

# Thin Lift Asphalt Overlays: *Project Selection, Design, and Construction*

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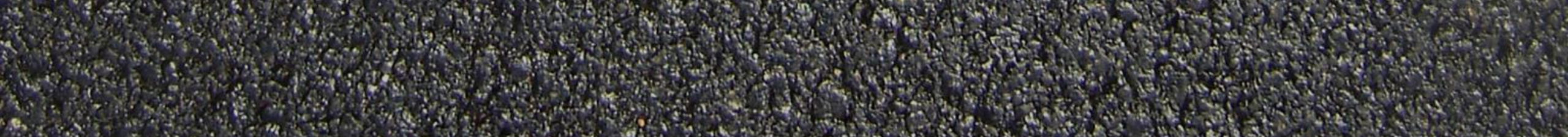


**This presentation was developed  
with support from the  
Federal Highway Administration**

# Outline

- Introduction
- Project Selection
- Thin Lift Asphalt Design
- Moisture Considerations
- Surface Preparation
- Construction
- Testing and QA
- Case Studies
- Conclusions

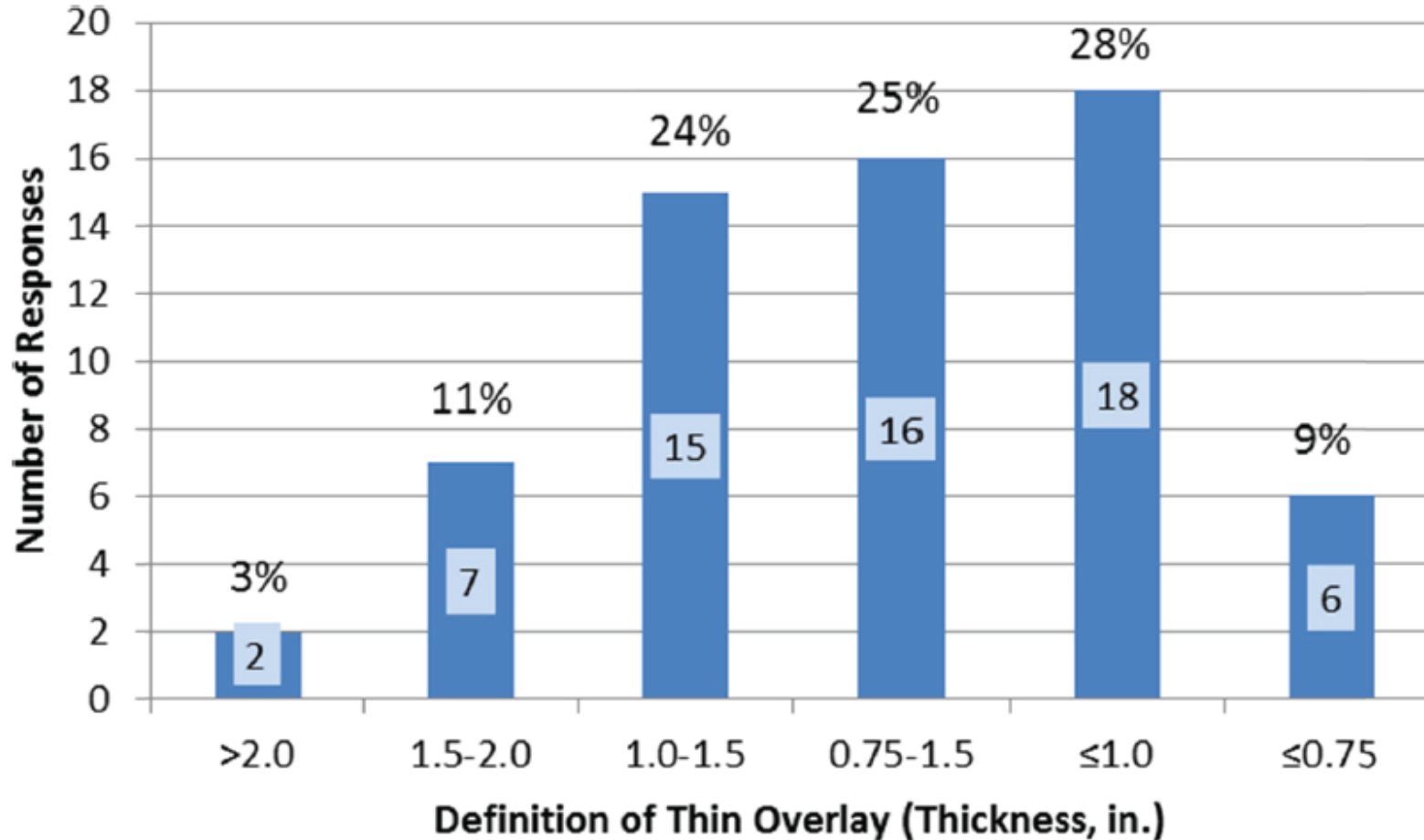




# Introduction

INTRODUCTION

# How is “thin lift” asphalt defined?

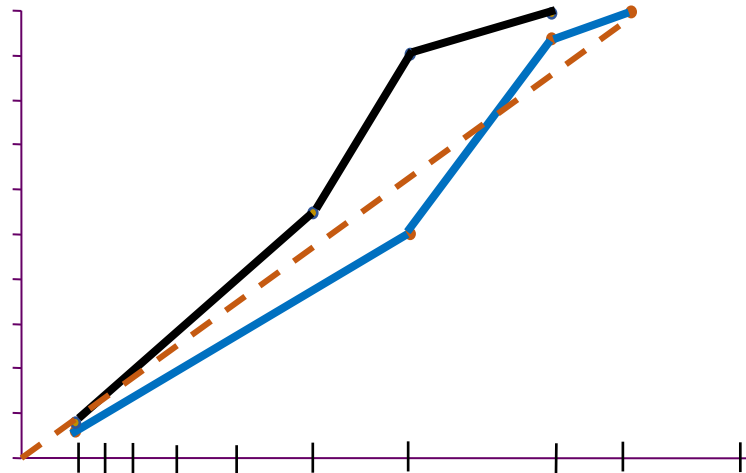
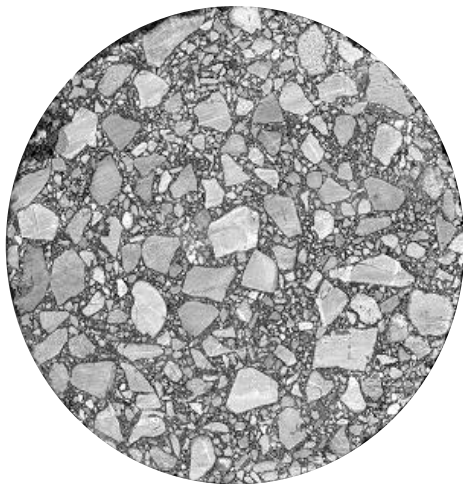


State survey responses - **NCHRP Synthesis 464: Thin Asphalt Concrete Overlays**

# Thin Lift Mix Types

***Dense-Graded*** : has a well-distributed aggregate gradation throughout the entire range of sieves used.

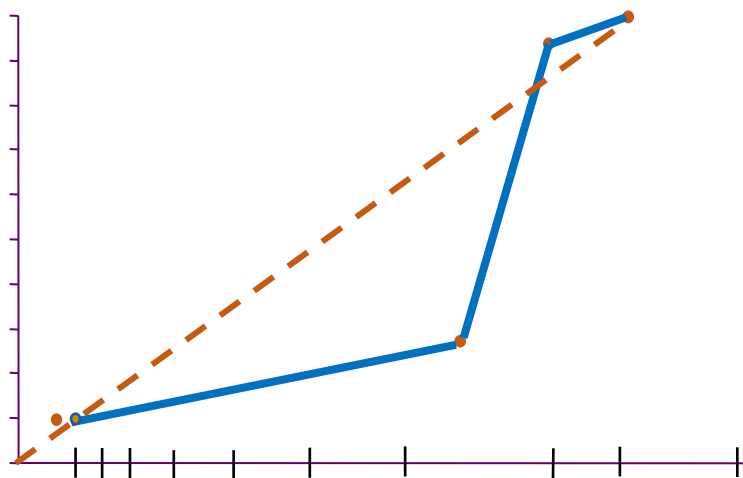
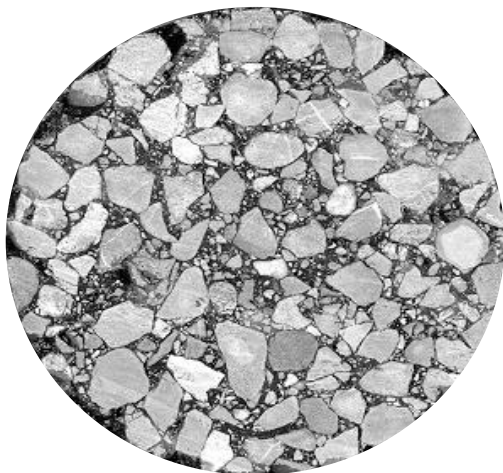
- It is by far the most commonly-specified type of mix for all lifts within a pavement structure, including thin surface lifts.



# Thin Lift Mix Types

**Gap-Graded** : has a high coarse-aggregate content (typically 70 - 80%), a high binder content (typically > 6%), and a high mineral filler content (typically > 8%), but few intermediate-sized particles.

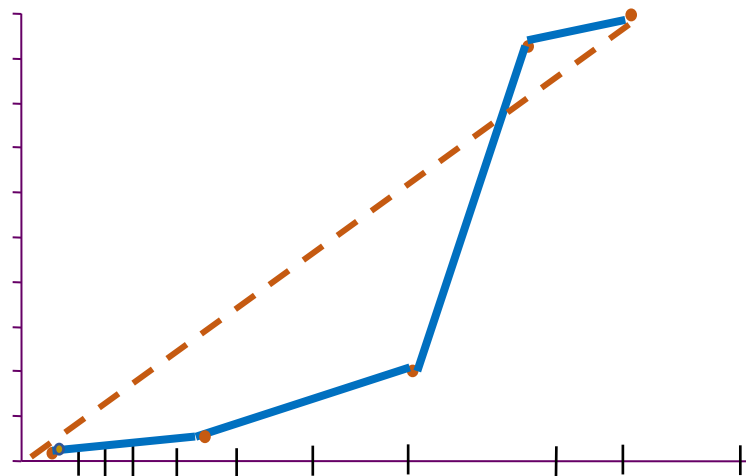
- The high binder and filler content make it durable and the stone-on-stone contact makes it rut resistant.



# Mix Design - Dense-Graded Mixes

**Open-Graded** : are designed to have a high percentage of air voids (typically 18-22%) by using uniformly-graded aggregates with minimal fines.

- These mixes drain readily to reduce surface spray and glare for enhanced safety and also reduce road noise.





# How is “thin lift” asphalt used?



# Benefits of Thin Asphalt Overlays (Dense-Graded and Gap-Graded Mixtures)

- Long service life, low life-cycle cost
- Can handle heavy traffic
- Can be constructed quickly, minimizing traffic delays
- Protects existing pavement
- Seals the surface
- Reduces rate of pavement deterioration
- Corrects surface deficiencies
- Restores skid resistance
- Can be recycled
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Safe
- Quiet
- Smooth
- *Looks and feels new to the traveling public*



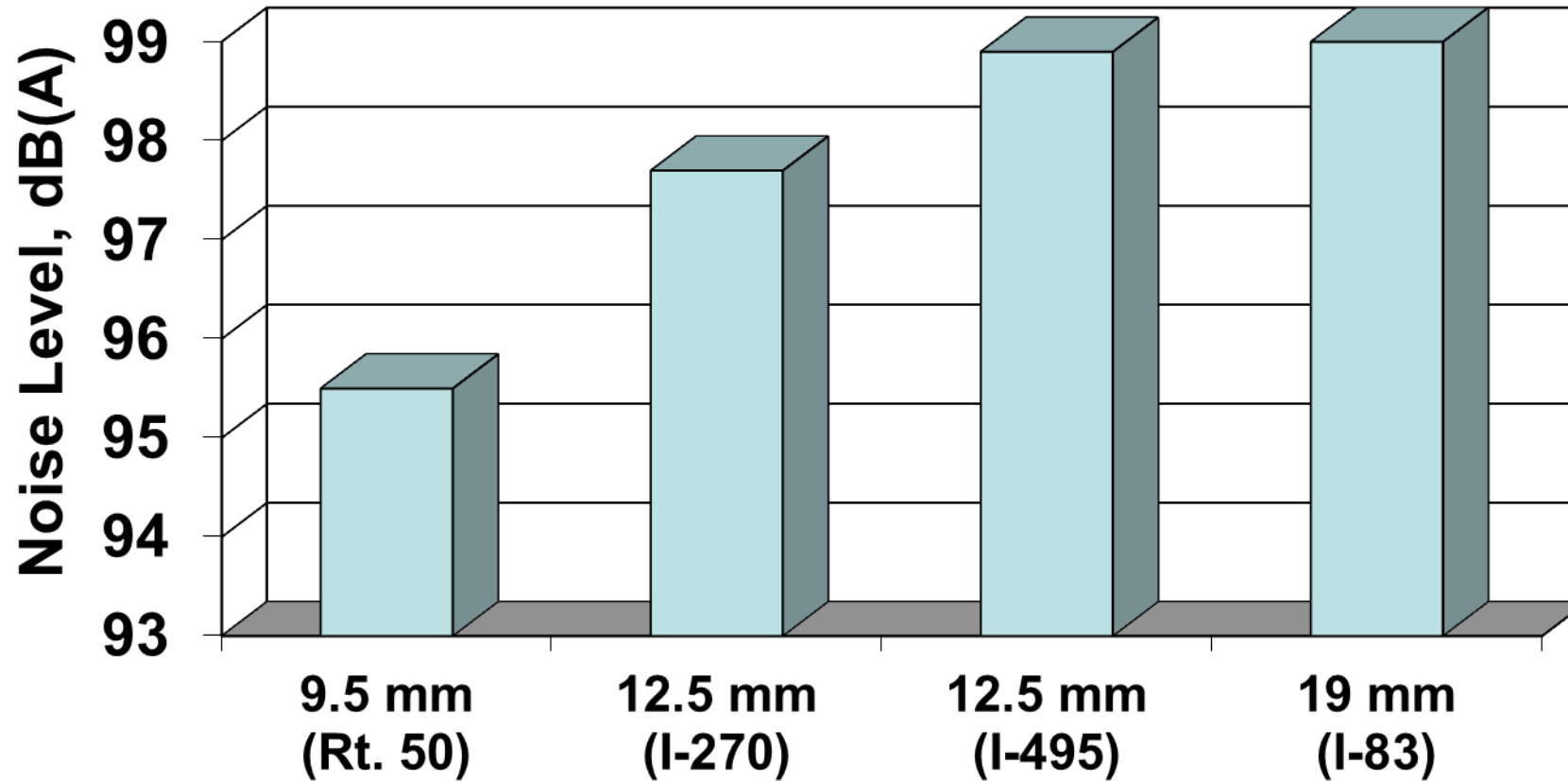
# Benefits of Thin Asphalt Overlays (Open-Graded Mixtures)

- Reduces road spray in wet weather
- Reduces nighttime glare in wet weather
- Reduces potential for hydroplaning
- Can handle heavy traffic
- Can be constructed quickly, minimizing traffic delays
- Restores skid resistance
- Can be recycled
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Safe
- Quiet
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- *Looks and feels new to the traveling public*



# Noise Reduction

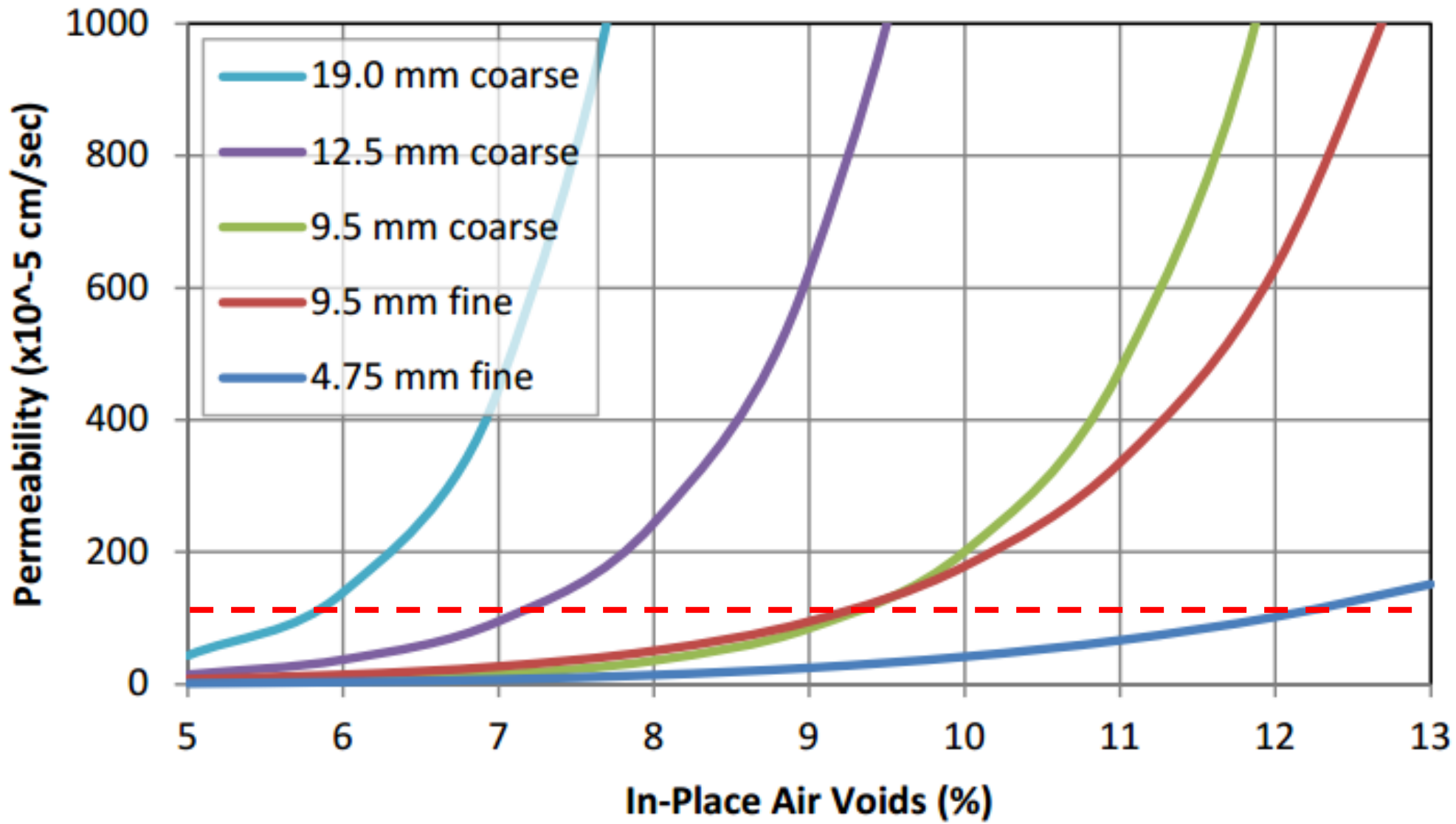
## NCAT Noise Trailer on SMA Mixtures



NCAT - Hanson, James and NeSmith 2002

← Smaller Aggregate = Less Noise

# Permeability - Dense Graded Mixtures



NCAT - Brown and Heitzman 2013

# Permeability - Dense Graded Mixtures

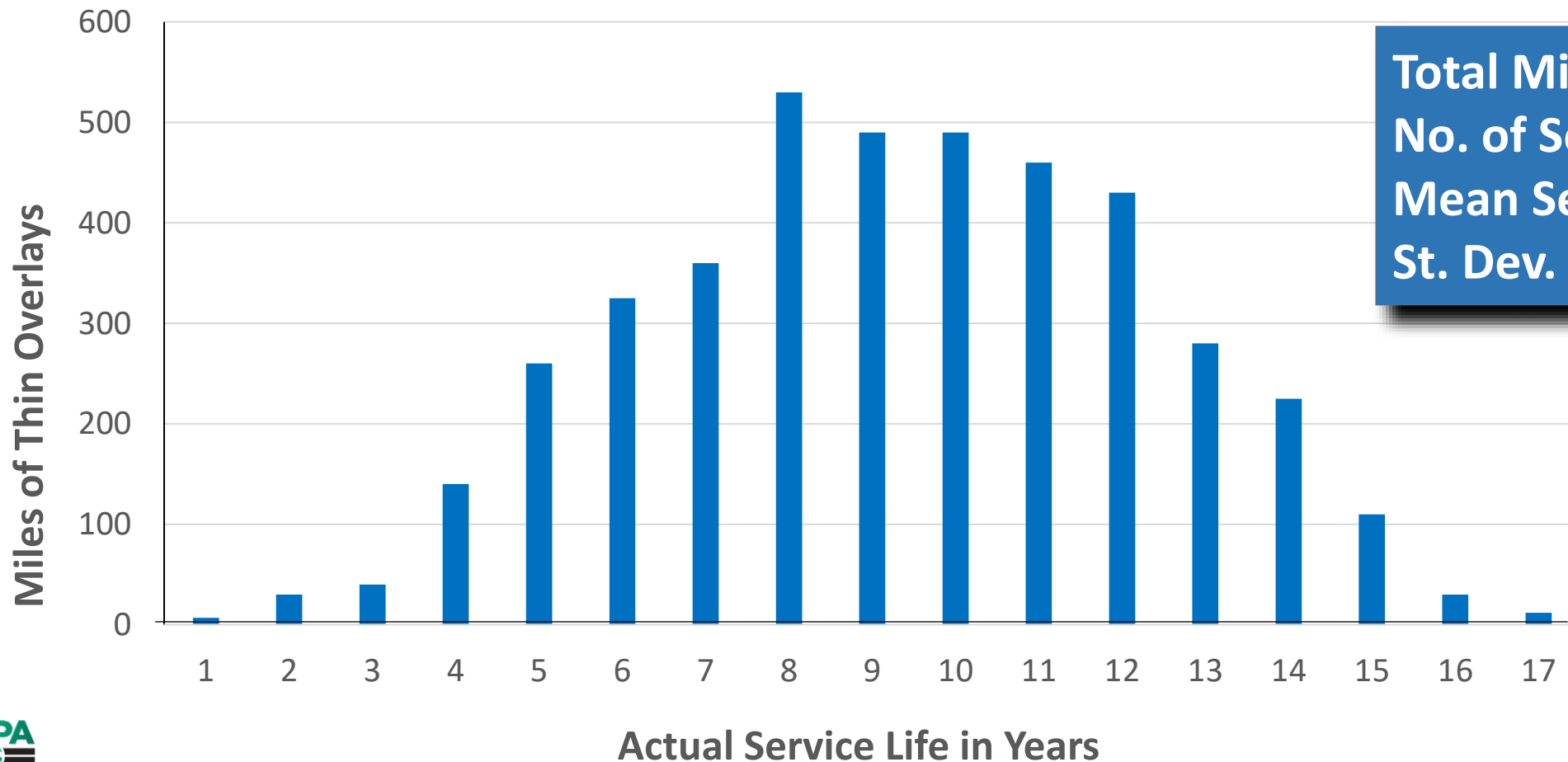


*Permeability in a coarse  
dense-graded 12.5mm  
Superpave surface mix.*

# Expected Longevity

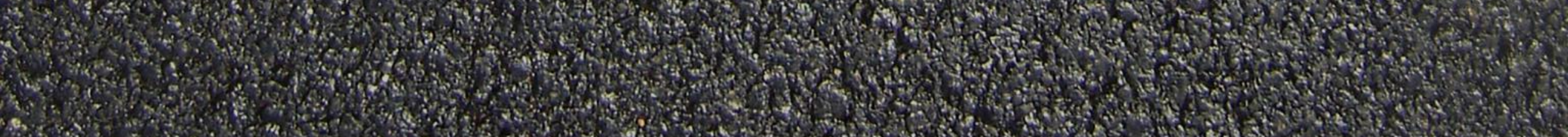


## Service Life of Dense-Graded Thin Asphalt Overlays in Ohio



**Total Miles = 4075**  
**No. of Sections = 1923**  
**Mean Service Life = 9.1 yrs**  
**St. Dev. = 3.0 yrs**

**FHWA/OH-2008/4**  
**Effectiveness of Thin**  
**Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay**  
**on Pavement Ride and**  
**Condition Performance**  
*Chou, Datta, Pulugurta*



# Project Selection for Thin Lifts



# Project Selection - Thin Asphalt Overlays



# Versatile - Materials and Mix Types for All Roads



IR 675 Montgomery  
County – Ohio  
*Smoothseal, Type B*

# Components of a Basic Evaluation

- Visual Survey
- Structural Assessment
- Drainage Evaluation
- Functional Evaluation
- Maintenance Personnel
- PMS



# Identifying/Classifying Distresses in Existing Pavement



**DISTRESS IDENTIFICATION MANUAL**  
*for the Long-Term Pavement Performance Program*

US Department of Transportation  
 Federal Highway Administration

PUBLICATION NO. FHWA-RD-03-031  
 JUNE 2003

**ASTM INTERNATIONAL** Designation: D6433 - 11  
**Standard Practice for Roads and Parking Lots Pavement Condition Index Surveys<sup>1</sup>**

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6433; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

**1. Scope**  
 1.1 This practice covers the determination of roads and parking lots pavement condition through visual surveys using the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) method of quantifying pavement condition.

2.1.2 *asphalt concrete (AC) surface*—aggregate mixture with an asphalt cement binder. This term also refers to surfaces constructed of coal tars and natural tars for purposes of this practice.

2.1.3 *pavement branch*—a branch of a pavement system that is a significant identifiable portion of the pavement system.

**Mn/DOT Pavement Distress Identification Manual**

July 2011  
 Office of Materials and Road Research  
 Pavement Management Unit

**Colorado DOT Distress Manual For HMA and PCC Pavements**

**...Pavement Preservation**

The National Center for Pavement Preservation  
 Michigan State University  
 2857 Jody Road  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
 (517) 432-9229



# Categories of Distresses

The Asphalt Institute's MS-4 Asphalt Handbook categorizes the common types of asphalt pavement distress:

- **Cracking**
  - Fatigue Cracking
  - Block Cracking
  - Edge Cracking
  - Longitudinal Cracking
  - Slippage Cracking
  - Reflection Cracking
- **Distortion**
  - Rutting
  - Corrugations and Shoving
  - Settlement/Grade Depressions
  - Upheaval/Swell
- **Disintegration**
  - Potholes
  - Raveling/Weathering
- **Skid Hazards**
  - Bleeding/Flushing
  - Polished Aggregates



# Cores as a Forensic Tool

## Cores:

- determine crack depth
- bottom up or top down
- determine rut location
- other distress types



# Identify Movement of Cracking

## Working Crack

- $\geq 3\text{mm}$  ( $1/8''$ ) movement
- Thermal
- Jointed Concrete

## Non-Working Crack

- $< 3\text{mm}$  ( $1/8''$ ) movement
- Longitudinal and Block
- Fatigue?



# Identify Percentage and Severity of Cracking

- percentage in length or area
- severity?
  - low
  - moderate
  - high





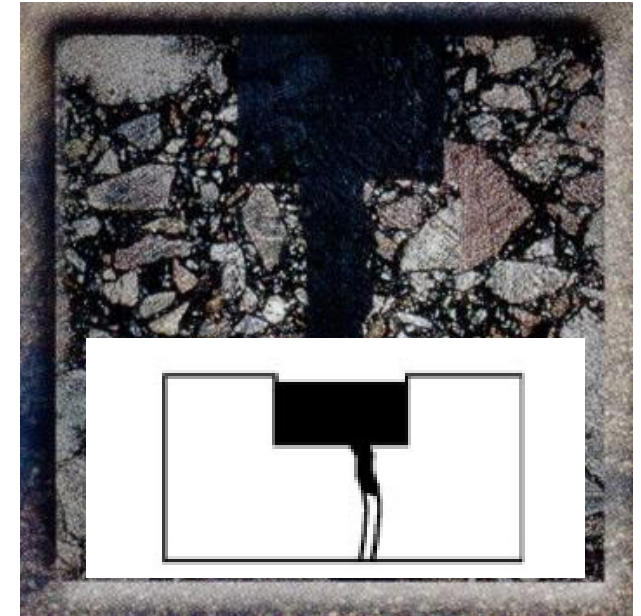
# Crack Sealing Before a Thin Asphalt Overlay



Route



Clean



Seal  
Reservoir and Recessed

# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Distortion



Rutting due to unstable subgrade



Rutting due to unstable plastic mix

# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Distortion



Low rutting due to normal traffic consolidation

# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Distortion



Corrugations and shoving

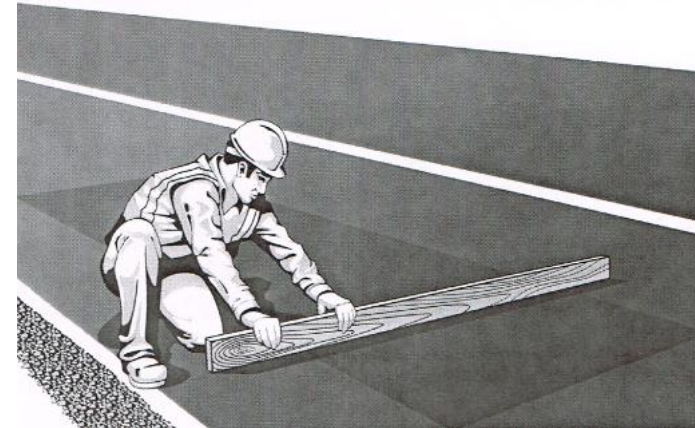
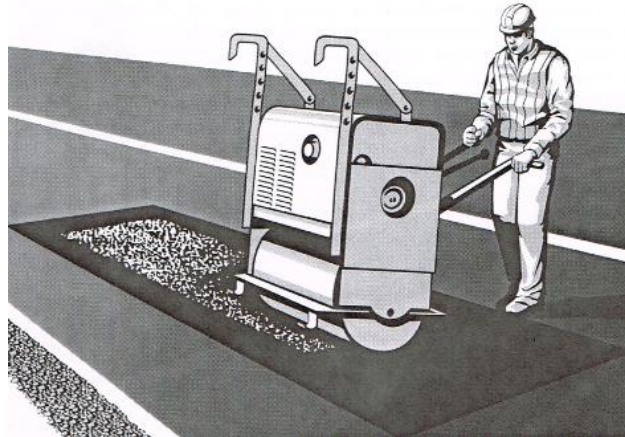
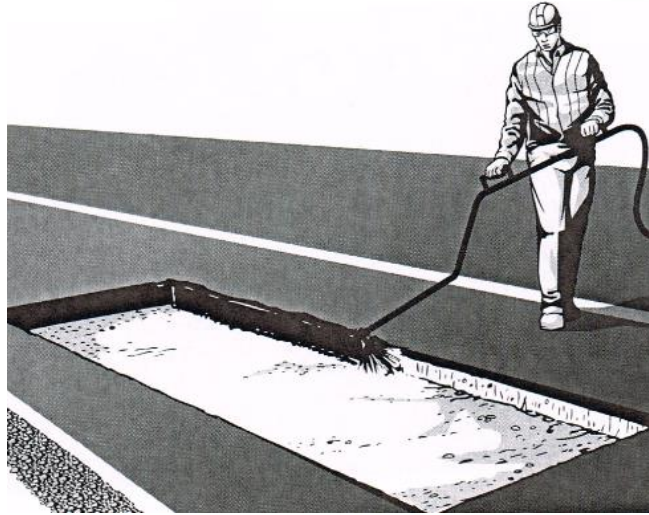
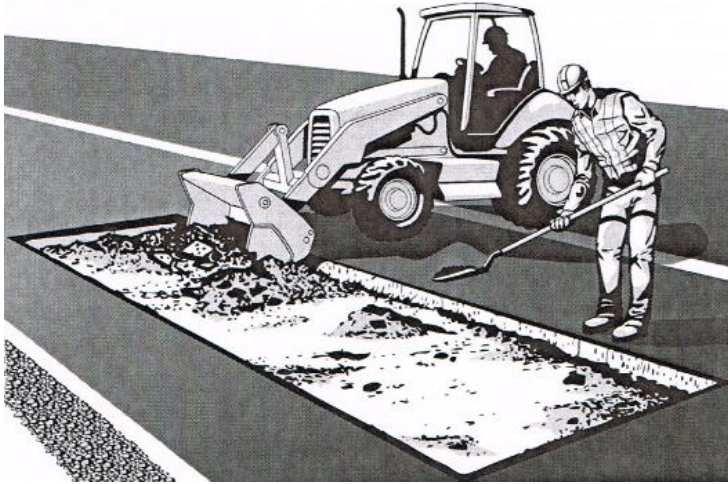


Leveling course in a large depression



Distortion due to frost heave

# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Potholes or Other Localized Distress



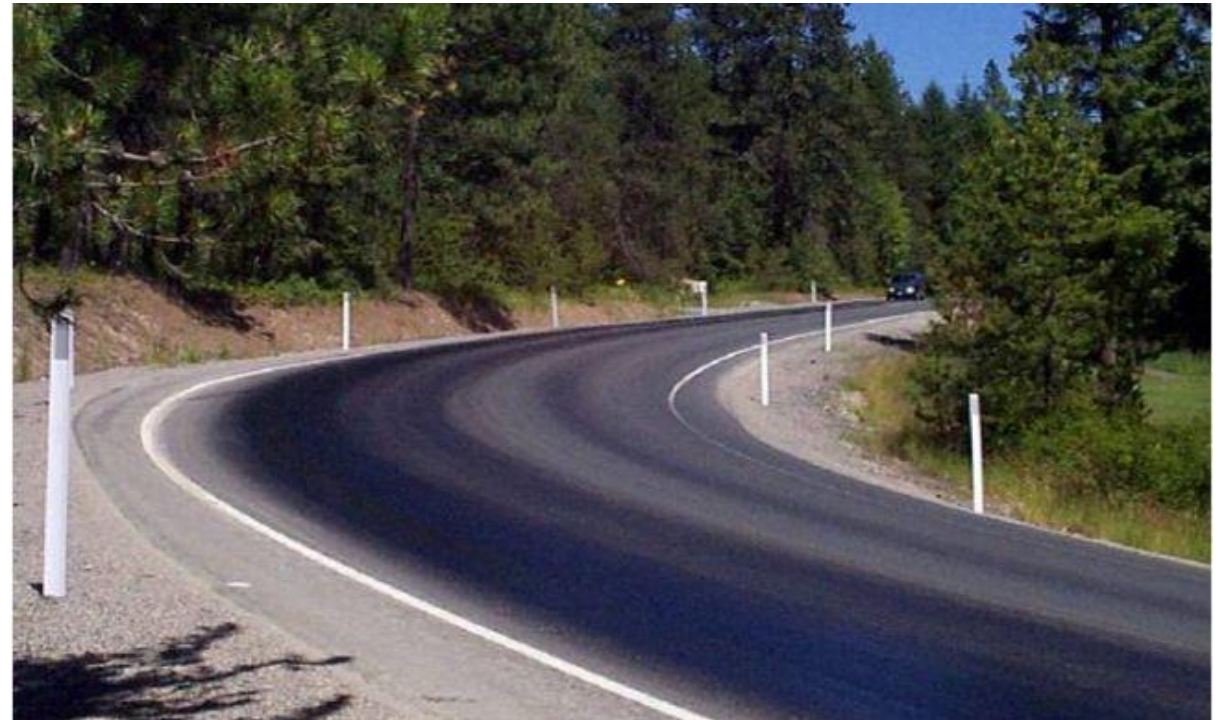
# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Weathering or Raveling



# Thin Asphalt Overlays on Pavements with Skid Hazards



Polishing



Bleeding and flushing

# Project Selection for Thin Asphalt Overlays

Low % / Severity ← → High % / Severity

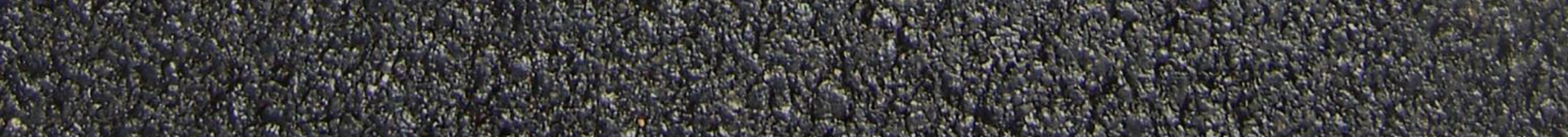


<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>MARGINAL</b>
<b>NOT APPROPRIATE</b>

\* Several distress types must be treated or corrected in some manner before thin asphalt overlay

Fatigue Cracking	Yellow	Red	Red
Block Cracking	Green	Yellow	Red
Edge Cracking	Yellow	Red	Red
Longitudinal Cracking	Green	Yellow	Red
Slippage Cracking ( <i>patched</i> )	Green	Green	Green
Reflection Cracking	Red	Red	Red
Rutting ( <i>if plastic surface mix and milled</i> )	Green	Green	Green
Corrugations and Shoving ( <i>patched</i> )	Green	Green	Green
Settlement / Grade Depression	Green	Yellow	Red
Upheaval / Swell	Red	Red	Red
Potholes ( <i>after patching</i> )	Green	Green	Red
Raveling / Weathering	Green	Green	Green
Polishing	Green	Green	Green
Flushing / Bleeding	Green	Yellow	Red





# MIX DESIGN FOR THIN LIFTS

MIX DESIGN FOR THIN LIFTS

# Binder Selection

- Superpave - typically based on climate and traffic
- SMAs and PFCs - modified binders often required



# Aggregate Selection

- NMAS should be 1/2", 3/8", or No. 4.
- The lift thickness should be 3 to 5 times the NMAS.



# Aggregate Quality for Small NMAS Dense-Graded Asphalt Mixtures



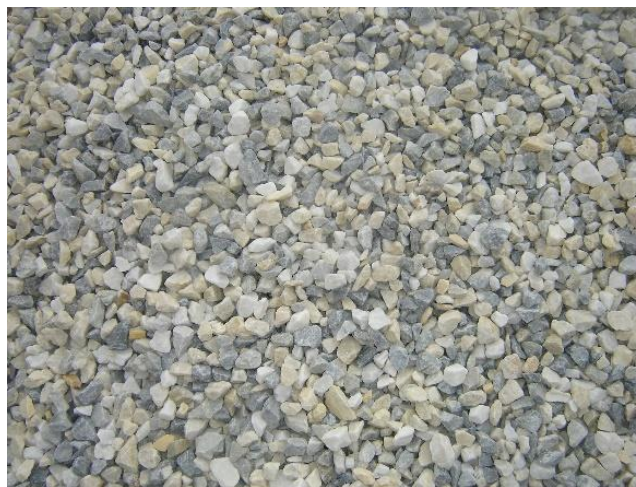
NMAS	12.5mm		9.5mm		6.3mm	4.75mm		
Agency	Alabama	N. Carolina	Nevada	Utah	New York	Maryland	Georgia	Ohio
<b>Aggregate Quality</b>								
LA Abrasion, % loss	48 max	35 max	37 max	35/40 max <sup>1</sup>				40 max
Sodium Sulfate Soundness, % loss	10 max	15 max	12 max	16/16 max <sup>1</sup>				12 max
% 2 or More Fractured Faces		85 min	80 min	90/90 min <sup>1</sup>				
% 1 or More Fractured Faces		100 min		95/90 min <sup>1</sup>				10/100 min <sup>1</sup>
Sand Equivalent, %		45 min		60/45 min <sup>1</sup>	45 min		28/40 min <sup>2</sup>	
FAA, %	43/45 min <sup>1</sup>	40 min			43 min	40 min		

# Aggregate Types

- For skid resistance, the coarse portion should consist of angular, polish-resistant aggregate.
- Granites, sandstones, quartzites, rhyolites, etc.



Crushed Granite



Crushed Quartzite



Mine Chat

# RAP Use

- Use RAP in reasonable quantities to reduce cost
- RAP will help
  - Stabilize cost
  - Prevent rutting
  - Prevent scuffing
- Use up to maximum allowable while maintaining gradation and volumetrics



# RAP Use

- RAP may need to be fractionated
- Finer fractions will have a higher binder content
- Rap Binder Ratio of lower % Fine RAP = higher % of unprocessed RAP



# AASHTO Gradations for Small NMAS

## Dense-Graded Asphalt Mixtures

NMAS	37.5mm		25.0mm		19.0 mm		12.5mm		9.5mm		4.75mm	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
<b>Sieve Size (mm)</b>	<b>% Passing</b>											
50.0	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37.5	90	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.0	-	90	90	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.0	-	-	-	90	90	100	100	-	-	-	-	-
12.5	-	-	-	-	-	90	90	100	100	-	100	-
9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	90	100	95	100
4.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	90	100	100
2.36	15	41	19	45	23	49	28	58	32	67	-	-
1.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	55
0.075	0	6	1	7	2	8	2	10	2	10	6	13
VMA	11.0		12.0		13.0		14.0		15.0		16.0	





# Example State Gradations for Small NMAS Dense-Graded Asphalt Mixtures



NMAS	12.5mm		9.5mm		6.3mm	4.75mm		
Agency	Alabama	N. Carolina	Nevada	Utah	New York	Maryland	Georgia	Ohio
<b>Gradation</b>								
<b>Sieve Size</b>	<b>% Passing</b>							
19.0 mm	100	100						
12.5 mm	90 - 100	85 - 100	100	100			100	100
9.5 mm	< 90	60 - 80	85 - 100	90 - 100	100	100	90 - 100	95 - 100
4.75 mm		28 - 38	50 - 75	< 90	90 - 100	80 - 100	75 - 95	85 - 95
2.36 mm	28 - 58	19 - 32		32 - 67	37 - 70	36 - 76	60 - 65	53 - 63
0.300 mm		8 - 13					20 - 50	9 - 19
0.075 mm	2 - 10	4 - 7	3 - 8	2 - 10	2 - 10	2 - 12	4 - 12	3 - 8

NAPA IS 135 - Newcomb 2009

# Molding Thin Lift Asphalt Mixtures in the Lab



How many gyrations should be used on asphalt mixtures intended for thin lifts?

- AASHTO R 35 specifies the following for all Superpave mixtures:

Design ESALs (M)	Compaction Parameters		
	$N_{\text{initial}}$	$N_{\text{design}}$	$N_{\text{max}}$
< 0.3	6	50	75
0.3 to < 3	7	75	115
3 to < 30	8	100	160
$\geq 30$	9	125	205



# Different Criteria for Asphalt Mixtures Intended for Thin Lifts

## For Dense-Graded mixtures (AASHTO M 323):

### 9.5mm mixes

For design ESALs  $\geq 3M$ , **VFA** shall be **73% to 76% \***  
(*other mix sizes 65% to 75%*)

### 4.75mm mixes

For design ESALs  $< 3M$ , **dust-to-binder ratio** shall be **1.0 to 2.0**  
(*other mix sizes 0.6 to 1.2*)

For design ESALs  $\geq 3M$ , **dust-to-binder ratio** shall be **1.5 to 2.0**  
(*other mix sizes 0.6 to 1.2*)

The **relative density** shall be **94.0 to 96.0** (*other mix sizes 96.0*)

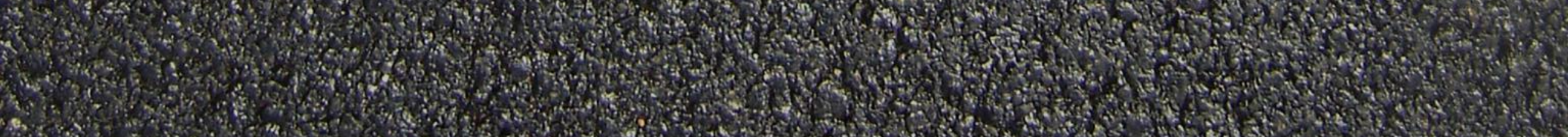
For design ESALs  $\geq 0.3M$ , **VFA** shall be **66% to 77%**  
(*other mix sizes 65% to 75%*)



# Natural Sand Usage



*Many states limit the use of natural sand to 15% maximum, even if FAA parameters are met.*



# PLANT OPERATIONS FOR THIN LIFTS

# Moisture Considerations



Thin lift mixes are composed of a high percentage of fine aggregate



Coarse Stockpile  
% Moisture  $\approx$  0.5 to 2%



Fine Stockpile  
% Moisture  $\approx$  3 to 7%

# Moisture Considerations

- *Aggregates must be properly dried*
- *May mean slowing down production*
- *Aggregates containing moisture after the plant drying process contribute to stripping and tenderness issues with mixes*



# Moisture Considerations



- Construct paved, sloped stockpile areas
  - Reduces aggregate waste
  - 1% decrease in moisture  $\approx$  10% decrease in burner fuel usage.



# Moisture Considerations



- Cover stockpiles to reduce moisture from rainfall
- Covers can be permanent or temporary
- Cover fine aggregates especially

# Temperature Considerations

## *At the plant:*

- Don't run the plant hotter to account for heat loss
- Volatilizes light fractions
- Prematurely ages mix



# Mitigation of Temperature Concerns Using WMA



## *At the plant:*

- WMA can mitigate rapid heat loss



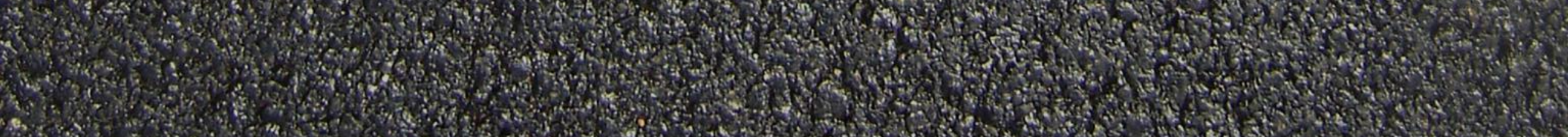
Photo courtesy of Steve Muench, U. of Washington

# Managing Variability

## *At the plant:*

- Thin overlays mixes include a high percentage of fines.
- Split aggregate component used at a rate of about 50% into two cold feed bins to reduce the potential variability



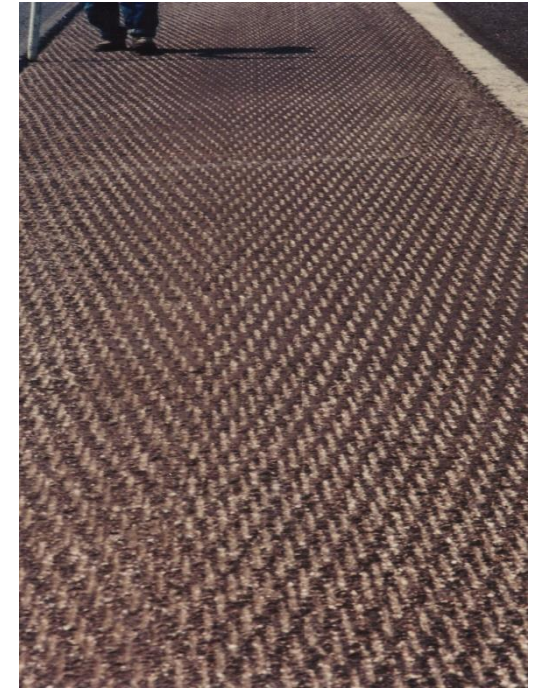


# SURFACE PREPARATION FOR THIN LIFTS

# Repair of Distresses Covering Entire Surface

If there is surface cracking or rutting due to plastic movement of the mix, the entire surface should be milled. Benefits include:

- Removal of distressed pavement (core to help determine proper depth)
- Improved smoothness
- Reshape cross slopes (uniform overlay thickness)
- Maintain or create curb exposure
- Maintain clearances at overhead structures
- Maintain or create drainage
- Create a textured surface to help prevent sliding of new HMA overlays



# Mill Deep Enough to Remove Entire Distressed Layer

Milling into the structurally sound surface will help avoid scabbing and delamination.



# Use Leveling Course on Uneven Surfaces



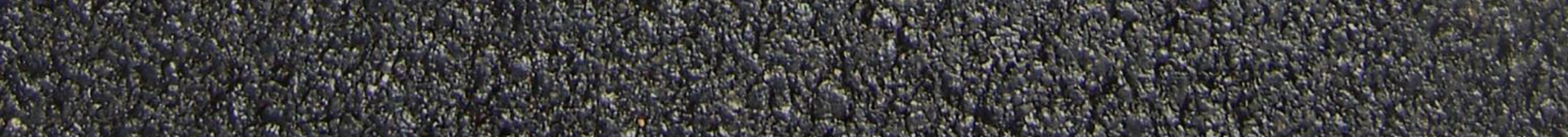
Use 4.75mm or sand mix for leveling course. Note how fine mix fills in lower areas and skims across high areas for a smooth paving surface. (Clearly shows where screed adjustments are needed)



Don't try placing a leveling course using a mix with coarse aggregate!





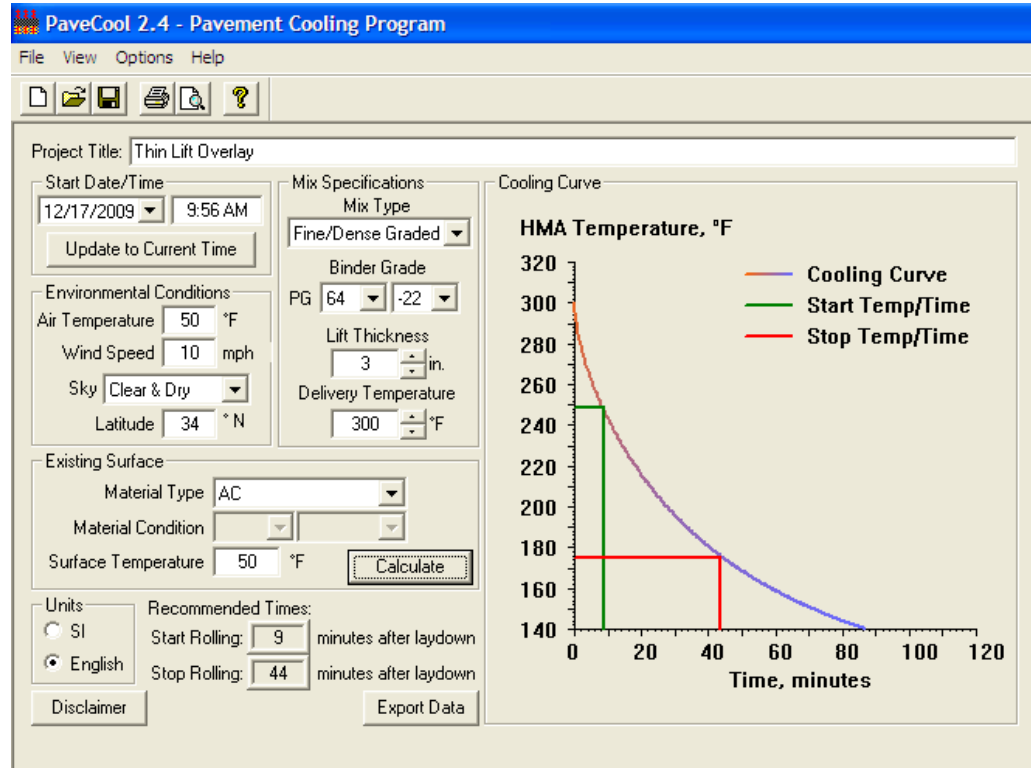


# CONSTRUCTION OF THIN LIFTS

CONSTRUCTION OF  
THIN LIFTS

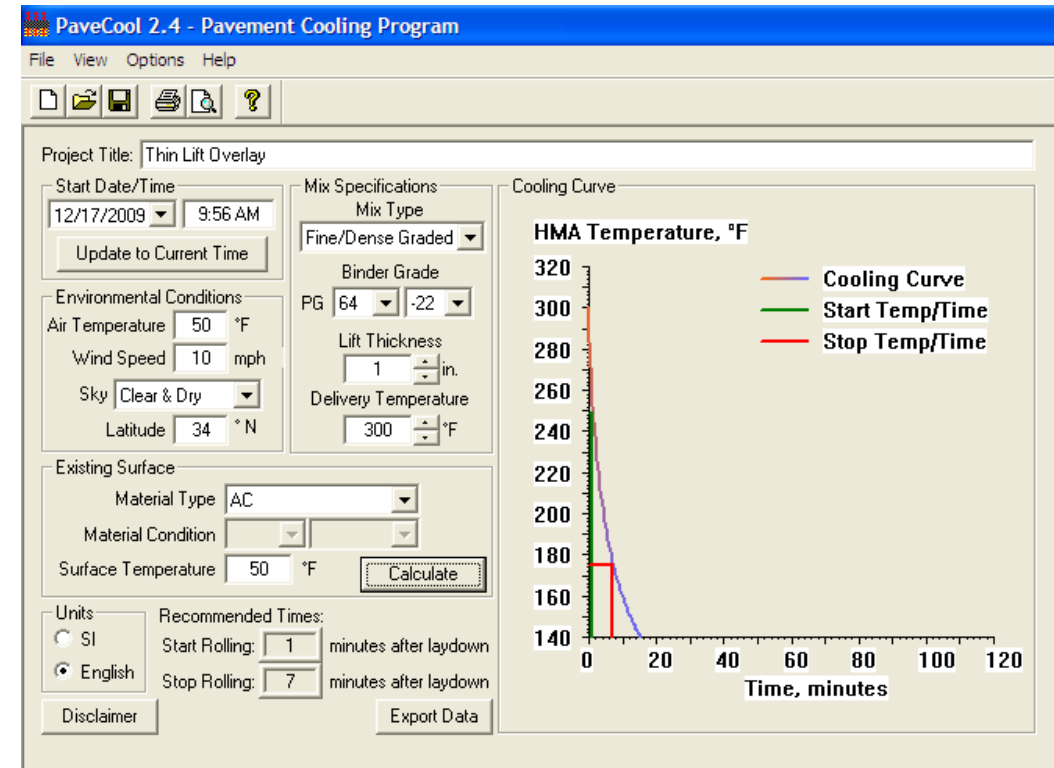
# Climate Considerations for Thin Lift Overlays

Download MultiCool for free at the NAPA store!



## 3 Inch Lift

50°F Air, Surface Temp  
Mix Delivery temp - 300°F  
**44 minutes to complete  
compaction operations**



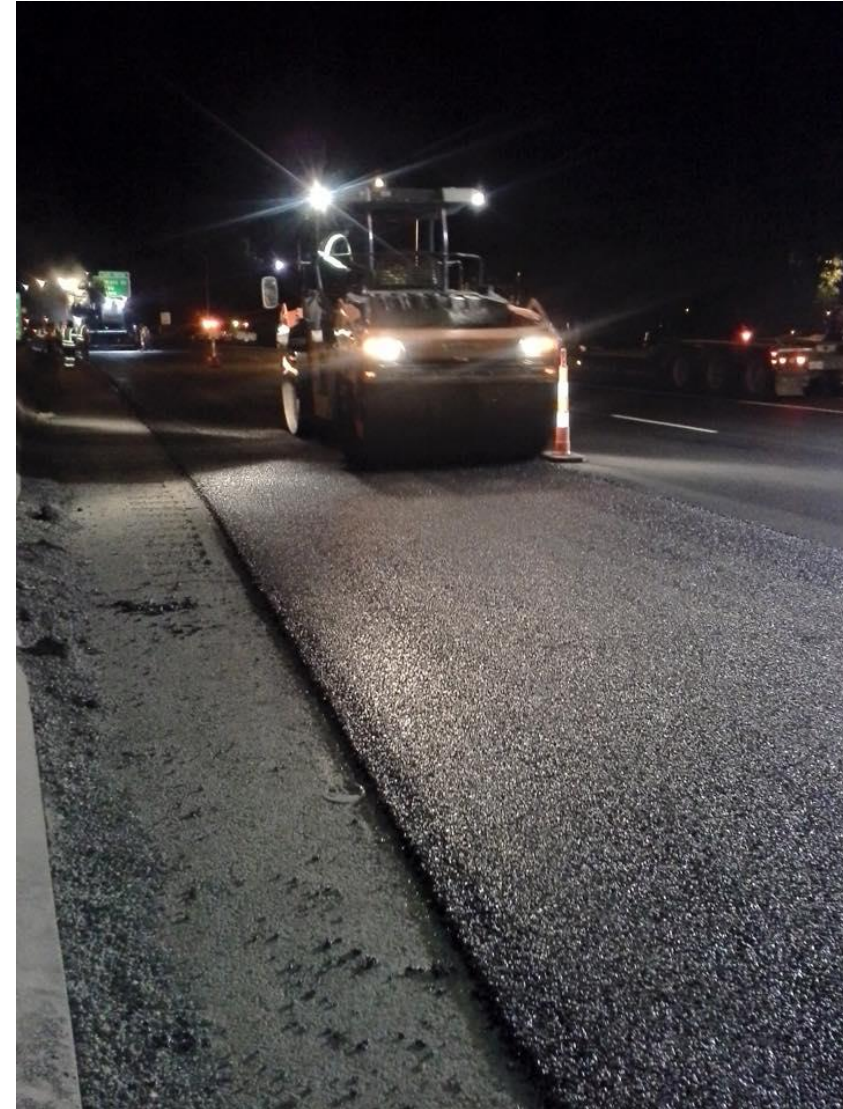
## 1 Inch Lift

50°F Air, Surface Temp  
Mix Delivery temp - 300°F  
**7 minutes to complete  
compaction operations**

# Climate Considerations for Thin Lift Overlays

**Night paving can also be a challenge:**

- **Tack break times extended**
  - cooler temperatures and often higher humidity
- **Cooler temperatures make obtaining proper compaction more difficult**
- **General visibility issues**



# Proper Tack Coat is Critical for Thin Lift Overlays



## *On the project:*

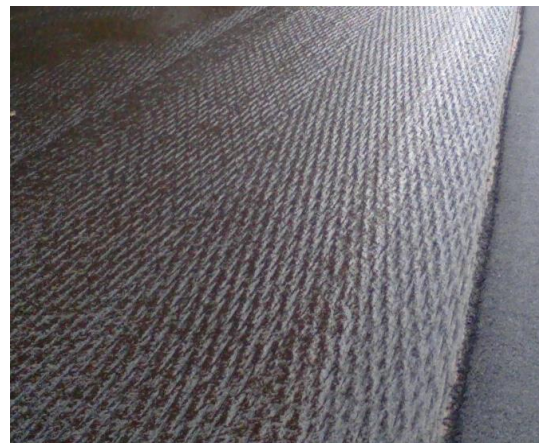
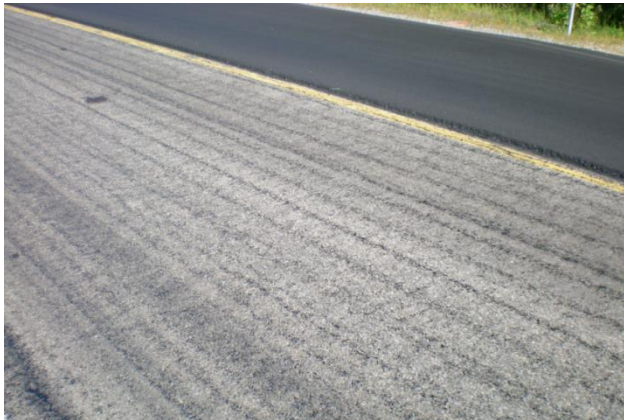
- Interface between the old and new pavement is in close proximity to the shear forces created by vehicles during turning and braking movements.
- The tack coat between the old surface and the new overlay is especially important



# Proper Tack Coat is Critical for Thin Lift Overlays

## *On thin lifts, pay extra attention to:*

- Existing roadway cleanliness (milled surfaces especially)
- Tack coat application rate
- Tack coat uniformity



Tack pickup due to unclean roadway surface

Looking good!

Low tack coat application rate AND non-uniform tack coat application

# Recommended Tack Application Rates



Surface Type	Residual Rate (gsy)	Appx. Bar Rate Undiluted* (gsy)	Appx. Bar Rate Diluted 1:1* (gsy)
New Asphalt	0.020 – 0.045	0.030 – 0.065	0.060 – 0.130
Existing Asphalt	0.040 – 0.070	0.060 – 0.105	0.120 – 0.210
Milled Surface	0.040 – 0.080	0.060 – 0.120	0.120 – 0.240
Portland Cement Concrete	0.030 – 0.050	0.045 – 0.075	0.090 – 0.150

# Manage Paver Speed

## *On the project:*

- When paving thin lifts, each ton goes a long way
- The paver can get down the road very quickly
- Don't allow the paver to leave the rollers behind
- Thin lifts cool very rapidly and need to be compacted more quickly than thicker lifts



*Hello-o-o-o-o back there!*

# Material Transfer Vehicles Often Specified for Placing SMAs and OGFCs

## *On the project:*

- Thin lifts of SMA and OGFC (PFC) are often placed using a Material Transfer Vehicle.
- Some agencies require the use of an MTV when placing “premium” mixtures such as SMA and PFC





# Spray Pavers Often Specified for Placing Ultra Thin Bonded Wearing Courses

## *On the project:*

- Thin lifts of Ultra Thin Bonded Wearing Course are typically placed using a Spray Paver.
- Other types of thin asphalt lifts can be placed using a spray paver also.
- Specialized tack material must be used because paver sprays tack about 6" in front of mixture during paving.



Spray paver being used on NCAT's Lee Road Pavement Preservation experiment.

# Rolling Thin Asphalt Overlays

## *On the project:*

- Rolling strategies depend on the type of thin lift
- For Superpave and SMA, you *may* be able to use a vibratory roller (but probably not) - check for roughness, broken aggregate
- Otherwise, use static rollers. (may be able to use pneumatic on Superpave)

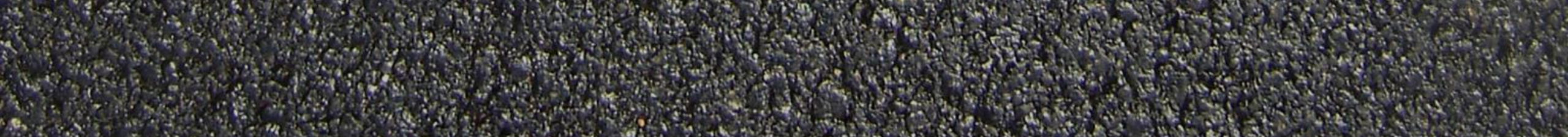


# Rolling Thin Asphalt Overlays

## *On the project:*

- For PFCs and OGFCs, static rollers are typically used
  - only one or two passes to seat the mix onto the existing surface
  - mix is intended to be permeable, so don't overcompact
- Be very careful with pneumatic rollers on OGFC and SMA mixes because they can pick up badly





# TESTING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

# Determining Density on Thin Asphalt Overlays

## *Determining roadway density on thin lifts:*

- Cannot get accurate, repeatable results from thin roadway cores
- If thickness is at least 1", thin lift nuclear gauges or electromagnetic gauges could be used
- Roller types, patterns are often set and documented as sole source of QA

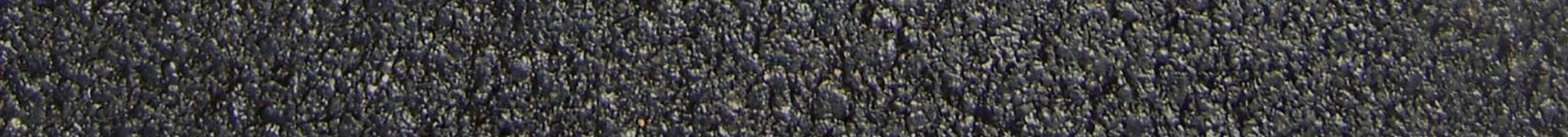


# Determining Smoothness on Thin Asphalt Overlays



- Increases in smoothness are minimal with thin lifts
- Smoothness can be improved with milling or leveling course





# CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES

# Thin Lift Case Studies - Ohio DOT's "Smoothseal"



## Section 424: Fine Graded Polymer Asphalt Concrete

### Type A

Recipe Mix

$P_b = 8.5\%$

1/2"	100
3/8"	100
No. 4	95 - 100
No. 8	90 - 100
No. 16	80 - 100
No. 30	60 - 90
No. 50	30 - 65
No. 100	10 - 30
No. 200	3 - 10



### Type B

Volumetric Design

$P_a = 4.0\%$ , VMA 15.0% min.,  $P_b = 6.4\%$  min.

1/2"	100
3/8"	95 - 100
No. 4	85 - 95
No. 8	53 - 63
No. 16	37 - 47
No. 30	25 - 35
No. 50	9 - 19
No. 100	-
No. 200	3 - 8



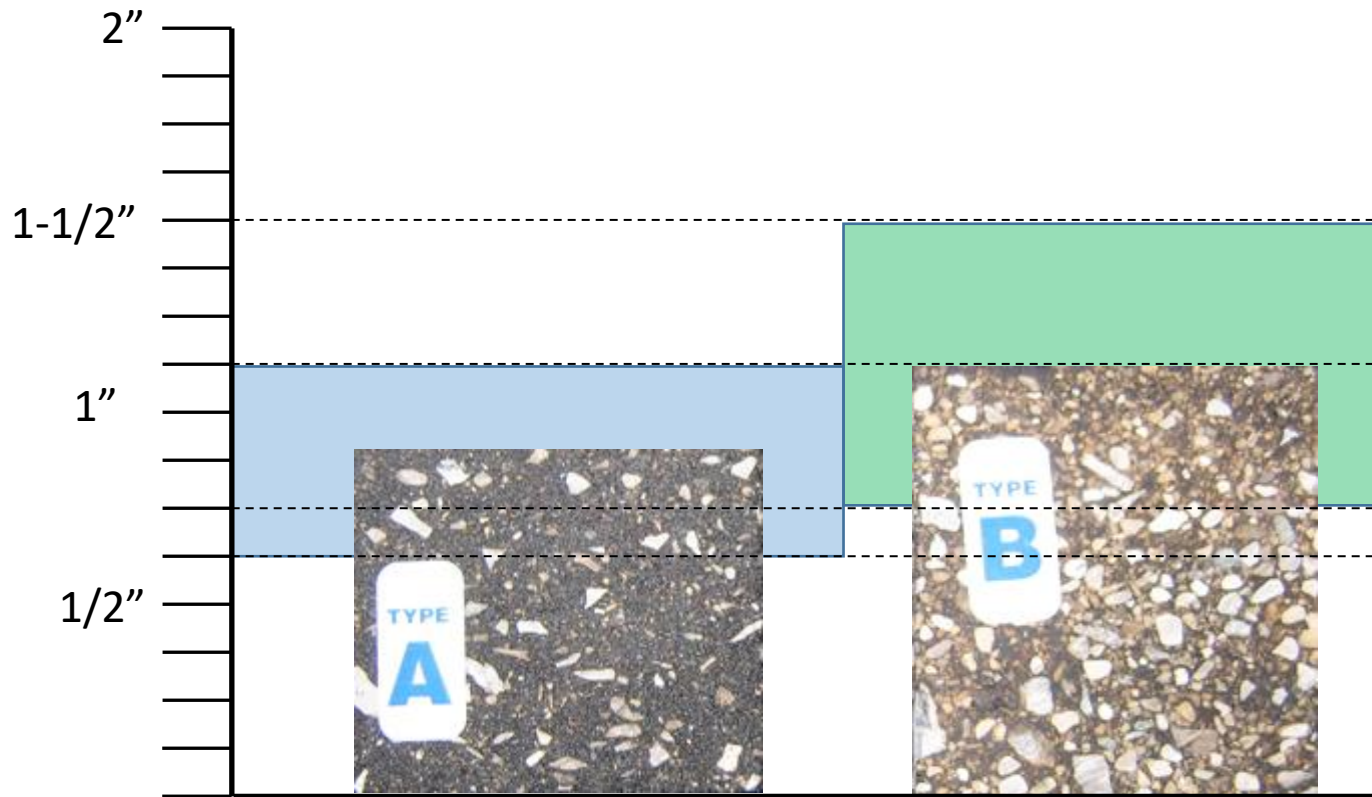
10% RAP  
allowed  
in Type B

**Binder type must be either PG 76-22M (SBS) or PG 64-22 with 5% SBR**  
**Sand must have at least 50% Silicon Dioxide for skid resistance**



# Thin Lift Case Studies - Ohio DOT's "Smoothseal"

## Overlay Thickness Guidelines



**Type A**

5/8" to 1-1/8"

**Type B**

3/4" to 1-1/2"

# Thin Lift Case Studies - Ohio DOT's "Smoothseal"

## I-71

- City of Cleveland
- Age = 3 years
- Treatment:
  - 1/2" Planing
  - 1" Smoothseal, Type B
- ADT = 99,360 vehicles
- 3% trucks
- Future Resurfacing - 2020
- Anticipated age at next resurfacing - 11 years



One of many examples of Smoothseal given by Ohio DOT's James Marszal, P.E., at the APA's Asphalt Paving Conference in 2012 in Charlotte, NC



# Thin Lift Case Studies - Texas DOT

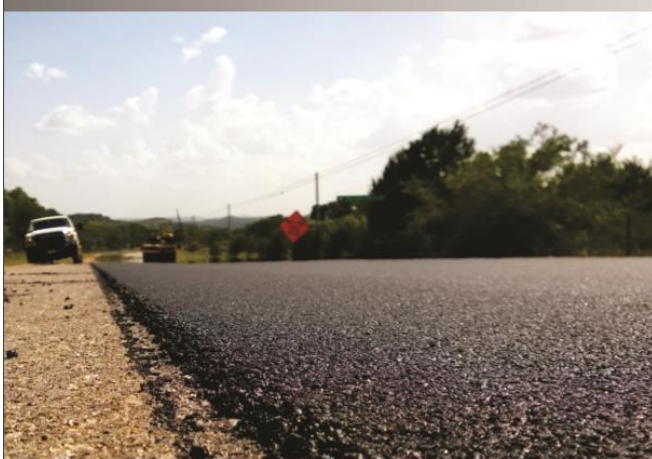


TABLE 1 – Types of Thin HMA Overlays.

Mix Types	Key Benefits
<b>Dense-Graded</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ultra-thin (UT) mix (Item 347)</li><li>• Crack attenuating mix (CAM) (Special Specification [SS] 3262)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resists cracking</li><li>• Improves ride</li><li>• Minimizes in-vehicle noise</li></ul>
<b>Gap-Graded</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thin overlay mix (TOM) (Item 347)</li><li>• Stone-matrix asphalt Type F (SMA-F) (Item 3262)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improves skid resistance</li><li>• Improves ride</li><li>• Resists rutting</li><li>• Resists cracking</li></ul>
<b>Open-Graded</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Permeable friction course Type F (PFC-F) (SS 3269)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improves skid resistance</li><li>• Improves ride</li><li>• Minimizes splash and spray</li><li>• Reduces ambient traffic noise</li></ul>

## Thin Overlay Guidelines

*Project Selection, Design, and Construction*



# Thin Lift Case Studies - Texas DOT



**TABLE 3 – Mix Gradations.**

Sieve Size	Dense-Graded		Gap-Graded		Open-Graded
	UT Mix	CAM	TOM	SMA-F	PFC-F
1/2 inch	100	100	100	100	100
3/8 inch	98–100	95–100	95–100	70–100	95–100
#4	70–95	70–90	40–60	30–60	20–55
#8	40–65	40–65	17–27	20–40	0–15
#16	20–45	20–45	5–27	10–30	0–12
#30	10–35	10–30	5–27	10–30	0–8
#50	10–20	10–20	5–27	5–20	0–8
#200	2–12	2–10	5–9	2–10	0–4

**$P_b$  (min):**      **6.5**      **6.0**      **6.0**      **6.0**      **6.0**

# Thin Lift Case Studies - Texas DOT



**FIGURE 2 – TOM on IH 35 Under Construction – Placed in 2009 and Still Performing Excellently.**



**FIGURE 1 – Coarse Surface Texture of TOM.**

# Thin Lift Case Studies - Arizona DOT

## *Arizona DOT “Quiet Pavement Program”*



- *A three-year, \$34 million project to surface about 115 miles of Phoenix-area freeways with thin lifts of rubberized asphalt is working toward a smoother ride for motorists and quieter neighborhoods for those who live adjacent to the roads. Noise readings have shown a tire noise decrease by an average of 4 decibels.*
- Rubberized asphalt cannot be applied during cold weather or very hot weather. The concrete pavement surface needs to be between 85 and 145 degrees Fahrenheit for the material to adhere properly. So rubberized asphalt can only be applied in the spring and fall in the Phoenix area, from March 15 to May 31 and from September 1 to November 15. Prior to application, contractors must repair pavement cracks, chips and joints and prepare the concrete surface for the rubberized asphalt overlay.

# Thin Lift Case Studies - Arizona DOT



## Section 414: Asphaltic Concrete Friction Course (Asphalt-Rubber)

$P_b$  "specified by the Engineer"

3/8"	100
No. 4	30 - 45
No. 8	4 - 8
No. 16	-
No. 30	-
No. 50	-
No. 100	-
No. 200	0 - 2.0



*\* The asphalt-rubber shall contain a minimum of 20 percent crumb rubber by the weight of the asphalt cement.  
(Section 1009-2.02)*

*\*\* Requires 1% mineral admixture (Portland cement, blended hydraulic cement, or hydrated lime) by weight of the mineral aggregate*

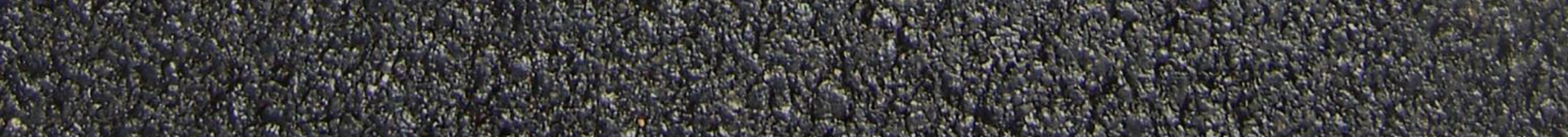
# Thin Lift Case Studies - Arizona DOT



AR-ACFC on SR 64 east of Bullhead City, AZ.

AR-ACFC, IH-10 south of Phoenix, extreme traffic





# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS



- **Although there is no standard definition of what constitutes a “thin lift,” they can be used to address functional issues, safety issues, and to maintain roadways in all traffic conditions as a pavement preservation technique.**
- **Project selection is a key issue for thin asphalt overlays. Thin overlays of structurally sound pavements can last 10 years or more.**
- Thin asphalt overlays can be dense-graded, gap-graded, or open-graded, depending on the need.
- Responsible use of RAP can decrease the price of thin asphalt overlays.

# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (cont.)



- Because the moisture content of fine aggregate stockpiles tend to be higher than coarse aggregate stockpiles, special attention must be paid to drying the aggregates for thin asphalt overlays at the plant.
- **Use cores to evaluate causes of distress and perform local repairs to return existing pavement to adequate structural support before placing a thin overlay.**
- **A uniform tack application at the proper rate is even more important for thin asphalt overlays** because the interface between the old and new pavement is in close proximity to the shear forces created by vehicles.
- **Heat dissipates from thin asphalt layers more quickly than thick asphalt layers, which reduces available compaction time.** This can be mitigated by such things as setting minimum surface, ambient, and/or mix temperatures and through the use of WMA technologies.

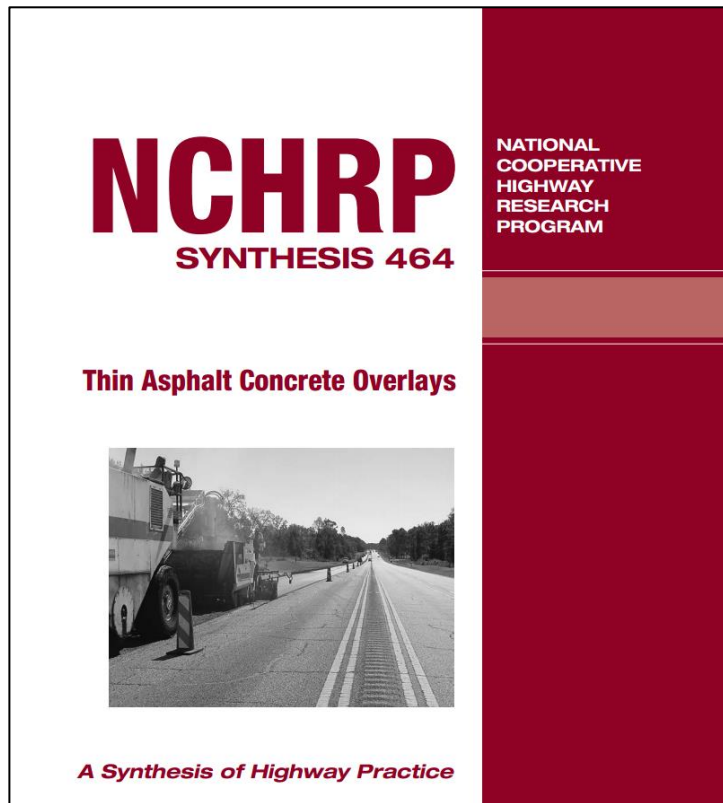


# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (cont.)

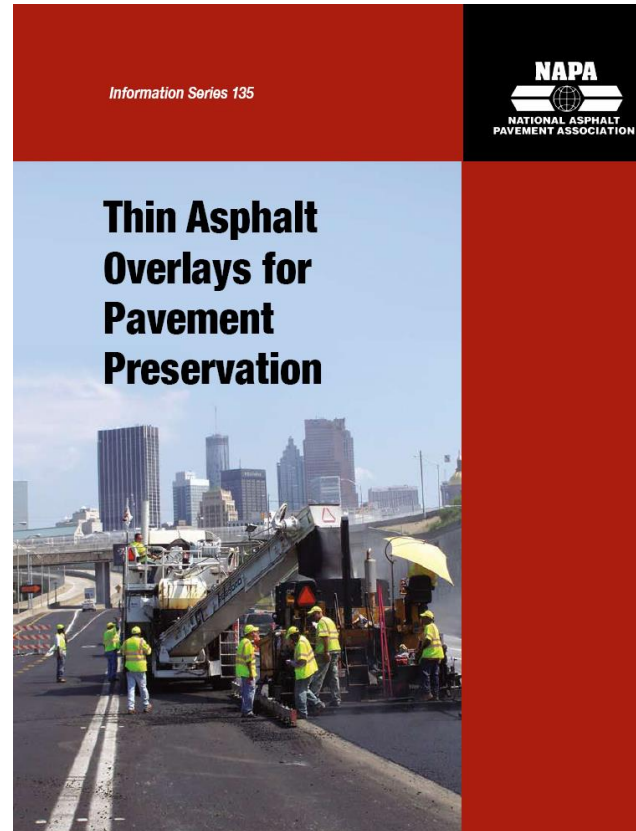


- Because a ton of asphalt stretches farther as the lift thickness decreases, it is important for paver operators to maintain a slow, steady pace that can be matched by the roller operators.
- Rolling strategies vary depending on the type of thin lift. Typically, static steel-wheeled rollers are used on thin asphalt overlays to avoid binder sticking and crushing aggregate.
- Determining density through roadway cores is more difficult for thin asphalt lifts, and density gauges are typically recommended only for lifts 1" or greater. A common method of QA for thin asphalt lifts is to daily document the roller types and number of passes.
- A number of states have very successful thin asphalt overlays. Their success stories can be evaluated to facilitate the successful use of thin asphalt overlays in other states.

# Additional Free, Downloadable Resources



[http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_syn\\_464.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_464.pdf)



<http://store.hotmix.org/index.php?productID=696>



<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Pavement/preservation/ppcl03.pdf>



# QUESTIONS?

