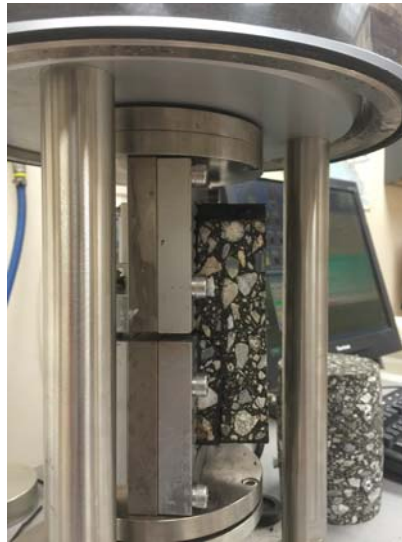


Performance of TenCate Paving Interlayers in Asphalt Concrete Pavements



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August 2017

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Performance of TenCate Paving Interlayers in Asphalt Concrete Pavements

Final Report

Submitted to

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METRIC (SI*) CONVERSION FACTORS

APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS TO SI UNITS					APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS FROM SI UNITS				
Symbol	When You Know	Multiply By	To Find	Symbol	Symbol	When You Know	Multiply By	To Find	Symbol
<u>LENGTH</u>					<u>LENGTH</u>				
in	inches	25.4		mm	mm	millimeters	0.039	inches	in
ft	feet	0.3048		m	m	meters	3.28	feet	ft
yd	yards	0.914		m	m	meters	1.09	yards	yd
mi	Miles (statute)	1.61		km	km	kilometers	0.621	Miles (statute)	mi
<u>AREA</u>					<u>AREA</u>				
in ²	square inches	645.2	millimeters squared	cm ²	mm ²	millimeters squared	0.0016	square inches	in ²
ft ²	square feet	0.0929	meters squared	m ²	m ²	meters squared	10.764	square feet	ft ²
yd ²	square yards	0.836	meters squared	m ²	km ²	kilometers squared	0.39	square miles	mi ²
mi ²	square miles	2.59	kilometers squared	km ²	ha	hectares (10,000 m ²)	2.471	acres	ac
ac	acres	0.4046	hectares	ha					
<u>MASS (weight)</u>					<u>MASS (weight)</u>				
oz	Ounces (avdp)	28.35	grams	g	g	grams	0.0353	Ounces (avdp)	oz
lb	Pounds (avdp)	0.454	kilograms	kg	kg	kilograms	2.205	Pounds (avdp)	lb
T	Short tons (2000 lb)	0.907	megagrams	mg	mg	megagrams (1000 kg)	1.103	short tons	T
<u>VOLUME</u>					<u>VOLUME</u>				
fl oz	fluid ounces (US)	29.57	milliliters	mL	mL	milliliters	0.034	fluid ounces (US)	fl oz
gal	Gallons (liq)	3.785	liters	liters	liters	liters	0.264	Gallons (liq)	gal
ft ³	cubic feet	0.0283	meters cubed	m ³	m ³	meters cubed	35.315	cubic feet	ft ³
yd ³	cubic yards	0.765	meters cubed	m ³	m ³	meters cubed	1.308	cubic yards	yd ³
Note: Volumes greater than 1000 L shall be shown in m ³									
<u>TEMPERATURE (exact)</u>					<u>TEMPERATURE (exact)</u>				
°F	Fahrenheit temperature	5/9 (°F-32)	Celsius temperature	°C	°C	Celsius temperature	9/5 °C+32	Fahrenheit temperature	°F
<u>ILLUMINATION</u>					<u>ILLUMINATION</u>				
fc	Foot-candles	10.76	lux	lx	lx	lux	0.0929	foot-candles	fc
fl	foot-lamberts	3.426	candela/m ²	cd/cm ²	cd/cm ²	candela/m ²	0.2919	foot-lamberts	fl
<u>FORCE and PRESSURE or STRESS</u>					<u>FORCE and PRESSURE or STRESS</u>				
lbf	pound-force	4.45	newtons	N	N	newtons	0.225	pound-force	lbf
psi	pound-force per square inch	6.89	kilopascals	kPa	kPa	kilopascals	0.145	pound-force per square inch	psi
These factors conform to the requirement of FHWA Order 5190.1A *SI is the symbol for the International System of Measurements									

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study complements a project completed 2 years ago (Li et al. 2014). In the previous study, the performance of several paving interlayers (i.e., G50/50, G100/100, and G⁴) in asphalt concrete (AC) pavements was evaluated through laboratory tests and finite element method simulation. Several field experimental sections, including AC pavements reinforced with different paving interlayers, as well as a control section, were constructed on the Richardson Highway in Alaska. The performance of the pavement reinforced with these paving interlayers was evaluated during yearly surveys performed in 2013 and 2014, after field construction in July 2013. Field surveys were performed continually to further evaluate the performance of the pavement reinforced with these paving interlayers.

TenCate Geosynthetics recently modified two products, Mirapave and TruPave, by adding a release liner with high-temperature adhesive that withstands temperatures of over 400°F. The newly developed products were designed for placing over a crack only with/without overlay paved above, which might make it unnecessary to put an interlayer over the entire existing roadway to improve cracking resistance. In the current project, the overlay test, dynamic modulus tests (using an Asphalt Mixture Performance Tester [AMPT] and a dynamic modulus test in indirect tension [IDT] mode), and low-temperature performance (IDT creep) tests were performed to verify the feasibility of using these two products for crack mitigation in pavement structure used in Alaska.

The overlay test was conducted at 25°C on AC reinforced with two sizes (the entire interlayer and an interlayer strip) of TruPave or Mirapave and control AC specimens. According to the mechanism of overlay testing, a lower reduction percentage of the peak load is more desirable in terms of reflective cracking resistance. As for the peak load reduction percentage, AC specimens reinforced with two paving interlayers (Mirapave and TruPave) showed the following decreasing order: samples with an entire layer of TruPave material, control samples, samples with a TruPave interlayer strip, samples with a Mirapave interlayer strip, and samples with an entire Mirapave interlayer. The mixtures with an entire interlayer or interlayer strip generally performed better in crack resistance. Note that TruPave was adhesive on one side only. During testing, the overlay test setup may have amplified bonding weakness between the entire TruPave layer and the AC, causing early failure. More should be done to verify this finding.

Using the AMPT, the dynamic modulus test was conducted on AC reinforced with an entire layer of TruPave or Mirapave and control AC specimens at different temperature conditions (4°C, 21°C, 37°C, and 54°C) with six loading frequencies (0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 5, 10, and 25 Hz). The measured dynamic modulus ($|E^*|$) of the control specimens is remarkably higher than the mixes with paving interlayers. The measured $|E^*|$ of AC with the paving interlayers Mirapave and TruPave was extremely low due to the inclusion of the paving interlayer and its low stiffness. Besides this, the paving interlayer was under compression rather than tension, which is different from the stress state that the fabric would experience in the field. As a result, reinforcement of the paving interlayer is not reflected by this test

Since the $|E^*|$ can also be measured in IDT mode, with the paving interlayer under tension (indirect), which is more consistent with field stress conditions, the $|E^*|$ test in IDT mode was performed at seven temperatures (-30°C , -20°C , -10°C , 0°C , 10°C , 20°C , and 30°C) with six frequencies (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1, and 5 Hz). The obtained master curves of the control mixture tested using two methods (AMPT and IDT mode) were very close, which verified the rationality of the dynamic modulus measurement in IDT mode. The master curve of the TruPave and Mirapave mixtures was nearly the same or slightly higher than that of the control mixture, which was different from the $|E^*|$ results using the AMPT. According to the results presented in this study, for AC with paving interlayers (i.e., Mirapave and TruPave), the dynamic modulus measurement in IDT mode is preferable to the AMPT method.

The IDT creep test was performed at four temperatures (-30°C , -20°C , -10°C , and 20°C) on a cylindrical specimen with and without an entire paving interlayer (i.e., Mirapave and TruPave) to assess low-temperature performance. Test results revealed that the creep compliances, which were related to the viscoelastic behavior of AC, were significantly influenced by the testing temperature. When the temperature decreased from 20°C to -10°C , the creep compliance of AC with/without paving interlayers dramatically decreased. At the low temperature end (-30°C), the creep compliance of mixtures with paving interlayers was very close to that of control mixtures. As a result, the inclusion of paving interlayers in the pavement structure did not compromise the pavement performance in low-temperature cracking resistance. Also, note that the creep compliance variation of the control group was more dramatic than that of the AC with paving

interlayers. Adding a paving interlayer to the AC could reduce the temperature sensitivity of the material.

The IDT creep test results also show that the creep strain of the AC with paving interlayers could be higher or lower than that of the control groups at different temperatures. That is, the paving interlayer may/may not contribute to carrying the tensile load before AC cracks. However, when the AC layer cracks, the paving interlayer is expected to provide extra resistance to the widening of the crack due to the higher tensile strength it can carry. This crack control capability, which cannot be revealed by the IDT creep test, will be explored in future research.

In addition to the laboratory tests, yearly surveys were performed on the field sections reinforced with paving interlayers (i.e., G50/50, G100/100, and G⁴) after construction in 2013. Four years of surveying and monitoring have shown that all test sections performed better than the control section, which indicates that placement of paving interlayers (i.e., G50/50, G100/100, and G⁴) would benefit pavement performance. Among the sections with paving interlayers built in, the G100/100 reinforced pavement (left lane) showed the best performance, followed by the G50/50 reinforced section (left lane), then the G⁴ section (right lane). Continued monitoring of the test sections and more detailed description of pavement distress is recommended to learn how pavement sections with paving interlayers progress with time. Having a few more years of data would provide a much clearer projection of the utility of paving interlayers in cold regions.

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Paving interlayers have been used in asphalt overlays in a variety of design and construction situations for more than three decades. In a previously completed project at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Li et al. 2014), several types of paving interlayers provided by TenCate Geosynthetics were used to explore the performance of paving interlayer-reinforced asphalt concrete (AC) pavements in Alaska. Laboratory testing and finite element method (FEM) simulation identified a number of engineering benefits of using paving interlayers in AC pavements. Further, preliminary field evaluation of test sections reinforced with paving interlayers showed better performance than the control section. However, there is concern over whether interlayers perform well continuously over time. More years of field monitoring and evaluation are recommended to further validate findings from the previous study and evaluate overall AC pavement performance in the field.

The research team continues to explore the potential of paving interlayers for AC pavement preservation and repair. Recently, two paving interlayers, Mirapave and TruPave (i.e., PGM30), were modified by adding a release liner with a high-temperature adhesive that withstands temperatures of over 400°F. The newly developed products were designed for placing over a crack only with/without overlay paved above, which might make it unnecessary to put an interlayer over

the entire existing roadway to improve cracking resistance. Laboratory evaluation is needed to verify the feasibility of using these two products for crack mitigation on roadway surfaces.

Background

Paving interlayers have been used in AC overlays since the 1980s, and the inclusion of a paving interlayer system significantly improves the performance of AC overlays. In cold regions such as Alaska and other northern states, AC overlays are more prone to thermal cracking due to extreme climates. A previously completed study (Li et al. 2014) investigated how paving interlayers function in AC pavements in cold regions. Several types of paving interlayers including two types of bi-axial interlayers (G50/50 and G100/100) and one newly developed multi-axial reinforced paving composite (G⁴) were used. The study completed two phases: laboratory index testing (Phase I) and field performance evaluation (Phase II). Phase I focused on laboratory evaluation of engineering properties of paving interlayer-reinforced asphalt pavement structure such as asphalt retention, grab strength, shear strength, permeability, and indirect tension tests. The results identified performance improvement of AC due to the reinforcement of all paving interlayers. Adding paving interlayer could increase pavement structure stiffness, greatly reduce permeability, and provide good resistance to low-temperature cracking and fatigue cracking. Pavement structural analysis using BISAR and Alaska Flexible Pavement Design programs (AKFPD 2004) and FEM analysis using ABAQUS were conducted. The pavement structural analyses were in agreement that using interlayer could improve fatigue

crack resistance and extend service life. The three-yarn bi-axial interlayer showed the best reinforcement potential for fatigue crack resistance, followed by the multi-axial interlayer and the two-yarn bi-axial interlayer. The FEM analysis indicated that the multi-axial interlayer could improve stress distribution more effectively than the bi-axial interlayer, as reflected by much lower maximum tensile strain on the bottom of the AC layer.

In Phase II – Field Performance Evaluation – field test sections were established in summer 2013, and pavement condition evaluation and surveys were conducted four times: in August and October 2013 and May and October 2014. No cracks were observed during two surveys in 2013. However, cracks occurred in test sections after one winter, though all sections with interlayers had fewer and less severe cracks than the control section. As field evaluation was implemented at the early stage of the pavement construction, further monitoring of field test sections was recommended to give a clearer projection of the utility of the paving interlayers in cold regions.

Recently, TenCate Geosynthetics modified two products, Mirapave and TruPave, by adding a release liner with a high temperature adhesive that would withstand temperatures over 400°F. The newly developed products were designed to be placed over a crack only with/without overlay paved above, which might make it not necessary to put an interlayer over the entire existing roadway to improve the cracking resistance. Laboratory evaluation is needed to verify the feasibility of using these two products for crack mitigation for roadway surfaces.

Objectives

The objectives of this research were (1) to further evaluate the performance of paving interlayer-reinforced AC pavements in Alaska through three more years of field monitoring; and (2) to investigate through laboratory tests the effects of modified Mirapave and TruPave on mitigating cracking distress in roadways.

Research Methodology

The following major tasks were accomplished to achieve the objectives of this study:

- Task 1: Continued Monitoring of Paving Interlayer Test Sections
- Task 2: Laboratory Evaluation of Modified TruPave and Mirapave for Pavement Crack Mitigation
- Task 3: Data Collection and Analyses
- Task 4: Draft of Report and Recommendations

Task 1: Continued Monitoring of Paving Interlayer Test Sections

In Task 1, field trips were scheduled for the research team to continue pavement evaluation and surveys for all test sections through the project's duration. The research team identified and recorded observed pavement distress. Field examination of roadway sections included subjective descriptions and appropriate measurements (crack width, crack depth, crack spacing, and photos) according to the Distress Identification Manual for Long-term Pavement Performance (LTPP). Other information such as local climate, traffic history/pavement age, pavement structure type,

pavement management data, etc., was collected from records in the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Maintenance and Operation (M&O) and Design sections.

Task 2: Laboratory Evaluation of Modified TruPave and Mirapave for Pavement Crack Mitigation

Following discussions between the research team and representatives from TenCate Geosynthetics, different laboratory tests were conducted to accomplish Task 2 including (1) an overlay test based on an AMPT kit; (2) dynamic modulus ($|E^*|$) in IDT mode; (3) dynamic modulus test using an AMPT; and (4) IDT creep tests. Testing samples were produced from three groups: laboratory produced AC as control material, AC reinforced with TruPave, and AC reinforced with Mirapave.

The overlay test was conducted following the procedures according to the Texas overlay test (Zhou and Scullion 2005). The paving interlayers (TruPave or Mirapave) were placed inside the sample before the testing. When testing began, cracks started forming from the center of the bottom of the sample, and then propagated to the area where paving interlayers were placed.

The crack failure modes of samples with and without TruPave and Mirapave were observed under monotonic tension loading, in order to reveal how these paving interlayers mitigate and control the growth of cracks. Repeated tension loading was exerted to show the potential improvement using paving interlayers in fatigue cracking resistance of the AC samples.

The basic setup for the IDT test was the same as with regular IDT tests, except that a sample of two layers was used to evaluate the effects of the paving interlayers (TruPave or Mirapave) on the cracking resistance of the sample with crack (notch) existing on one layer. The testing procedures followed AASHTO T-322 (2008). In addition, the temperature chamber allowed the IDT tests to evaluate cracking performance of the patched samples at low temperatures.

The $|E^*|$ was measured by using an AMPT in accordance with AASHTO TP-79 (2008) to evaluate how the paving interlayers (Mirapave or TruPave) affect the overall performance of the sample. In addition, a dynamic modulus test in IDT mode was conducted. Three groups of samples were made for each patching material: a control group, an entire interlayer group, and an interlayer strip group.

Task 3: Data Collection and Analyses

In Task 3, field performance information from all test sections through the duration of Task 1 was collected. Survey results were statistically analyzed. Results served as complementary work to the results obtained from the previous project.

Compilation and analyses of laboratory data from Task 2 were performed under this task as well. Based on data analysis and interpretation, the performance of AC with the modified products and the performance of samples with paving interlayers from the previous project were compared.

Task 4: Draft of Report and Recommendations

In Task 4, a final report that included two parts was produced. Part 1 is a description of the laboratory testing methods used, test procedures and results, and findings and suggestions for further study. Part 2 is the long-term performance monitoring data from periodical pavement condition evaluation and surveys through the project duration, and recommendations for use of interlayers in future Alaska pavement projects.

CHAPTER 2 – EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Materials

By adding a release liner with a high temperature adhesive that can withstand temperatures of over 400°F, TenCate Geosynthetics modified two interlayers—Mirapave and TruPave—for reflective thermal crack mitigation in AC pavement (see Figure 2.1). TenCate Mirapave nonwoven asphalt overlay fabric forms a membrane that minimizes surface water penetration of pavement systems and provides a stress relief interlayer that inhibits the propagation of reflective cracks. The TruPave engineered paving mat is a nonwoven pavement interlayer composed of high-strength fiberglass and polyester fibers conforming to ASTM D7239 (ASTM D7239 2004). TruPave is designed with low elongation and high strength to reinforce pavement sections and retard reflective cracking in overlay applications. The newly developed products provide the potential to patch existing cracks without adding an entire interlayer.

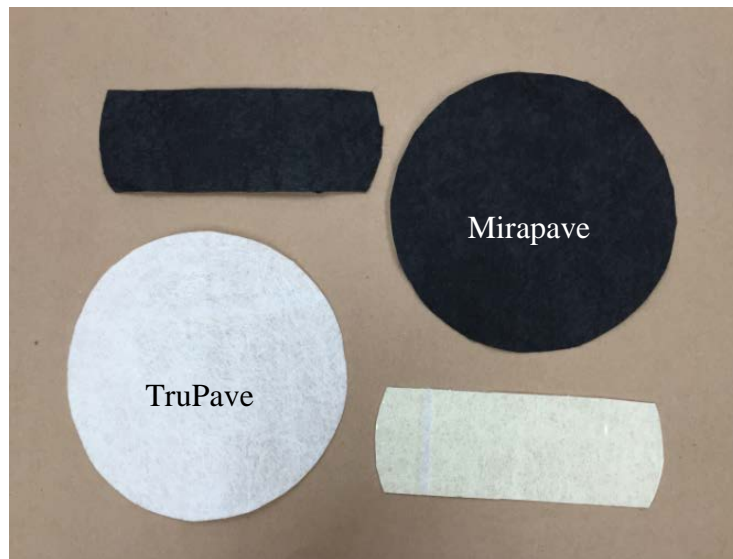


Figure 2.1 TruPave and Mirapave paving interlayers

The performance of two paving interlayers modified for crack mitigation was evaluated. The hot mix asphalt (HMA) was a laboratory blended mixtures according to the job mix formula (JMF) used for the Richardson Highway North Pole Interchange paving project located in North Pole, Alaska. The JMF was designed according to the Marshall mix design method; PG 64-34 binder was used. The aggregate was collected from an AC mixing plant located at Peridot Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The aggregate and binder used were from the same resources used in the paving project. The details of the JMF are presented in Appendix A.

Specimen Preparation

Overlay, IDT (creep test), and dynamic modulus tests were conducted to evaluate the performance of two paving interlayers (Mirapave and TruPave) when used in AC pavements. A Superpave gyratory compactor was used to compact the specimens for these tests. Since two interlayers were to be used in the AC, each specimen, including the control specimens, was compacted in two layers (i.e., 3 gyrations for the first layer and 7 gyrations for the second layer) to facilitate the placement of the fabric as schematically shown in Figure 2.2. The interlayer strip group specimens were specially used for the overlay tests. Different gyration numbers (3 for the bottom layer and 7 for the top layer) were applied to achieve the same density, relatively, in two layers. For the IDT and overlay test specimens, a total weight of 4640 g of AC was used for each specimen. The specimen after compaction was approximately 120 mm in height and 150 mm in diameter. The AC used to produce the dynamic modulus specimens by an AMPT was consistent

with the previous study, *Performance of TenCate Mirafi PGM-G⁴ Interlayer-Reinforced Asphalt Pavements in Alaska* (Li et al. 2014). Specimens were compacted to 170–180 mm in height and 150 mm in diameter.

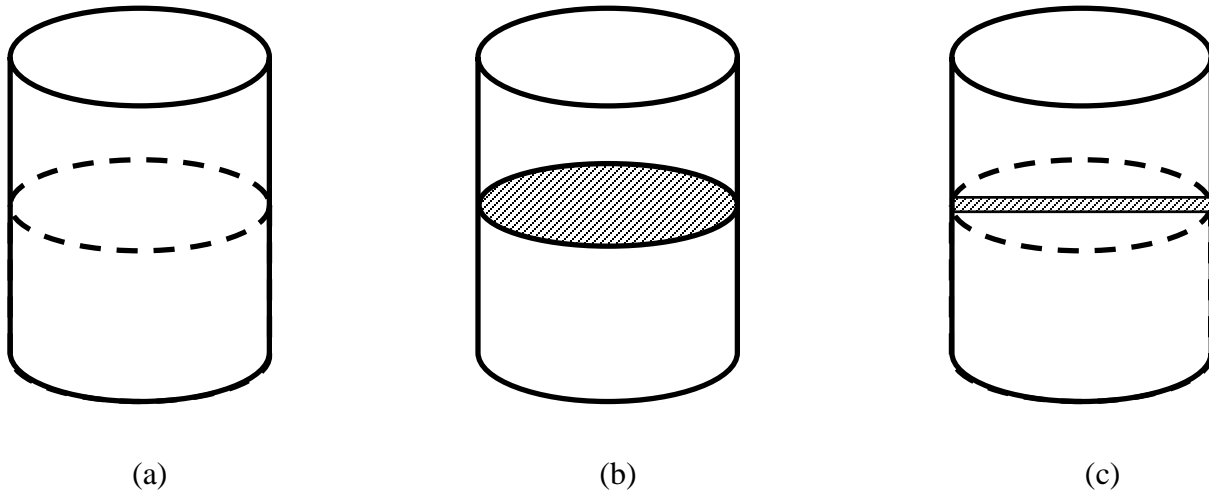


Figure 2.2 Three groups of samples: (a) Control group (without patching layer); (b) Entire interlayer group for overlay, dynamic modulus, and IDT creep test; (c) Interlayer strip group for overlay test only

The detailed procedure followed three steps:

- Step 1: Load the loose mixture to the compaction mold and compact the first half of the specimen as shown in Figures 2.3a and 2.3b.
- Step 2: For the control group, do nothing. For the patching group, place the paving interlayer on top of the first half of the specimen (Figure 2.3c).
- Step 3: Load the remaining loose mixture and complete final compaction (Figures 2.3d and 2.3e).



(a) Load loose mixture



(b) Bottom layer of the specimen (inside the mold)



(c) Bottom layer of the specimen (entire interlayer or interlayer strip)



(d) Specimens compacted for the overlay, IDT tests, and dynamic modulus test in IDT mode



(e) Specimens compacted for the dynamic modulus test by the AMPT (patching group at left, control group at right)

Figure 2.3 Specimen compaction

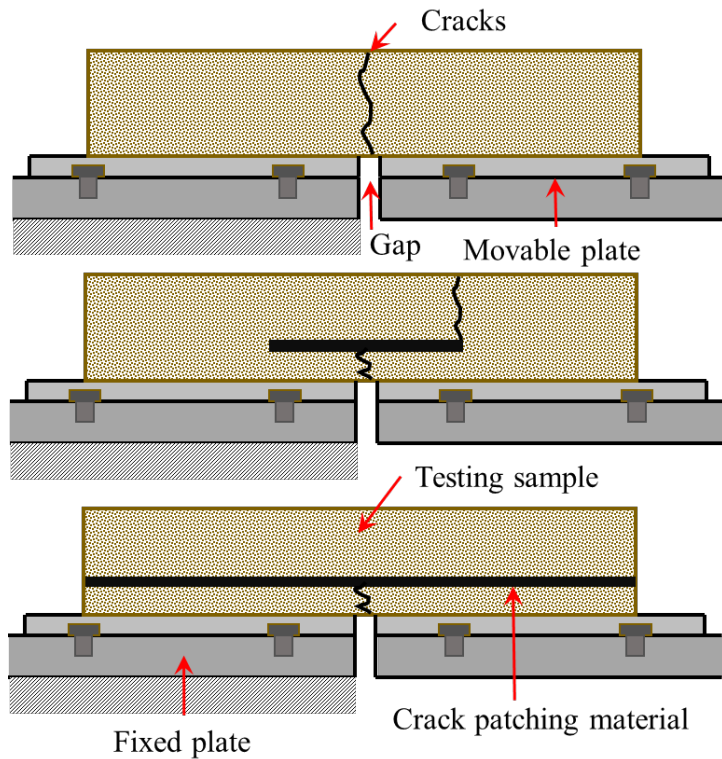
Figures 2.3d and 2.3e show typical images of the compacted specimens for different tests. Three groups of samples were fabricated including the control group, patching group with Mirapave, and patching group with TruPave. When cooled to room temperature, the specimens were cut into different shapes and sizes as required for the overlay, IDT, and dynamic modulus tests.

Material Characterization

Overlay Test

The overlay test was designed by Germann and Lytton (1979) to simulate the opening and closing of joints or cracks. The overlay test is performed by applying repeated direct tension loads to a HMA specimen that is glued to two metal blocks. During testing, one block is fixed and the other slides vertically or horizontally (depends on the tester). The sliding block applies tension in a cyclic triangular waveform to a constant maximum displacement. The sliding block reaches maximum displacement and then returns to its initial position in 10 seconds. The overlay test is performed at a constant temperature of $25 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. This test method measures the number of cycles to failure. The device automatically measures and records load, displacement, and temperature every 0.1 seconds. The overlay tester is run on standard-size samples (i.e., 150 mm in length, 75 mm in width, and 38 mm in height). These specimens can be prepared from either field cores or from Superpave gyratory compactor-molded specimens. Usually, three replicates are used for the overlay test.

The overlay test was conducted following the procedures according to the Texas overlay test (Zhou and Scullion 2005). Two sizes of TruPave or Mirapave, as shown in Figure 2.1, were used. The overlay test configuration is schematically shown in Figure 2.4a for the specimens with/without patching material. When the test begins, cracks form from the center of the bottom of the sample and propagate to the area where the paving interlayer is placed. In order to reveal how these paving interlayers mitigate and control the growth of cracks, the crack failure modes of specimens with and without TruPave and Mirapave were recorded under monotonic tension loading.



(a) Schematic of design

(b) Specimen installation

Figure 2.4 Overlay test configuration

After compaction and cooling to room temperature, the cylindrical specimens (Figure 2.3e) were cut into $150 \pm 2 \text{ mm} \times 75 \pm 0.5 \text{ mm} \times 38 \pm 0.5 \text{ mm}$ core specimens. The coring procedure was as follows:

1. Cut the specimens perpendicular to the top surface, trim the sides to produce specimens $76 \pm 0.5 \text{ mm}$ wide (Figure 2.5a). Discard cuttings.
2. Trim the top and bottom of each specimen to produce a sample with a height of $38 \pm 0.5 \text{ mm}$ (Figure 2.5b). Discard cuttings.

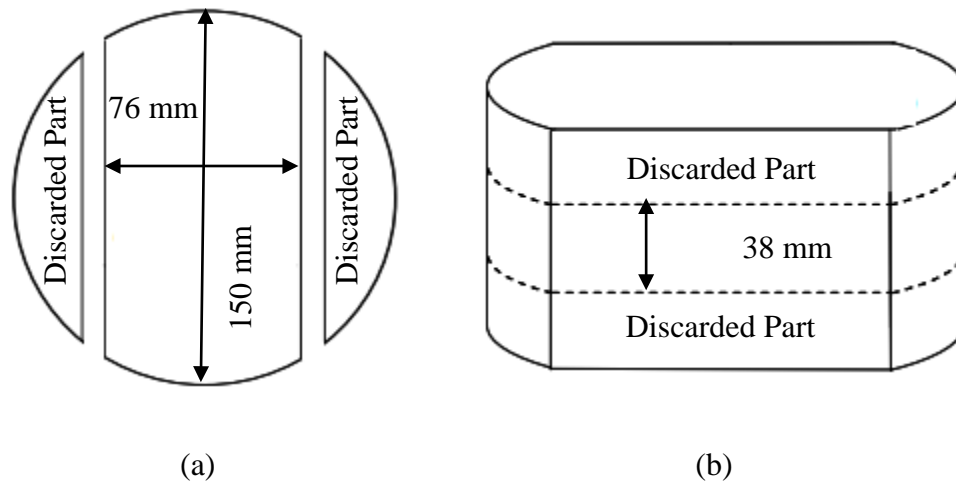


Figure 2.5 Coring specimen

After coring, the trimmed specimens were oven-dried at 40°C to constant weights. Then, using a two-part epoxy (approximately 12 g/specimen), the specimens were glued to the base plates. Note that each specimen was required to be centered and aligned parallel to the edges of the base plate. In addition, to ensure full contact with the base plates, weight was used to apply pressure to the contact surface between the specimens and the base plates. The epoxy was allowed to cure for 8 hours. Then the specimen with the base plates was installed as shown in Figure 2.4b. Figure 2.6

shows an installed specimen in the testing chamber. The temperature of the chamber was set to 25°C. The specimen was conditioned at 25°C for at least 1 hour before the overlay test.



Figure 2.6 Overlay test setup

The test was performed in controlled-displacement mode. During testing, a cyclic load (see Figure 2.7) was applied to the moving plate to maintain a constant maximum opening displacement at 0.6 mm. To reach this displacement, one plate was fixed; the other slid vertically (see Figure 2.6.) Loading was continuously applied with the rate controlled at 10 seconds per cycle until the peak load had been reduced by at least 93% relative to the peak load at the first cycle. The test was

terminated if it had been conducted for 1000 cycles, even though the specimen had not reached 93% reduction. The output of the overlay test was the recorded load during testing, as shown in Figure 2.7.

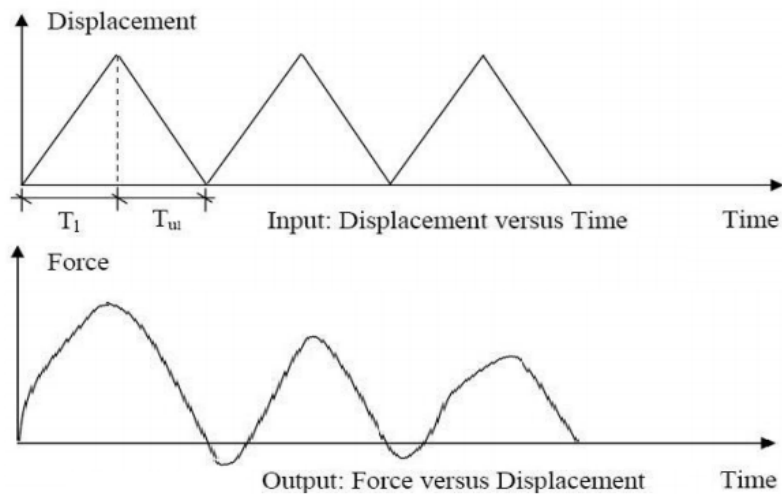


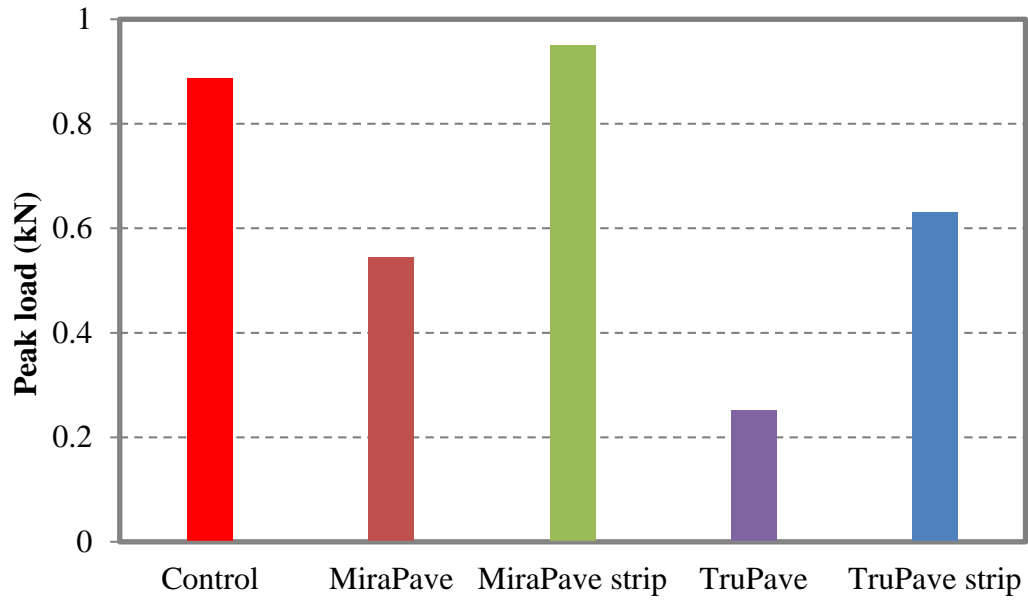
Figure 2.7 The applied displacement and output of the overlay test

Testing results are generally interpreted by the number of loading cycles at which the sample's peak load has been reduced by 93% relative to that at the first cycle. The test ends automatically after 1000 cycles if 93% reduction is reached. In this study, the specimen with an entire layer of TruPave patching material triggered the 93% failure stop due to debonding between the fabric and the AC, as shown in Figure 2.8. Therefore, the test results were alternatively interpreted by charts depicting the change of peak load reduction percentage with the change of loading cycles. The peak load, which usually is the recorded maximum load for the first loading cycle, and the associated peak load reduction percentage for each specimen are presented in Figures 2.9a and 2.9b, respectively. The introduction of a paving layer did influence the peak load

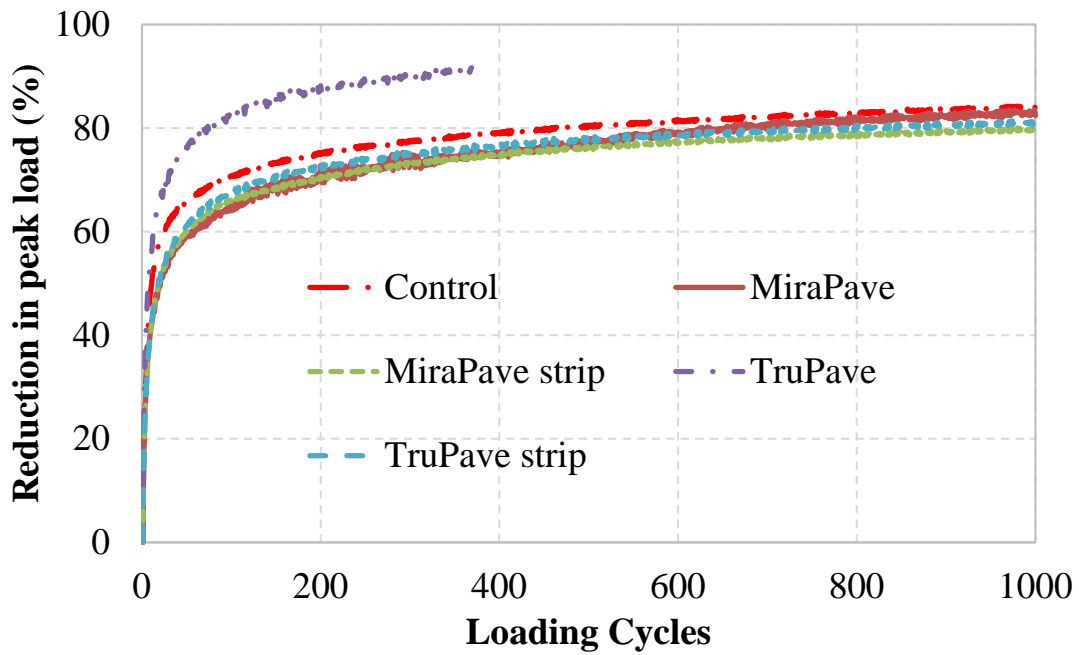
of the specimen, and this influence was dependent on the size of the paving interlayer according to the result presented in Figure 2.9a, which was reasonable since the presence of the paving interlayer reduced load transferring to the adjacent area. Besides this, the peak load was also influenced by the property of the paving material and the associated bonding condition. With the same size of paving interlayer, the peak load of AC with Mirapave was consistently higher than the peak load of AC with a TruPave interlayer. As shown in Figure 2.9b, the sample with an entire layer of TruPave interlayer showed the highest peak load reduction percentage at the same loading cycles, followed by control samples, then the other three groups. The samples' reactions to the applied load were mostly differentiable in the first 100 cycles. Data from the first 100 cycles have been extracted and are presented in Figure 2.10. Among three groups with lower reduction percentage, samples with TruPave interlayer strip showed the highest reduction percentage, followed by samples with interlayer strip and an entire layer of Mirapave material. However, the difference within the three groups was not significant.



Figure 2.8 Specimen debonding during overlay testing



(a) Peak load



(b) Reduction in peak load

Figure 2.9 Overlay test results for control AC and AC with paving interlayers (strip or entire layer)

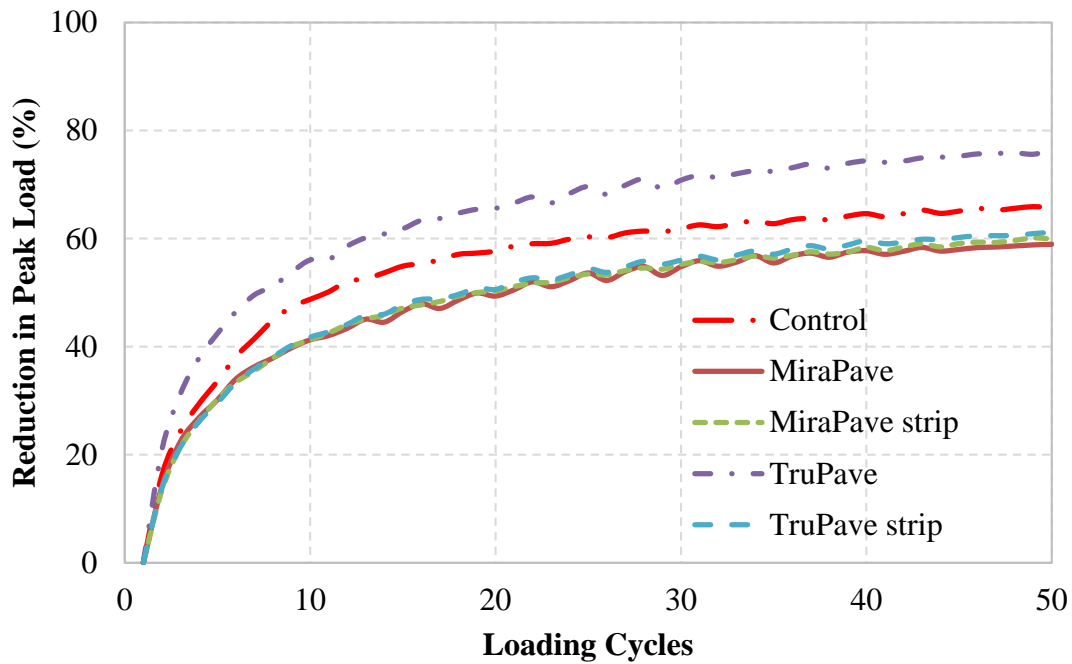


Figure 2.10 Overlay test results for first 100 loading cycles

According to the mechanism of the overlay test, a lower reduction percentage of the peak load is more desirable in terms of reflective cracking resistance. That being said, the results displayed in Figures 2.9 and 2.10 seem supportive of using paving interlayers. As previously discussed and displayed in Figure 2.8, the early failure of samples with an entire layer of TruPave might be subject to debonding between the asphalt mixture and the TruPave interlayer. Note that TruPave is adhesive on one-side only. In this study, the adhesive side faced down when placed to simulate patching an assumable crack on top of the bottom layer. A layer of HMA was then placed on top of the non-adhesive side of the TruPave material. The two layers of samples with an entire layer of TruPave cracked first and then debonded, as shown in Figure 2.8, when subject to tensile stress. This failure of AC with an entire layer of TruPave does not necessarily mean that the

inclusion of TruPave in the pavement structure would not be beneficial in terms of crack mitigation.

The stress condition in the overlay test differed from conditions in the field, where the pavement structure is normally under traffic load.

Dynamic Modulus Test

Dynamic Modulus Test Using the AMPT

The dynamic modulus ($|E^*|$) test was measured by the AMPT in accordance with AASHTO TP-79 (2008) to evaluate how the paving interlayers (entire layer of Mirapave or TruPave) affected the overall performance of the sample. The tests were performed on cylindrical specimens cored to 100 mm in diameter and 150 mm in height (Figure 2.11). Figure 2.12 presents the AMPT testing equipment. To take into account the time-temperature dependence of $|E^*|$, the test was performed at four temperatures (4°C, 21°C, 37°C, and 54°C) and at least six frequencies (0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 5, 10, and 25 Hz) (AASHTO TP-62 2008). The testing results are presented in Figures 2.13–2.16.

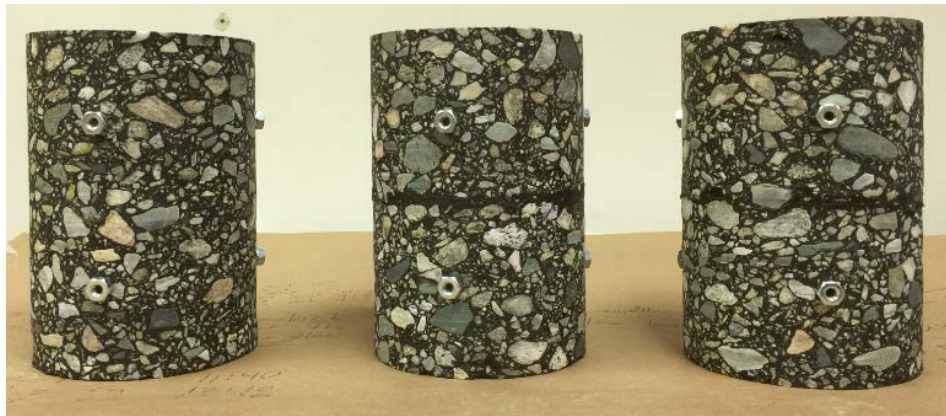


Figure 2.11 Dynamic modulus test samples (left to right: control, Mirapave, TruPave)

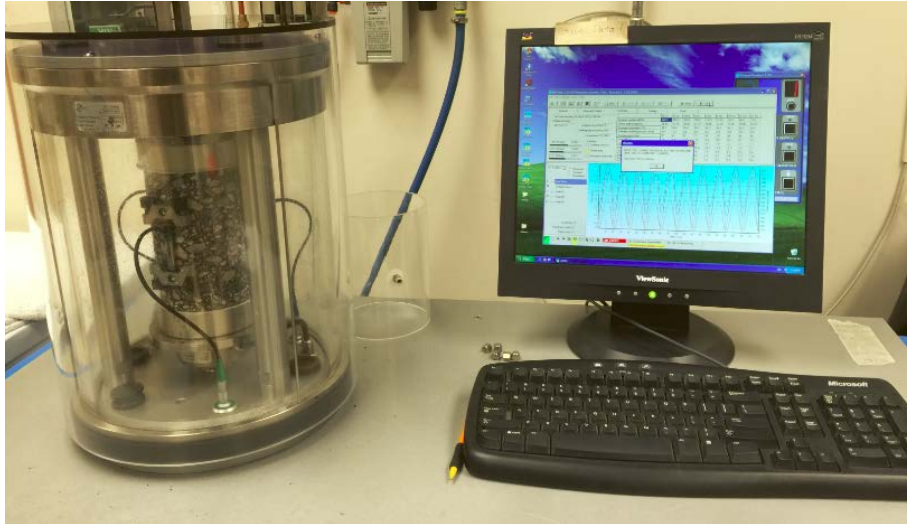


Figure 2.12 Dynamic modulus test setup

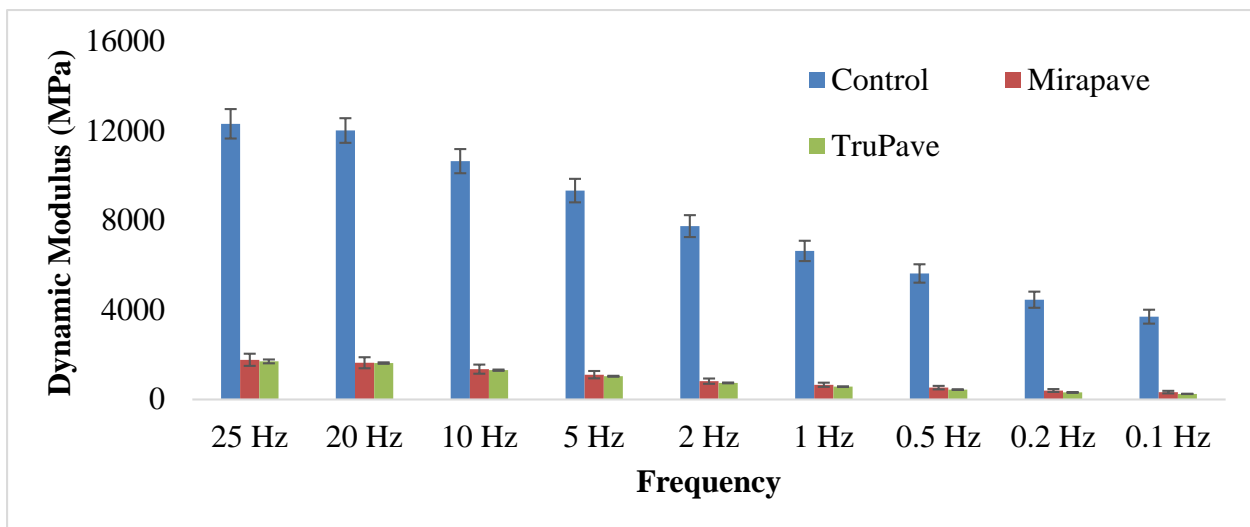


Figure 2.13 Dynamic modulus results tested at 4°C

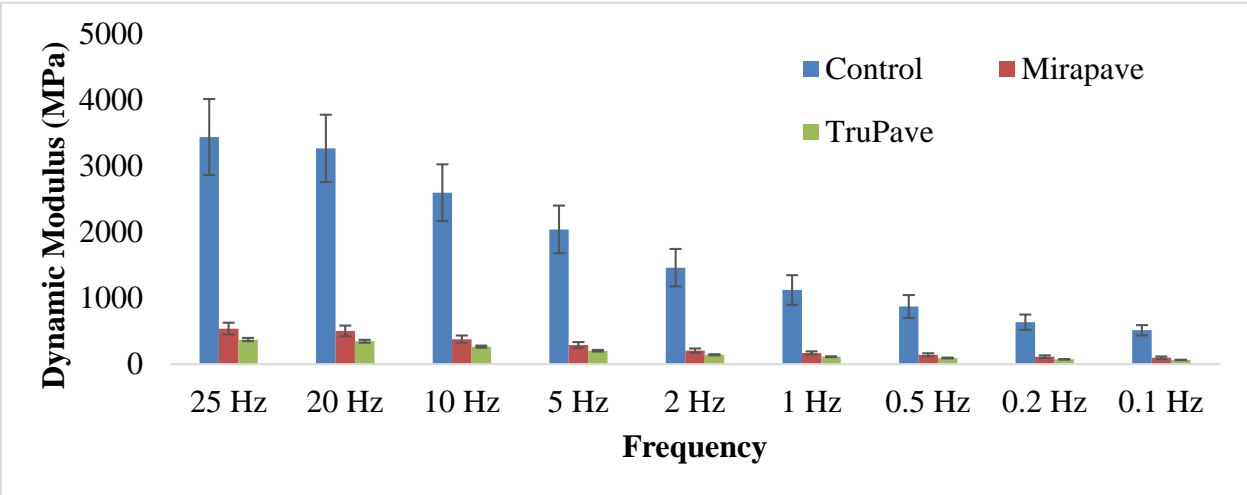


Figure 2.14 Dynamic modulus results tested at 21°C

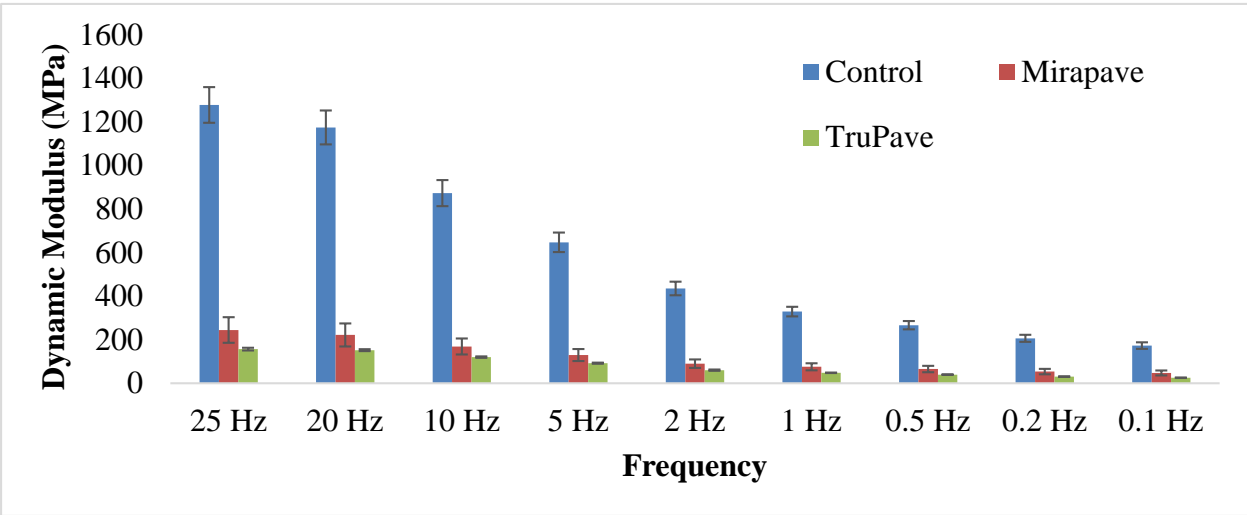


Figure 2.15 Dynamic modulus results tested at 37°C

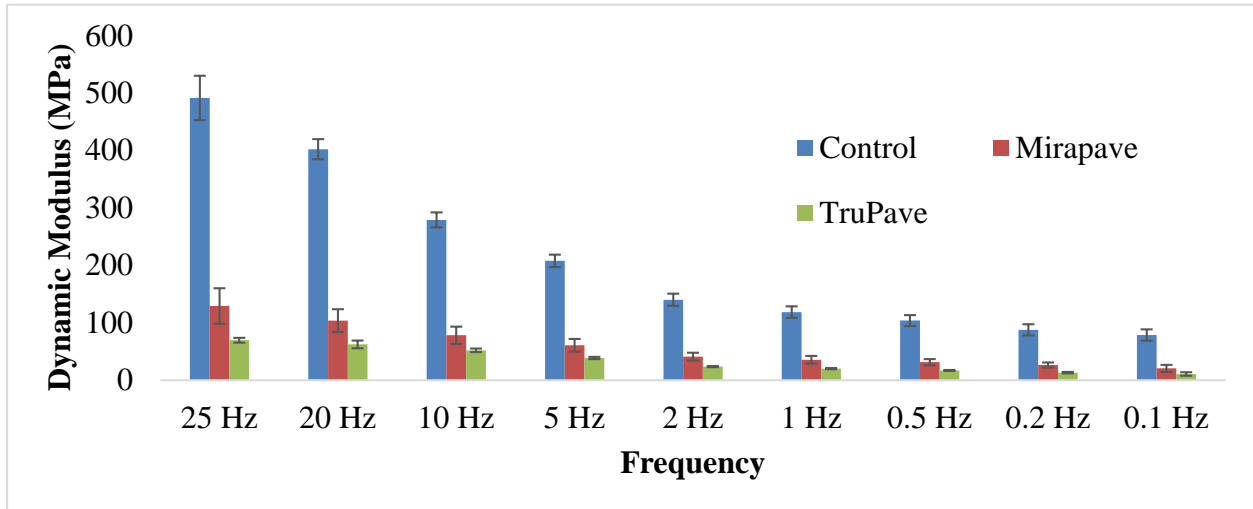


Figure 2.16 Dynamic modulus results tested at 54°C

According to Figures 2.13 to 2.16, the measured $|E^*|$ of control specimens was remarkably higher than the mixes with paving interlayers. At low temperature levels, the measured $|E^*|$ of the Mirapave-treated specimen was nearly the same as that of the TruPave-treated specimen. However, with increasing temperature, it was found that the $|E^*|$ of the Mirapave-treated specimen rose higher than that of the TruPave-treated specimen. Using the principle of time-temperature superposition, a master curve was constructed by shifting the data at various temperatures to the reference temperature (21°C) with respect to the time until the curves merge into a single smooth function. The master curves of three groups are organized in Figure 2.17, where it can be seen that the master curves of all paving interlayer-treated specimens were substantially lower than the master curve of the control mix, indicating that interlayer-treated specimens had lower $|E^*|$. The measured $|E^*|$, which was extremely low, exceeded the lower limit of input for the Mechanistic

Empirical Pavement Design Guide (MEPDG) (ARA, Inc. 2000). Consequently, the pavement structure analysis could not be performed.

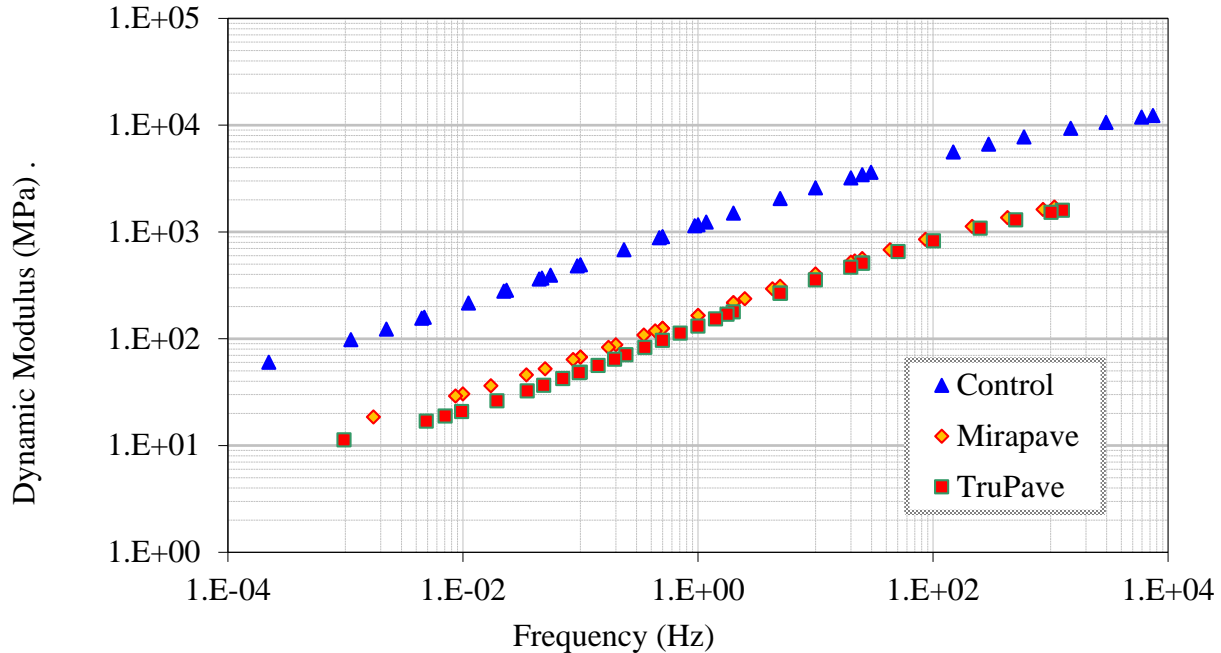


Figure 2.17 Master curves of dynamic modulus test results using the AMPT

Since the mix part used for the specimens was the same as the mix used for the control sample, the low $|E^*|$ of the specimens with paving interlayer was attributed to the inclusion of the paving interlayer and its low stiffness. In addition, the paving interlayer was under compression rather than tension, which is different from the stress state that the fabric would experience in the field. As a result, the reinforcement of the paving interlayer could not be reflected by this test. The paving interlayer is used to improve the cracking resistance of the AC layer structure by taking advantage of its high tensile strength; thus, the measured $|E^*|$ was not representative. In addition to using the AMPT, the $|E^*|$ can be measured in IDT mode as reported by Kim et al. (2004). In the

$|E^*|$ test in IDT mode, the paving interlayer is under tension (indirect), which is more consistent with field stress conditions, so the $|E^*|$ test in IDT mode is preferable to the AMPT method of measuring $|E^*|$.

Dynamic Modulus Test in IDT Mode

Besides the dynamic modulus ($|E^*|$) test using the AMPT in accordance with AASHTO TP-79 (2008), the dynamic modulus test was performed in IDT mode according to the method proposed by Kim et al. (2004). Instead of four temperatures (4°C, 21°C, 37°C, and 54°C) and six frequencies (0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 5, 10, and 25 Hz), the AC mixtures were tested at seven temperatures (-30°C, -20°C, -10°C, 0°C, 10°C, 20°C, and 30°C) with six frequencies (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1, and 5 Hz). The dynamic modulus test in indirect tension (IDT) mode was conducted to determine the dynamic modulus at different temperature and loading frequencies. The test setup for this dynamic modulus test is consistent with the setup of the conventional IDT creep test. The applied cyclic load causes the specimen to deform. At each testing temperature, normalized horizontal and vertical deformations were measured using a linear variable differential transformer (LVDT). To determine the dynamic modulus, a programmed data acquisition system was used to record the load and deformation of the specimens during testing under haversine loading.

After testing, the dynamic modulus of the tested AC was calculated using Equation 2.1, which was developed by Kim et al. (2004):

$$|E^*| = 2 \frac{P_0}{\pi a d} \frac{\beta_1 \gamma_2 - \beta_2 \gamma_1}{\gamma_2 V_0 - \beta_2 U_0} \quad (2.1)$$

where

E^* = dynamic modulus,

P_0 = amplitude of the applied load,

a = loading strip width, m,

d = thickness of specimen, m,

V_0 and U_0 = the constant amplitudes of vertical and horizontal displacements, respectively, and

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \gamma_1,$ and γ_2 = coefficients calculated for different specimen diameters and gauge lengths.

Note that the last five cycles of data were analyzed and fitted according to the following functional form:

$$f(t) = l + mt + n \cos(\omega t + \phi) \quad (2.2)$$

where

$f(t)$ = load or deformation time history,

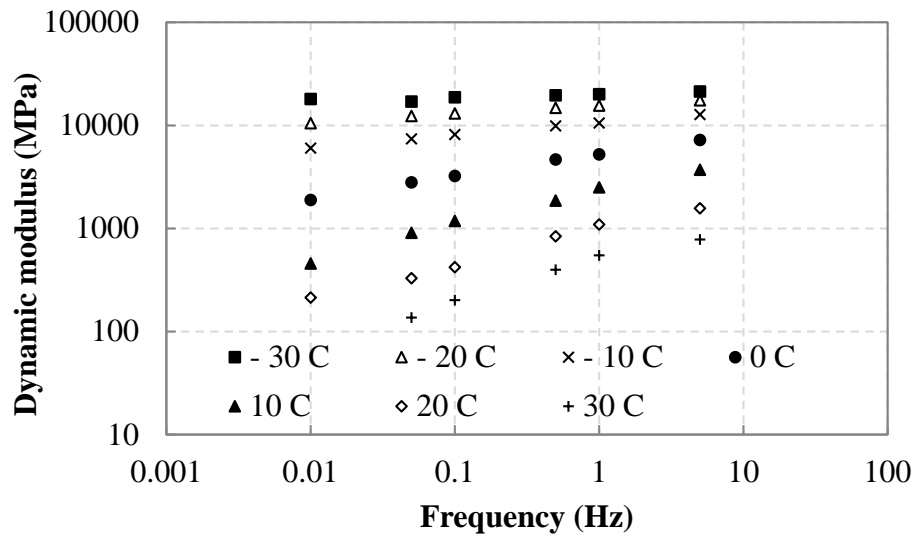
$l, m,$ and n = regression coefficients, n represents the amplitude of the sinusoidal waveform,

ϕ = phase angle, and

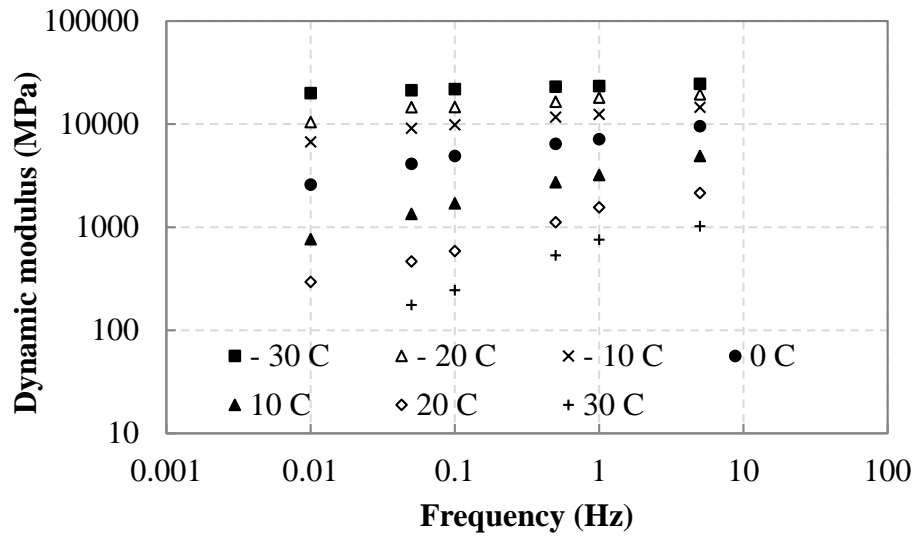
ω = angular frequency.

The dynamic modulus of the tested AC was calculated from the ratio of these coefficients from load and deformation histories. Figure 2.18 presents the dynamic modulus of the mixtures tested at different temperature and loading frequencies, calculated using Equation 2.1. Based on the results presented in Figure 2.18, the master curves (reference temperature of 20°C) of mixtures with different paving interlayers (i.e., Mirapave and TruPave) as well as the control mixture were

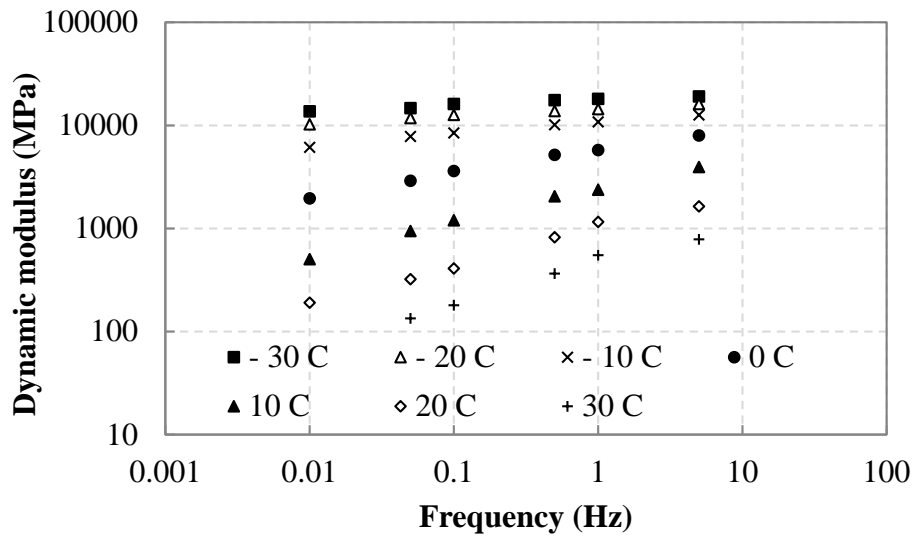
constructed (see Figure 2.19). The master curves of the control mixture tested in two methods (AMPT and IDT mode) were very close, which verified the rationality of the dynamic modulus measurement in IDT mode. The master curves of the TruPave and Mirapave mixtures were, respectively, close to or slightly higher than the master curve of the control mixture. A comparison between the master curves based on $|E^*|$ by AMPT and IDT mode dynamic modulus tests is presented in Figure 2.19. For the mixtures with fabrics, the dynamic moduli measured by the AMPT were substantially lower than those from the IDT mode dynamic modulus measurement. As previously discussed, the major difference between the AMPT and IDT mode dynamic modulus measurement was the stress state in the paving interlayer during testing. Using the IDT mode, the stress state in the paving interlayer was consistent with the stress state in the field condition when the paving interlayer was used for reflective crack mitigation purposes. For this reason, the dynamic modulus measurement in IDT mode is preferable to the AMPT method for AC with paving interlayers.



(a) Control



(b) Mirapave



(c) TruPave

Figure 2.18 Measured dynamic modulus in IDT mode

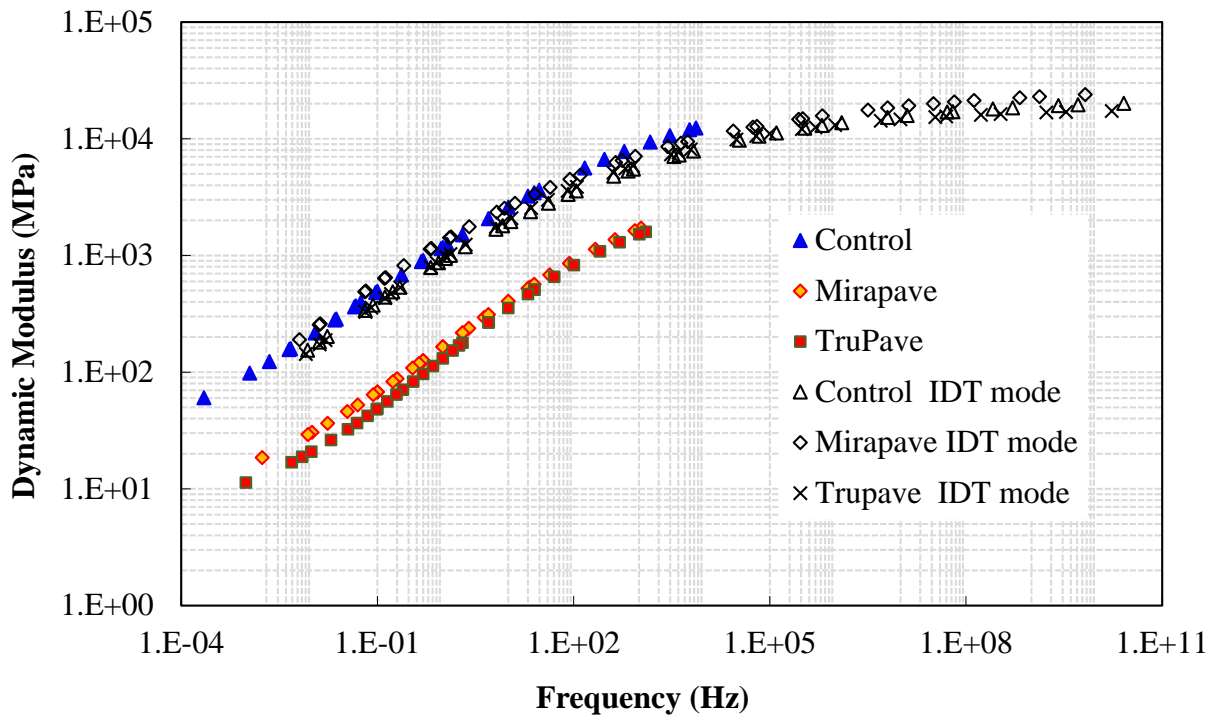


Figure 2.19 AMPT and IDT mode dynamic modulus measurement results

Low-Temperature Performance Test

The IDT creep test was used to evaluate the low-temperature performance of AC with two paving interlayers (i.e., an entire layer of Mirapave and TruPave). The setup for the IDT creep test is shown in Figure 2.20. An environmental chamber, in which the temperature could be controlled, was used to condition the specimens to different target temperatures. To determine the tensile creep stiffness $S(t)$ according to AASHTO specification T-322-07, a programmed data acquisition system was used to record the load and deformation of the specimens during testing.

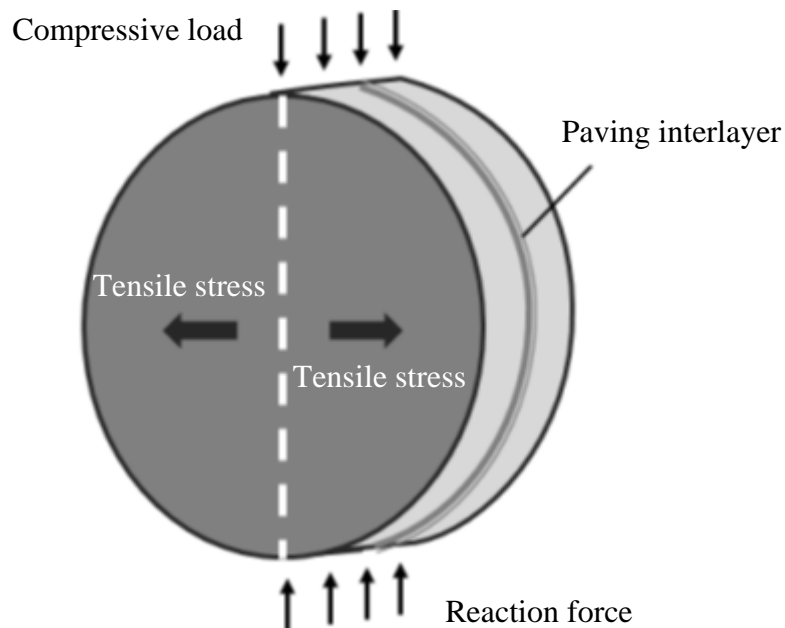


Figure 2.20 IDT test

The IDT creep test was performed by loading the cylindrical specimen with a constant compressive load (see Figure 2.20). The applied compressive load causes the specimen to fail by splitting along the vertical direction. Specimens were approximately 50 mm in height and 150 mm in diameter. The tensile creep compliance $D(t)$ of each mixture was monitored at three or four

temperatures, that is, at -30, -20, -10, and 20°C, according to the binder's low-temperature grade.

At each testing temperature, normalized horizontal and vertical deformations from six specimen faces (three specimens, two faces/specimen) were measured with the LVDT (Figure 2.21).

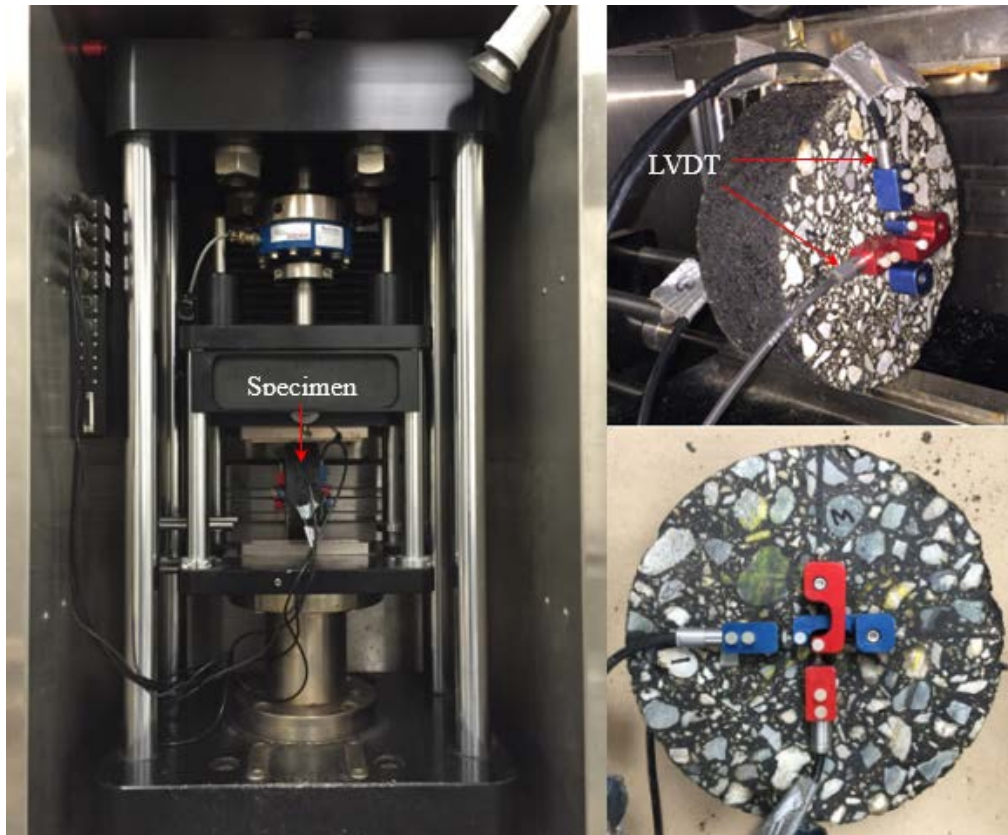


Figure 2.21 Setup for IDT creep test

The creep compliance $D(t)$ of each mixture (a viscoelastic property of HMA used in the MEPDG to calculate thermal stress at low temperatures) was tested and calculated according to

Eq. 2.3:

$$D(t) = \frac{\Delta X \times D_{avg} \times b_{avg}}{P_{avg} \times GL} \times C_{cmpl} \quad (2.3)$$

where

$D(t)$ = creep compliance (kPa),

ΔX = trimmed mean of the horizontal deformations (m),

D_{avg} = average specimen diameters (m),

b_{avg} = average specimen thickness (m),

P_{avg} = average force during the test (kN),

GL = gage length (38 mm), and

C_{cmpl} = creep compliance parameter at any given time, computed as

$$C_{cmpl} = 0.6354 \times \left(\frac{X}{Y}\right)^{-1} - 0.332 \quad (2.4)$$

where

X = horizontal deformation, and

Y = vertical deformation.

Creep stiffness $S(t)$ at the time t was calculated as the inverse of the creep compliance $D(t)$:

$$S(t) = \frac{1}{D(t)} \quad (2.5)$$

After the IDT creep tests using Eqs. 2.3 and 2.4, creep compliance, which is related to the viscoelastic behavior of AC, was significantly influenced by temperature. The AC samples with/without paving interlayers at different loading temperatures were obtained and summarized (see Table 2.1). When temperature decreased from 20°C to -10°C, the creep compliance of AC with/without paving interlayers dramatically decreased. The creep compliances of the AC reinforced with TruPave were very close to or slightly lower than those of the control mixtures at different temperatures. However, the creep compliances of Mirapave-reinforced AC were lower

than those of the control AC especially at -10 and 20°C. At the low-temperature end (i.e., -30°C), the creep compliances of mixtures with paving interlayers were comparable with the control mixtures.

Table 2.1 Summary of creep compliance (1/GPa)

Temperature (°C)	Material	Time (s)						
		10	20	50	100	200	500	1000
20	Control	8.942	9.973	13.055	15.415	18.839	24.090	-
	Mirapave	4.749	5.821	7.364	9.074	11.708	14.299	-
	TruPave	7.724	9.231	13.352	16.370	20.551	26.064	-
-10	Control	0.162	0.191	0.246	0.327	0.423	0.575	0.746
	Mirapave	0.109	0.135	0.179	0.217	0.278	0.384	0.499
	TruPave	0.147	0.169	0.221	0.283	0.356	0.491	0.643
-20	Control	0.093	0.103	0.124	0.146	0.174	0.219	0.276
	Mirapave	0.063	0.071	0.087	0.103	0.121	0.153	0.188
	TruPave	0.078	0.088	0.102	0.117	0.137	0.166	0.196
-30	Control	0.051	0.055	0.061	0.068	0.073	0.081	0.087
	Mirapave	0.048	0.053	0.060	0.068	0.075	0.087	0.097
	TruPave	0.044	0.048	0.052	0.056	0.061	0.071	0.079

Usually, AC with lower creep compliance is considered more susceptible to low-temperature cracking. Since cracking due to thermal contraction only occurs at low temperatures, the creep compliance of AC with/without paving interlayers at subfreezing temperatures are plotted in Figure 2.22. At very low temperatures (i.e., -30°C), the creep compliances of mixtures with paving interlayers were close to those of the control mixtures. As a result, the inclusion of the paving interlayers in the pavement structure did not compromise pavement performance in low-temperature cracking resistance. Note that the variation of creep compliance in the control group was more dramatic than that of the mixtures with paving interlayers, as shown in Figure 2.22. In

other words, adding paving interlayer to AC could reduce the temperature sensitivity of the material, which is consistent with the research findings in the previous study (Li et al. 2014).

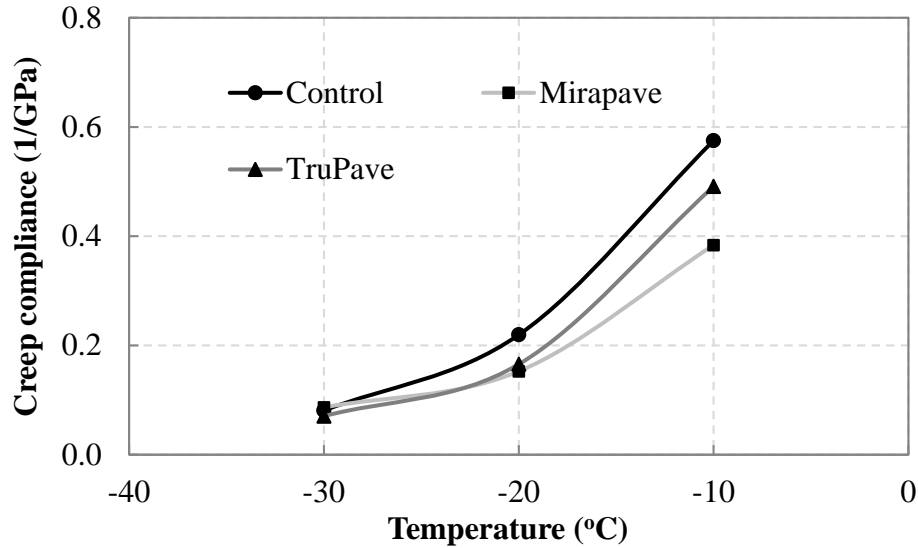
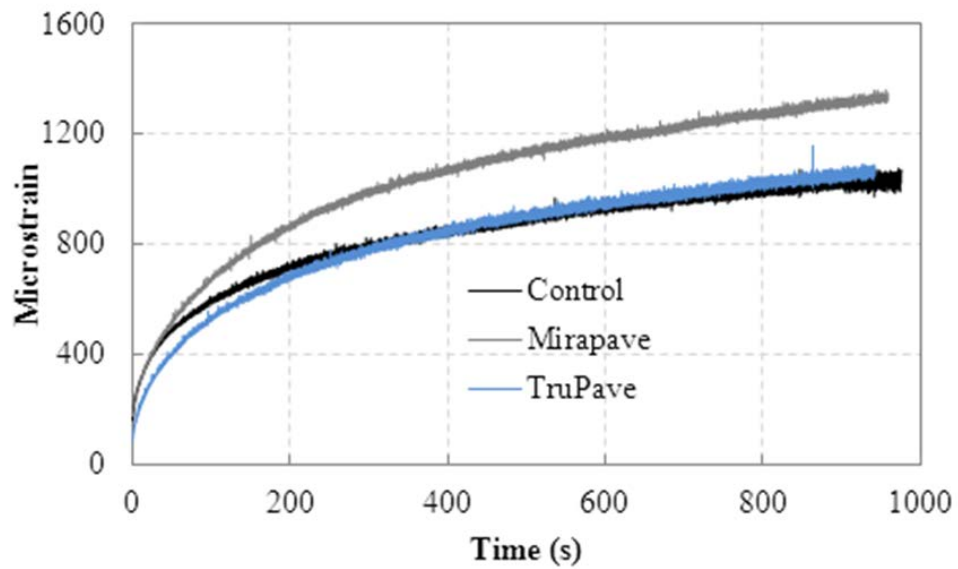


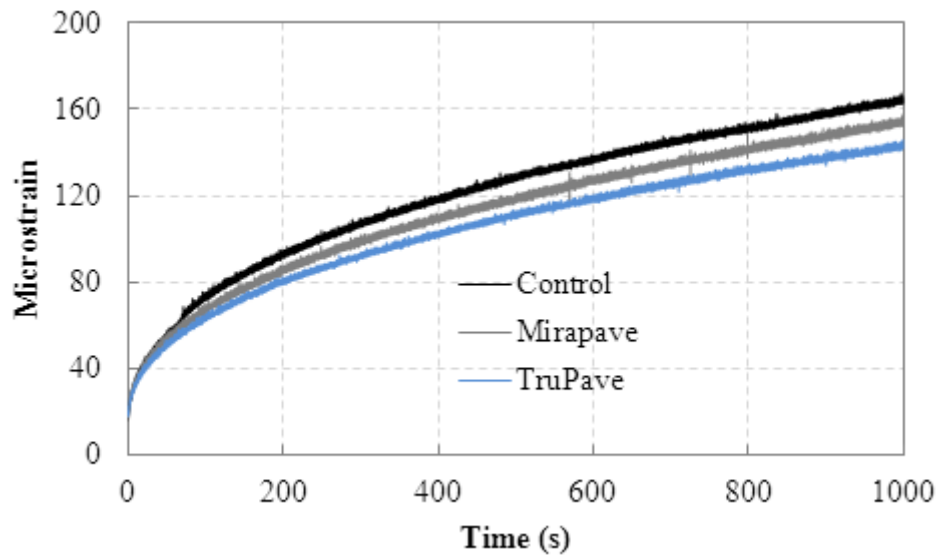
Figure 2.22 Effect of temperature on creep compliance (500s)

Figure 2.23 shows the creep curves of horizontal tensile strain for three groups of materials at four different temperatures (20°C, -10°C, -20°C, and -30°C). It was found that the creep strain of AC with paving interlayers could be higher or lower than the creep strain of the control groups at different temperatures. The major reason for this is the differences in paving interlayers and the bonding between the AC and the paving interlayers. For example, as shown in Figure 2.23b, the creep strain of the samples with paving interlayers tested at -10°C was lower than the control sample, which is consistent with the findings presented in the previous study (Li et al. 2014). The reduction of creep compliance of interlayer-treated specimens was attributed to the applied load mostly carried by the interlayer, and the load on the HMA was reduced. In other words, the paving

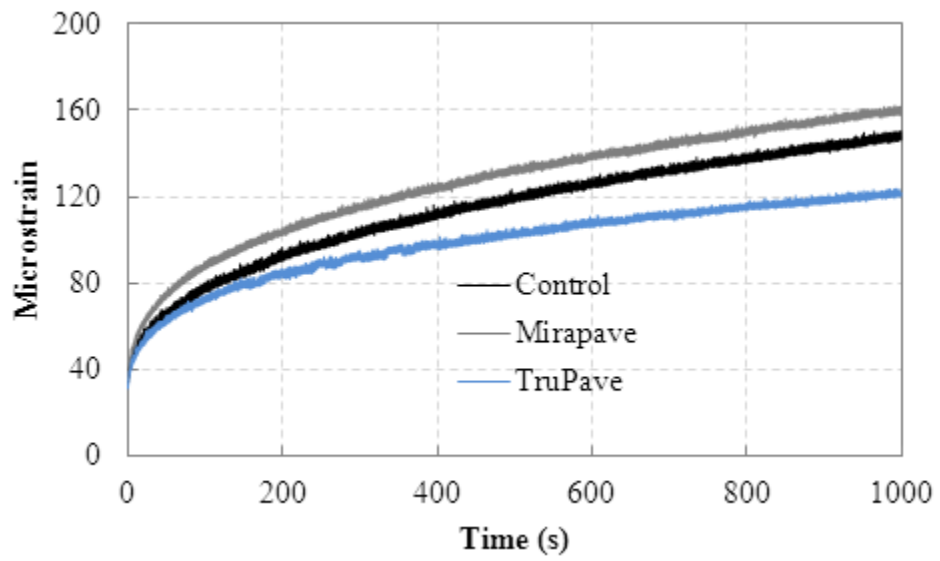
interlayer was protecting the AC layer from cracking. However, the creep strain of the samples with paving interlayers tested at -30°C was higher than the creep strain of the control sample, which means the paving interlayer did not contribute in carrying tensile load in the AC. However, this finding is still considered beneficial, since AC with a higher creep rate is less prone to low-temperature cracking.



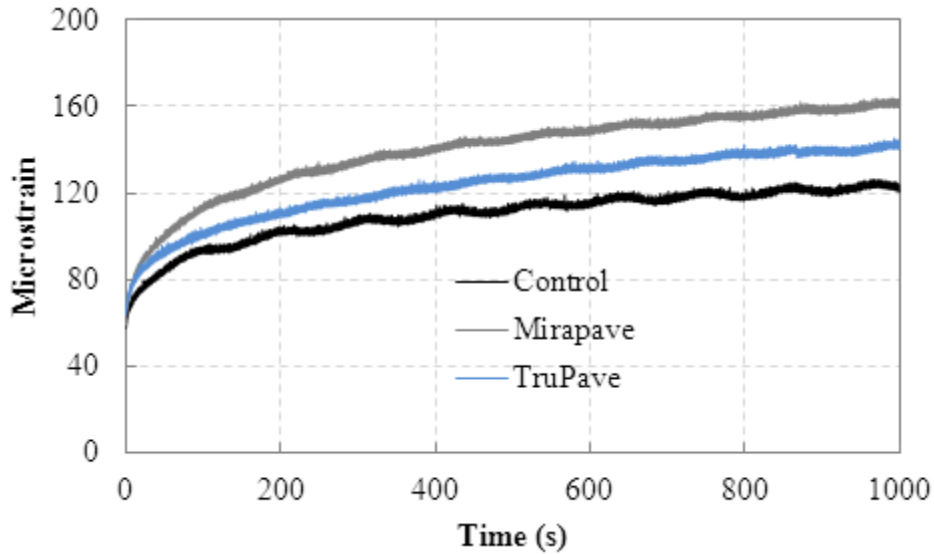
(a) 20°C , 0.15 kN vertical load



(b) -10°C, 1.5 kN vertical load



(c) -20°C, 4.4 kN vertical load



(d) -30°C, 12 kN vertical load

Figure 2.23 Summary of horizontal creep strain

In the field, for an AC layer before cracking, decreasing temperature can increase the thermal stress in the AC layer. Under this situation, the paving interlayer may/may not contribute to carrying the tensile load, according to the results shown in Figure 2.23. However, when the AC layer cracks, the paving interlayer is expected to provide extra resistance to the widening of the crack due to the higher tensile strength it carries. This crack control capability cannot be revealed by the IDT creep test and will be explored in future research.

CHAPTER 3 – FIELD MONITORING RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In the previous project, *Performance of TenCate Mirafi PGM-G⁴ Interlayer-Reinforced Asphalt Pavements in Alaska*, several types of paving interlayers provided by TenCate Geosynthetics were used to explore the performance of paving interlayer-reinforced asphalt concrete (AC) pavements in Alaska. Laboratory testing and finite element method (FEM) simulation identified a number of engineering benefits of using paving interlayers in AC pavements. To further validate the performance of paving interlayers in AC pavements in the field, the research team at the University of Alaska Fairbanks coordinated with ADOT&PF Northern Region personnel to select a pavement preservation/rehabilitation project (using a thin AC overlay), constructed during the summer season for establishment of test sections. This chapter presents field-related activities, including pre-construction field evaluation, establishment of test sections, and field evaluation after construction.

Test Site Description

The test site starts at Milepost (MP) 148 on the Richardson Highway. The roadway consists of 2 inches of HMA (hot mix asphalt), 4 inches of ATB (asphalt-treated base), 4 inches of D-1 granular material, and about 3 feet of selected material. The selected material was crushed rock from the paving site. The first lift of 2 inches was paved in fall 2012.

Pre-Construction Field Evaluation

A pre-construction field evaluation was conducted in May 2013. Cracks were observed on paved ATB after the snow melted from the roadway surface. The problematic areas were 1.4 mile to 6.7 mile from the beginning of the paving project. Most problematic areas had a weak foundation, and most cracks were longitudinal. Twelve cracking areas (Figures 3.1–3.13) were identified. Related detailed information is presented in Table 3.1. The pavement structure at the test section is shown in Appendix B.

Table 3.1 Summary of pre-construction pavement survey

ID	Mileage	Location	Length (ft)	Note	Suggestion
1	1.4	Longitudinal, Left lane, in the middle	169		Can be used as a fabric test section. A 6 ft. wide fabric can cover the cracking area.
2	1.6	Longitudinal, mostly in the right lane,	172	Weak foundation	
3	1.7	Longitudinal, right lane,	105	Weak foundation, some on the shoulder	
3a	1.7	Longitudinal, right lane,	158	Weak foundation, some on the shoulder	
4	1.8	Longitudinal, right lane	283		Can be used as a control section
5	1.9	Longitudinal, right lane	191	On the shoulder	Not suggested as a test section, since it is on the shoulder.
6	2.1	Longitudinal, left lane	142		Can be used as a fabric test section, which needs a 12 ft. wide fabric.
7	3.5	Longitudinal, left lane	386	most of the crack is on the longitudinal joint	
8	3.6	Longitudinal, left lane	247	including one transverse crack	Can be used as a fabric test section. It needs a 12 ft. wide fabric.
9	3.8	Longitudinal, left lane	245		Can be used as a fabric test section. It needs a 6 ft. wide fabric.
10	4.1	Longitudinal, left lane	478		Can be used as a control section and a fabric test section next to

ID	Mileage	Location	Length (ft)	Note	Suggestion
					each other for comparison. It needs a 12 ft. wide fabric.
11	4.8	Longitudinal, right lane	293	on the shoulder	Not suggested as a test section, since it is on the shoulder.
12	6.7	Longitudinal, left lane close to joint	157		



Figure 3.1 Cracking area 1



Figure 3.2 Cracking area 2



Figure 3.3 Cracking area 3



Figure 3.4 Cracking area 3a



Figure 3.5 Cracking area 4



Figure 3.6 Cracking area 5



Figure 3.7 Cracking area 6



Figure 3.8 Cracking area 7



Figure 3.9 Cracking area 8



Figure 3.10 Cracking area 9



Figure 3.11 Cracking area 10



Figure 3.12 Cracking area 11



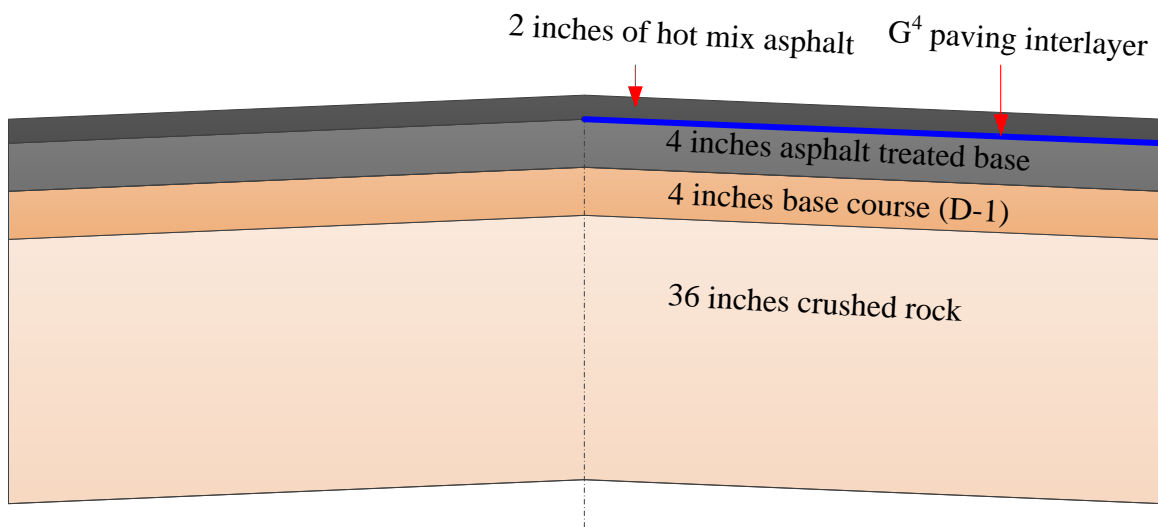
Figure 3.13 Cracking area 12

Establishment of Test Sections

Three test sections reinforced with paving interlayers were established in July 2013: one with G⁴ in areas 2 and 3 (Figure 3.14), one with G50/50 in area 9 (Figure 3.15), and one with G100/100 in area 10 (Figure 3.16). A tack coat of neat oil was applied at the shooting rates of 0.19 gal/yd², 0.27 gal/yd², and 0.27 gal/yd² for sections with G⁴, G50/50 and, G100/100, respectively. Area 4 was selected as the control section for further field survey. The pavement structures in four sections are presented in Figures 3.14 to 3.17.



(a) Construction of the test section

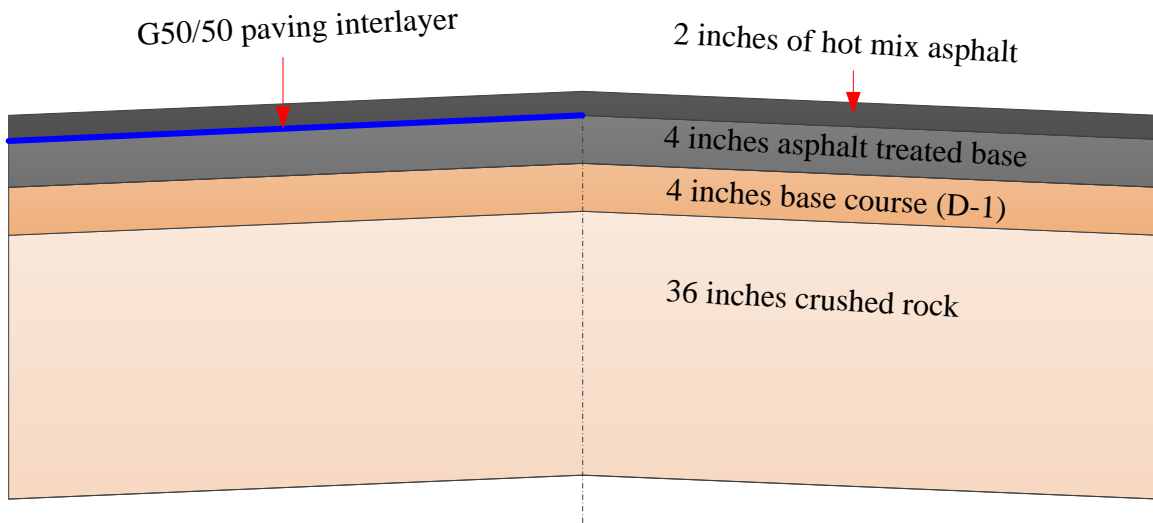


(b) Pavement structure

Figure 3.14 G⁴ test section



(a) Construction of the test section

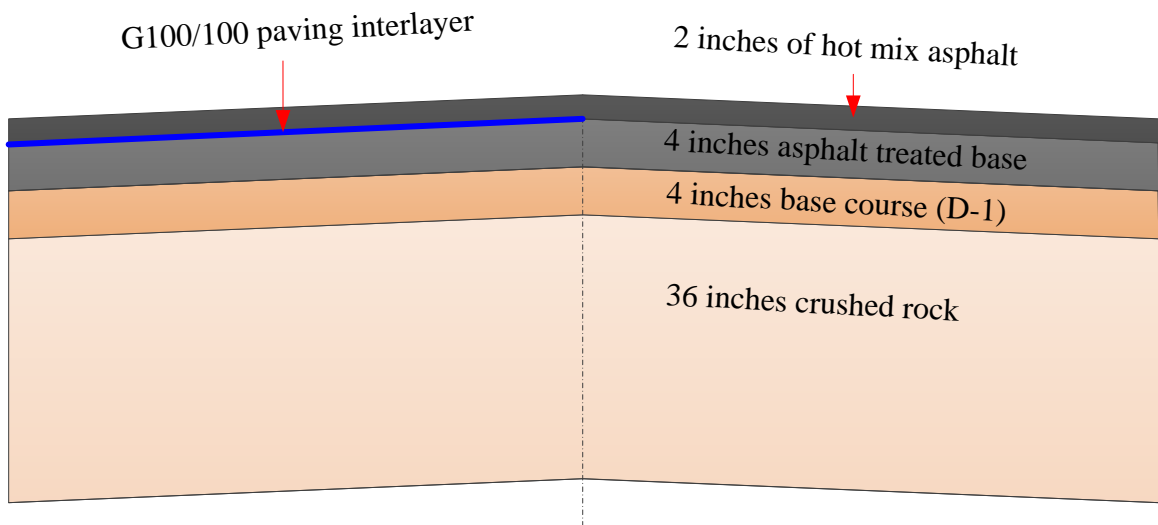


(b) Pavement structure

Figure 3.15 G50/50 test section



(a) Construction of the test section



(b) Pavement structure

Figure 3.16 G100/100 test section

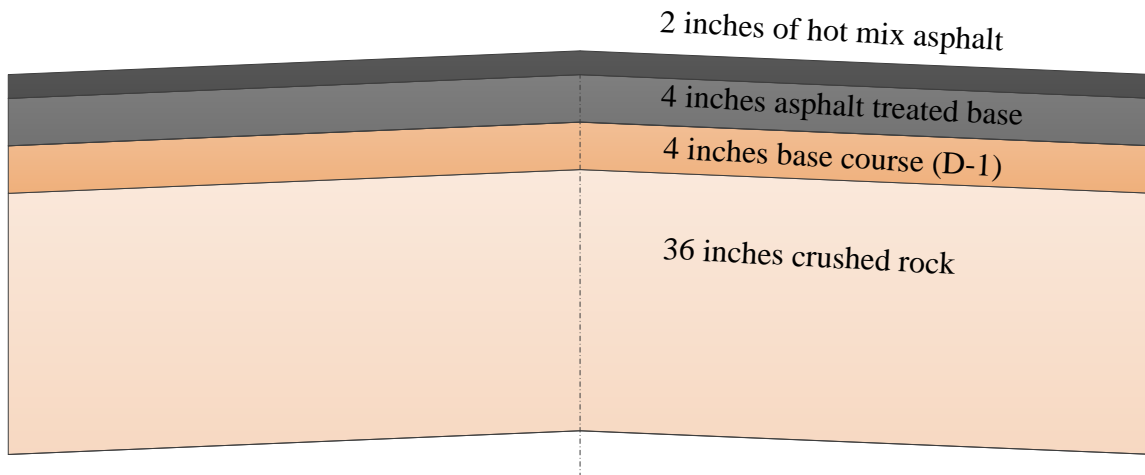


Figure 3.17 Pavement structure of control section

Field Climatic and Traffic Condition

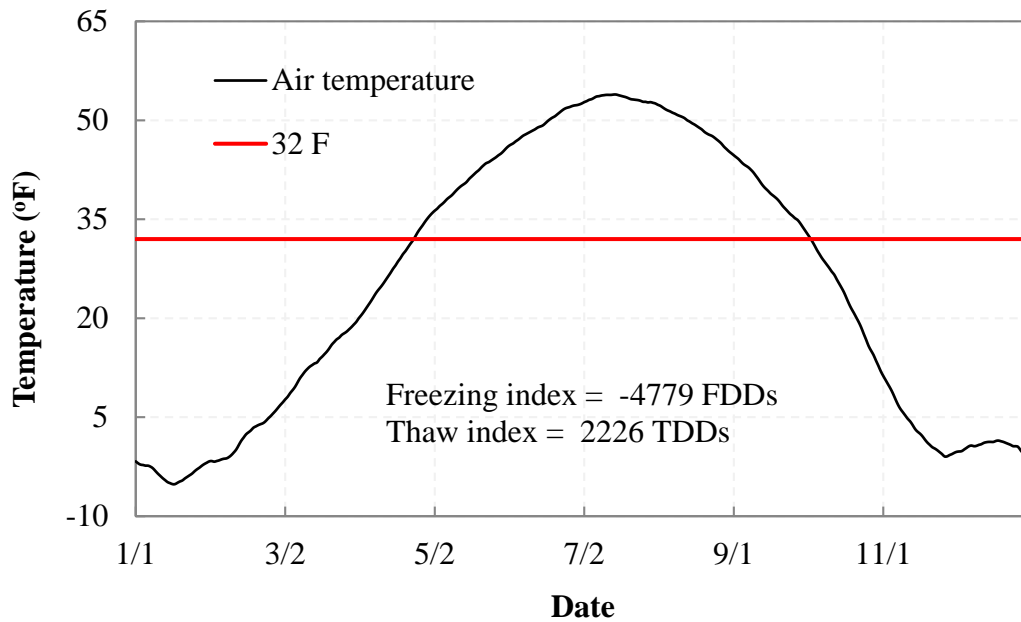
The climatic data at the test section between the years 1981 and 2010 were collected from <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/>. The average of all daily average temperatures recorded for the day of the year is presented in Figure 3.18a. According to the climatic data, the freezing and thawing indices were calculated to be -4779 freezing degree days (FDD) and 2226 thawing degree days (TDD) using Equations 3.1 and 3.2, respectively.

$$FDDs = \sum_{i=1}^n (T_{ave_i} - 32^\circ F), T_{ave_i} < 32^\circ F \quad (3.1)$$

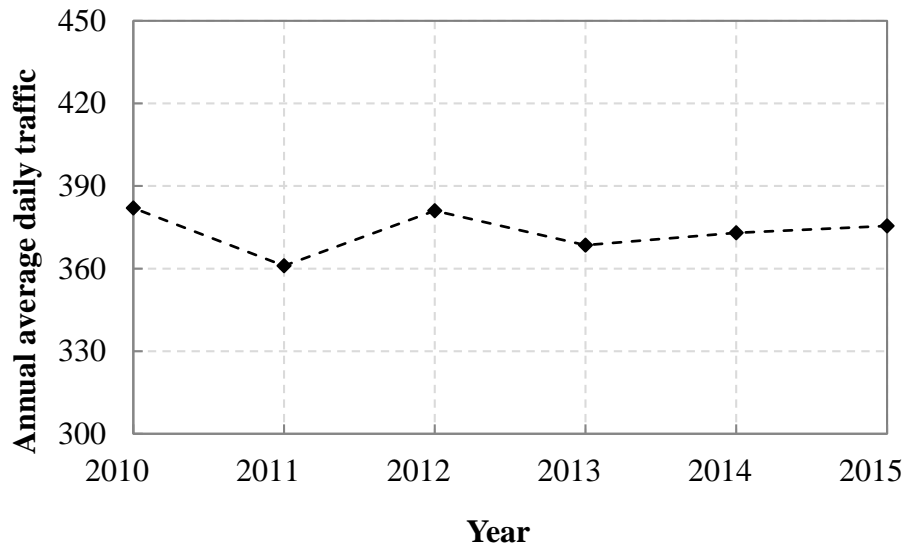
$$TDDs = \sum_{i=1}^n (T_{ave_i} - 32^\circ F), T_{ave_i} > 32^\circ F \quad (3.2)$$

The traffic volume at the test section (from MP 148 to 156 of the Richardson Highway) is not available. However, the traffic volumes at Ernestine Maintenance Camp (MP 62 of the Richardson Highway) and Trims Maintenance Camp (MP 218 of the Richardson Highway) were collected from ADOT&PF. Since the test section is located at the middle of two stations, the

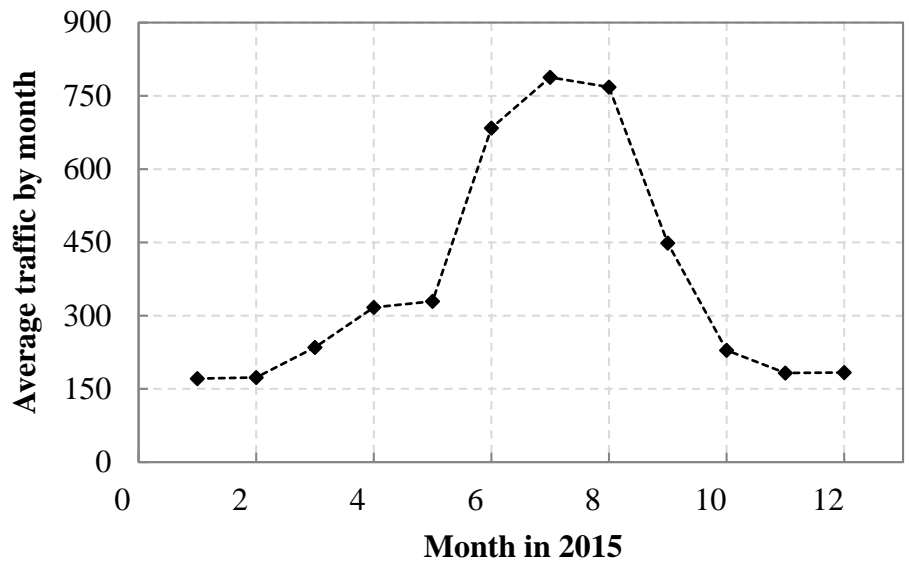
average of the data at two stations was used as the representative traffic volume at the test sections. The annual average daily traffic between the years 2010 and 2015 is presented in Figure 3.18b. The daily traffic did not vary much (from 361 per day to 382 per day) during this period. The annual traffic by month in 2015 is summarized in Figure 3.18c. The traffic volume in summer was approximately 4 times greater than in winter. The traffic by hour of day in 2015 is summarized in Figure 3.18d. The daily traffic peak was between 12:00 and 16:00 with average traffic volume of 30 per hour.



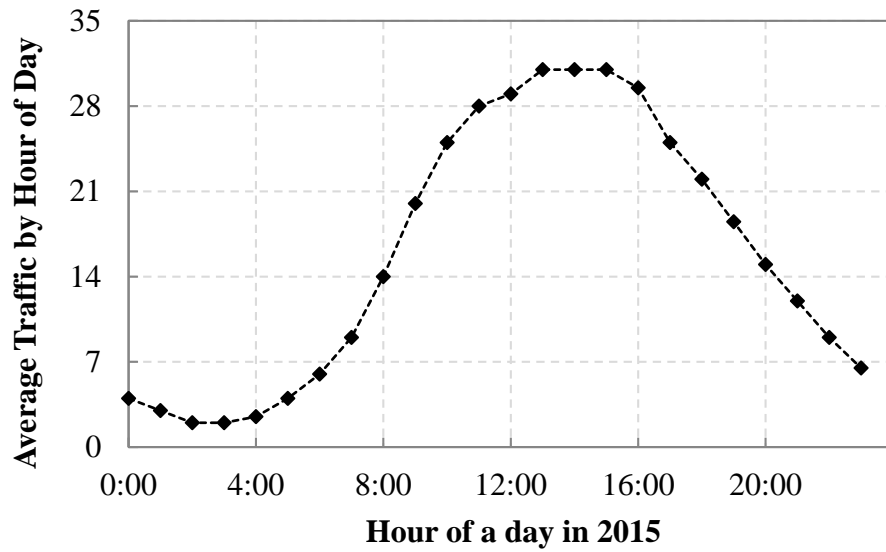
(a) Annual climatic condition



(b) Annual average daily traffic



(c) Annual traffic by month



(d) Annual traffic by hour of day

Figure 3.18 Climatic and traffic condition at the test section (1981–2010)

Field Evaluation After Construction

Field Surveys in August and October 2013

Two pavement condition surveys were conducted on August 19 and October 12, 2013. No cracks were found in any of the test sections during these two field trips (Figures 3.19–3.22).



Figure 3.19 Control section (300 feet in area 4)



Figure 3.20 G^4 test section (reinforced with 300 feet of G^4 paving interlayer in the right lane in area 2, no visible cracks)



Figure 3.21 $G50/50$ test section (reinforced with 300 feet of $G50/50$ in the left lane in area 9, no visible cracks)



Figure 3.22 G100/100 test section (reinforced with 300 feet G100/100 in the left lane in area 10, no visible cracks present)

Field Survey in May and September 2014

Field evaluations were performed on May 15 and in September 2014 to see how the paving interlayers had functioned over the course of the winter. Cracks were observed in every test section (Figures 3.23–3.26). Table 3.2 summarizes the crack data collected.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.23 Control section: (a) no visible cracks (October 12, 2013); (b) 266 feet of longitudinal crack (May 15, 2014)



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.24 G^4 test section: (a) no visible cracks (October 12, 2013); (b) both longitudinal and transverse cracks present (May 15, 2014)



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.25 G50/50 test section: (a) no visible cracks (October 12, 2013); (b) both transverse and longitudinal cracks present (May 15, 2014)



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.26 G100/100 test section: (a) no visible cracks (October 12, 2013); (b) transverse crack present (May 15, 2014)

Table 3.2 Summary of crack data in September 2014

Section	Transverse crack (#)	Longitudinal crack, Right lane (ft)	Longitudinal crack, Left lane (ft)
Area 4 (control)	0	266 medium-major	0
Areas 2 & 3	3 minor	17 minor (G ⁴)	0
Area 9	1	28 minor	36 minor (G50/50)
Area 10	1	0	0 (G100/100)

The control section (area 4) was by far the worst with 89% of the northbound lane carrying a 266-foot medium-severity longitudinal crack. The northbound lane of area 2, which had been reinforced with G⁴ paving interlayer, had one full-length transverse crack and two other cracks that started from the shoulder and crossed the northbound lane, ending at the centerline. Small transverse cracks between 274 and 294 feet were observed from the start of the G⁴ section in the center of the northbound lane. The southbound lane of area 9 is the section that was reinforced with G50/50. A transverse crack was observed 160 feet from the start of the G50/50 section. The first part of the southbound lane of area 10 is the 300 foot G100/100 reinforced section. Only one full-length transverse crack, located about 117 feet from the start of the reinforcement, was observed.

According to the summary in Table 3.2, all sections reinforced with paving interlayers performed better (reduced number and severity of cracks) than the control section. In terms of number and severity level of cracks, the section reinforced with G100/100 performed the best, followed by the G⁴ section and the G50/50 section. That the G⁴ section showed more cracks than the G100/100 section may be due to the weak foundation in areas 2 and 3 (see Table 3.2), where the G⁴ section was located. Another observation from the pavement survey was that many of the transverse cracks were located at the possible interlayer joints. During construction of the test sections, all paving interlayers were cut to lengths of about 300 feet for easy installation, which may have caused weak spots for stress concentration and crack occurrence in the interlayer sections.

This possibility can be avoided in real-life construction where paving interlayers are laid out continuously as an entire layer.

In September 2014, the G⁴ reinforced section (area 2) had the only new crack found in all of the test sections, and it was minor (Figure 3.27–3.29). Many very small fissures were observed where likely, after the next winter, more cracks would become pronounced. Overall, the test sections including the control sections were in the same condition as the evaluation performed in May 2014.



Figure 3.27 Control section (area 4) no new crack



Figure 3.28 G⁴ section (area 2) new minor crack



Figure 3.29 G50/50 and G100/100 (sections 9 and 10) no new crack

Field Survey in June 2015

A field evaluation was performed and crack data were collected on June 2, 2015. Crack data collected from the survey conducted in May 2014 and this survey are summarized and presented in Table 3.3. Figures 3.30–3.33 show the typical new cracks in every test section.

Table 3.3 Summary of crack data in June 2015

Section		Transverse crack (#)	Longitudinal crack, Right lane (ft)	Longitudinal crack, Left lane (ft)
Area 4 (control)	Previous	0	266 medium-major	0
	New	7 minor	34 medium-major 13 minor	0
	Total	7 minor	300 medium-major 13 minor	0
Areas 2 & 3	Previous ¹	3 minor	17 minor (G ⁴)	0
	New ²	5 minor	46 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
	Total	8 minor	63 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
Area 9	Previous	1 major	28 minor	36 minor (G50/50)
	New	0	50 minor	24 minor (G50/50)
	Total	1 major	78 minor	60 minor (G50/50)
Area 10	Previous	1 major	0	0 (G100/100)
	New	0	0	0 (G100/100)
	Total	1 major	0	0 (G100/100)

¹ Previous – Data collected as of May 2014.

² New – Data collected in June 2015.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.30 Control section: (a) new minor transverse crack; (b) new moderate-major longitudinal crack



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.31 G^4 test section: (a) new minor transverse crack; (b) new minor longitudinal crack



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.32 G50/50 test section: (a) no new transverse crack; (b) new minor longitudinal crack



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.33 G100/100 test section: (a) no new transverse crack; (b) no new longitudinal crack

In Table 3.3, it can be seen that the control section showed the worst longitudinal crack performance in terms of number of new cracks and severity after 1 year of service. Most new transverse cracks were found on the control section rather than on sections reinforced by paving interlayers. The G^4 reinforced section showed several newly formed minor transverse and longitudinal cracks, while new minor longitudinal cracks were observed on the G50/50 section only. The G100/100 section performed the best without any new cracks observed.

As discussed previously, the additional cracks observed on the G⁴ section rather than the G100/100 section may be due to the weak foundation in areas 2 and 3 where the G⁴ section was located. Note that plenty of transverse cracks were found at the possible joints of each 300-foot paving interlayer during construction. The stress concentration at the joints may have caused the cracks, other than the effects of the paving interlayers. These factors may have affected the surveys conducted in this study, but could be avoided in real-life construction.

Field Survey in June 2016

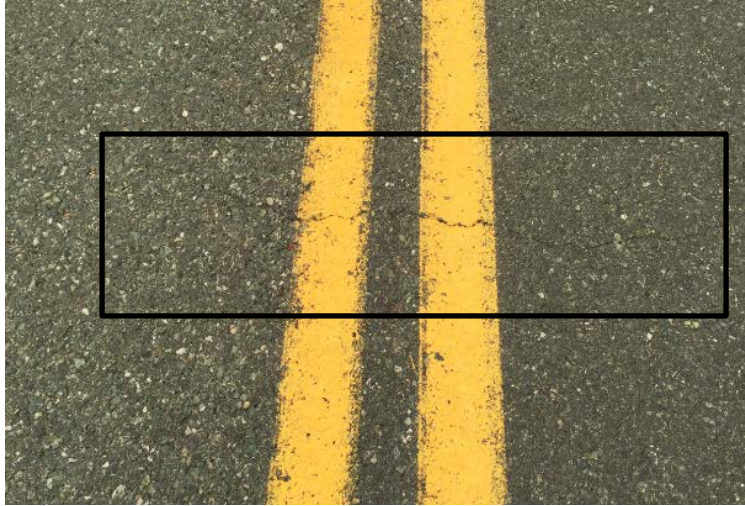
A field evaluation was performed on June 24, 2016. Table 3.4 presents new data collected from this survey and previous data as of the last field survey 1 year ago. In Table 3.4, it can be seen that after 1 year's service, four more minor transverse cracks were observed on the control section, while two new minor cracks were observed on the G⁴ section. No transverse crack has been observed on the G50/50 and G100/100 sections since the 2014 survey. A few longitudinal cracks were found on all sections.

Table 3.4 Summary of crack data in June 2016

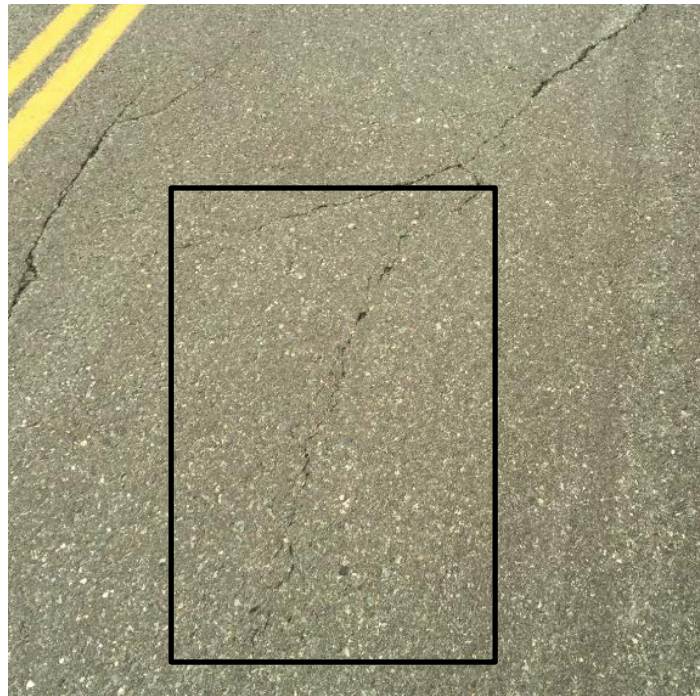
Section		Transverse crack (#)	Longitudinal crack, Right lane (ft)	Longitudinal crack, Left lane (ft)
Area 4 (control)	Previous ¹	7 minor	300 medium-major 13 minor	0
	New ²	4 minor	4 medium-major	0
	Total	11 minor	304 medium-major 13 minor	0
Areas 2 & 3	Previous	8 minor	63 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
	New	2 minor	14 minor (G ⁴)	0
	Total	10 minor	77 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
Area 9	Previous	1 major	78 minor	60 minor (G50/50)
	New	0	0	20 minor (G50/50)
	Total	1 major	78 minor	80 minor (G50/50)
Area 10	Previous	1 major	0	0 (G100/100)
	New	0	20 minor	0 (G100/100)
	Total	1 major	20 minor	0 (G100/100)

¹ Previous – Data collected before June 2015.

² New – Data collected in June 2016.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.34 Control section: (a) new minor transverse crack; (b) new moderate-major longitudinal crack



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.35 G^4 test section: (a) new minor transverse crack; (b) new minor longitudinal crack



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.36 G50/50 test section: (a) no new transverse crack (but polishing is very obvious); (b) new minor longitudinal crack on the shoulder



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.37 G100/100 test section: (a) no new transverse or longitudinal crack (but polishing is very obvious); (b) the major crack observed from May 2014, 1/8 to 1 in width

Field Survey in May 2017

On May 9, 2017, a field evaluation was performed. Table 3.5 presents new data collected from this survey and previous data as of the last field survey a year ago. After 1 year, no new transverse crack was observed on all sections. The new medium-major transverse crack in areas 2 and 3 evolved from a minor transverse crack, as shown in Figure 3.38. The width of the transverse crack in the G50 sections did not increase according to Figure 3.39. However, note that the length of some transverse cracks did increase (see Figure 3.40). Also, a few longitudinal cracks were found on the control, G⁴, G50/50, and G100/100 sections. The distributions of previous and new cracks in all sections are presented in Appendix C.

Table 3.5 Summary of crack data in May 2017

Section		Transverse crack (#)	Longitudinal crack, Right lane (ft)	Longitudinal crack, Left lane (ft)
Area 4 (control)	Previous ¹	11 minor	304 medium-major 13 minor	0
	New ²	0	5 medium-major	0
	Total	11 minor	309 medium-major 13 minor	0
Areas 2 & 3	Previous	10 minor	77 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
	New	1 medium-major	20 minor (G ⁴)	0
	Total	9 minor 1 medium-major	97 minor (G ⁴)	14 minor
Area 9	Previous	1 major	78 minor	80 minor (G50/50)
	New	0	36 minor	20 minor (G50/50)
	Total	1 major	114 minor	100 minor (G50/50)
Area 10	Previous	1 major	20 minor	0 (G100/100)
	New	0	42 minor	0 (G100/100)
	Total	1 major	62 minor	0 (G100/100)

¹ Previous – Data collected before June 2016; ² New – Data collected in May 2017.



Figure 3.38 Evolution of a transverse crack from minor to major in G⁴ test section



Figure 3.39 A transverse crack in G50/50 section

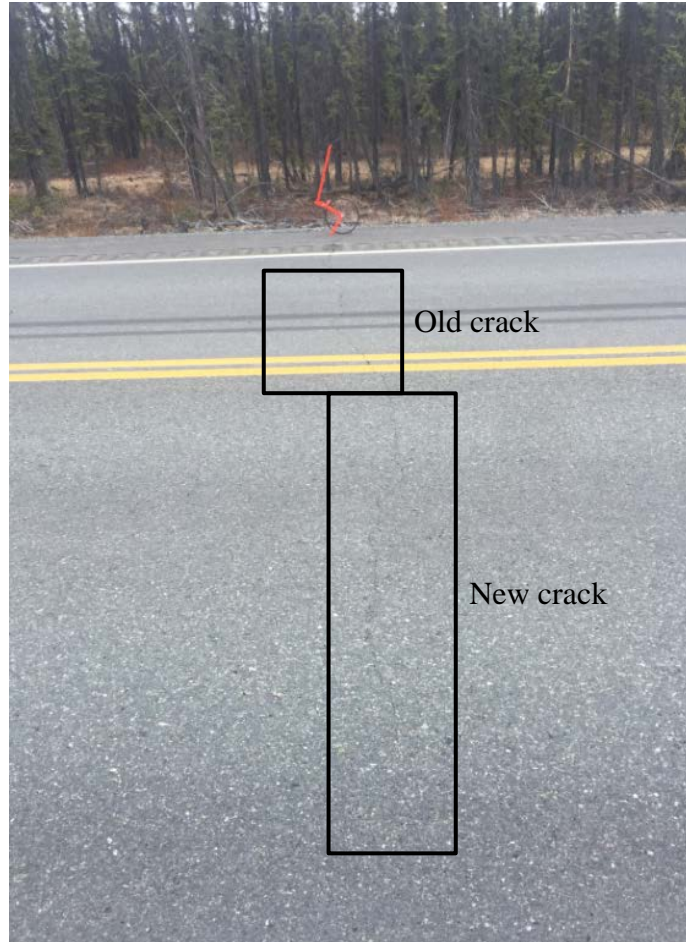


Figure 3.40 Evolution of a transverse crack in G⁴ test section

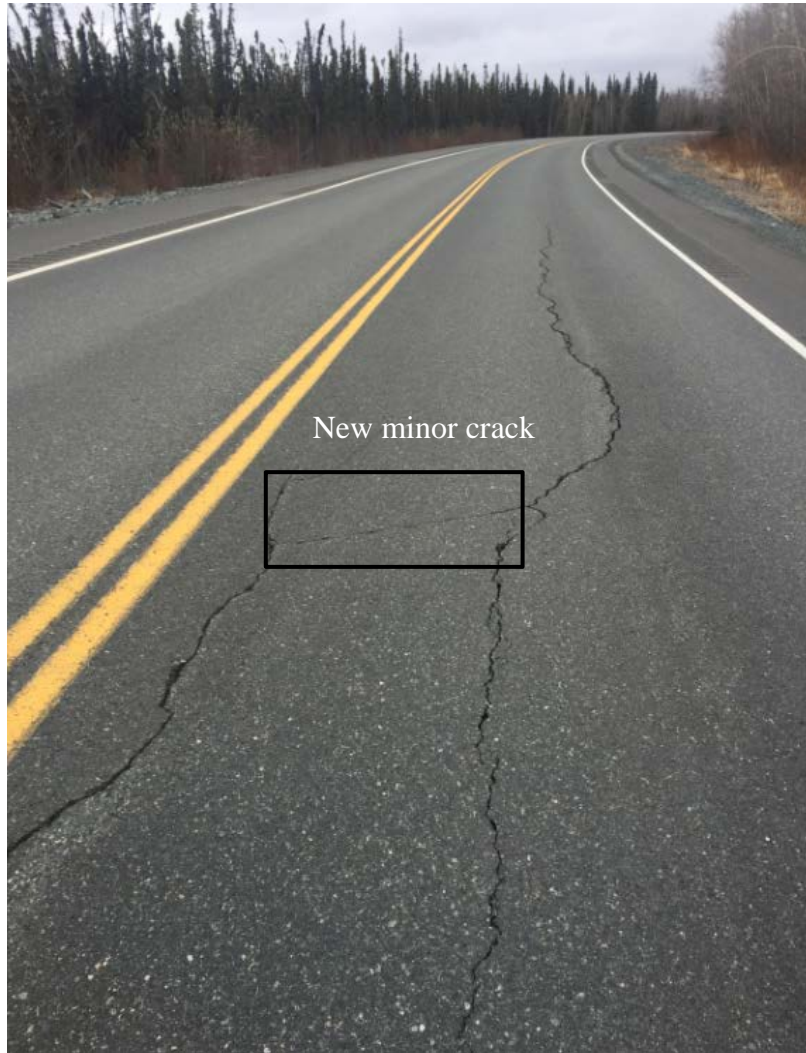
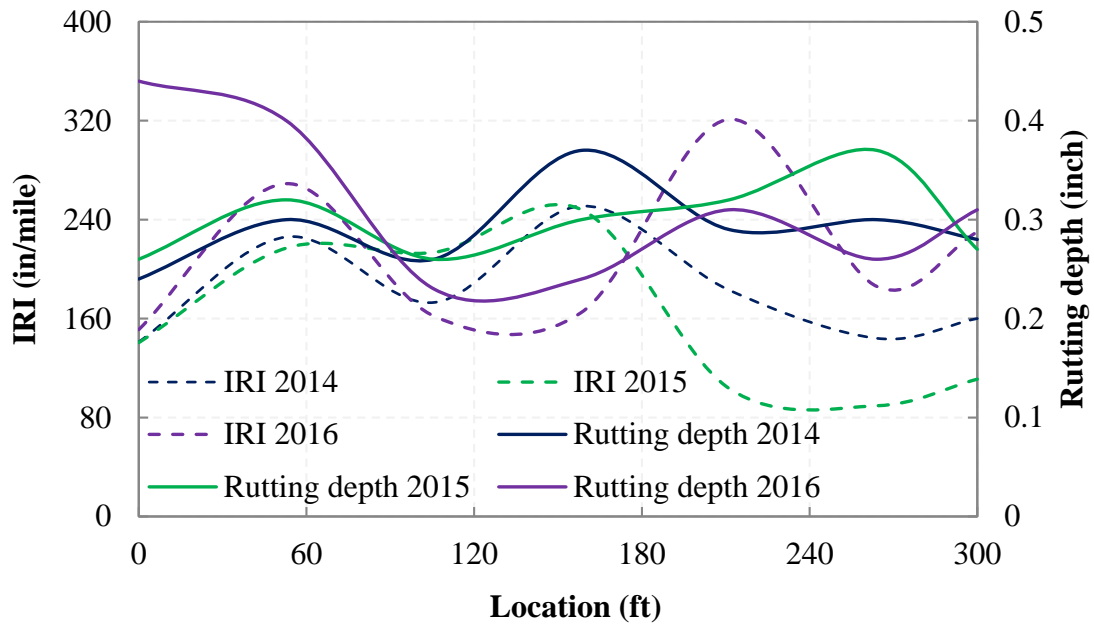


Figure 3.41 New minor crack in the control section

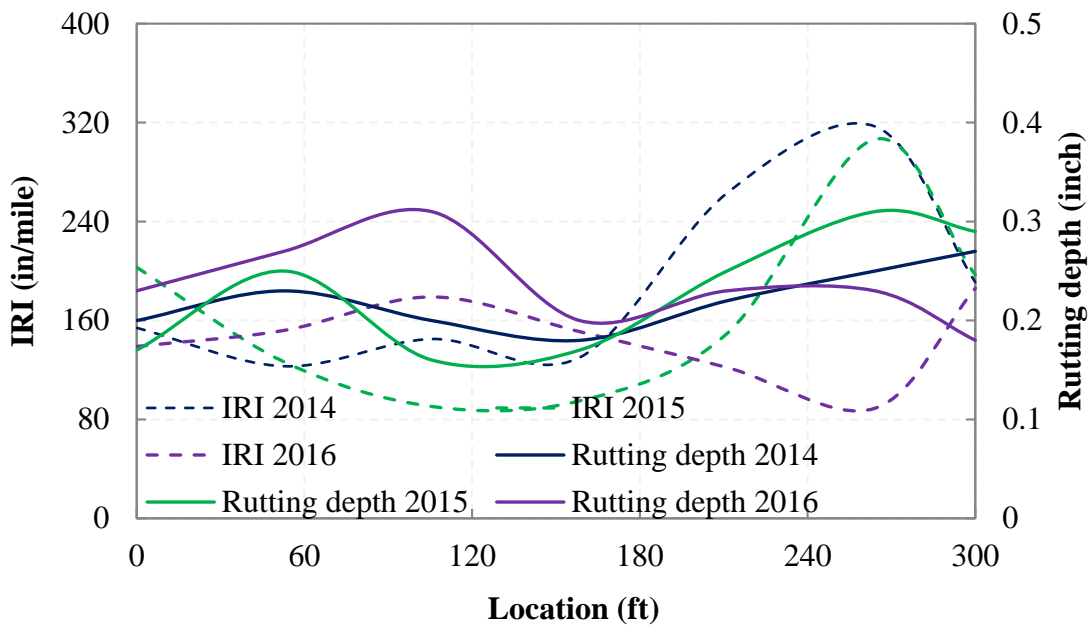
Pavement Data from ADOT&PF

Pavement data were collected according to the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), a national highway information system that includes data on the extent, condition, performance, use, and operating characteristics of the nation's highways. The collected data only cover the right lane of the pavement. In three sections paved with fabric, only the G⁴ section was located at the right lane; hence, the results presented in Figure 3.42 only cover the control and G⁴

sections. The international roughness index (IRI) and rutting depth in the control section were slightly lower than those in the G⁴ section.



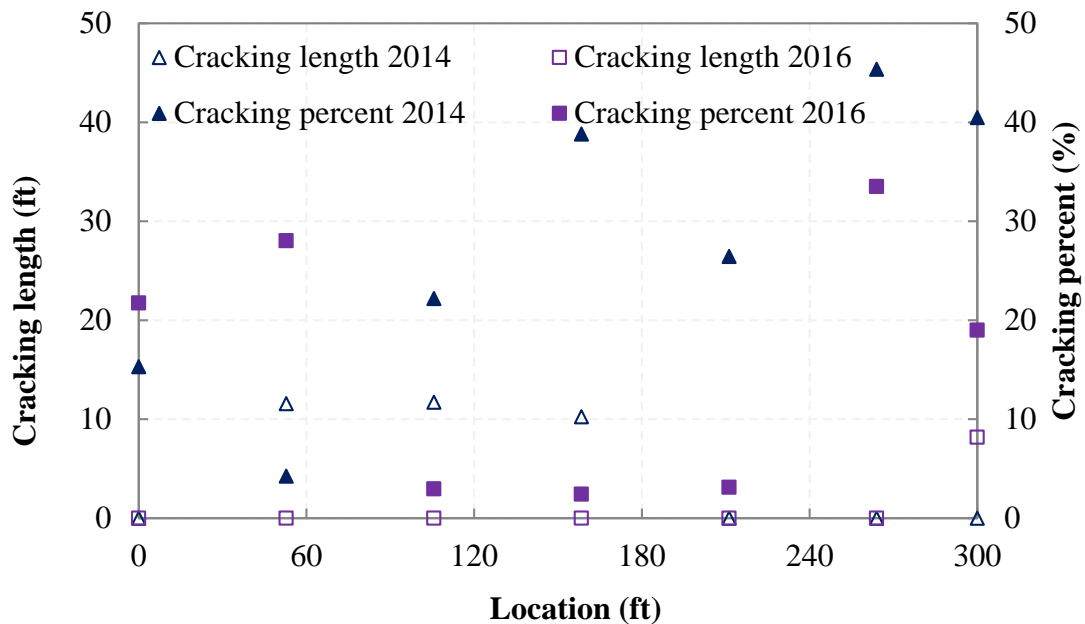
(a) G⁴ section



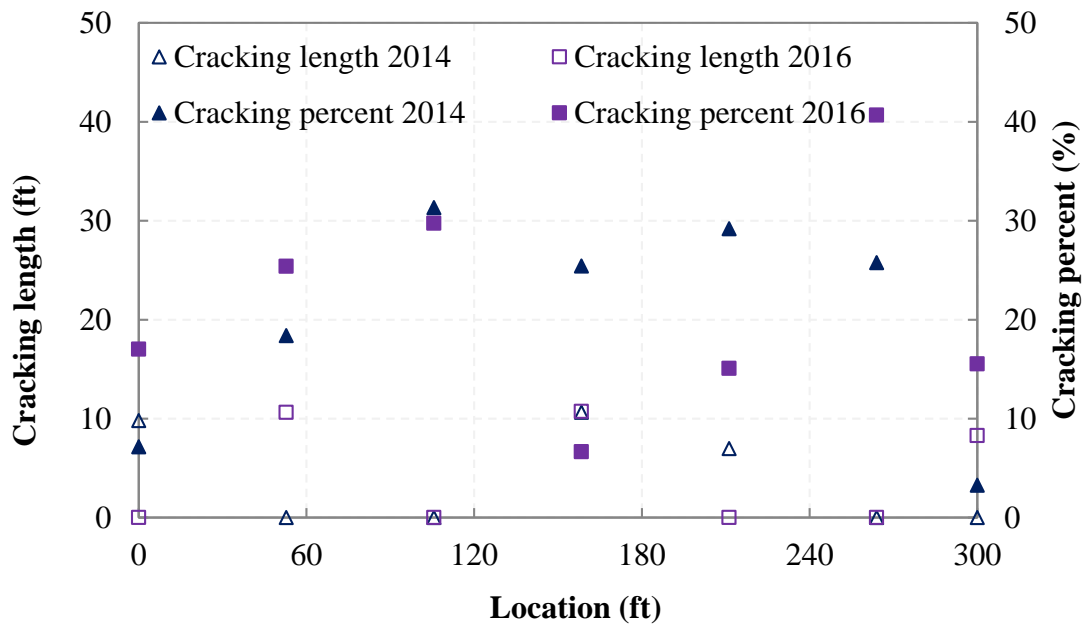
(b) Control section

Figure 3.42 Pavement IRI and rutting depth between 2014 and 2016

In addition to IRI and rutting depth, cracking length and percentage were collected. Cracking length is the total length of transverse cracks within the sample area, and cracking percentage is defined as the percentage of the total area exhibiting visible fatigue-type cracking for all severity levels in the wheel path in each section. The cracking length and percentage for the G⁴ and control sections are presented in Figures 3.43a and 3.43b. Both cracking length and percentage in the G⁴ section were less than those in the control section, indicating that the use of G⁴ increased pavement crack resistance, which is consistent with the survey result.



(a) G⁴ section



(b) Control section

Figure 3.43 Pavement cracking length and percent in 2014 and 2016

CHAPTER 4 – CONCLUSIONS

The performance of two paving interlayers—Mirapave and TruPave—was evaluated through a series of laboratory tests: an overlay test, dynamic modulus test using AMPT, dynamic modulus test in IDT mode, and IDT creep test. A field survey of the field test sections on the Richardson Highway was performed to evaluate the performance of three sections of AC pavement that had been reinforced with paving interlayers (G⁴, G50/50, and G100/100). Several conclusions were drawn:

1. The overlay test results on the AC reinforced with two paving interlayers (Mirapave and TruPave) indicated that samples with an entire layer of TruPave material show the highest peak load reduction percentage at the same loading cycles, followed by the control samples, then the other three groups (AC with TruPave interlayer strip, Mirapave interlayer strip, and entire Mirapave interlayer). The mixtures with paving interlayers (Mirapave and TruPave) generally showed better performance in crack resistance. Note that TruPave was adhesive on one-side only. The overlay test setup could have largely amplified the bonding weakness between the TruPave entire layer and the AC during the test, causing the early failure. More should be done to verify this finding.
2. The dynamic modulus test using an AMPT produced very low $|E^*|$ for specimens with paving interlayers due to the inclusion of the paving interlayer and its low stiffness. The AMPT was considered inappropriate, since the paving interlayer in this test was under compression rather

than tension, which is different from the stress state that the interlayer would experience in the field when used for cracking mitigation purposes.

3. The $|E^*|$ was also measured in IDT mode. The obtained $|E^*|$ master curves of the control mixture tested using two methods (AMPT and IDT mode) were very close, which verified the rationality of the dynamic modulus measurement in IDT mode. The master curves of the TruPave and Mirapave mixtures were close to that of the control mixture, which was different from the $|E^*|$ results from the AMPT. According to the results presented in this study, in terms of dynamic modulus measurement, the IDT mode is preferable to the AMPT method due to the similar stress state that the fabric would experience in the field.
4. The IDT creep test results revealed that the creep compliances were significantly influenced by testing temperature. When the temperature decreased from 20°C to -10°C, the creep compliance of AC with/without paving interlayers dramatically decreased. At low temperature (i.e., -30°C), the creep compliances of mixtures with paving interlayers were comparable to the control mixtures. As a result, the inclusion of paving interlayers in the pavement structure did not compromise pavement performance in low-temperature cracking resistance. Note that the variation in creep compliance of the control group was more dramatic than that of the mixtures with paving interlayers. Adding paving interlayer to the AC could reduce the temperature sensitivity of the material. Besides these, the IDT creep test results show that the creep strain of the AC with paving interlayers could be higher or lower than that of the control groups at different temperatures. That is, the paving interlayer may/may not contribute to carrying the

tensile load before the cracking of AC. However, when an AC layer cracks, the paving interlayer is expected to provide extra resistance to the widening of the crack due to the higher tensile strength it can carry. This crack control capability cannot be revealed by the IDT creep test and will be explored in future research.

5. In addition to the laboratory test, a yearly survey was performed on the field sections after the construction in 2013. After 4 years of surveying and monitoring, it can be observed that all test sections reinforced with paving interlayers (G50/50, G100/100, and G⁴) showed better pavement performance than the control section, which indicates that the placement of paving interlayers selected in this study would benefit pavement performance. Among the sections with paving interlayers built in, the G100/100-reinforced pavement showed the best performance, followed by the G50/50-reinforced section, then the G⁴ section.
6. As for the field survey results, it is still early to draw any conclusion about the paving interlayer effects, as 4 years is typically considered a short period in the entire life cycle of pavement. In addition, a few construction issues were noticed that may have affected the survey results. Therefore, it is our recommendation that field cores be collected from the sites at which the cracking occurred, in order to reveal more information underground. We also recommend continued monitoring of the test sections, with more detailed description of pavement distress, to see how the pavement progresses with time. Having a few more years' data would provide a much clearer projection of the utility of paving interlayers in cold regions.

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APPENDIX A: JMF of Rich Hwy North Pole Interchange Paving Project

STATE OF ALASKA - NORTHERN REGION DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

BITUMINOUS MIX DESIGN MARSHALL METHOD
2301 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

RECEIVED: 6/18/2008
COMPLETE: 5/25/2008

PROJECT NAME: Rich Hwy North Pole Interchange
PROJECT NUMBER: ACIM-0A2-4(26)
LEDGER CODE: 30388942 / 62184

REGIONAL LAB # : 08-246
FIELD # : NPI-HMA-MD-1
TYPE/CLASS: II B

AGGREGATE SOURCE: 900 Old Rich
AGGREGATE QUALITY#: 06-067
BLEND RATIO: 23:23.5:42:11.5 CA:INT:FA:SA
BLENDED BULK SPG: 2.677
EFFECTIVE SPG: 2.706

BINDER SOURCE: EPA
BINDER GRADE: PG 64-34
BINDER SPG: 1.0016
ANTISTRIP: .25%

MIX DESIGN PARAMETERS	
STABILITY	1200
FLOW	8-16
VOIDS TOTAL MIX	3-5
COMPACTION, BLOWS	50
VOIDS FILLED	65-78
VMA	12
DUST RATIO	.6-1.4

MIXING TEMP (DEG F) 302
COMPACTING TEMP (DEG F) 295

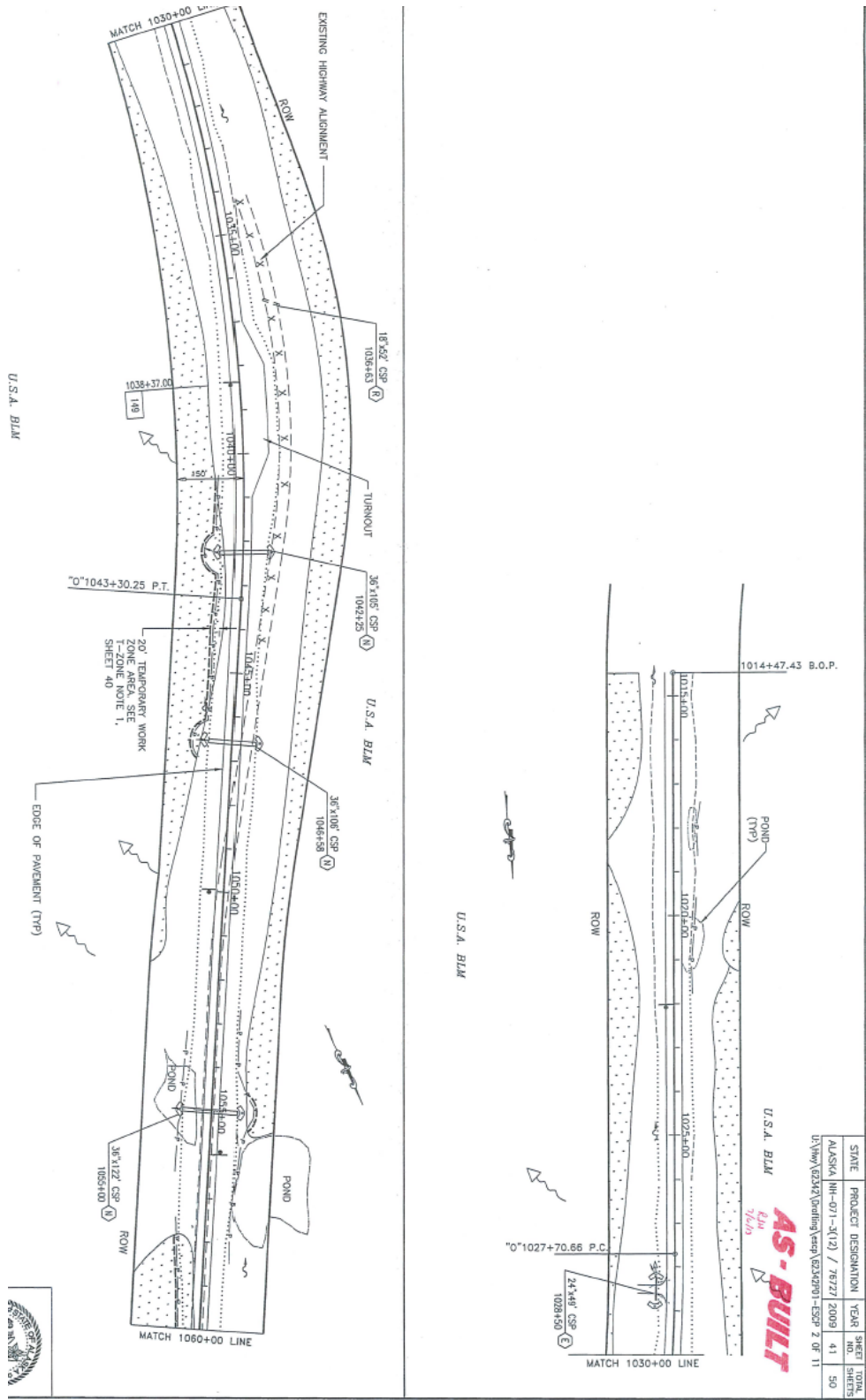
MARSHALL RESULTS	
% ASPHALT @ MAX UNIT WT	6.5
% ASPHALT @ MAX STABILITY	6
% ASPHALT @ 4% VOIDS	5.4
OPTIMUM OIL CONTENT = 5.4 %	
STABILITY	2375
FLOW	9.7
VOIDS TOTAL MIX	4
VOIDS FILLED	74
VMA	16
MTD/RICE	2.483
DUST ASPHALT RATIO	0.7

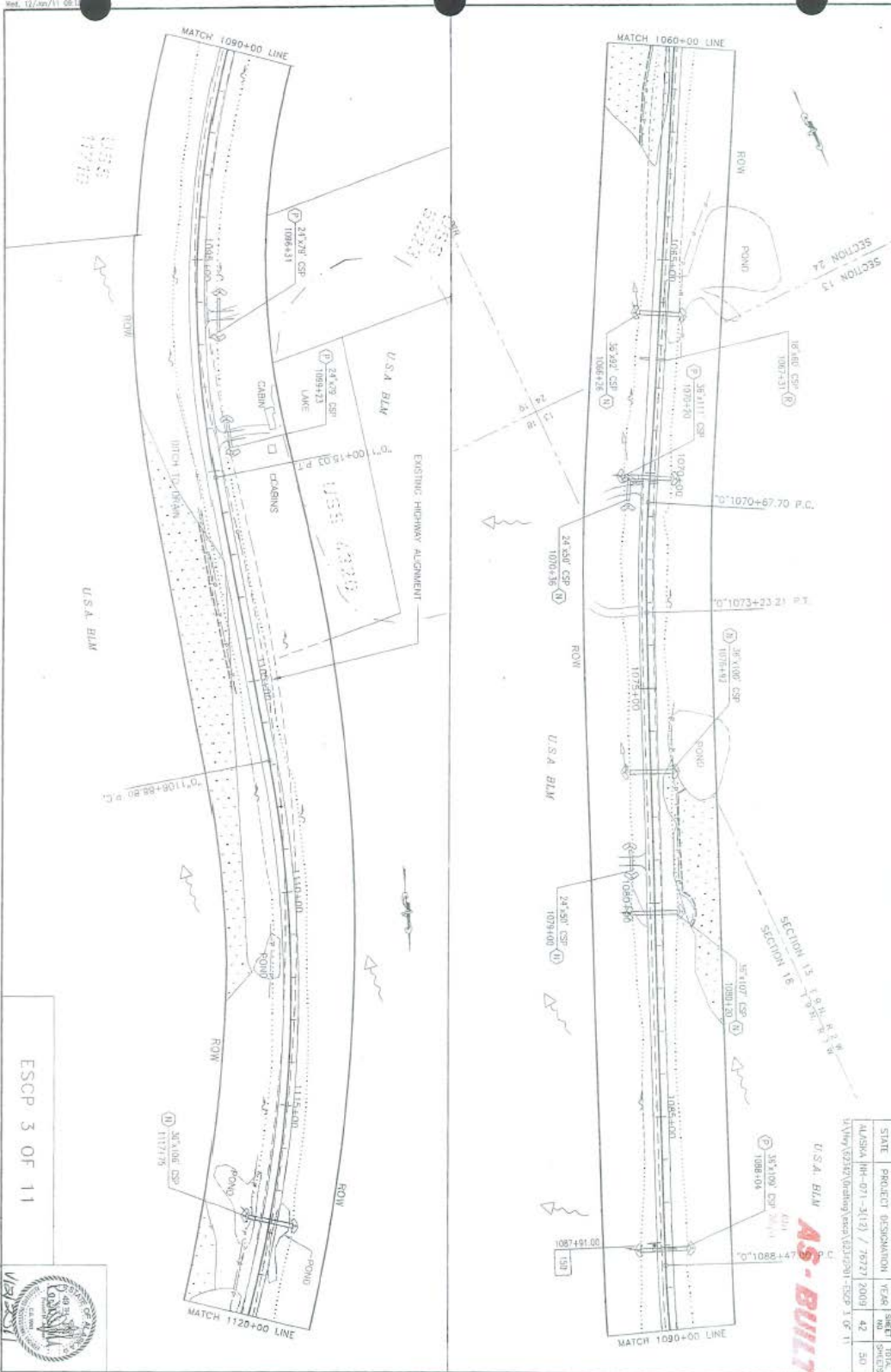
AGGREGATE DESIGN PARAMETERS			
			Spec
F&E	0%	8%max	
LL	NV		
PI	NP		
T304			
FRACTURE	98%	90%df	
SIEVE SIZE	PROPOSED GRADATION	MIX DESIGN SPEC BAND	
		LSL	HSL
1"		----	----
3/4"		----	----
1/2"	87	81	93
3/8"	74	68	80
#4	52	46	58
#8	39	33	45
#10		----	----
#16	30	25	35
#20		----	----
#30	25	21	29
#40		----	----
#50	19	15	23
#60		----	----
#80		----	----
#100	8	5	11
#200	3.5	1.5	5.5

REMARKS:

APPROVED:

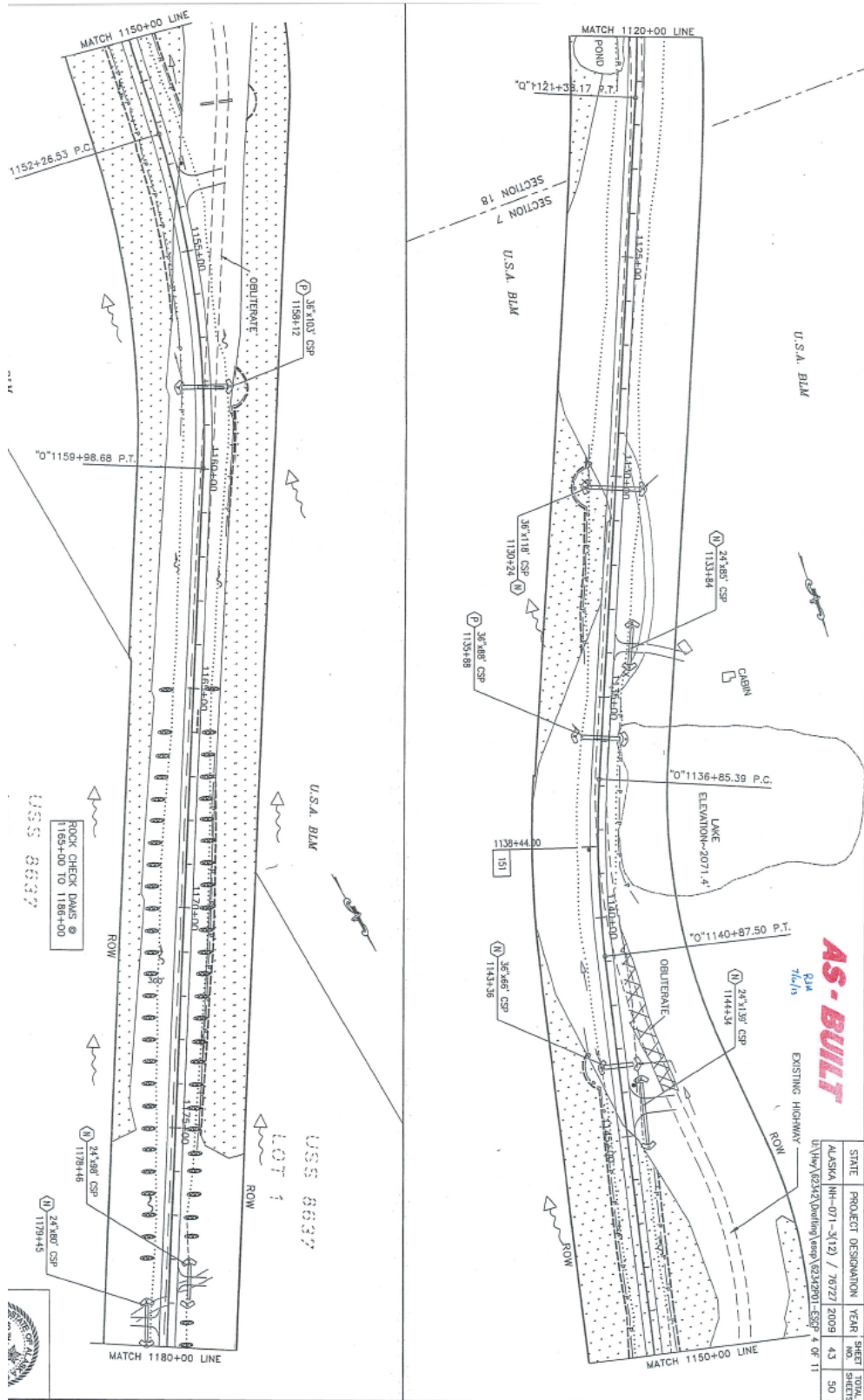
APPENDIX B: Site Section Pavement Structure





ESCP 3 OF 11

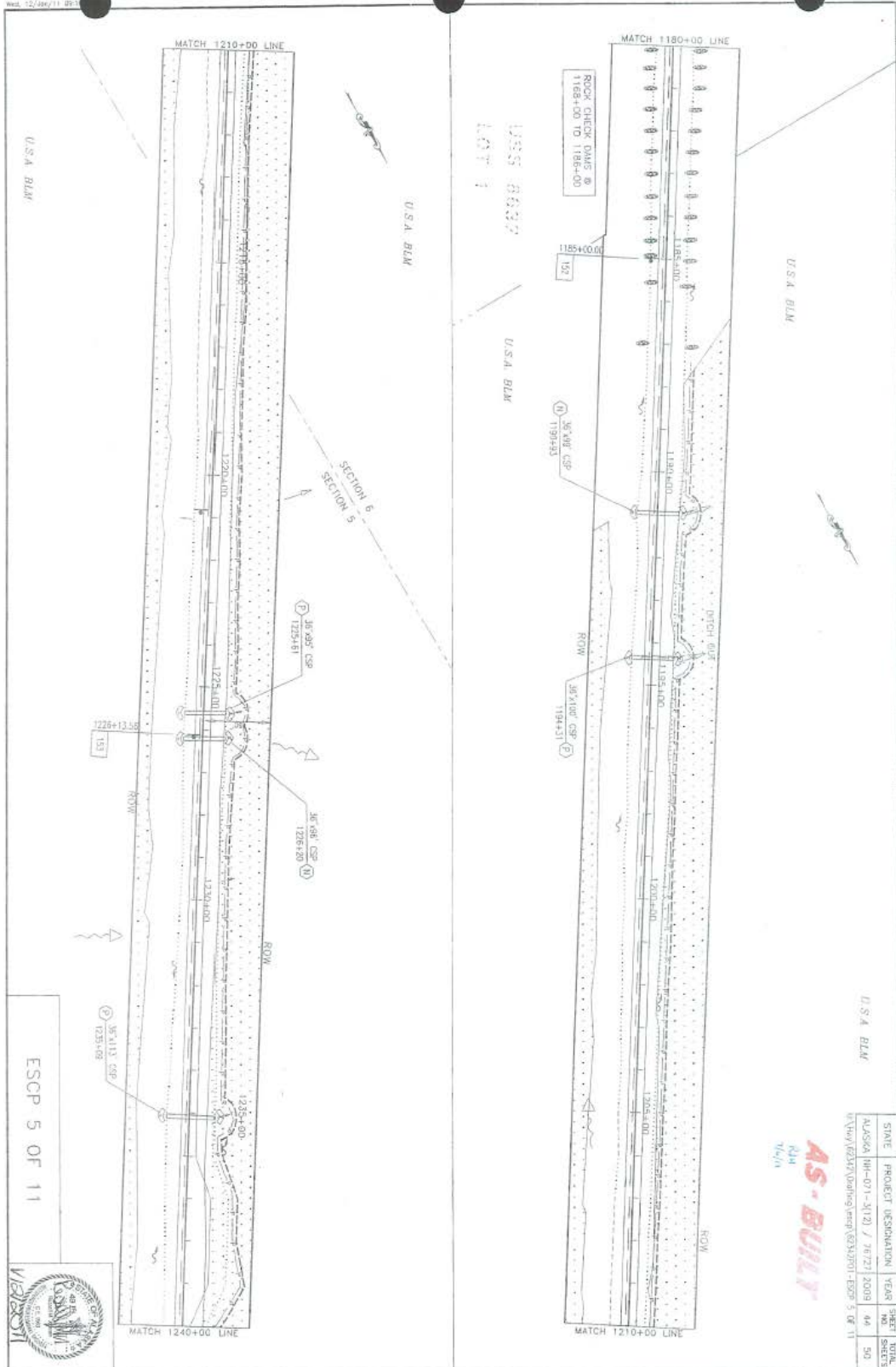




AS-BUILT
 7/6/15

STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	HH-071-3(12) / 76727 2009	43	43	50



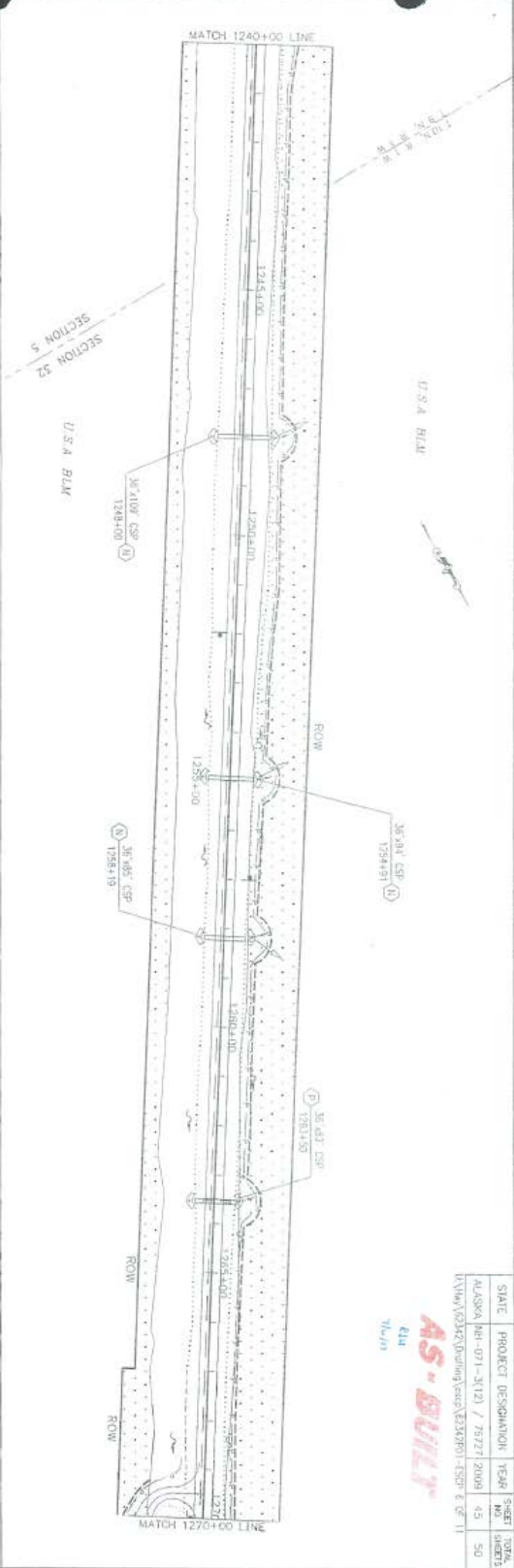
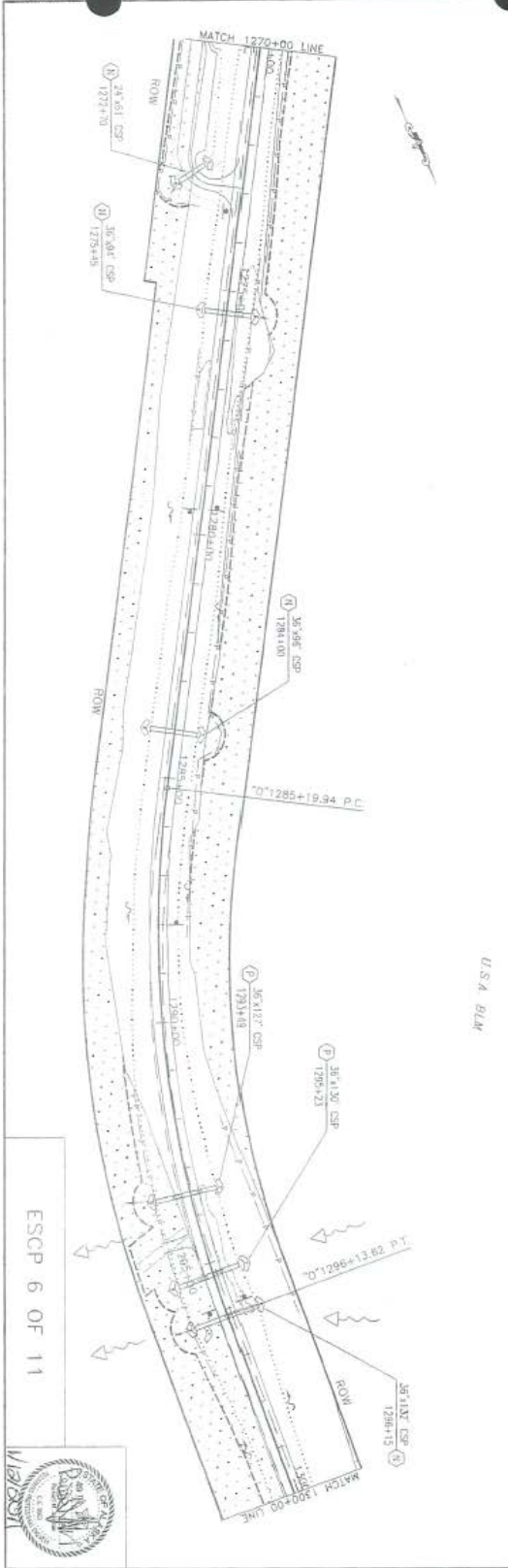


ESCP 5 OF 11



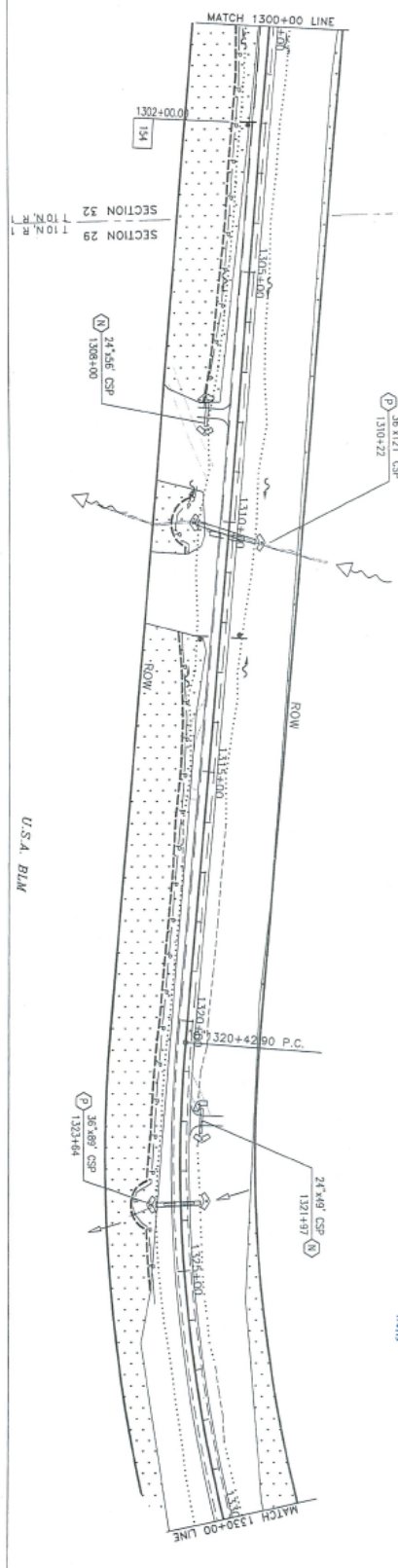
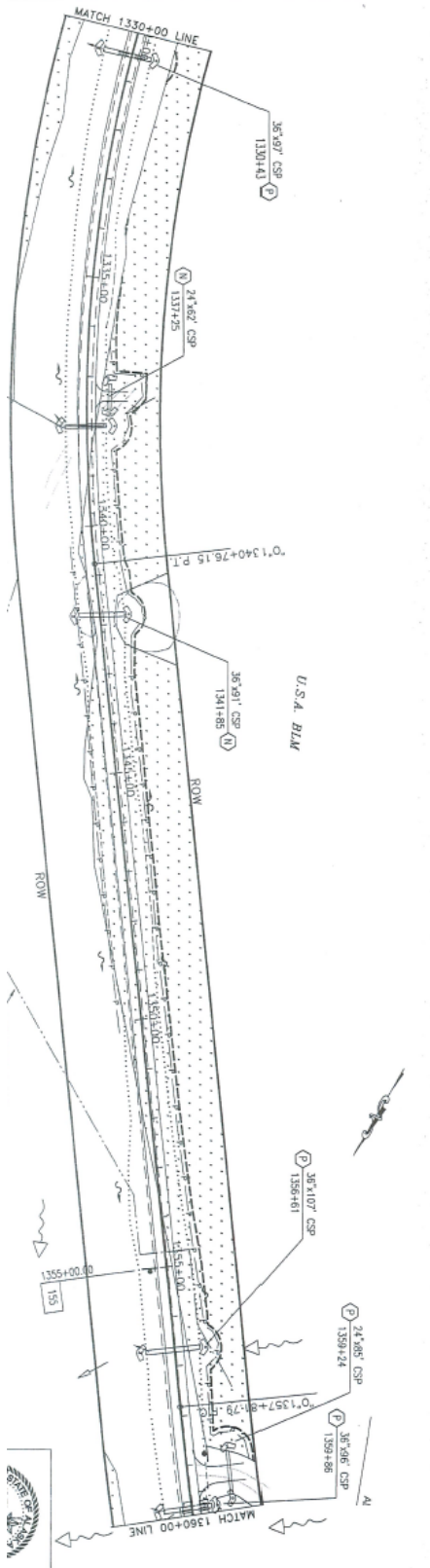
AS-BUILT

STATE	PROJECT / DESCRIPTION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	HH-071-3(12) / 78727	2009	44	50
\\Vny\kaly\working\proj\6333701 - ESCP 5 OF 11				



STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	RR-071-34(2) / 7/17/21 2008	43	50	50

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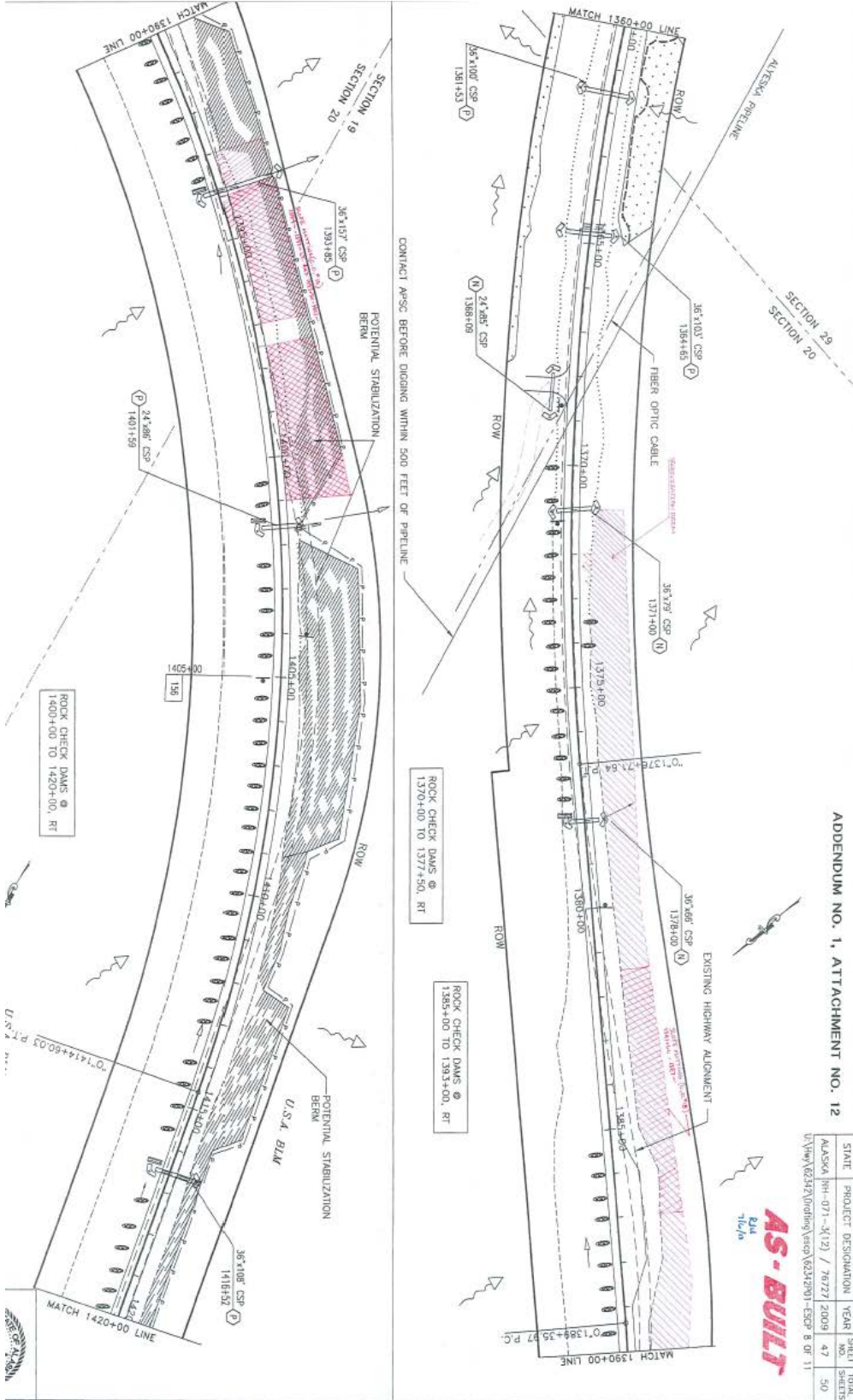


U.S.A. BLM

ADDENDUM NO. 1, ATTACHMENT NO. 11

AS-BUILT
 Rm
 7/6/08

STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	NH-071-3(12) / 76727	2009	46	50
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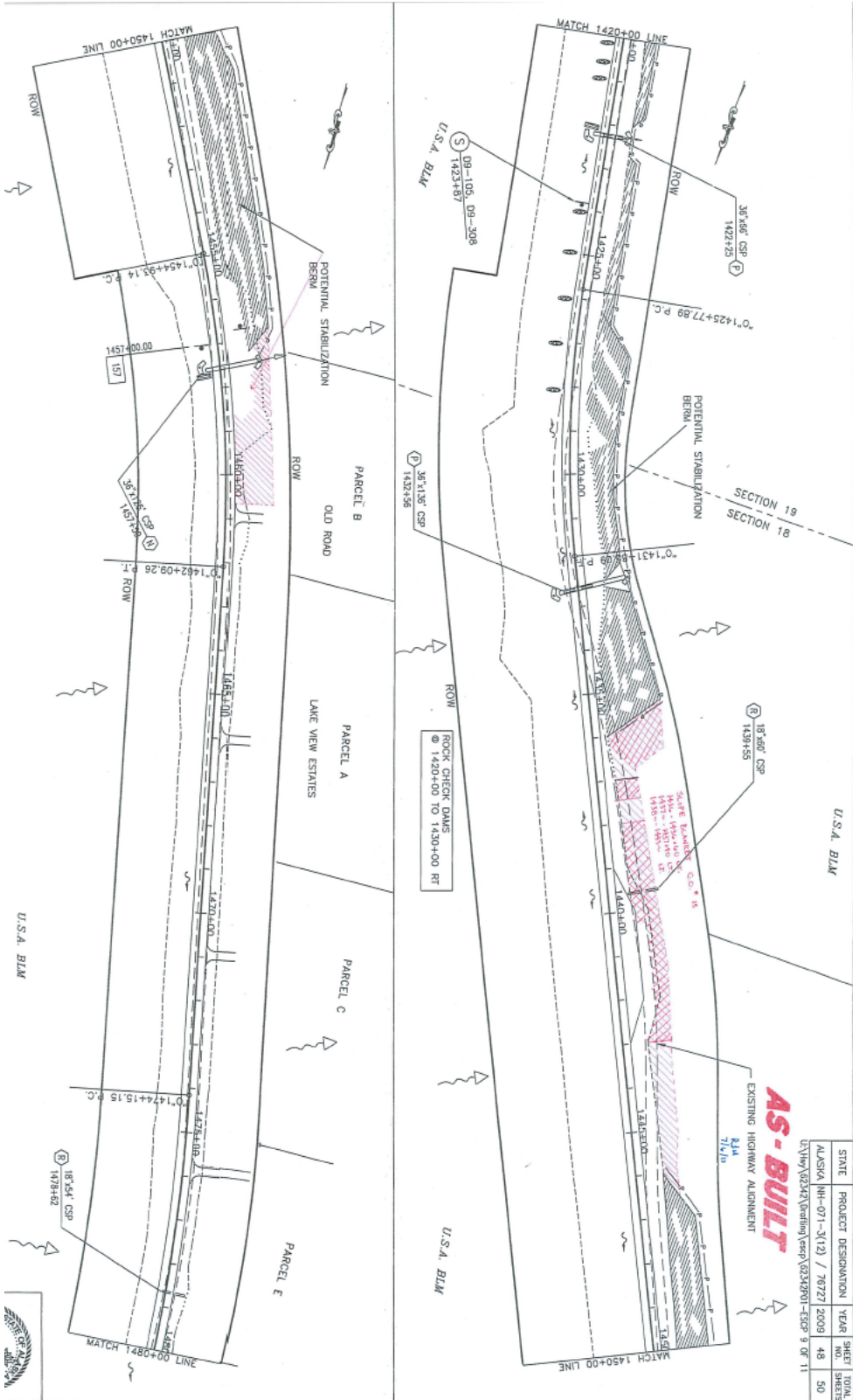


ADDENDUM NO. 1, ATTACHMENT NO. 12

STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	114-071-3(12) / 76727	2009	47	50

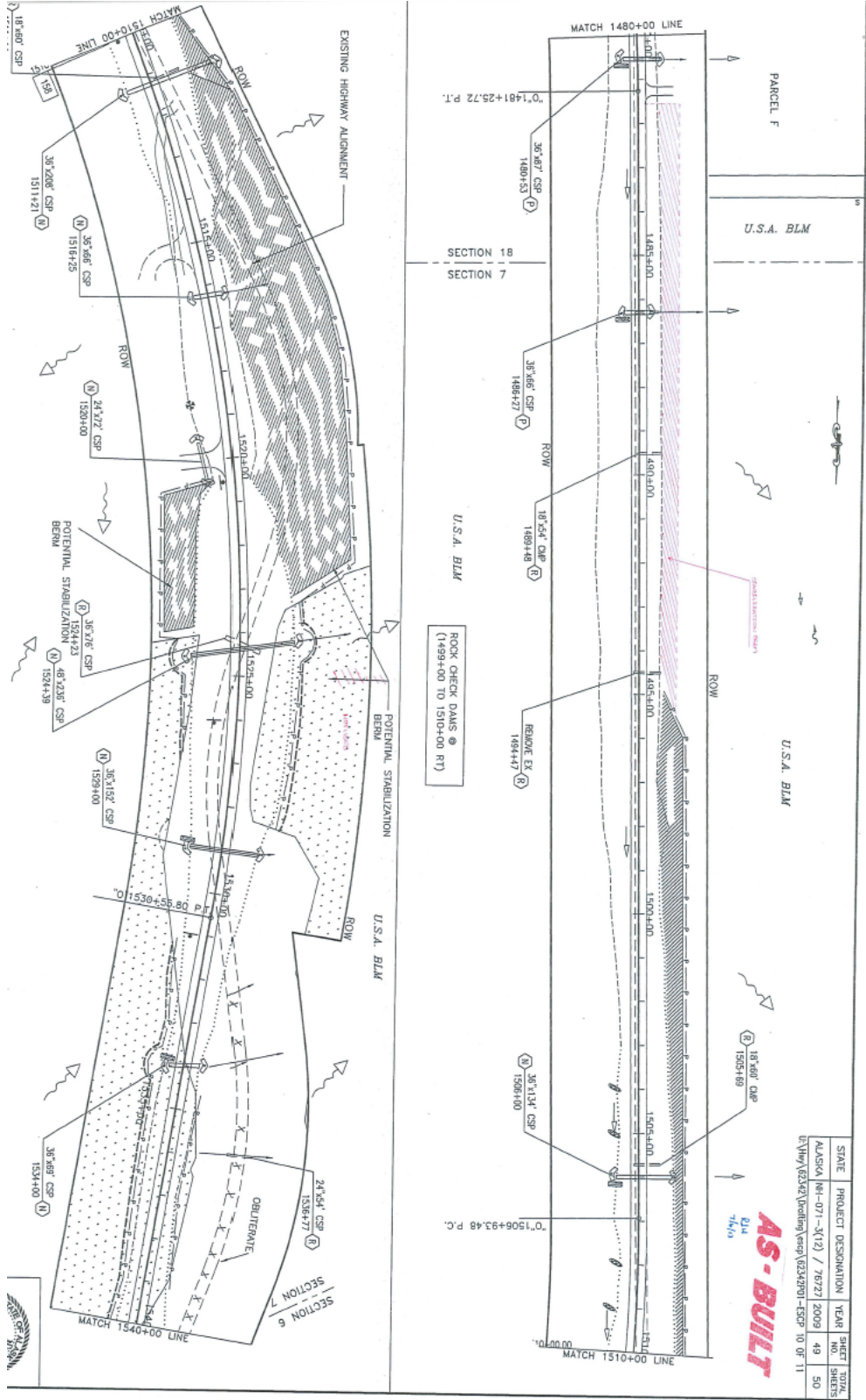
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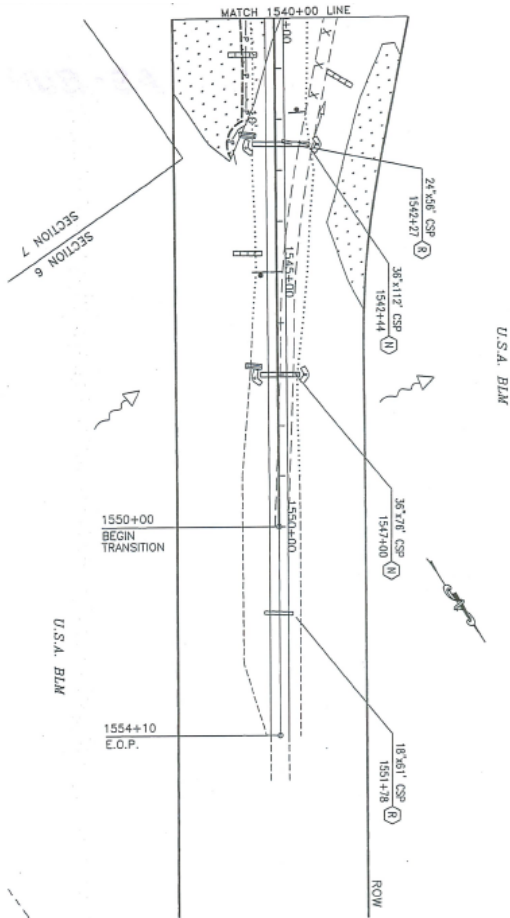
STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	NH-071-3(12) / 78727	2009	48	50

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STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	MI-071-3(12) / 76721	2009	49	50

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AS-BUILT
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 7/6/10

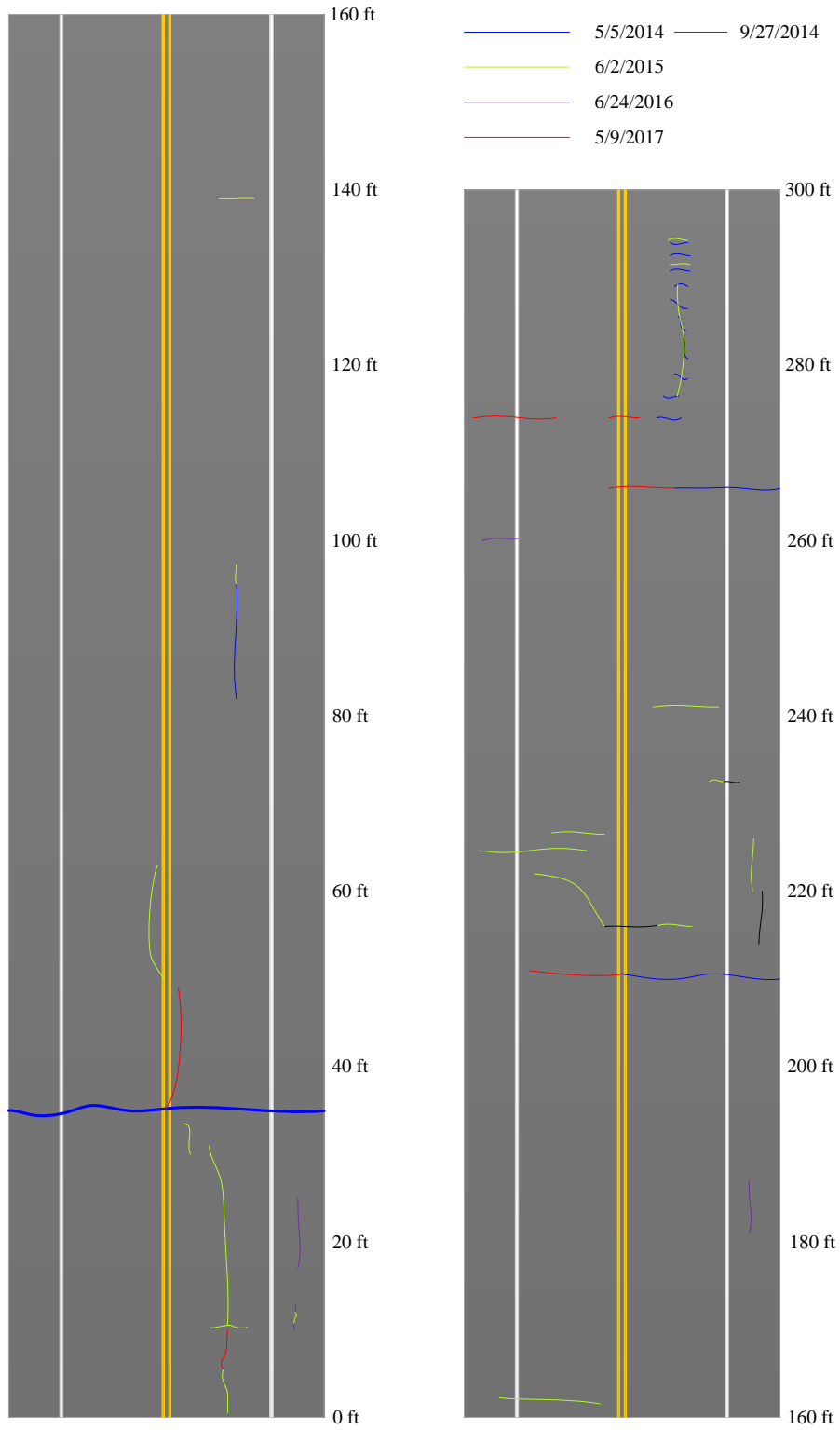


STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
ALASKA	NH-071-3(12) / 76727	2009	50	50

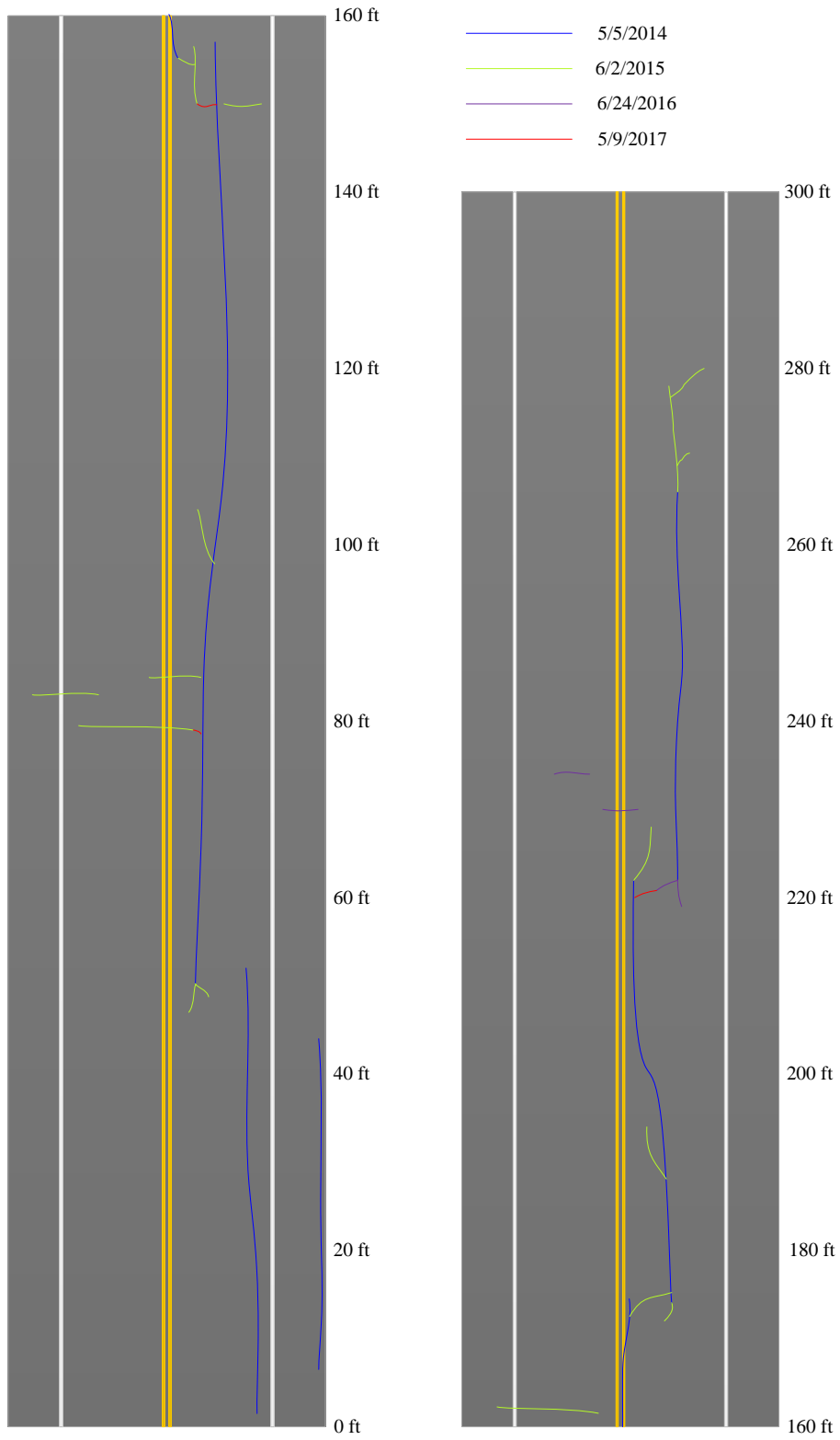
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 7/5/09



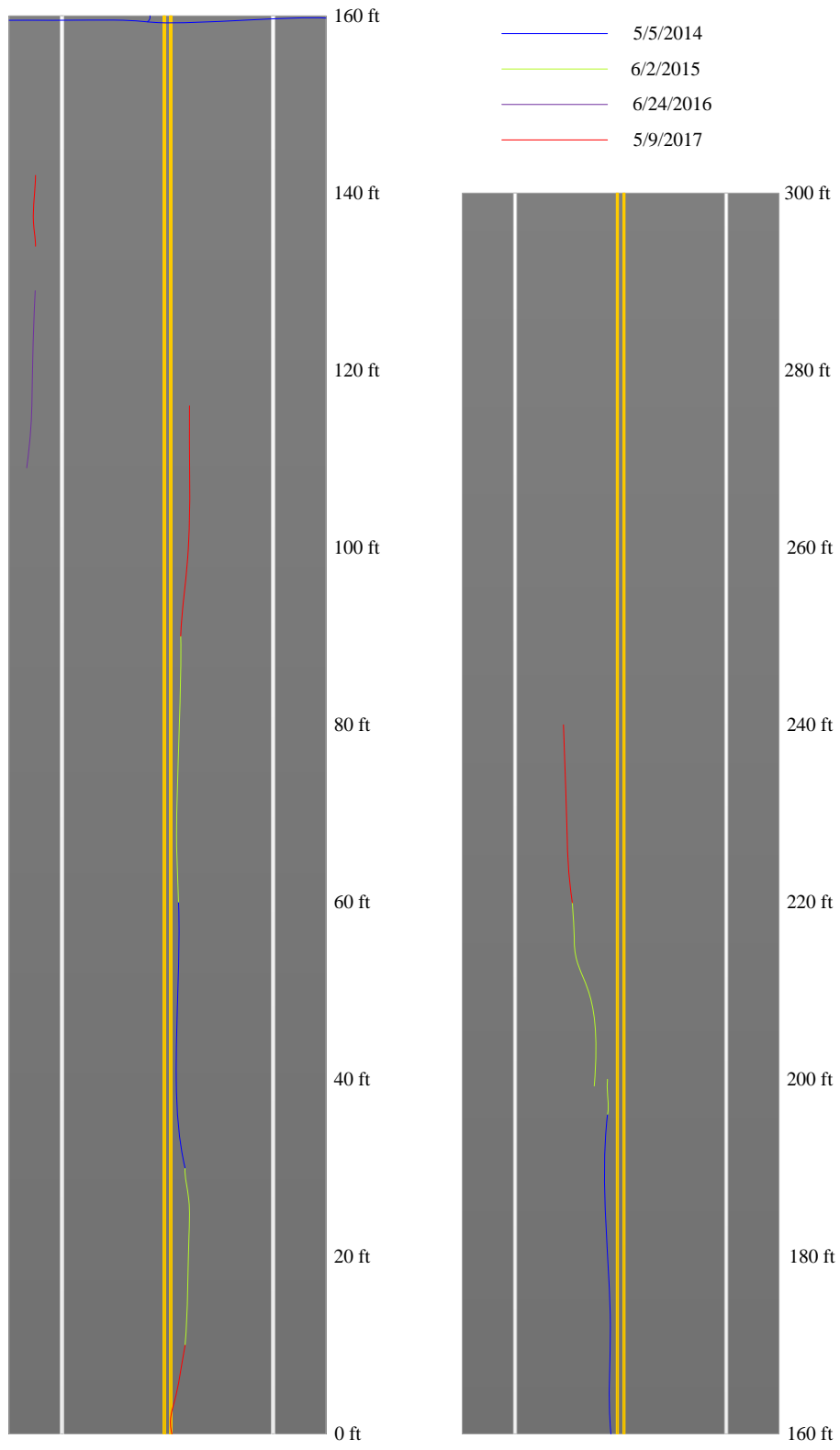
APPENDIX C: Field Survey Results of four Sections



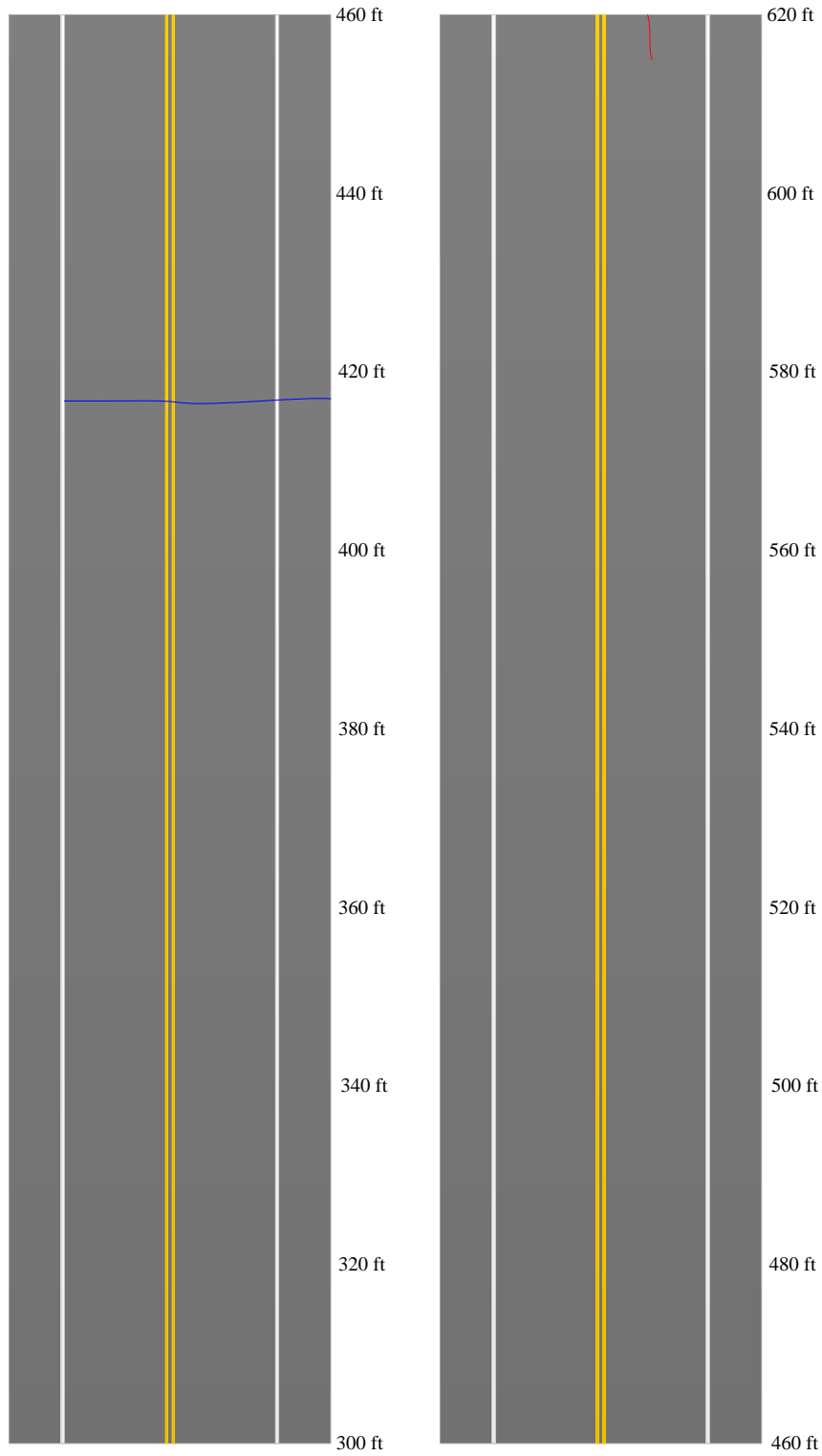
Areas 2 and 3, G4 in the right lane



Area 4, control section

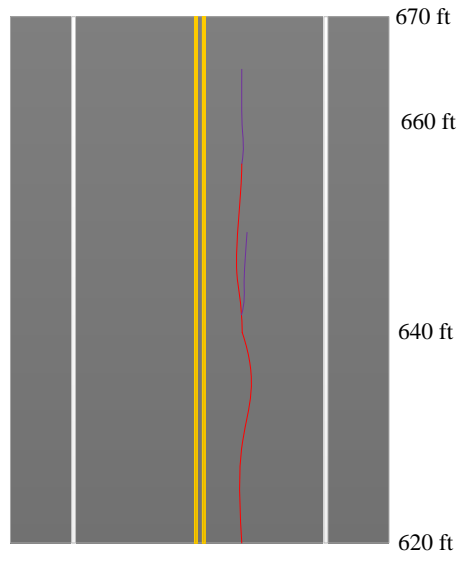


Area 9, G50/50 in the left lane



Area 10, G100/100 in the left lane

- 5/5/2014
- 6/2/2015
- 6/24/2016
- 5/9/2017



Area 10, G100/100 in the left lane