

Image source: NAPA



Image source: ACPA



# TOPS



## Targeted Overlay Pavement Solutions

*A solution for extending the life of an existing pavement investment.*



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

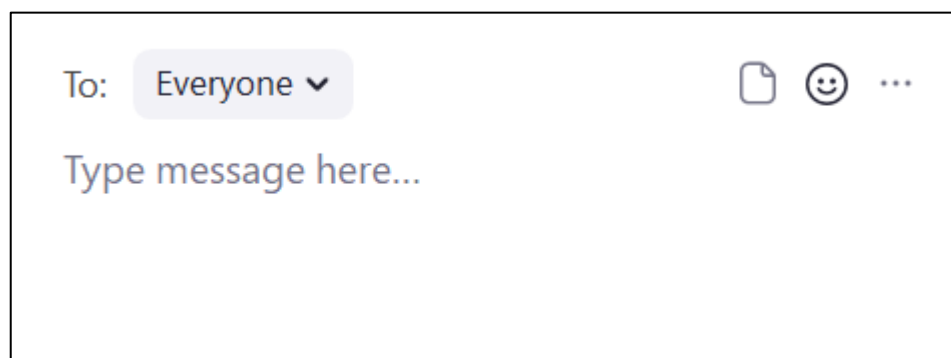
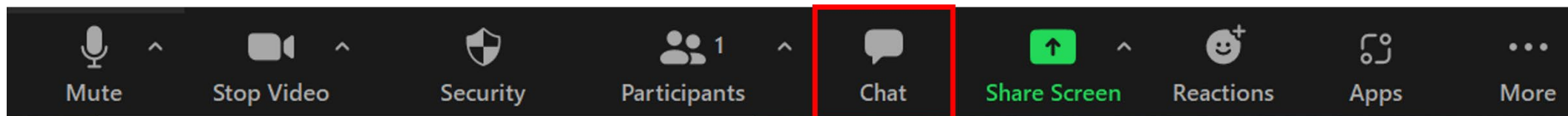


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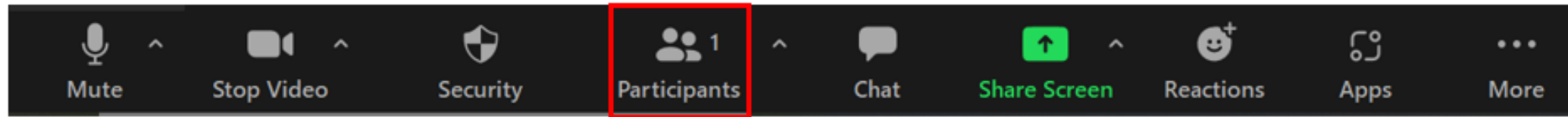
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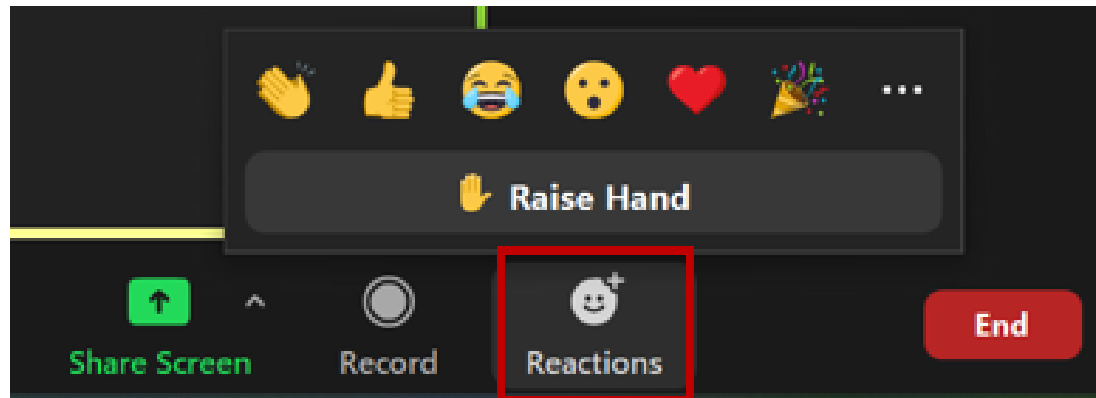


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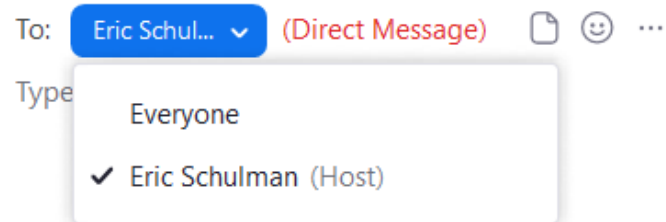
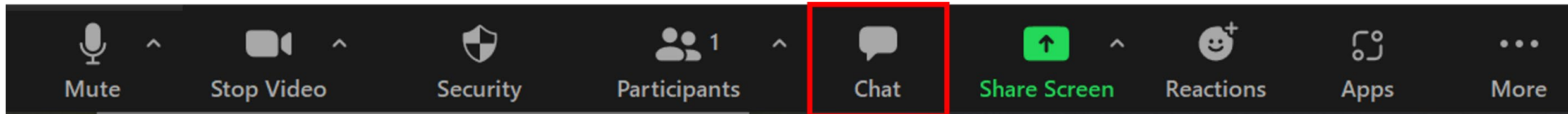


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# Webinar Overview

- Introduction to EDC-6 TOPS: Tim Aschenbrener, FHWA
- OGFC Overview: Kiran Mohanraj, The Transtec Group
- OGFC Agency Experience: Cliff Selkinghaus, SCDOT
- UTBWC Overview: Shila Khanal, ARA, Inc.
- UTBWC Agency Experience: Jerry Geib, MnDOT
- Q & A

# FHWA TOPS EDC-6 Team

Tim Aschenbrener  
FHWA Headquarters

Bob Conway  
FHWA Resource Center

Derek Nener-Plante  
FHWA Resource Center

# Background

- Over 25% of all State DOT infrastructure funds go to pavements overlays.
- State DOT manage 2.8 million miles of pavements.
- *Information source: FHWA at [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/ev erydaycounts/edc\\_6/targeted\\_overlay\\_pavement.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/ev erydaycounts/edc_6/targeted_overlay_pavement.cfm)*



Image source: Iowa State University



# How is this different than typical overlays?

TOPS matches treatments to high-priority, high-need locations.



# TOPS EDC Mission



Image source: iStock

*Extend pavement life, increase load-carrying capacity, and improve safety, mobility, and user satisfaction in a cost-effective and sustainable manner by delivering targeted pavement overlay solutions to Federal, State, and local transportation agencies.*

# EDC-6 Goals

- Increase the number of participating agencies that demonstrate, assess, or institutionalize an additional TOPS technology not previously institutionalized.
- Build awareness and expand TOPS usage
  - Identify a champion at each State agency
  - Share information at conferences/workshops
  - Train people (webinars/peer exchanges)

# What's in the TOPS toolbox?

## Asphalt overlay products:

- High-Performance Thin Overlay (HPTO)
- Crack Attenuating Mixture (CAM)
- Highly Modified Asphalt (HiMA)
- Enhanced friction overlay
- Stone matrix asphalt (SMA)
- Asphalt Rubber Gap-Graded (ARGG)
- Open-Graded Friction Course (OGFC)
- Ultra-thin bonded wearing course (UTBWC)

# What's in the TOPS toolbox? Continued

## Concrete overlay products:

- Concrete on Asphalt – Bonded (COA-B)
- Concrete on Asphalt – Unbonded (COA-U)
- Concrete on Concrete – Bonded (COC-B)
- Concrete on Concrete – Unbonded (COC-U)

# TOPS Potential Benefits

- Improved Safety
- Improved Performance
- Retained Investments
- Cost Savings
- Environmentally Sound



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



# Open-Graded Friction Course (OGFC)

# OGFC Characteristics

- OGFCs can be used as a surface lift or as part of an entire porous pavement system
- OGFCs are primarily used for safety benefits, such as:
  - Reducing hydroplaning
  - Reducing splay and spray
  - Improving wet pavement friction
  - Reducing surface reflectivity
- OGFCs have an open-graded asphalt mixture with a high percentage of coarse aggregates almost uniform in size
- OGFCs' aggregate skeleton produces high air voids and coarse texture – improving friction and allowing water to drain
- Can reduce pavement noise, especially with newly constructed OGFCs



# OGFC Terminology

- PEM: Permeable European mix
  - Porous asphalt
  - Plant mix seal
  - Popcorn mix
  - OGSC: Open-graded surface course
  - PFC: Permeable/porous friction course
- 
- Note: Some DOTs differentiate between these mixtures (e.g., Georgia DOT uses both OGFC and PEM. The mixes and specifications are similar but not the same.



# OGFC Background

- OGFC Background
  - OGFCs have been used in the United States and worldwide for decades.
  - Some DOTs have stopped using them due to durability or maintenance issues.
- Many agencies are improving mixtures and specifications to increase durability while still achieving the safety benefits.

Reduction of splash and spray (right) compared to dense graded surface (left)



Source: Watson et al., 2018

# Benefits of OGFC

- Agency interviews revealed safety benefits to be the primary reason for use of OGFC
- The macrotexture and void structure increase friction and surface drainage
- Reduced pavement noise. However, studies have shown the noise reduction becomes less effective over time

Example of OGFC (top) versus dense graded surface (bottom)



Source: Watson et al., 2018

# Design and Planning

- Project selection criteria considerations:
  - High traffic
  - High speeds (many agencies use on all interstates)
  - Areas with evidence of wet-weather crashes
- Existing structural distresses to be repaired before OGFC

Placing OGFC



Source: SCDOT 2022

# Design and Planning, Continued

- Thickness criteria – example agencies in table (12.5 mm mixtures)
- Typically, not considered a structural layer or assigned structural value

Agency	Specified Spread Rate or Thickness	Tolerances
<b>GDOT</b>	100 lb/yd <sup>2</sup> (approximately 1-inch thick)	±7 lb/yd <sup>2</sup>
<b>FDOT</b>	0.75-inch thick	±5% of target spread rate
<b>SCDOT</b>	125 lb/yd <sup>2</sup> (approximately 1.25-inch thick)	Not specified

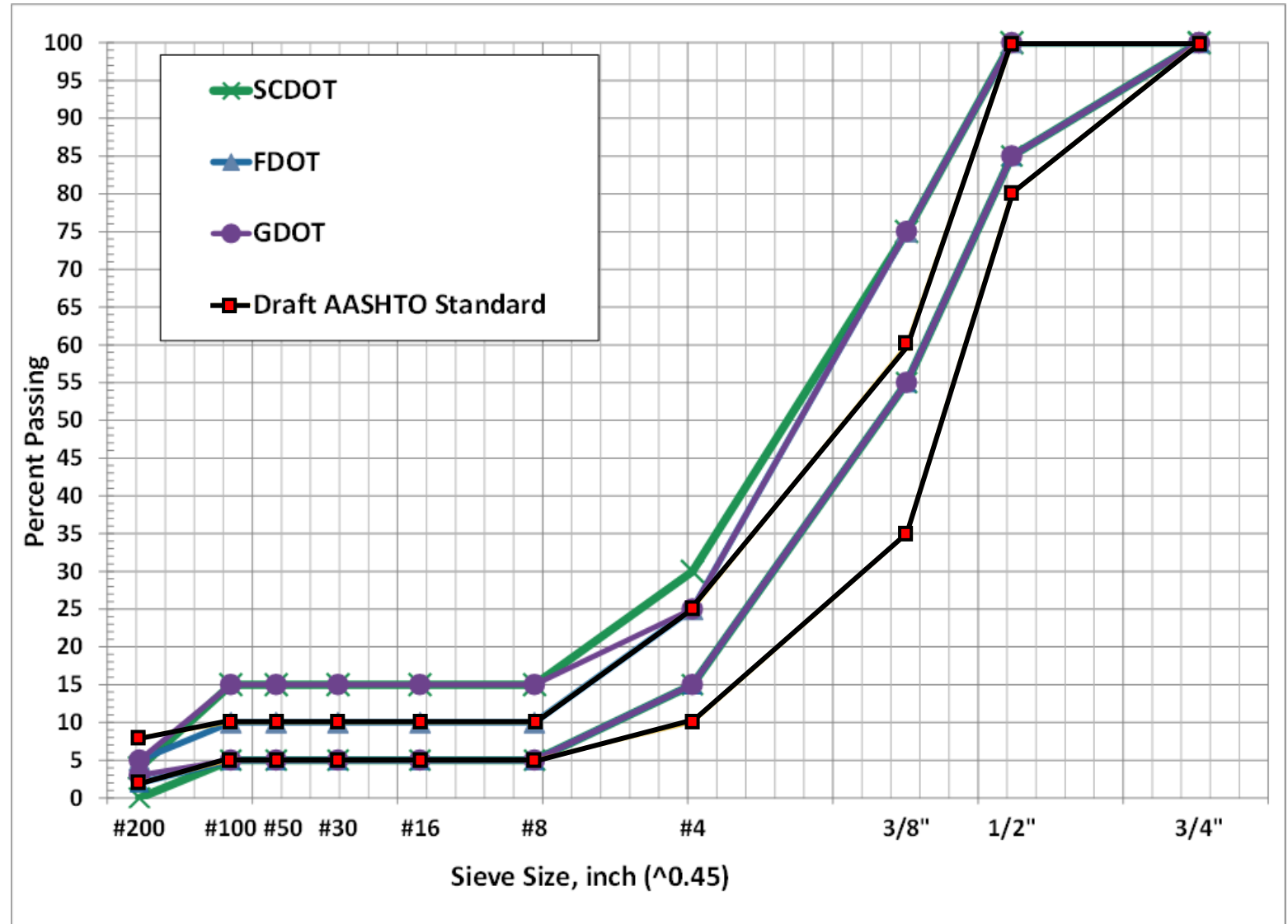
Source: FDOT, SCDOT, GDOT

# Materials

- Aggregates
  - High quality aggregates meeting Los Angeles abrasion loss, soundness, fracture, or other suitability requirements
- Asphalt Binders
  - Modified binders becoming common practice for OGFC mixes – improved durability
  - Rule of thumb: stiffer binders with “high temperature” 1-2 grades stiffer (e.g., typical PG 64-XX use PG 76-XX)
- Additives
  - Anti-strip (hydrated lime)
  - Stabilizing agents
    - Fibers
    - Warm mix additives (WMA)
    - Ground tire rubber (GTR)

# Materials, Continued

- Asphalt gradations
  - Coarser gradations have improved permeability and rutting resistance
  - Finer gradations (and higher binder content) have improved noise reduction and durability
  - Design for balance
  - Consider increased P#200s for increased durability



Source: FDOT, SCDOT, GDOT, NCHRP Report 887

# Mixture Properties

- Asphalt content
  - Typically between 5.0-7.0 virgin and polymer binder
  - Typically between 6.0-8.0 GTR modified
- Air voids
  - Typically between 15-20%
- Cantabro loss
  - Typically 15-20% unaged – recently updated method
- Draindown at production temperatures
  - Typically 0.3-0.5%

Source: FDOT, SCDOT, GDOT, NCHRP Report 887

Cantabro Loss samples, before and after



Source: Bamunuarachchi et al., 2019



# Mixture Properties, Continued

- Other specifications to consider:
  - Stripping resistance
  - Permeability/Porosity
  - Shear strength
  - Conditioned tensile strength.
  - Rut resistance testing (e.g., Hamburg Wheel Tracking Test)
  - Cracking resistance testing (e.g., I-FIT)

Source: NCHRP Report 887

9.5 mm OGFC pavement



Source: SCDOT, 2021

# Construction Specifications and Successful Practices

- Proper requirements and practices for adding additives
- Mixing temperatures and storage requirements to avoid and detect draindown
- Tack or bonding layers are critical – application rates and materials may vary from dense graded mixtures
- Equipment and tools to ensure balanced paving and reduce thermal segregation
- Proper rolling pattern to seat the mix without breaking aggregate.
  - Liquid detergent in rolling water may help with pick-up
  - Static steel-wheel rollers

# Maintenance

- Over time, OGFC can become “clogged”
  - Few agencies report maintenance to unclog. Still may have improved permeability compared to dense graded mixtures.
- Winter maintenance techniques may vary compared to dense graded mixtures
  - Avoid use of sand
  - Careful snowplowing techniques
  - Rates of de-icing or salting may be higher than dense-graded mixes
    - (25-50% higher, but traffic plays a role)
    - Pre-wetted salt (compared to brine or dry) can be effective
    - Anti-icing is effective (sensitive to timing since it is placed before storms)
  - Training for maintenance personnel



# South Carolina DOT Case Study

# About the Presenter, Cliff Selkinghaus

- **Cliff Selkinghaus** currently holds the position of Asphalt Materials Manager at the SCDOT Office of Materials and Research.
- He has worked at SCDOT for 28 Years and loves working in all areas of asphalt.





# OGFC – TOPS SCDOT



What we have done to improve our  
OGFC in SC.....

# OGFC – Lessons Learned..



# Having issues with buildup in trucks?





# Problematic Quarries

## Quarry

Specimen	$D_{avg}$ [cm]	Performance Grade: $H_{avg}$ [cm]	Performance Grade: $w_{dry}$ [g]	Performance Grade: $w_{sub}$ [g]	$V_T$ [cm <sup>3</sup> ]	<u>76-22</u> <u>With Fibers:</u> <u>Porosity</u>	<u>76-22</u> <u>WARM</u> <u>Evothem:</u> <u>Porosity</u>
1	15.0	11.4	3759.5	2121.1	2021.6	<u>18.7</u>	<u>18.8</u>
2	15.0	11.5	3771.0	2129.1	2032.2	<u>19.0</u>	<u>19.5</u>

## Abrasion Resistance of OGFC Mixtures

Specimen	$w_1$ [g]	$w_2$ [g]	<u>% Loss</u>	<u>% Loss</u>
1	3762.0	1768.0	<u>53.0</u>	<u>17.8</u>
2	3774.0	1616.0	<u>57.2</u>	<u>22.7</u>

# Recent OGFC Designs - Porosity

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Hanson-Jefferson M0453	76-22	14.4
Hanson-Jefferson M0453	76-22	14.5

Porosity Difference: 0.1

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Hanson-Sandy Flats L0484	76-22	13.6
Hanson-Sandy Flats L0484	76-22	13.1

Porosity Difference: 0.5

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Martin Marietta-Cayce/N. Cola N0175	76-22	16.5
Martin Marietta-Cayce/N. Cola N0175	76-22	15.4

Porosity Difference: 1.1

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Buckhorn-Lynches River N0100	76-22	13.5
Buckhorn-Lynches River N0100	76-22	12.9

Porosity Difference: 0.6

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Vulcan-Columbia N0432	76-22	18.3
Vulcan-Columbia N0432	76-22	17.2

Porosity Difference: 1.1

Quarry	PG	<b><i>Porosity</i></b>
Martin Marietta-Augusta M0472	76-22	<u>20.8</u>
Martin Marietta-Augusta M0472	76-22	<u>21.2</u>

Porosity Difference: 0.4

Quarry	PG	Porosity
Martin Marietta-Rock Hill P0296	76-22	18.4
Martin Marietta-Rock Hill P0296	76-22	19.7

Porosity Difference: 1.3

# OGFC Designs – Cantabro Abrasion Resistance

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	<u>% Loss</u>
Hanson-Jefferson M0453	76-22	4020.0	2924.0	<u>27.3</u>
Hanson-Jefferson M0453	76-22	4030.0	2782.0	<u>31.0</u>

% Loss  
Difference: 3.7

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	% Loss
Martin Marietta-Cayce/N. Cola N0175	76-22	3908.0	3152.0	19.3
Martin Marietta-Cayce/N. Cola N0175	76-22	3926.0	3136.0	20.1

% Loss  
Difference: 0.8

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	<u>% Loss</u>
Vulcan-Columbia N0432	76-22	3858.0	2740.0	<u>29.0</u>
Vulcan-Columbia N0432	76-22	3874.0	2904.0	<u>25.0</u>

% Loss  
Difference: 3.9

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	<u>% Loss</u>
Martin Marietta-Rock Hill P0296	76-22	4032.0	2836.0	<u>29.7</u>
Martin Marietta-Rock Hill P0296	76-22	3998.0	2506.0	<u>37.3</u>

% Loss  
Difference: 7.7

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	% Loss
Hanson-Sandy Flats L0484	76-22	4038.0	3338.0	17.3
Hanson-Sandy Flats L0484	76-22	4044.0	3528.0	12.8

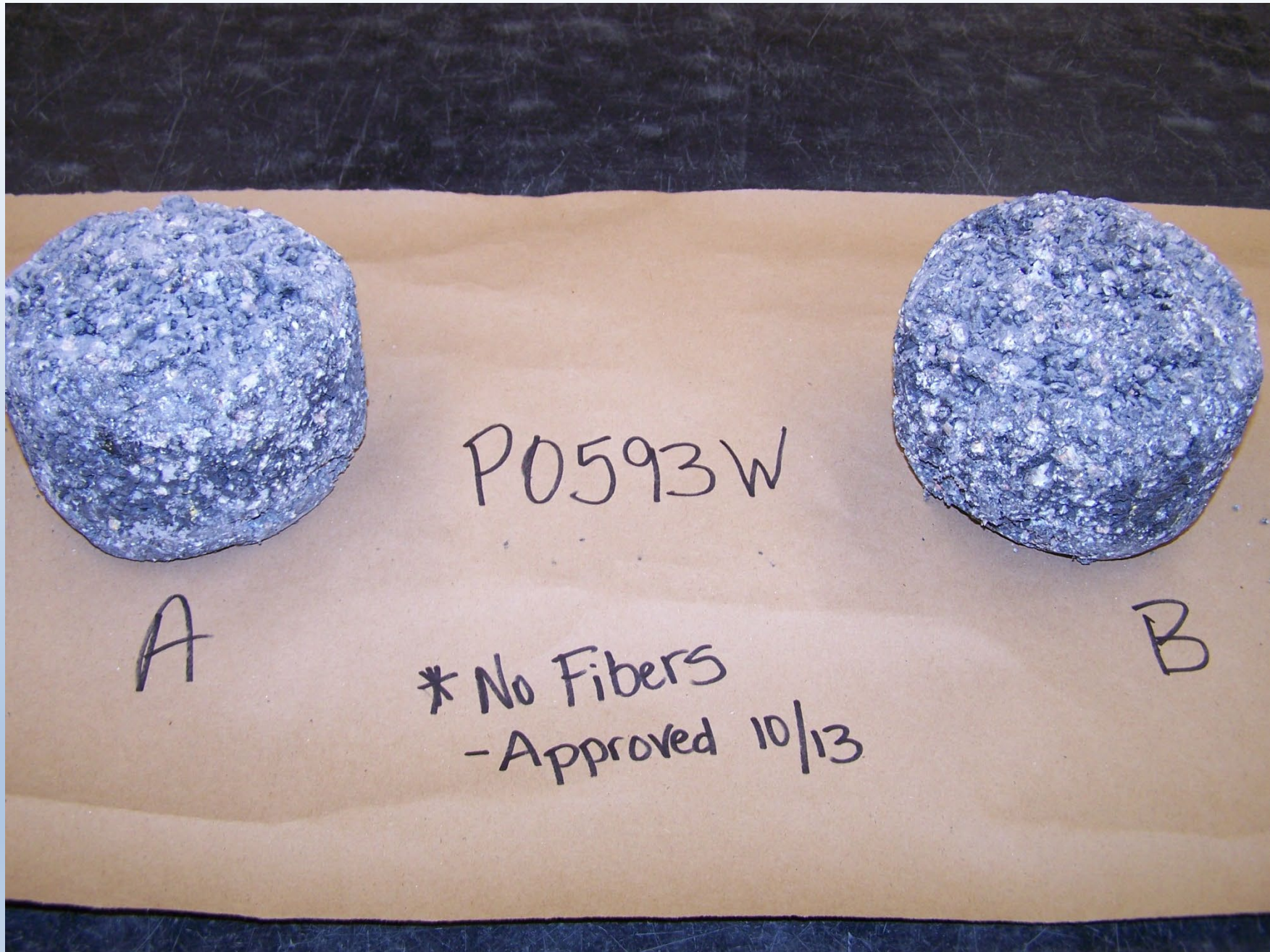
% Loss  
Difference: 4.6

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	% Loss
Buckhorn-Lynches River N0100	76-22	4046.0	3244.0	19.8
Buckhorn-Lynches River N0100	76-22	4030.0	3310.0	17.9

% Loss  
Difference: 2.0

Quarry	PG	w <sub>1</sub> [g]	w <sub>2</sub> [g]	<u>% Loss</u>
Martin Marietta-Augusta M0472	76-22	3778.0	1148.0	<u>69.6</u>
Martin Marietta-Augusta M0472	76-22	3786.0	1420.0	<u>62.5</u>

% Loss  
Difference: 7.1



P0593W

A

B

\* No Fibers  
- Approved 10/13

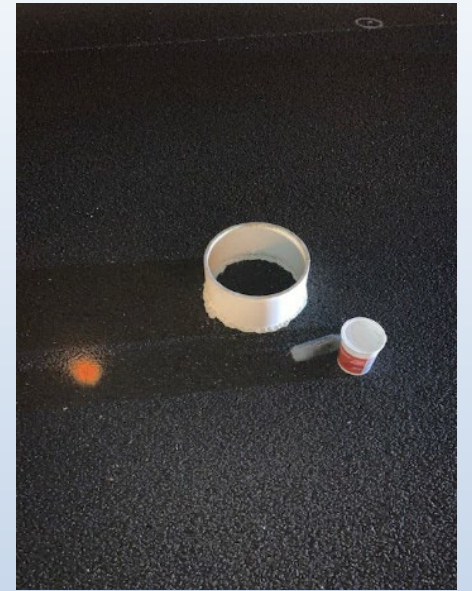
# SPR 687 – Conclusions, Part 1

Performance:

Raveling: caused by low binder content, oxidation,

Porosity: inadequate compaction, wear and tear.

Delamination: caused by inadequate tack coat, excessive cooling prior to compaction, bonding capability of tack coat, paving over pavement marking



# SPR 687 – Conclusions, Part 2

Clogging: caused by sediment – deposits, fat spots – clumps of fibers, high binder content, porosity – gradation selection, over compaction

Drain down: caused by excessive binder content, inadequate fiber content, excessive production temperature, and long haul distances and high temps.

# SPR 687 – Conclusions, Part 3

## Mix Design:

Continue with SC-T-91 (select binder content),

Check Porosity and Abrasion Resistance with Cantabro – LA Abrasion machine (50 gyration design) – suggest 20% maximum,

Look into designs w/o fibers – use GTR or WMA

Add fines to improve durability and increase overall binder content ..

# SPR 687 – Conclusions, Part 4

## Dr. Putnam

### Thickness Design

- minimum of 1.25 inches or two times largest aggregate (up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " aggregates)
- suggest placement 1.25-1.50 inches



# SPR 687 – Conclusions, Part 5

Dr. Putnam

## Construction:

- monitor compaction temperature
- 1<sup>st</sup> load – waste to heat MTV and Paver
- provide more compaction to joints (more roller passes, but careful not to breakdown)
- possibility of increased mix temperature of first few loads, being careful of draindown.
- proper tack coat, trackless tacks?

# Old OGFC Spec - Prior to 2019

Sieve	Percent Passing
$\frac{3}{4}$ -inch	100
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch	85.0 – 100.0
$\frac{3}{8}$ -inch	55.0 – 75.0
No. 4	15.0 – 25.0
No.8	5.0 – 10.0
No.200	0.00 – 4.00
Range for % Binder	5.50 – 7.00

Revised Specification – 2019 to Present  
12.5mm Designs- finer to allow more fines for added  
overall mix durability...

Sieve	Percent Passing
¾-inch	100
½-inch	85.0 - 100
⅜-inch	55.0 -75.0
No. 4	<u>15.0 – 30.0</u>
No.8	<u>5.0 - 15.0</u>
No.200	0.00 – 4.00
Range for % Binder	5.50 – 7.00

New Specification – 2019 to Present  
9.5mm Designs – New to SC – more durable against  
future scarring and wheel-rim damage...

Sieve	Percent Passing
$\frac{3}{4}$ -inch	100
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch	95.0 - 100
$\frac{3}{8}$ -inch	80.0 – 100
No. 4	20.0 - 50.0
No.8	5.0 – 20.0
No.200	0.00 – 4.00
Range for % Binder	5.50 – 7.00

# *Conclusions / Suggestions with OGFC*

- Give choice between 9.5mm and 12.5mm
- ***Suggest adding 5-8% of washing screenings to improve durability***
- Use WMA (chemical additive) and PG 76-22
- Specify Porosity  $\geq 13.0$
- Specify Cantabro  $\leq 15.0\%$
- Require a min of 55° F degree ambient to place OGFC
- Require OGFC Paving Plan – w/ trucking, etc.
- Waste ½-1 load prior to paving to preheat equipment and reduce chances of contamination
- Produce between 225-285°F (250-265° is usually ideal)
- Good tack coat - require PG 64-22 or Hot Polymer Trackless
- Do not over-roll, but ensure its seated to underlying surface
- ***Prevent paver stops at all cost !!!!!!! Keep moving at all times!***



# Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Coarse (UTBWC)

# UTBWC Characteristics

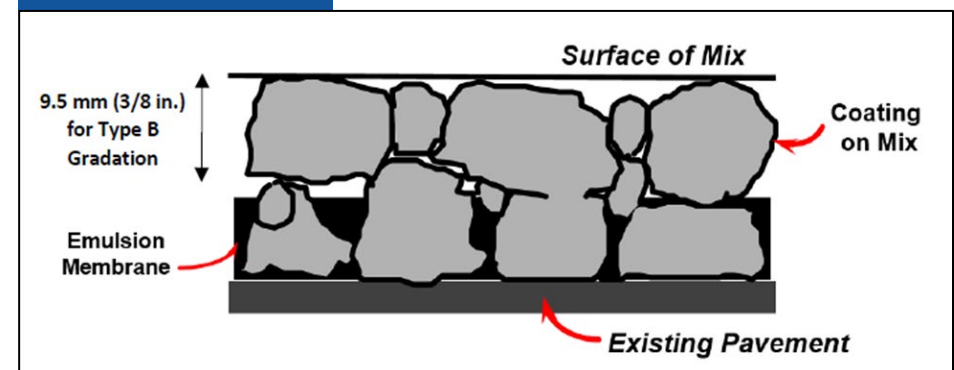
- Heavy, polymer-modified asphalt emulsion membrane.
- Placed in 0.4-inch to 0.8-inch lift.
- Gap-graded polymer-modified No. 4 to ½ inch (Nominal Maximum Aggregate Size, or NMAS) hot mix asphalt (HMA).
- Placed using a spray paver in a single pass.

Newly Paved Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Coarse (UTBWC) Section



Source: MnDOT 2022

UTBWC Schematic



Source: MnDOT 2018

# UTBWC Background

- Proprietary system originally developed in France in 1986.
- Successfully used in Europe as preventive maintenance and surface rehabilitation technique.
  - Restoring skid resistance.
  - Sealing the surface.
- First sections of UTBWC in the US were placed by Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas DOTs in the early 1990s.
- Over the years, optimized materials and construction processes.
- Several DOTs have used UTBWC (under varying names) and have a current standard or special specification.



Source: Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp



# UTBWC Terminology

- Minnesota DOT (MnDOT)
  - Ultra-thin bonded wearing course (UTBWC)
- Pennsylvania DOT (PennDOT)
  - Mixture: Ultra-thin wearing course (UTWC)
  - Emulsion: Ultra-thin wearing course emulsion membrane (UTWCEM).
- California DOT (Caltrans)
  - Bonded wearing course (BWC)



# Benefits of UTBWC

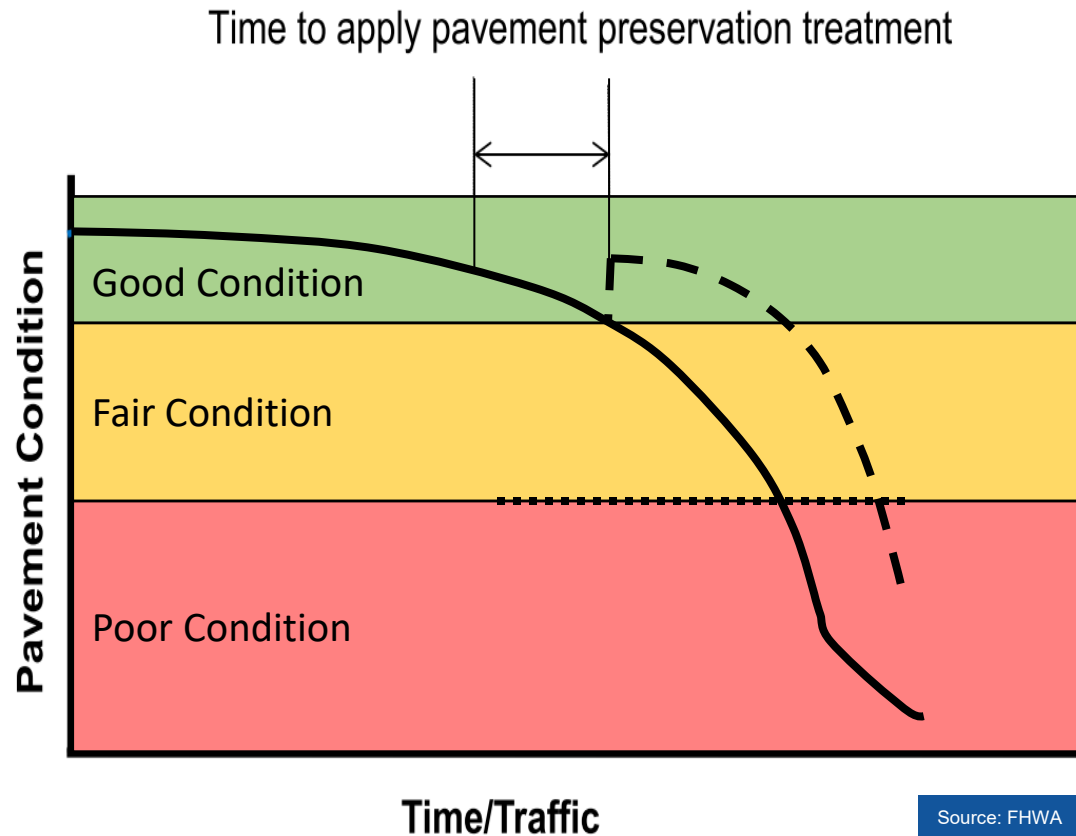
- Appropriate for State highway systems with high traffic volumes.
- Renews the road surface, provides a good surface treatment and extends pavement life.
- Minimizes impact on traffic with shorter lane closures.
- Adds service life to the pavement without a significant change in profile grade.
- Few curb and clearance adjustments needed due to thin application.
- Can be used on HMA and portland cement concrete (PCC) surfaces.

# Benefits of UTBWC, Continued

- Can reduce tire-pavement noise.
- Helps maintain ride quality improvements.
- High macro-texture and open surface can improve safety and reduce back spray and splash.
- Slows down traffic and weather-related pavement deterioration.
- Resists cracking by sealing low-severity cracks.
- Resists rutting with stone-on-stone contact between aggregates.
- Improved wear resistance due to the use of high-quality aggregates.

# UTBWC Design and Planning

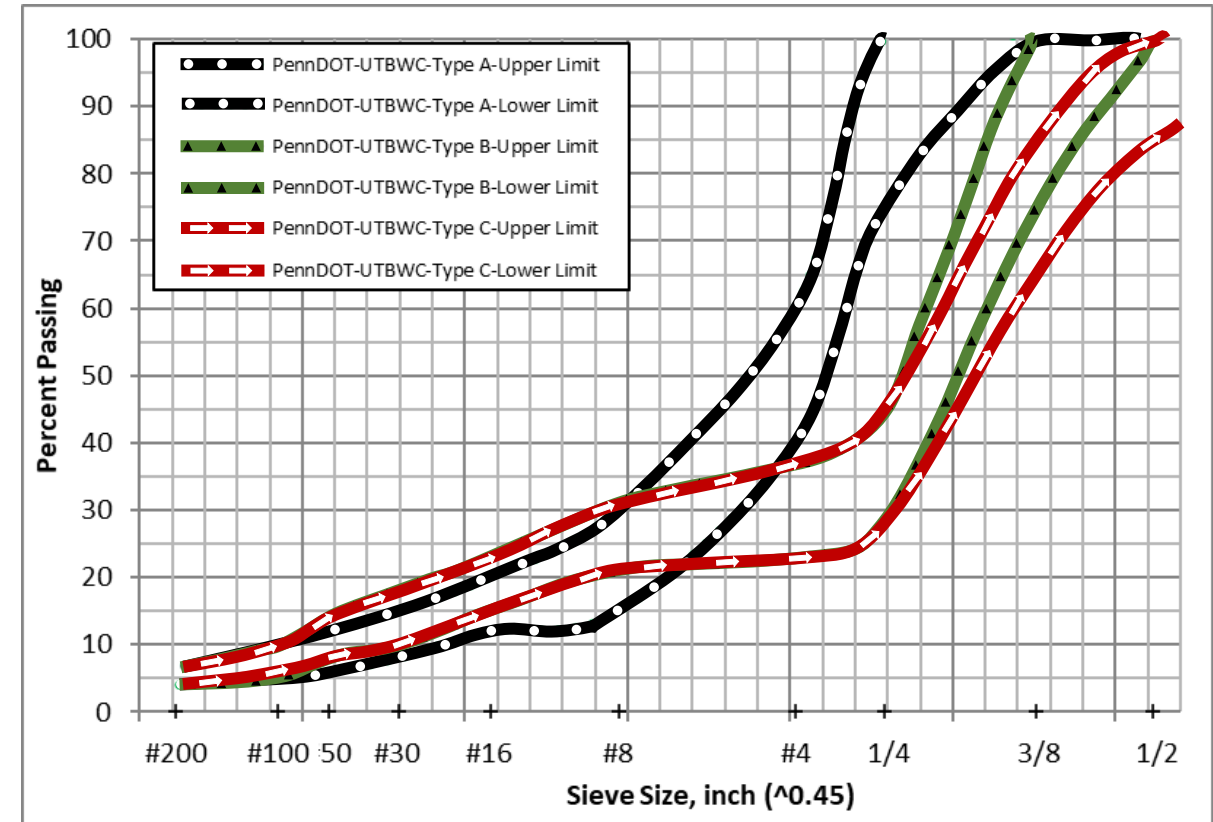
- Project selection criteria.
- Pavement and asset evaluation.
- Pavement design, thickness criteria, and repair strategies.
- Cost and benefit-cost ratio.
- Other considerations.



# UTBWC Materials and Mixture Properties

- Asphalt emulsion membrane.
- Aggregates.
- Asphalt binder.
- Recycled materials and additives.
- Mixture design.
- Specifications.

Design Band Gradations – PennDOT



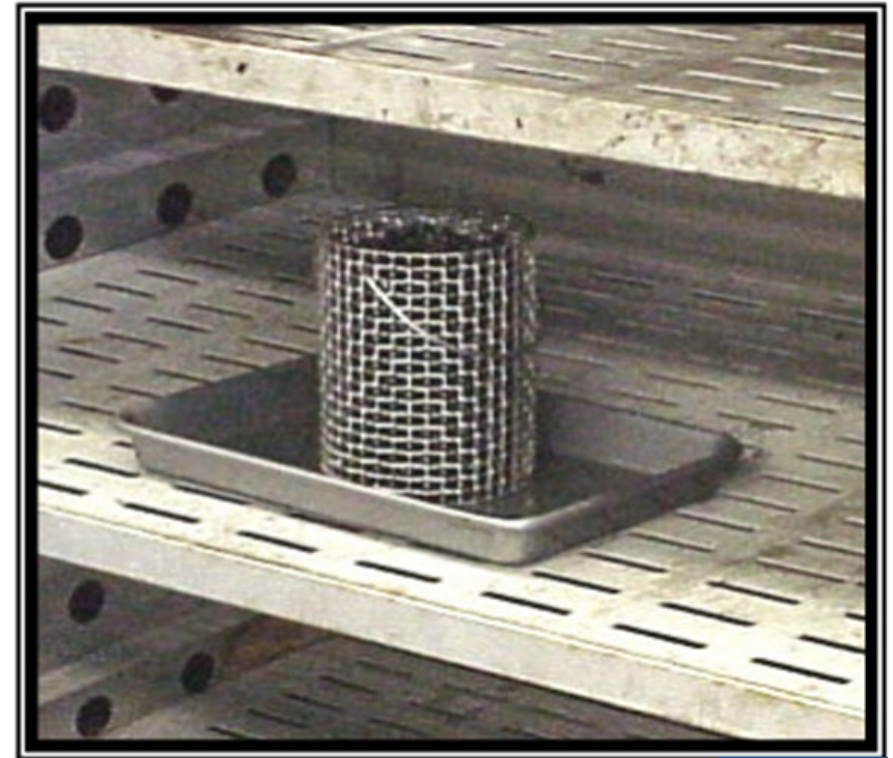
Source: PennDOT

# UTBWC Materials and Mixture Properties, Continued

Processes vary by State DOT.  
Some State requirements include:

- Asphalt content
- Draindown test
- Lottman (tensile strength ratio, or TSR)
- Film thickness

Draindown Testing



Source: InDOT

# UTBWC Production and Construction Practices

- Materials.
- Production, storage, and transportation.
- Surface preparation.
- Placement and compaction.
- Quality control (QC requirements).
- Successful practices.

Material Transfer Vehicle (MTV) and Spray Paver



Source: Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.

# Spray Paver

- Combines tack (or another bonding agent) distributor and paver.
- Bonding agent and HMA placed in one pass.
- Improved bonding since there are no opportunities to track dirt and debris onto tack/bonding or pickup tack/bonding on construction equipment.

Spray Paver – Emulsion and HMA in one pass



Source: Armaz (2016)



# More Information About TOPS

- Stay tuned for more TOPS resources at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/tops/>
  - Asphalt resources:  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/tops/asphalt\\_resources.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/tops/asphalt_resources.cfm)
  - Concrete resources:  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/tops/concrete\\_resources.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/tops/concrete_resources.cfm)

# Minnesota DOT Case Study

# About the Presenter, Jerry Geib

- **Jerry Geib** works as a Research Operations Engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- 23-year career at MnDOT
- Research Engineer, Pavement Preservation Engineer, and Pavement Design Engineer
- Works on developing specifications and guidelines, and providing training and assistance
- Member of the Emulsion Task Force
- Jerry works on “Keeping the Good Roads – Good.”



# EDC6 TOPS UTBWC in Minnesota



## *MnDOT*

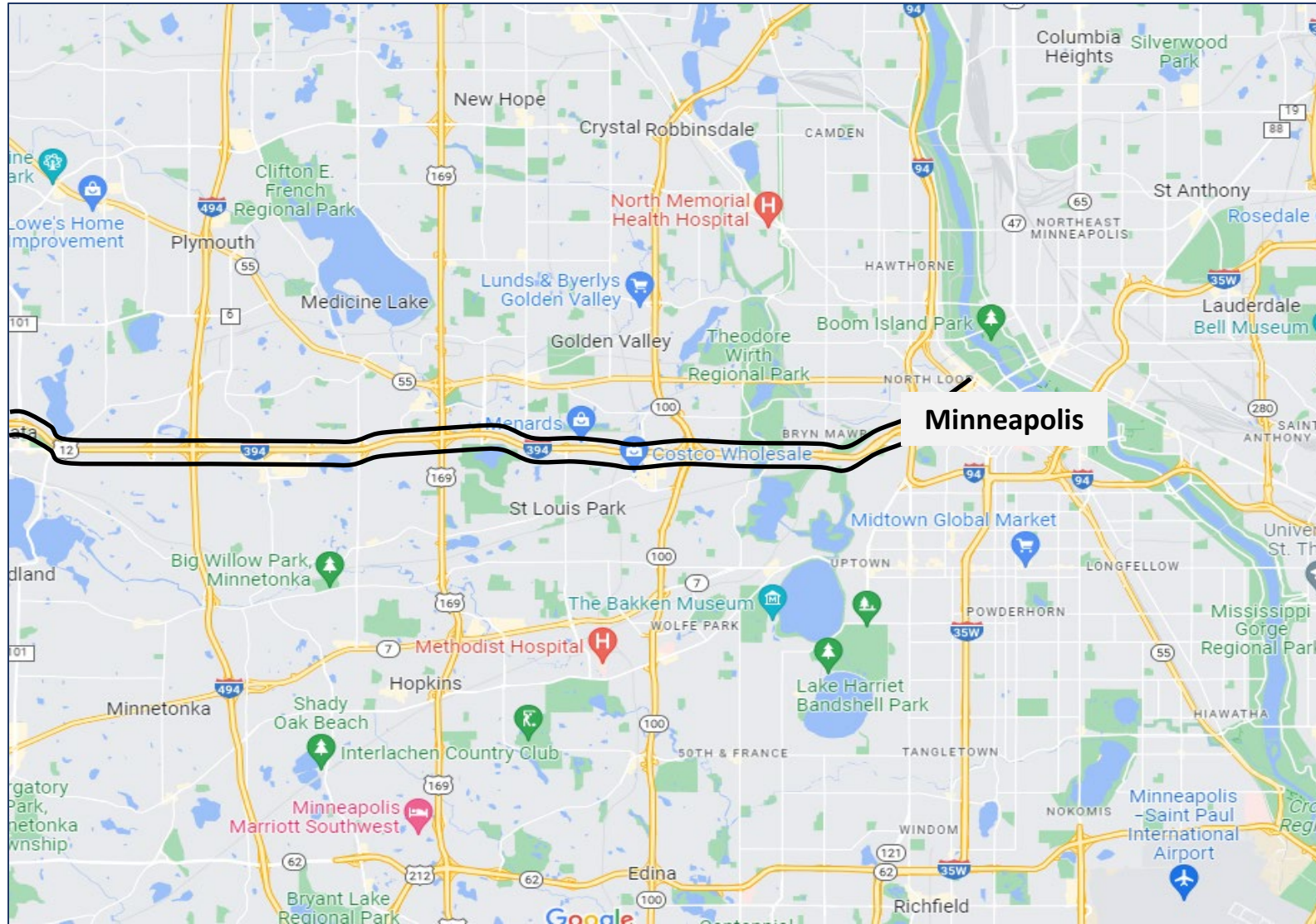
**Safer, Smarter, Sustainable Pavements through Innovative Research**



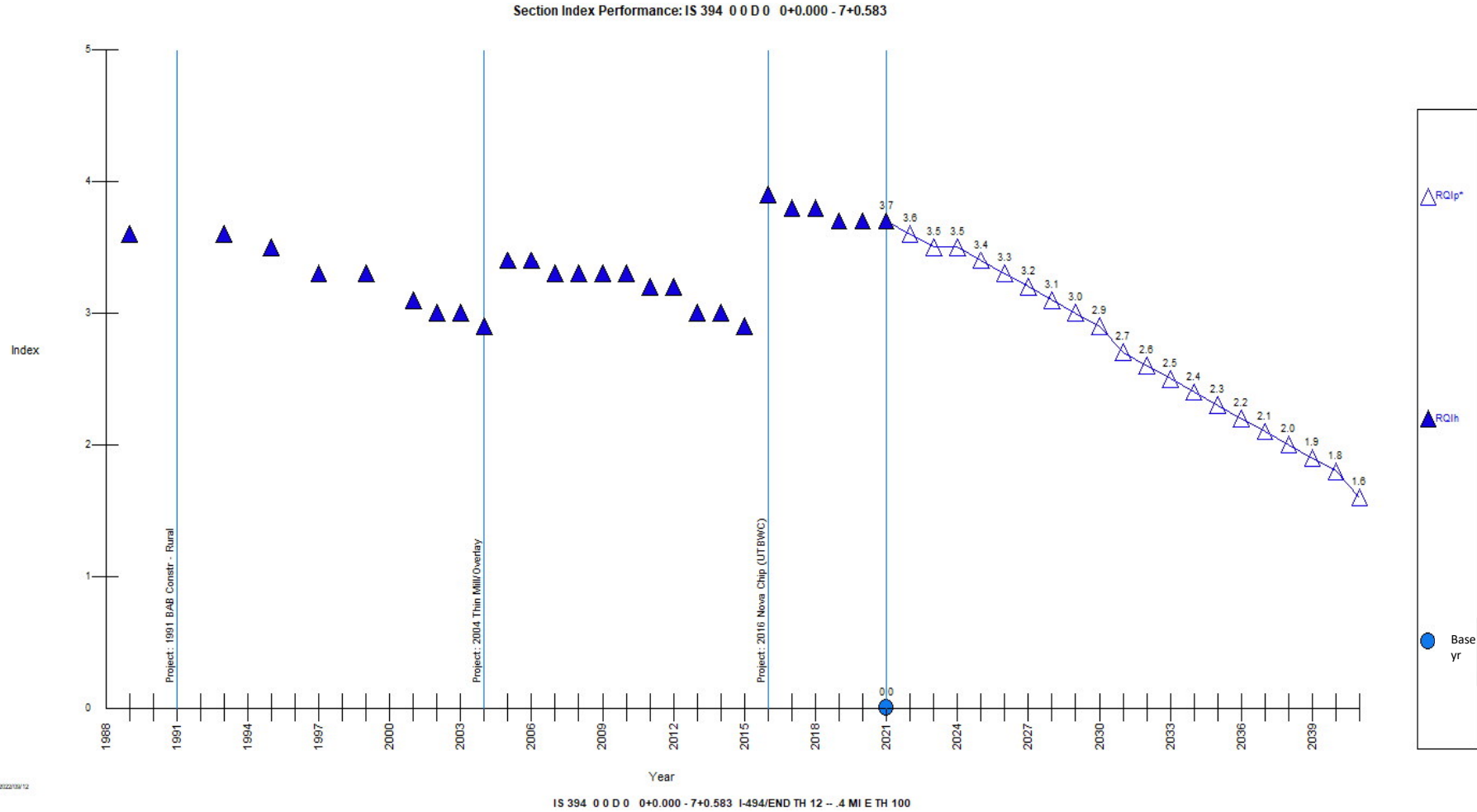
# Purpose

- *MN UTBWC – My Favorites*
  - *I-394 - Minneapolis*
  - *MN 36 – earliest, 5 years*
  - *US 169 - oldest*
  - *MnROAD - when New*
  - *D7 (southwestern) – snow*
  - *On PCC*

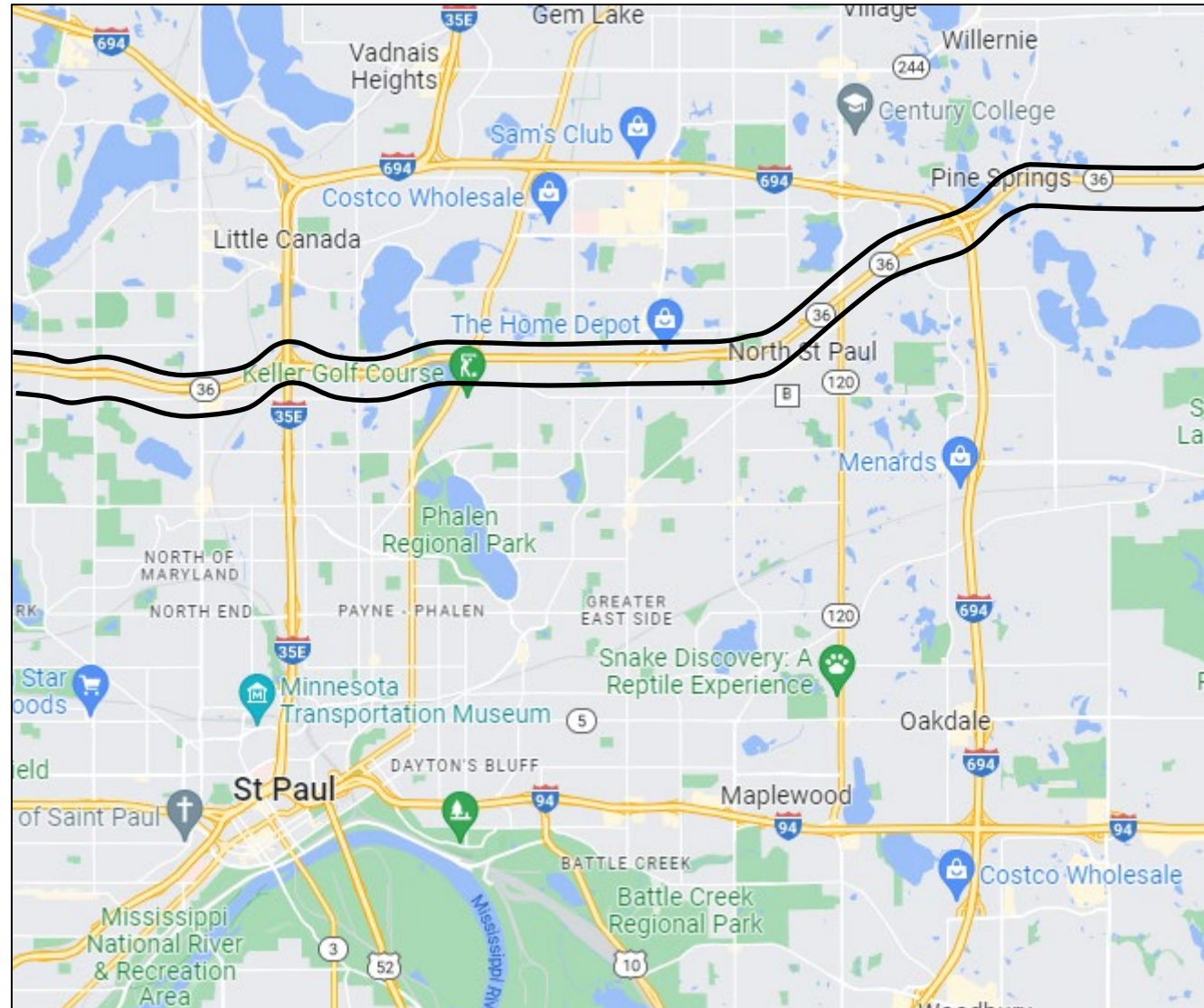
# I-394



# I-394, Continued

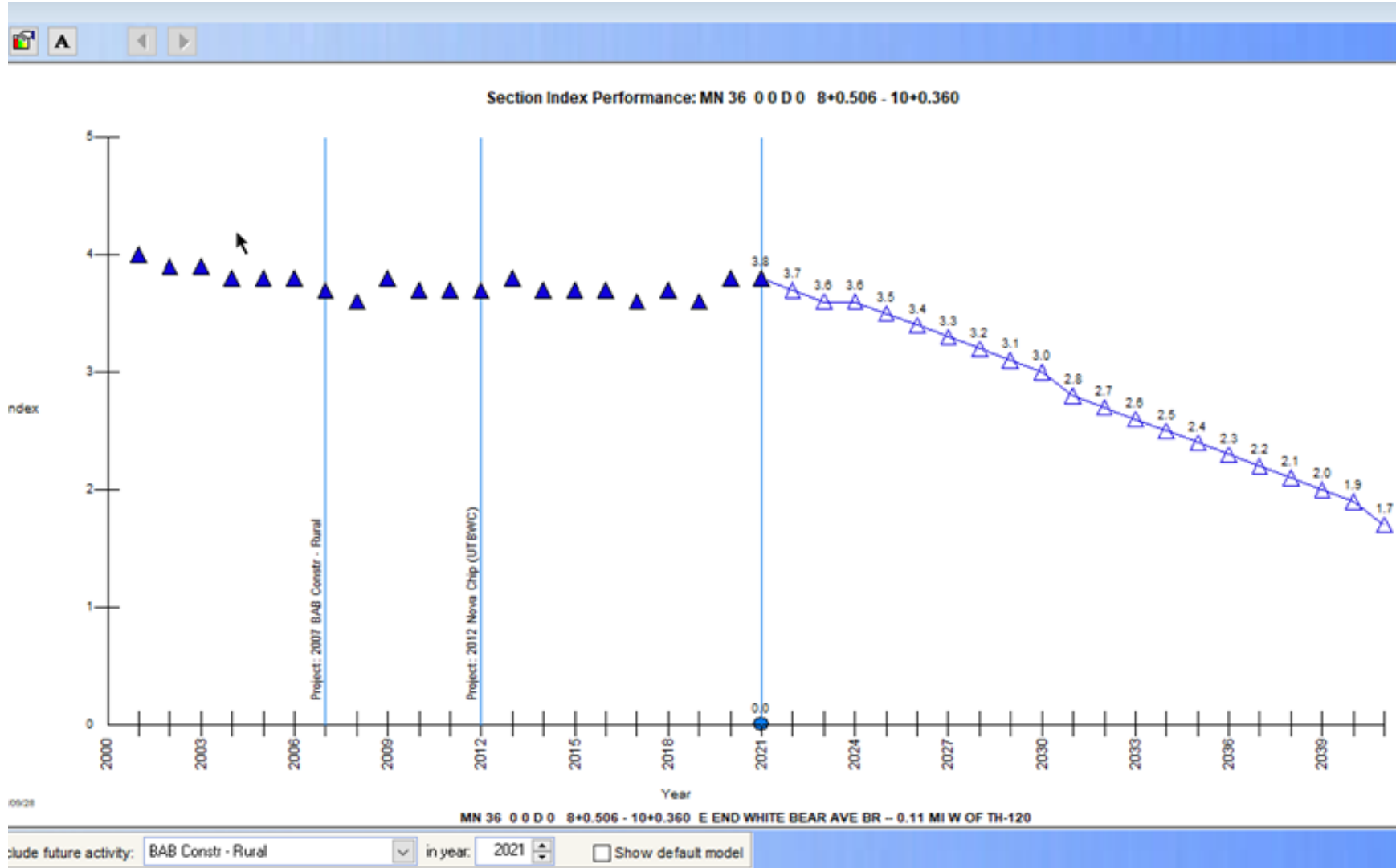


# MN 36

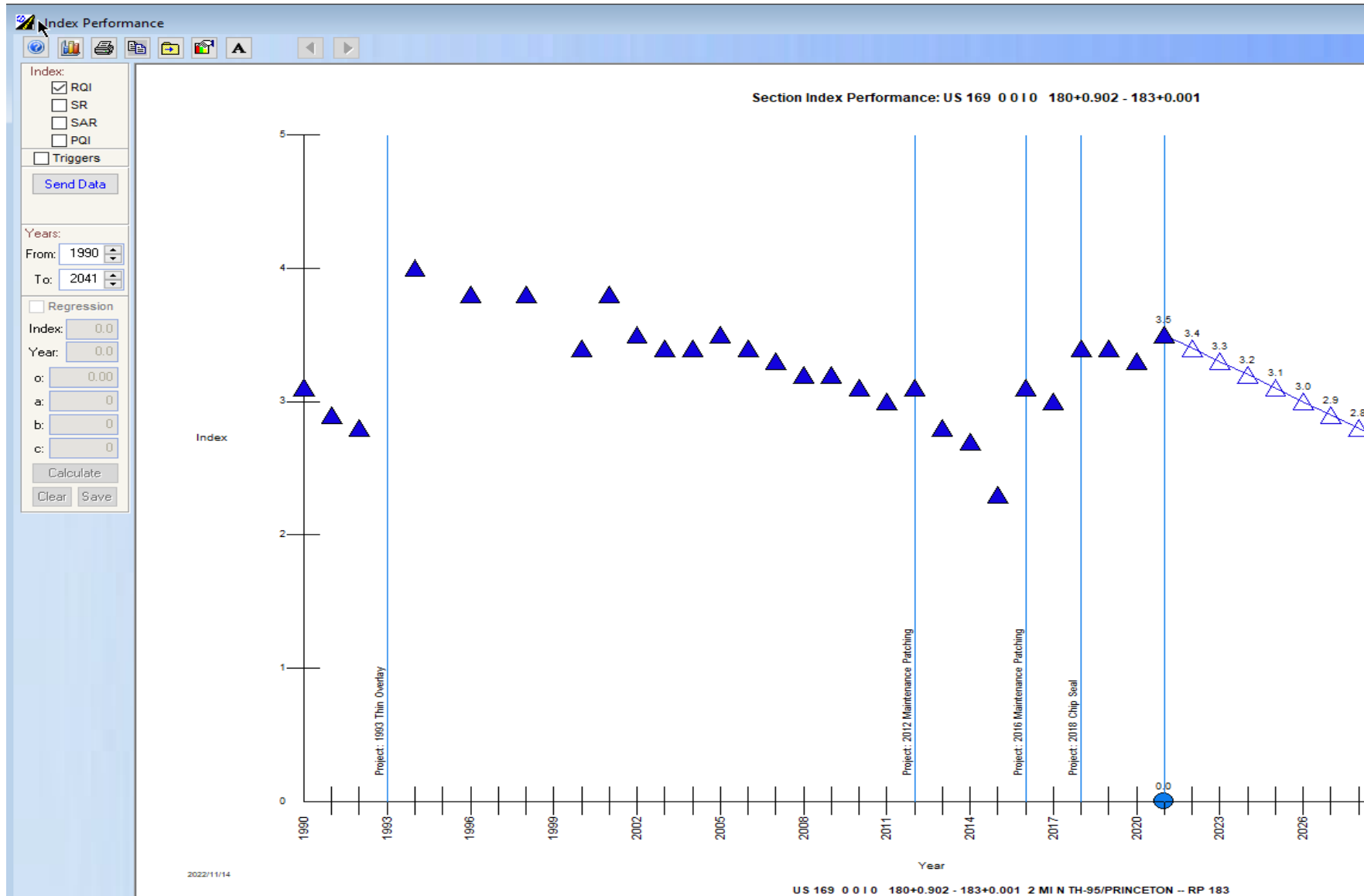




# MN 36, Continued



# US 169



# MnROAD

Original HMA	Stabilized Full Depth Reclamation			
	1	2	3	4
6"	1" TBWC	1" TBWC	1" TBWC	1" 64-34
58-28 75 blow	2" 64-34	2" 64-34	2" 64-34	2" 64-34
33" Class 4	6" FDR + EE	6" FDR + EE	6" FDR	8" FDR + EE
	6" FDR	6" FDR 2" CI 5		9" FDR + Fly Ash
Driving Lane 1.5" 52- 34 HMA inlay 2006	26" Class 4	33" Class 3		
Clay	Clay	Clay		Clay
Sep 92	Oct 08	Oct 08		Oct 08
Current	Current	Current		Current

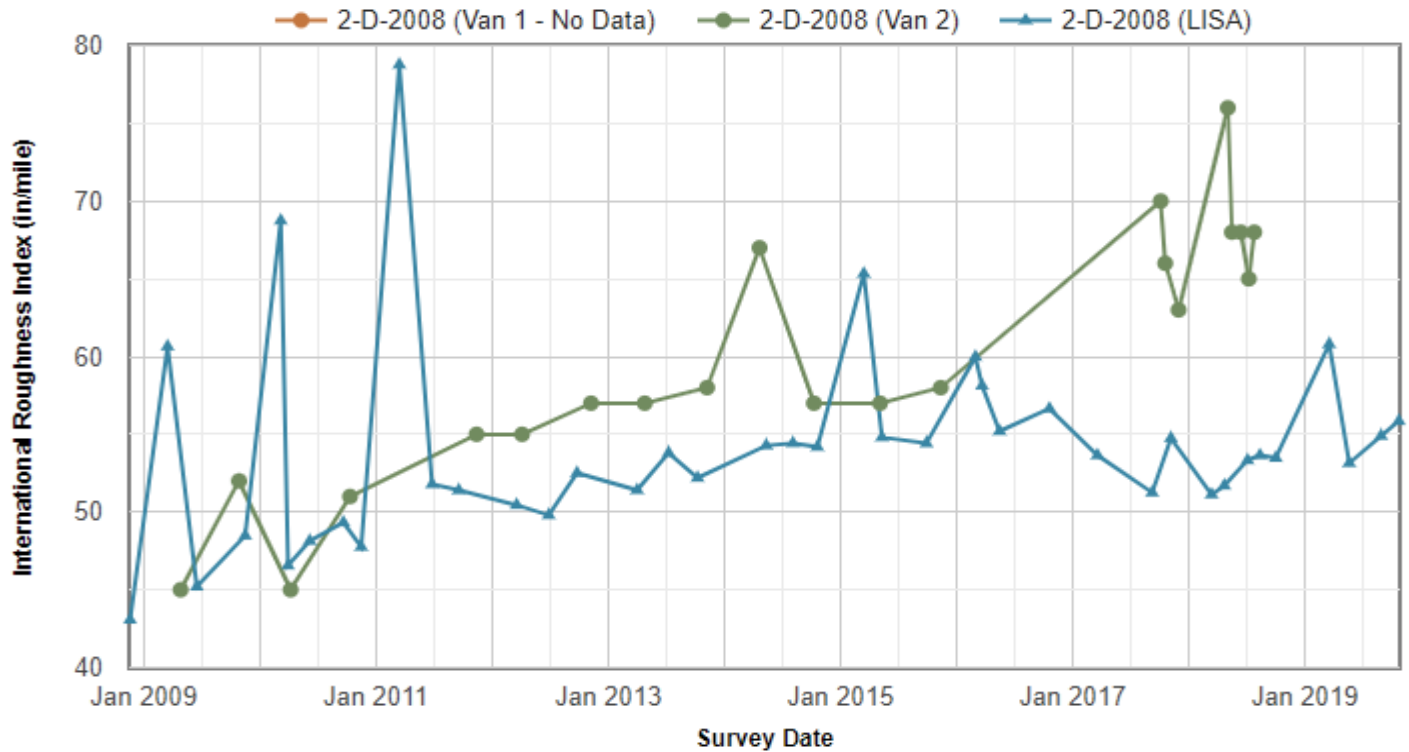
Roadway: MnROAD Mainline - Interstate 94    Section: 2-D-2008

Select Sections for Comparison

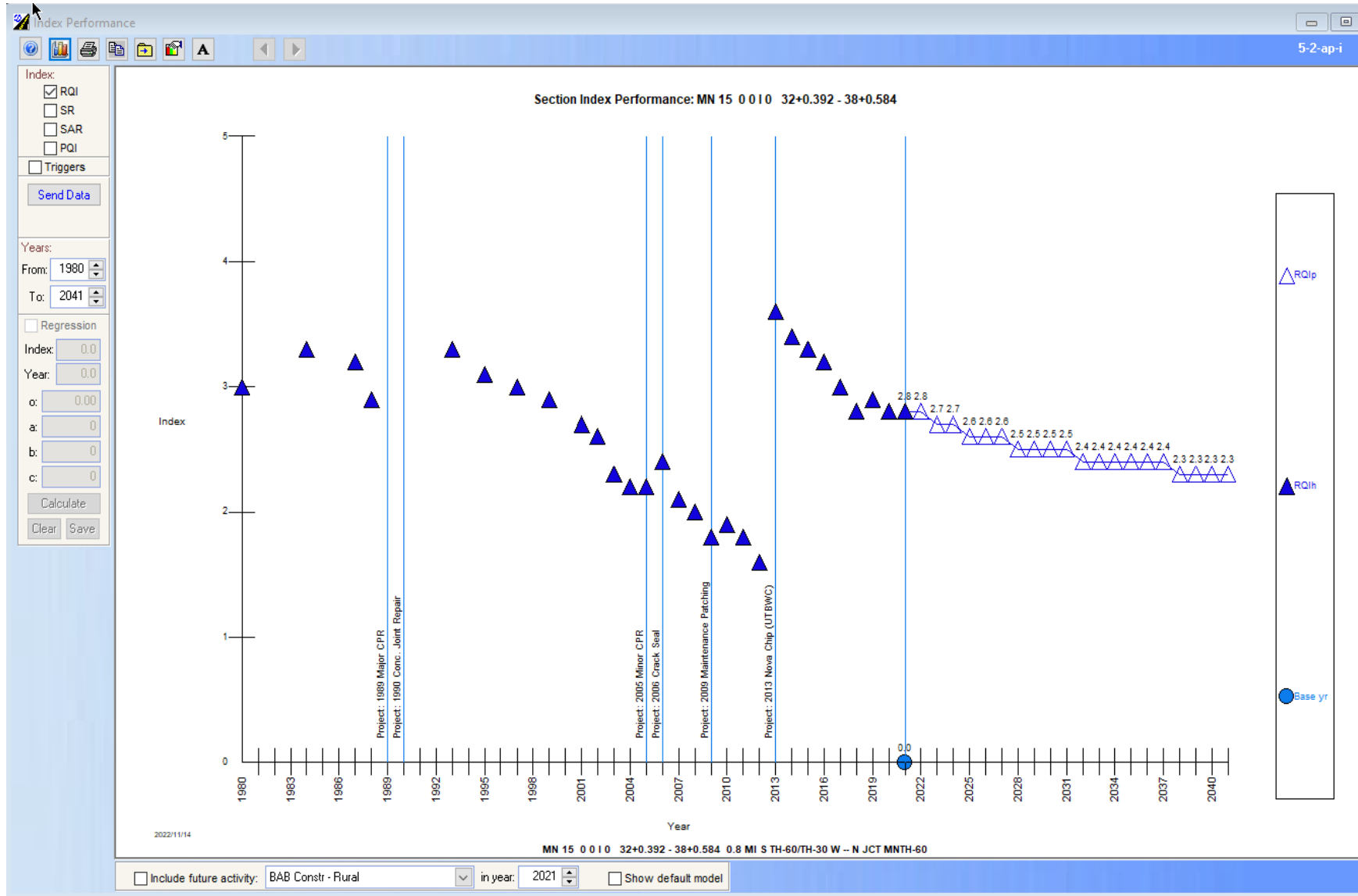
		Select	Select	Select
Roadway	MnROAD Mainline - Interstate 94			
Section	2-D-2008			

International Roughness Index (IRI)

Horizontal Axis Type: Survey Date

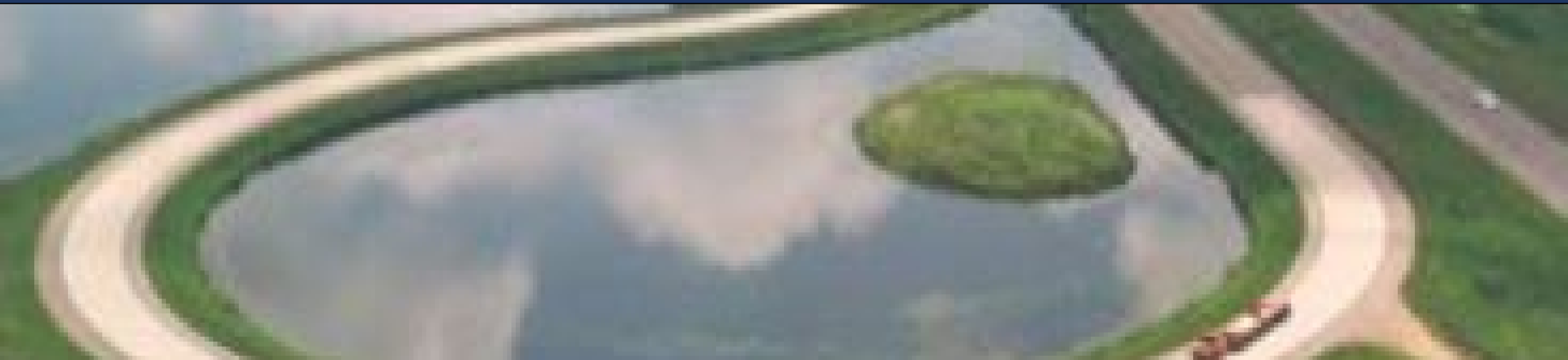


# MN 15



“It was not our wealth that made our highways possible; rather it was our highways that made our wealth possible”,

Thomas Harris McDonald  
Commissioner of Public Roads  
1939 – 1953



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Jerry Geib  
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# Q & A

**Open-Graded Friction Course (OGFC)**

**Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course  
(UTBWC)**



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