologies and test methods. His background includes more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, leadership in ASTM asphalt binder rheology activities, and extensive national and international technical service.

In addition to his asphalt industry expertise, Dr. Dongre has completed advanced training in Generative AI, Generative AI for Natural Language Processing, and MIT IDSS coursework in Data Science, and he is currently completing an Agentic AI course through Johns Hopkins University. This combination of domain knowledge and AI training uniquely positions him to help asphalt professionals understand AI in practical, industry-relevant terms. His workshop bridges the gap between emerging AI tools and real asphalt industry needs, giving participants confidence that they are learning from an instructor who understands both the technology and the field where it will be applied.