

KRATON™

Oklahoma's Rich Intermediate Layer

Gary L. Fitts, P.E., Kraton Corporation



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Ground Breaking Innovations**

Agenda

- EDC-6, TOPS
- Interlayers
- Rehabilitation of Oklahoma test section N8 at the NCAT Test Track (2009)
- I-40 rehabilitation (2012)
- RIL applications, since 2012
- Specifications, examples from other states

FHWA “Every Day Counts” Initiative, EDC-6

- Targeted Overlay Pavement Solutions (TOPS)
- Approximately half of all infrastructure dollars are invested in pavements, and more than half of that investment is in overlays.
- Solutions for integrating innovative overlay procedures into practices that can improve performance, lessen traffic impacts, and reduce the cost of pavement ownership.

State of the Practice

Recent improvements to design methods, interlayer technology, slab geometry, and concrete mixtures have broadened concrete overlay surface treatment applicability, reliability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. A joint effort by Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, and Oklahoma resulted in the development of an improved design procedure for jointed unbonded concrete overlays on either concrete or composite pavements.

For asphalt overlays, several State departments of transportation (DOTs) have adopted SMA due to increased service life and performance. The Maryland, Alabama, and Utah DOTs each used over 1 million tons of SMA during a 5-year period. DOTs in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York City, Tennessee, and Virginia found highly modified asphalt in thin overlays is more resistant to reflective cracking. It has increased pavement life by two to four times for DOTs in Alabama and Oklahoma.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_6/

The screenshot shows the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation website. The header includes the FHWA logo and navigation links. The main content area features a grid of images related to highway construction and innovation. Below the images is a section titled "EDC-6 Innovations (2021-2022)" with a list of innovation categories: Crowdsourcing for Advancing Operations, e-Ticketing and Digital As-Builts, Next-Generation TIM: Integrating Technology, Data, and Training, Strategic Workforce Development, Targeted Overlay Pavement Solutions, UHPC for Bridge Preservation and Repair, and Virtual Public Involvement. A "Contact" section is also visible on the right side of the page.

EDC-6 TOPS-Asphalt Overlay Categories

- Asphalt Rubber Gap-Graded
- Crack Attenuating Mixture
- Enhanced Friction Overlay
- Highly Modified Asphalt
- High-Performance Thin Overlay
- Open-Graded Friction Course
- Stone Mix Asphalt (aka Stone Matrix Asphalt, or SMA)
- Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course

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Interlayers

- Primary purpose: to delay or prevent distress from reflecting from underlying pavement/material
- Types:
 - Fabric/geotextiles
 - Woven, non-woven
 - Typically placed over a leveling course
 - Chip seal-type applications
 - Asphalt rubber/stress absorbing membrane interlayer (SAMI)
 - Underseal
 - Hot mix asphalt
 - Strata[®]
 - Rich intermediate/rich bottom layer

Potential Interlayer Concerns

- Multiple operations to mobilize for
 - Added complexity, cost, time
- Specialized work (geotextile placement, asphalt-rubber SAMI application)
- Traffic control during construction
- Cost
- Effectiveness
 - Mixed experience
 - Make sure that the conditions are appropriate
 - Stable underlying structure (minimal vertical movement under loading at cracks)
 - Underlying material resistant to moisture damage
 - Correct any problem with subsurface drainage.



NCAT's Test Track—the only high-speed, full-scale accelerated pavement testing facility in the world—is a 1.7-mile oval with experimental sections sponsored by highway agencies and the transportation industry.

Want to get involved? Contact us for information on how to become a sponsor.

GET IN TOUCH

<https://www.eng.auburn.edu/research/centers/ncat/testtrack/index.html>

NCAT 2006 Construction, Sections N8 & N9, Oklahoma DOT

- ODOT tested the perpetual pavement concept, anticipating several greenfield highway projects
- Two test sections: N8 (not perpetual) and N9 (perpetual)
- N8 experienced fatigue cracking and structural rutting, requiring rehabilitation

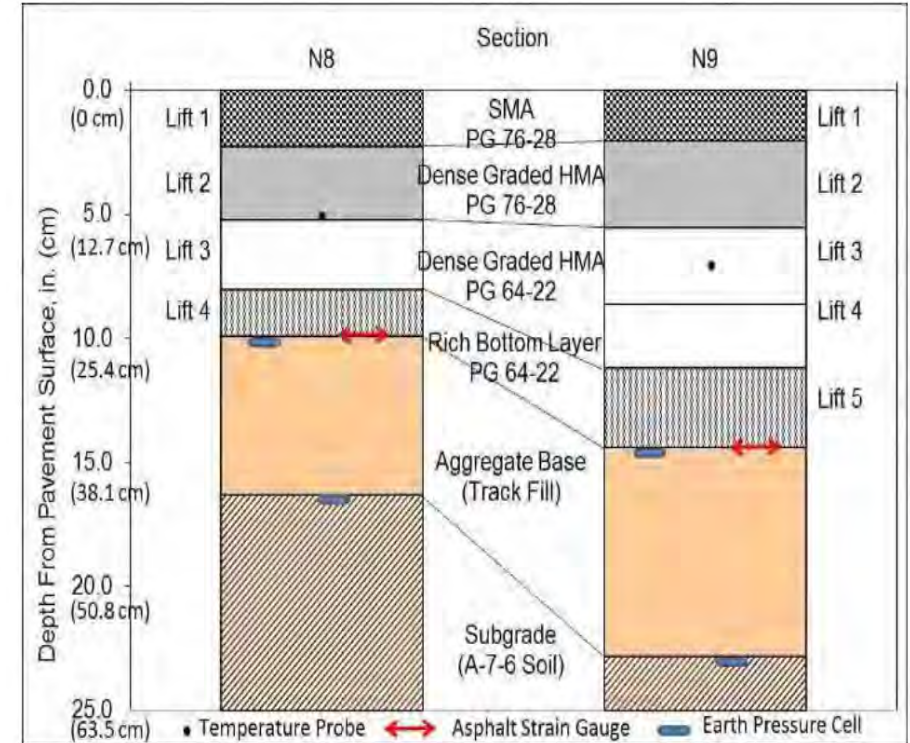


Figure 1 Structural Cross Sections and Instrumentation (1)

Timm, D. H., D. Gierhart, and J. R. Willis. Strain Regimes Measured in Two Full Scale Perpetual Pavements. Proc., International Conference on Perpetual Pavement, Columbus, OH., 2009.

NCAT Section N8, Oklahoma DOT

- Excellent performance observed on the adjacent test section (N7), which was a thin (5¾-inch) pavement using “highly-modified” asphalt (HiMA) binder
- Milled 6 inches, replaced with a like thickness of mixtures using HiMA binder
 - Rapid, straightforward construction
 - Included a 1-inch “rich HPM” (RIL) lift

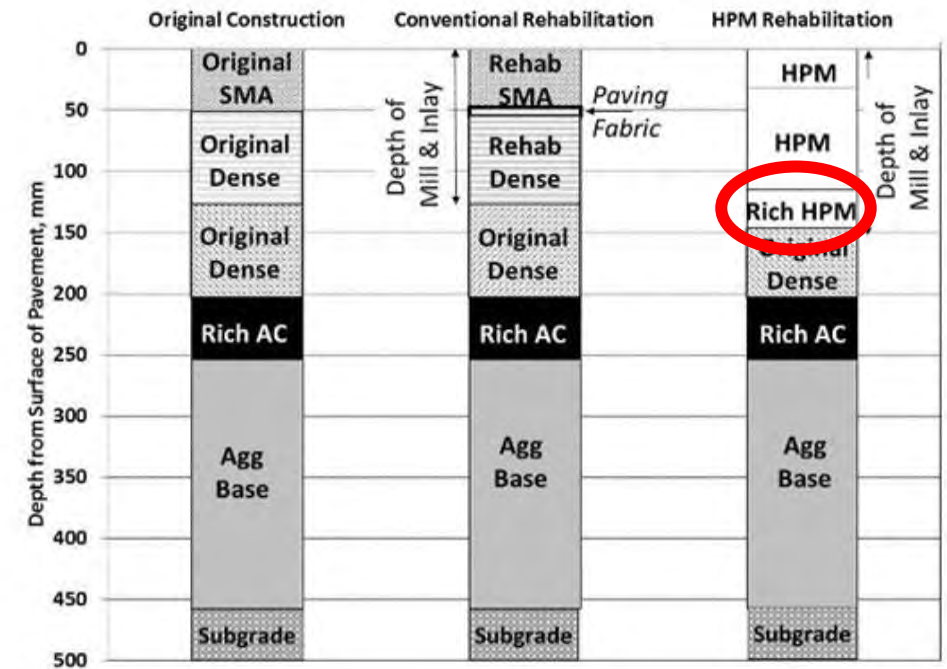


Figure 2 N8 Cross Section History (3)

NCAT Report 16-04

<https://eng.auburn.edu/research/centers/ncat/files/technical-reports/rep16-04.pdf>

NCAT Section N8 – June 29, 2010



- 10" pavement built in Aug. 2006
- 5" rehabilitation in Aug. 2009

NCAT Section N8 Rehabilitation-Results

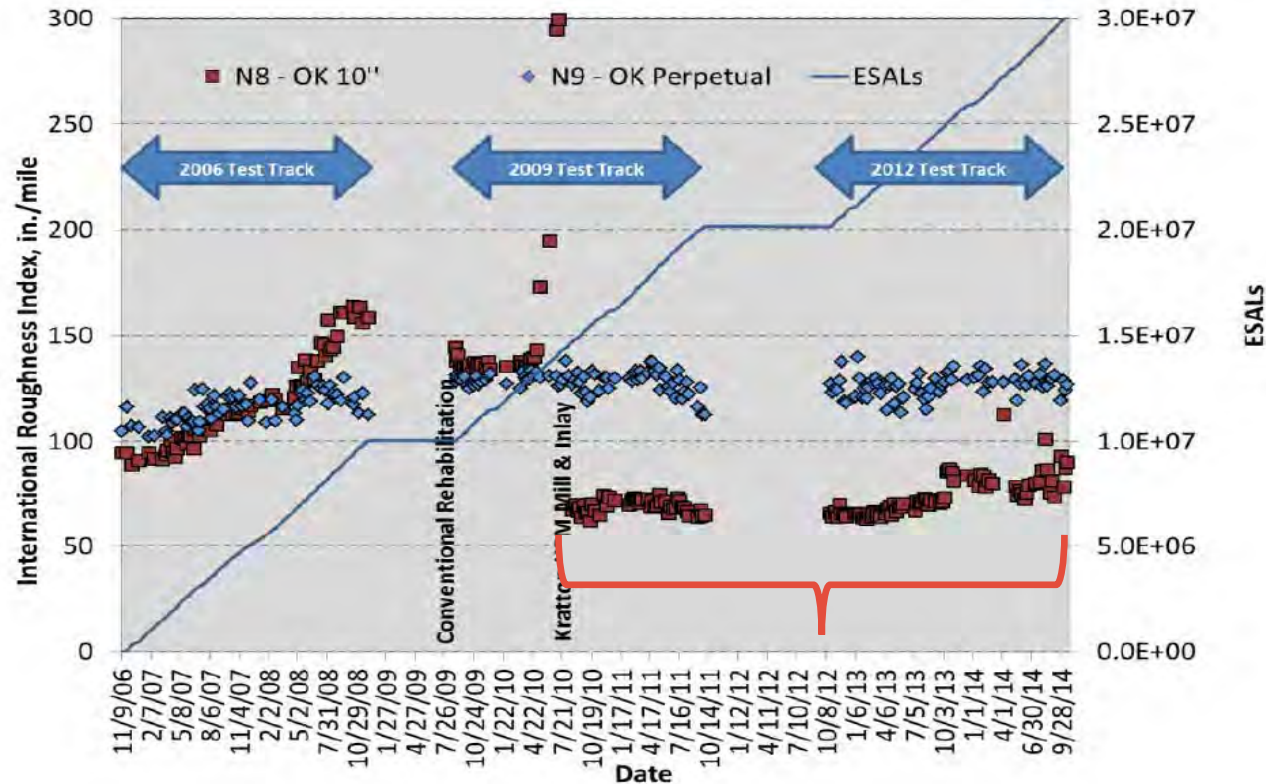


Figure 4 IRI Evaluation of Oklahoma Perpetual Pavement Sections

NCAT Report 16-04

<https://www.eng.auburn.edu/research/centers/ncat/files/technical-reports/rep16-04.pdf>

- Roughness, rutting stabilized after HiMA rehabilitation
- No cracks observed until after >15 million ESAL
- A viable option for rapid rehabilitation of Interstates or other pavements subjected to heavy vehicle traffic

Construction History, I-40 MP 102.2-104.2

| Year | Work Description |
|------|--|
| 1962 | Original construction, consisting of: 4.5 in, asphalt concrete 8 in, sand asphalt 6 in, stabilized base |
| 1975 | 1.5 in. asphalt concrete overlay |
| 1980 | OGFC (probably 0.75 in) Petromat (paving fabric) Asphalt concrete leveling course (probably around 1.5 in) |
| 1991 | 3 in, asphalt concrete, Type B Cold milling (no thickness indicated) |
| 1996 | 2.5 in, asphalt concrete Type B, polymer-modified asphalt binder 2 in cold milling (outside lanes) |
| 2007 | Novachip (typically 0.5-0.75 in) 2 in hot in-place recycling |

I-40, Caddo County (approx. MP 102.2-104.2)

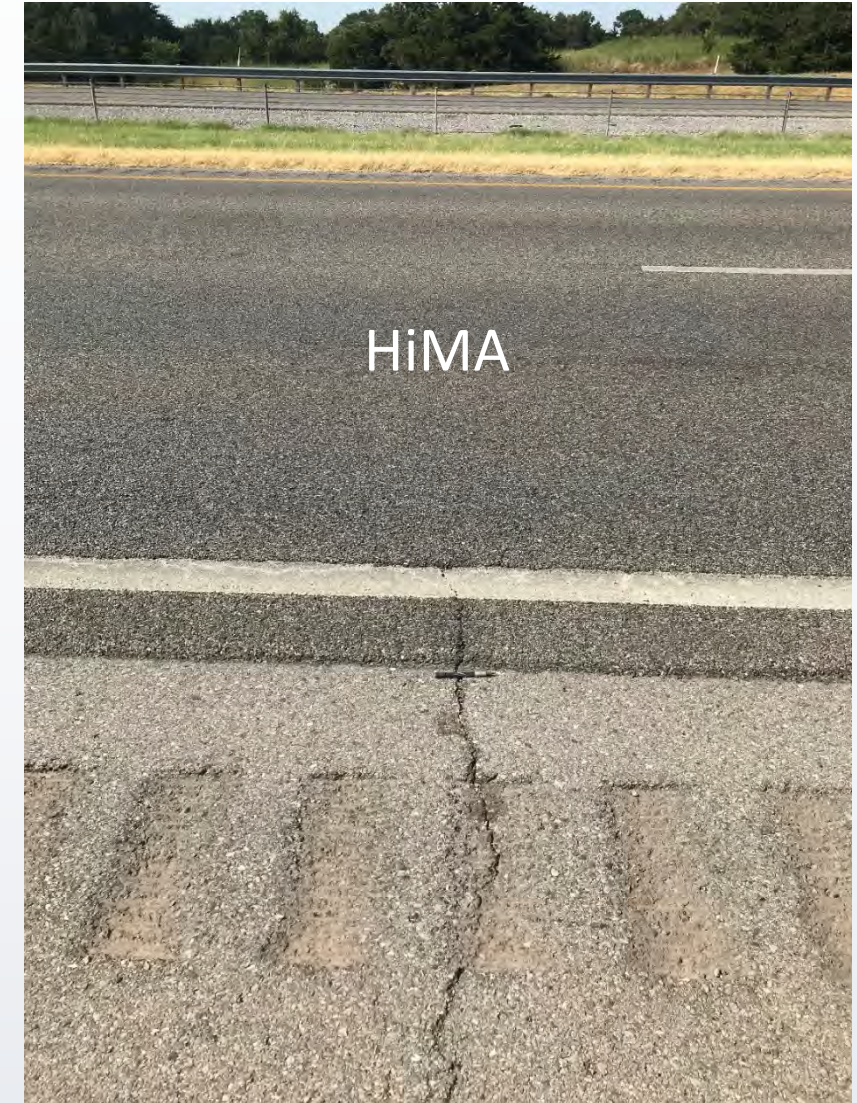
- Feb-April 2012
- Milled 5 inches, replaced with:
 - 1½ in (38 mm) RIL, PG76-28E (HiMA)
 - 5 in (127 mm) S3, PG76-28E, in two lifts
 - 1½ in (38 mm) S5, PG76-28E
 - ¾" (19 mm) OGFC (PG76-28, not HiMA)



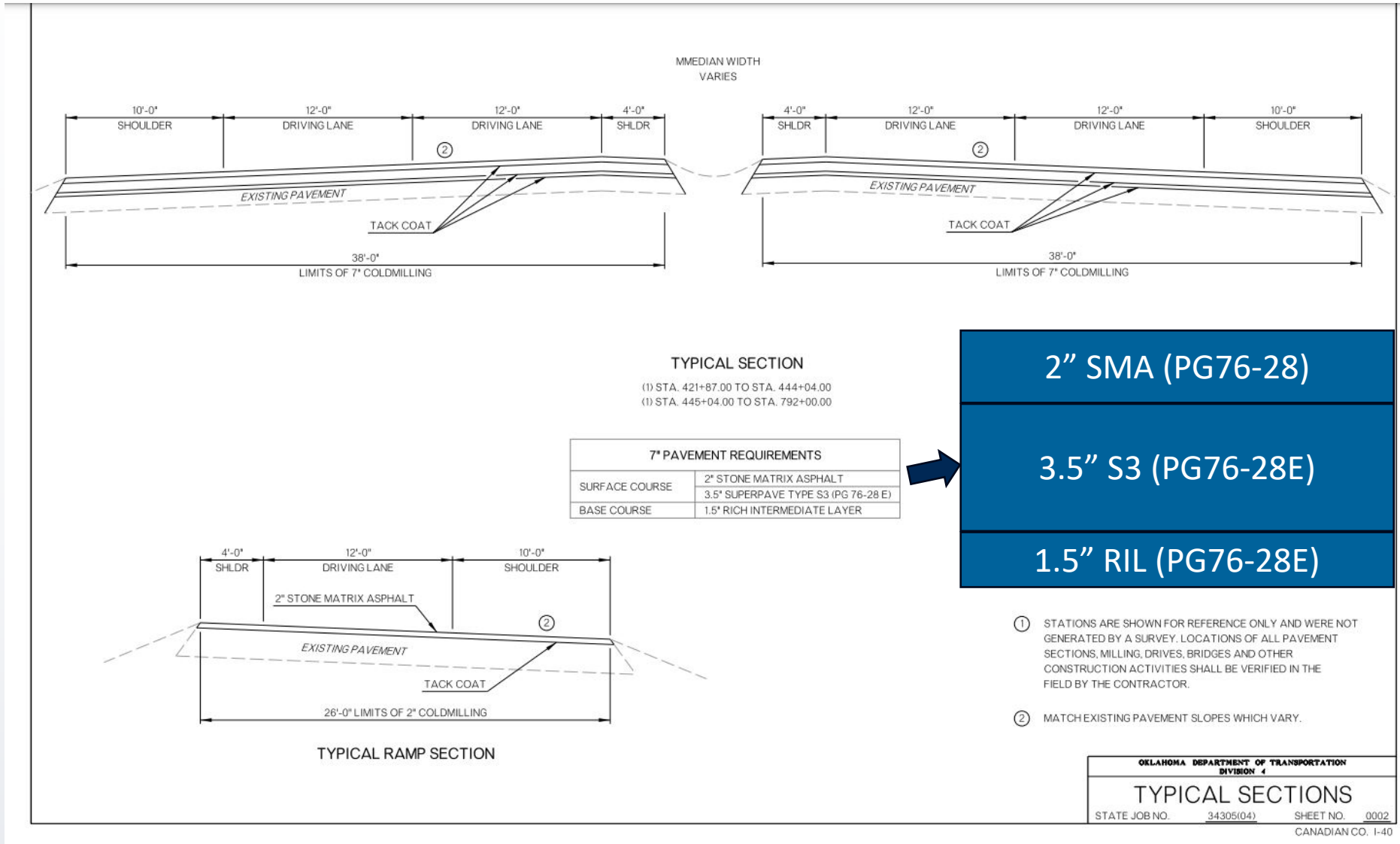
| | PG76-28 | PG76-28E |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| % R _{3.2} min. | 80 | 95 |
| Test Temperature, °C | 64 | 76 |

I-40, Caddo County

- Avg. 2021 IRI: 49.97 in/mi (EB), 47.81 in/mi (WB)*
- 2021 AADT = 29,600 with 36% trucks (7% single-unit, 29% combination)
- Recognized as a “Perpetual Pavement by Conversion” by the Asphalt Pavement Alliance



I-40, Canadian County, Oklahoma



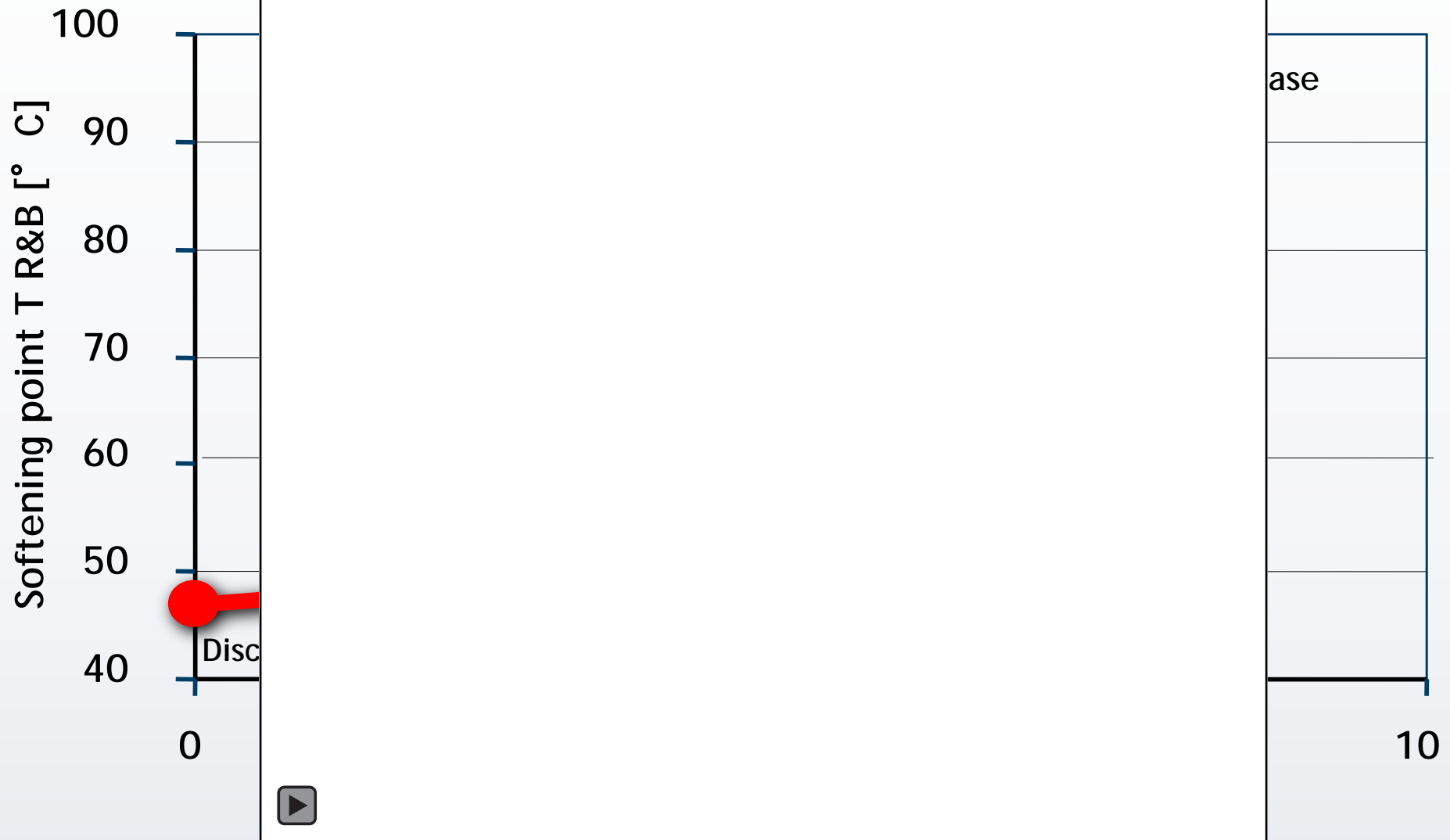
“Rich Intermediate Layer” (RIL), ODOT Section 411(j)

- Purpose: to resist reflection of underlying cracks through the surface while providing additional pavement structure and a leveling/profiling opportunity
- Characteristics: Flexible, impermeable, provides structural benefit
- Small nominal maximum aggregate size, high binder content, low air voids mixture using highly modified asphalt binder

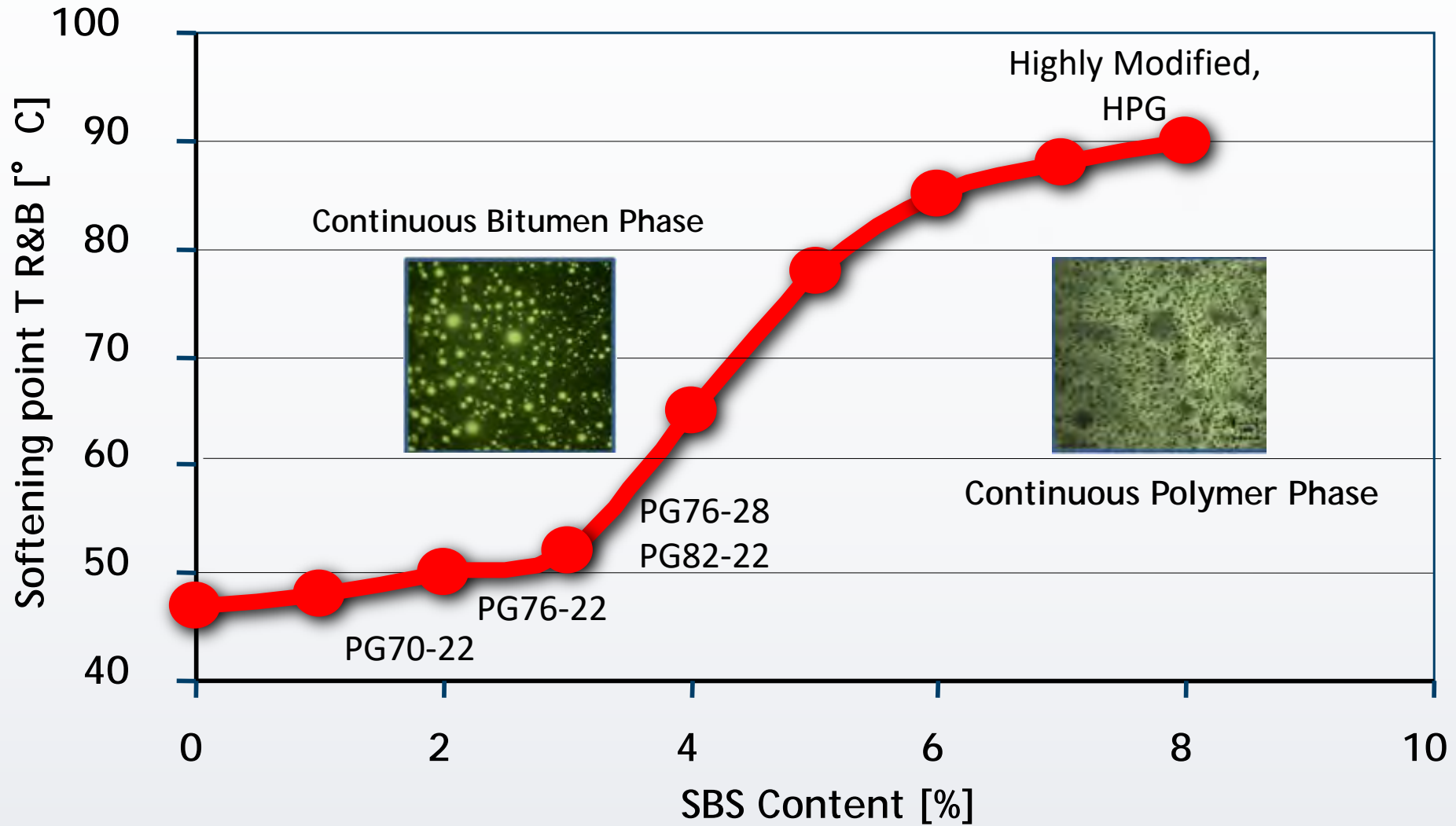
HiMA (Highly-Modified Asphalt) Binder

- Not a product, but a binder grade
 - Examples include PG76E-28 (Oklahoma), PG76-28E (HP)(Virginia), High Polymer (Florida), HPG (Texas)
 - Distinguished by high MSCR recovery/low compliance at elevated temperature
 - Typically, $R_{3.2} \geq 90\%$, $J_{nr3.2} \leq 0.1 \text{ kPa}^{-1} @ 76^\circ\text{C}$
- Results in higher SBC content (2X-3X) that of conventional polymer-modified binder grades, but handled at similar temperatures to conventional modified binder grades (PG76-22, PG64E-22)
- Enables the use of high binder content without instability or bleeding

“S-Curve” – T



“S-Curve” – Effect of increasing SBS content



Oklahoma DOT HiMA Specification, PG76E-28

PLANT MIX BITUMINOUS BASES AND SURFACES

708.03

708.03 ASPHALT MATERIALS

Provide asphalt cement in accordance with AASHTO M 320 or M 332 with additional specifications as detailed in Table 708:2 as required by the Contract.

| Table 708:2 | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| AASHTO M 332 Requirements for Asphalt Cement | | | | | |
| Test | PG 58-28 (PG 58S-22) | PG 64-22 (PG 64S-22) | PG 70-28 (PG 64V-28) | PG 76-28 (PG 64E-28) | PG 88-28 (PG 76E-28) |
| J _{nr} 3.2, kPa ¹ | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 |
| R3.2, % | — | — | ≥ 50 | ≥ 80 | ≥ 95 |
| PAV DSR | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 | M 332 |

Note: Asphalt binder suppliers will provide handling requirements for their products to the asphalt producer.

¹ May be allowed if 100x micrographs of PG 76E-28 sulfur cured at 2, 4, and 6 hours indicates a uniform dispersion of polymer and approved by the Materials Division Engineer.

ODOT Specification Requirements, RIL

- Section 411/708, 2019 Standard Specifications
- Laboratory Mix Design Properties:
 - S5 gradation (9.5 mm NMS), min. 5.5% binder content
 - $N_{des} = 50$ gyrations, 97% G_{mm} , VMA $\geq 15.5\%$, VFA: 73-79%
 - Hamburg Wheel Tracking: max 12.5 mm deformation after 20,000 cycles
- PG76E-28 binder grade (HiMA)

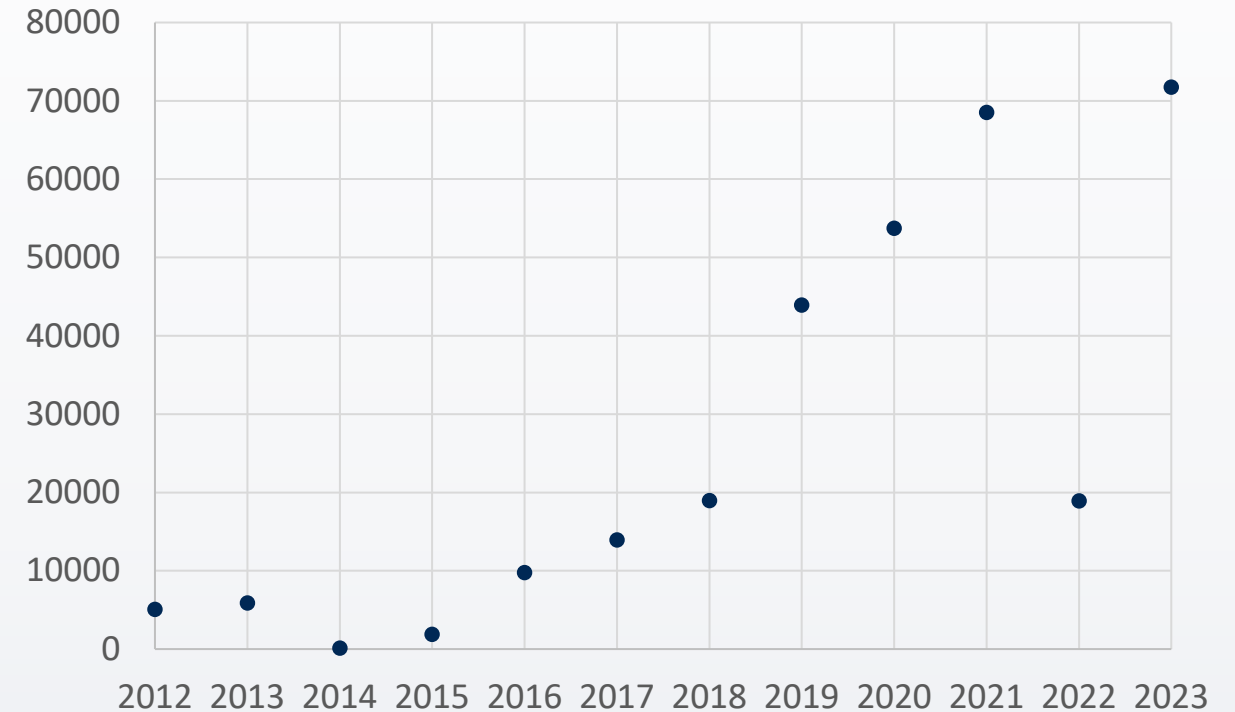
| Table 411:7 Mix Design Properties of Laboratory Molded Non-Superpave Specimens | |
|--|---------------|
| Property | RIL |
| Number of SGC Gyration | 50 |
| Required Density, <i>% of G_{mm}</i> | 97.0 |
| VMA ^a , % | ≥ 15.0 |
| TSR minimum | 0.80 |
| Draindown, % | — |
| Permeability, <i>cm/s $\times 10^{-5}$</i> | ≤ 12.5 |
| Hamburg rut depth, <i>mm</i> | $\leq 12.5^b$ |
| ^a VMA is based on the bulk specific gravity of the aggregates. ^b Based on PG binder type. | |

Special Provision 411-015

ODOT History of RIL Use: 2012-2023

- Used in all ODOT Districts
 - Most in District 1 (Muskogee, eastern Oklahoma)
- Projects ranging from county roads to Interstate highways

RIL Annual Tonnage



Oklahoma DOT Historical Cost Data

- Oklahoma Department of Transportation publishes “Average Price History,” available online
- Summarizes average unit low bid and average of three lowest bid prices for ODOT pay items

<https://www.odot.org/contracts/avgprices/index.php>

Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Item Price History from January 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023
Weighted Average Item Price Report
By Item, Region, and Quarter

July 13, 2023

| Item | District | Quarter | Number of Occur's | Total Quantity | Total Dollars | Avg Awarded Price | Avg of Low 3 Bidders |
|--|----------|---------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 411(I)2000 / SUPERPAVE, TYPE S4(PATCH)(PG64-22OK) / TON | | | | | | | |
| 01 | | 2022Q1 | 2 | 908.00 | \$ 102,480.00 | \$ 112.86 | \$ 114.87 |
| | | 2023Q1 | 1 | 19.00 | \$ 5,282.19 | \$ 278.01 | \$ 278.01 |
| 04 | | 2023Q1 | 1 | 150.00 | \$ 45,000.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 264.86 |
| 05 | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 25.00 | \$ 4,125.00 | \$ 165.00 | \$ 296.60 |
| 06 | | 2022Q1 | 6 | 1,025.70 | \$ 195,231.03 | \$ 190.34 | \$ 200.95 |
| | | 2022Q2 | 1 | 300.00 | \$ 69,000.00 | \$ 230.00 | \$ 230.25 |
| | | 2022Q4 | 3 | 19.20 | \$ 6,365.00 | \$ 331.51 | \$ 331.51 |
| | | 2023Q1 | 2 | 350.00 | \$ 84,000.00 | \$ 240.00 | \$ 240.00 |
| 07 | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 225.00 | \$ 50,625.00 | \$ 225.00 | \$ 175.83 |
| | | 2022Q2 | 1 | 200.00 | \$ 62,000.00 | \$ 310.00 | \$ 264.80 |
| | | 2023Q2 | 1 | 225.00 | \$ 47,250.00 | \$ 210.00 | \$ 281.16 |
| 08 | | 2022Q1 | 4 | 874.00 | \$ 90,620.00 | \$ 103.68 | \$ 122.06 |
| | | 2022Q2 | 1 | 500.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 156.00 |
| | | 2023Q1 | 1 | 200.00 | \$ 38,000.00 | \$ 190.00 | \$ 164.38 |
| | | 2023Q2 | 2 | 200.00 | \$ 58,142.00 | \$ 290.71 | \$ 273.31 |
| | | | 28 | 5,220.90 | \$ 883,120.22 | \$ 169.15 | \$ 182.72 |
| 411(J)2100 / (SP) RICH INTERMEDIATE LAYER / TON | | | | | | | |
| 01 | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 7,970.00 | \$ 1,170,793.00 | \$ 146.90 | \$ 150.08 |
| | | 2022Q2 | 2 | 18,430.00 | \$ 2,913,387.50 | \$ 158.08 | \$ 158.78 |
| | | 2022Q3 | 1 | 3,469.00 | \$ 693,800.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 210.47 |
| | | 2022Q4 | 1 | 9,073.00 | \$ 1,539,688.10 | \$ 169.70 | \$ 164.85 |
| | | 2023Q1 | 3 | 18,646.00 | \$ 3,314,101.00 | \$ 177.74 | \$ 180.71 |
| | | 2023Q2 | 1 | 1,081.00 | \$ 187,564.31 | \$ 173.51 | \$ 168.34 |
| 02 | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 15,500.00 | \$ 1,922,000.00 | \$ 124.00 | \$ 117.00 |
| 04 | | 2023Q1 | 1 | 28,670.00 | \$ 4,228,825.00 | \$ 147.50 | \$ 147.50 |
| 05 | | 2022Q4 | 1 | 6,888.00 | \$ 1,141,479.36 | \$ 165.72 | \$ 165.72 |
| | | 2023Q2 | 2 | 11,377.00 | \$ 1,328,150.20 | \$ 116.74 | \$ 145.89 |
| 07 | | 2023Q2 | 1 | 12,000.00 | \$ 1,677,240.00 | \$ 139.77 | \$ 169.89 |
| | | | 15 | 133,104.00 | \$ 20,117,028.47 | \$ 151.14 | \$ 158.21 |
| 411(L)2350 / BMD, TYPE BX(PG 70-28) / TON | | | | | | | |
| 03 | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 1,806.37 | \$ 205,926.18 | \$ 114.00 | \$ 127.00 |
| | | | 1 | 1,806.37 | \$ 205,926.18 | \$ 114.00 | \$ 127.00 |
| 411(L)2360 / BMD, TYPE S5(PG 70-28) / TON | | | | | | | |
| | | 2022Q1 | 1 | 1,806.37 | \$ 213,151.66 | \$ 118.00 | \$ 128.00 |
| | | | 1 | 1,806.37 | \$ 213,151.66 | \$ 118.00 | \$ 128.00 |
| 411(M)2510 / 22" ASPHALT SPEED HUMP / EA | | | | | | | |
| 08 | | 2023Q1 | 1 | 2.00 | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 2,992.58 |
| | | | 1 | 2.00 | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 2,992.58 |

Unit Costs

| Item | Low bid | Avg. 3 low bids |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| S411(J), RIL | \$151.14/ton | \$158.21/ton |
| S407(D), Tack Coat (NT) | \$4.12/gal | \$4.34/gal |
| S409, Fabric | \$3.29/sy | \$3.30/sy |
| S409, Bit. Binder | \$5.41/gal | \$5.28/gal |
| S411 (D), Type S5 (PG64-22) | \$119.64/ton | \$122.54/ton |
| S411 (D), Type S5 (PG70-28) | \$117.61/ton | \$130.20/ton |

Source: Oklahoma DOT(<https://www.odot.org/contracts/avgprices/index.php>)
 Price History for July 13, 2023 (Jan 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Cost/yd² Comparison: RIL vs. Fabric + Leveling*

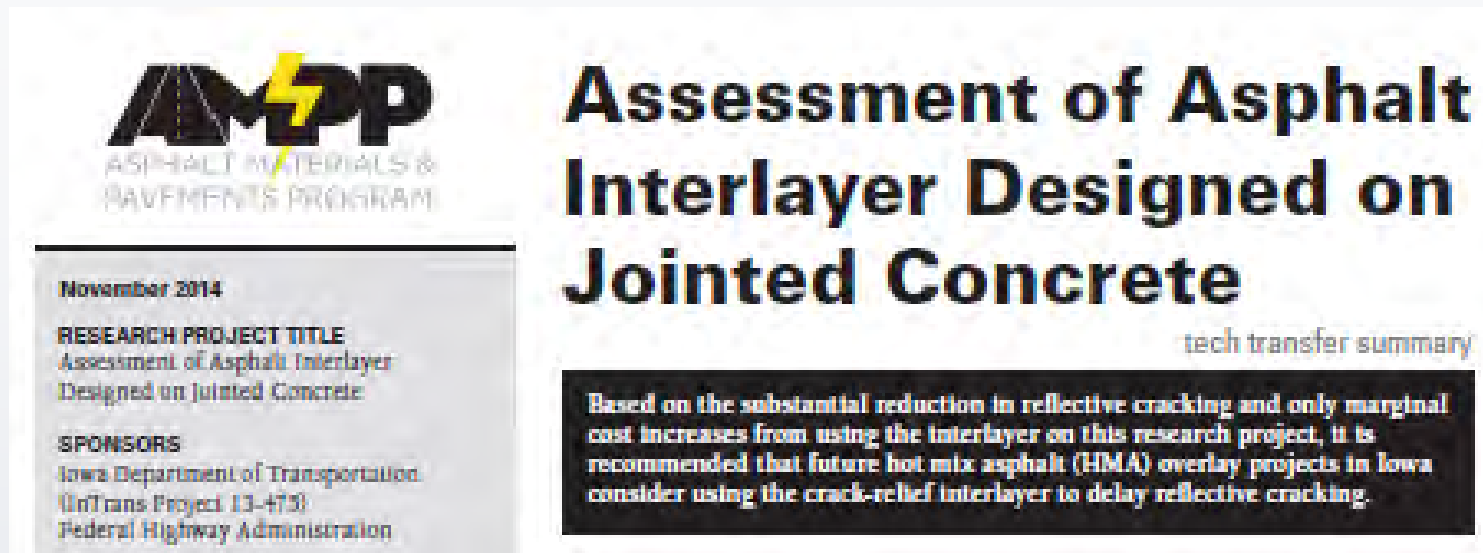
- RIL Cost = RIL (1.5 in) + Tack (trackless tack @ 0.085 gal/sy)
- Fabric = Fabric + Bituminous Binder (@ 0.225 gal/sy) + S5 (1.5 in)

| Alternative, \$/sy | Low Bid | Avg. 3 lowest |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1.5 in Rich Intermediate Layer (RIL) | \$12.48/sy | \$13.07/sy |
| Fabric, 1.5 in. S5 (PG64-22) | \$14.02/sy | \$14.23/sy |
| Fabric, 1.5 in. S5 (PG70-28) | \$13.85/sy | \$14.84/sy |

*Note that this does not account for differences in mobilization, traffic control or other items

Iowa DOT Hot Mix Asphalt Interlayer Specification

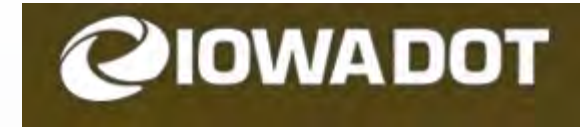
- PG 58-34E binder
- No RAP
- AASHTO T-321 Min 100,000 cycles to failure at 2000 microstrain
- In use since 2014, mostly for overlaying jointed concrete pavement



The image shows the cover page of a technical report. On the left, there is a logo for the 'AMPP ASPHALT MATERIALS & PAVEMENTS PROGRAM' with a yellow lightning bolt. Below the logo, it says 'November 2014', 'RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Assessment of Asphalt Interlayer Designed on Jointed Concrete', and 'SPONSORS: Iowa Department of Transportation (InTrans Project 13-473) Federal Highway Administration'. On the right, the title 'Assessment of Asphalt Interlayer Designed on Jointed Concrete' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, it says 'tech transfer summary'. At the bottom right, there is a black box with white text that reads: 'Based on the substantial reduction in reflective cracking and only marginal cost increases from using the interlayer on this research project, it is recommended that future hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay projects in Iowa consider using the crack-relief interlayer to delay reflective cracking.'

https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/03/asphalt_interlayer_on_jointed_concrete_t2.pdf

Iowa DOT SS-15010



| Sieve Size | Mix Size – Control Points (% Passing) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------------|------|---------------|------|
| | 1 inch | | 3/4 inch | | 1/2 inch | | 3/8 inch | | HMA Interlayer | | HMA Thin Lift | |
| | min. | max. | min. | max. | min. | max. | min. | max. | min. | max. | min. | max. |
| 1 1/2 inch | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 inch | 90 | 100 | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3/4 inch | | 90 | 90 | 100 | 100 | | | | | | | |
| 1/2 inch | | | | 90 | 90 | 100 | 100 | | | | | |
| 3/8 inch | | | | | | 90 | 90 | 100 | 100 | | 91 | 100 |
| No. 4 | | | | | | | | 90 | 80 | 100 | | 90 |
| No. 8 | 19 | 45 | 23 | 49 | 28 | 58 | 32 | 67 | 60 | 85 | 27 | 63 |
| No. 16 ⁽¹⁾ | | | | 28 | | 32 | | | 40 | 70 | | |
| No. 30 ⁽²⁾ | | | | 24 | | 25 | | | 25 | 55 | | |
| No. 50 | | | | | | | | | 15 | 35 | | |
| No. 100 | | | | | | | | | 8 | 20 | | |
| No. 200 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 10 |



≈ ODOT RIL/S5 Gradation

Table 3

| Performance Requirements for HMA Interlayer ⁽²⁾ | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Test | Requirement | Notes |
| AASHTO T-321 | Minimum 100,000 cycles to failure | 1 |

(1) Failure criterion at 2,000 microstrain shall be 50% of the initial flexural stress measured at the 200th load cycle.

(2) Use a PG 58-34E. (Hint: Past experience indicates at least 80%-90% recovery is needed for successful test results) Testing may be verified by the Engineer on field produced mix. Do not open to traffic until mat has cooled to below 200°F.

- $N_{des} = 50$ gyrations, 98% G_{mm}
- Film Thickness > 8.0 μm

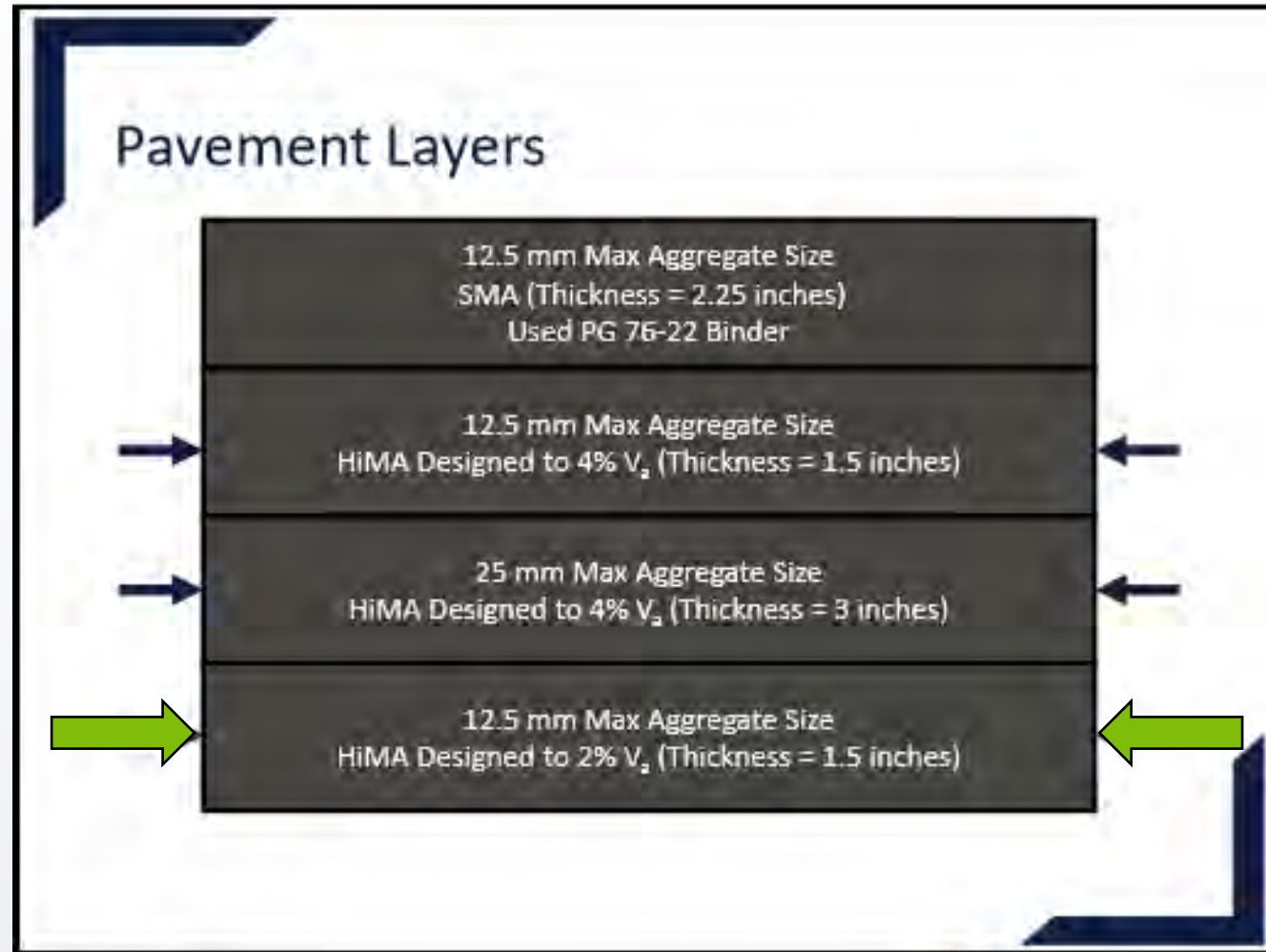
<https://iowadot.gov/erl/current/IM/content/510aa.htm>

Alabama DOT



- 1) I-59/-20, Tuscaloosa Co., 2016-7
 - 2) I-459, Jefferson Co., 2018
 - 3) I-85, Macon Co., 2021
 - 4) I-59, Etowah & Dekalb Co.'s, 2022
- 9.5 mm NMS Superpave, designed at 2% air voids requiring HiMA (PG76-22E per ALDOT specs)
 - Used to delay/prevent reflection cracking

Alabama I-59/20 Rehabilitation



From Braden Smith (Hunt Refining) at 2018 SEAUPG Meeting

In summary:

- RIL was a key factor in the successful rehabilitation of NCAT test section N8, sponsored by Oklahoma DOT.
- RIL was first applied in Oklahoma on I-40 in Caddo County, OK in 2012. Performance has been excellent, with no evidence of cracks reflecting from the underlying pavement.
- Since 2012, there has been increasing use of RIL in Oklahoma, and other states have/are taking similar approaches

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