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Thin Lift Overlays: Points to Ponder



Traditional Definition

- Thin Lift Overlays are typically defined as surface mixes of 1.5" or less in compacted thickness
- They can be a simple overlay or part of a mill-and-fill operation
- They are not typically intended to strengthen the pavement structure, but instead to address functional problems as part of Pavement Preservation

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Pavement Preservation



- Agencies have often applied maintenance *reactively* to roads in poor condition rather than *proactively* to roads still in good structural condition
- The Pavement Preservation concept applies several minor treatments while the road is minimally distressed at a far lower cost than one major rehabilitation or reconstruction

Question – How often is this actual practice?

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When to use a thin asphalt overlay



Water-Proofing

Dense-graded mixes used for thin overlays have smaller void sizes, low-to-no permeability

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When to use a thin asphalt overlay



**To
restore
skid
friction**

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When to use a thin asphalt overlay



**To treat
excessive
weathering /
ravelling**

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When to use a thin asphalt overlay



Longitudinal Cracking
(Not in Wheelpath)



Low-severity thermal cracking

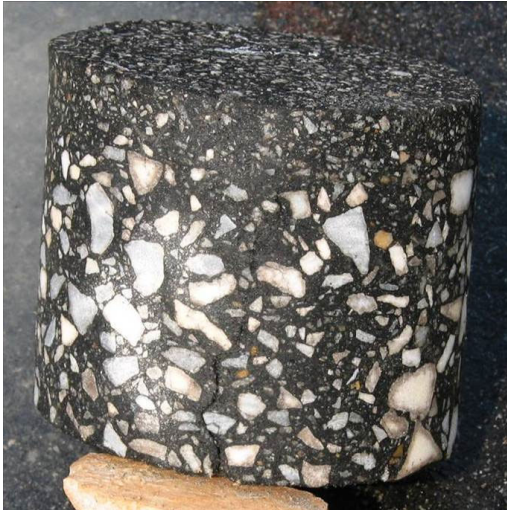
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When *not* to use a thin asphalt overlay



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When *not* to use a thin asphalt overlay



Bottom-up cracking



Fatigue cracking

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But what about this?



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Once upon a time (About 1-1/2 Mayor's years ago)



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C of SF is a growing place



- The City of Sioux Falls maintains almost **900** miles of streets/pavements
- Approximately **10-15** miles are added to the system annually with growth in the City. These "new" lane miles are primarily located in the periphery of the City in growth areas, particularly the NW, NE and SW parts of the City.
- Approximately 84% of these roads are paved with asphalt, 14% with portland cement concrete pavement, and 2% are gravel.

Rank	Name	State	2022 Pop. ▼	2010 Census	Change	Density (mi ²)	Area (mi ²)
129	Grand Rapids	Michigan	201,093	188,040	6.94%	4,493	44.76
130	Huntington Beach	California	200,455	189,992	5.51%	7,423	27.00
131	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	200,243	153,888	30.12%	2,560	78.23
132	Grand Prairie	Texas	200,240	175,396	14.16%	2,771	72.25

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Residential Streets are Primarily Asphalt



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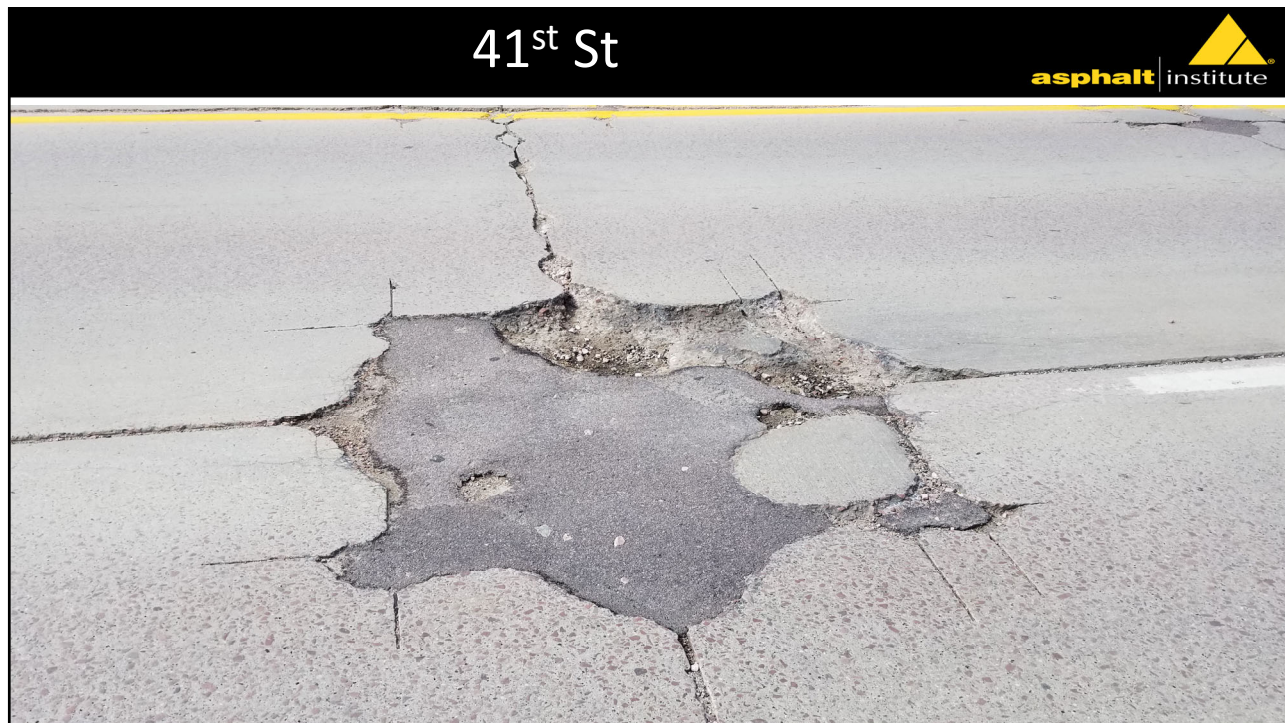
Arterials are primarily concrete (41st St)



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41st St – Surface was milled - Video



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41st St – Surface was milled



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41st St - Joint Filler



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A Lot of other unexplainable things were found



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What to do with bad joints



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Dig them out and patch them



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Trimming joints



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Trimming joints



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Rolling joints



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Paved in no time



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Thin-Lift Asphalt Overlay Projects to Date



Asphalt Mix No.	Project Site	NMAS (mm)	Virgin Binder Type	RAP (%)	FRAC (Yes/No)	Mix Collection Status
1	41 st Street	9.5	PG 64-34	-	-	Collected (2019)
2	41 st Street	9.5	PG 58-28	20%	Yes	Collected (2020)
3	41 st Street	9.5	PG 58-34	20%	-	Collected (2020)
4	Cliff Avenue	9.5	PG 70-34	20%	-	2022



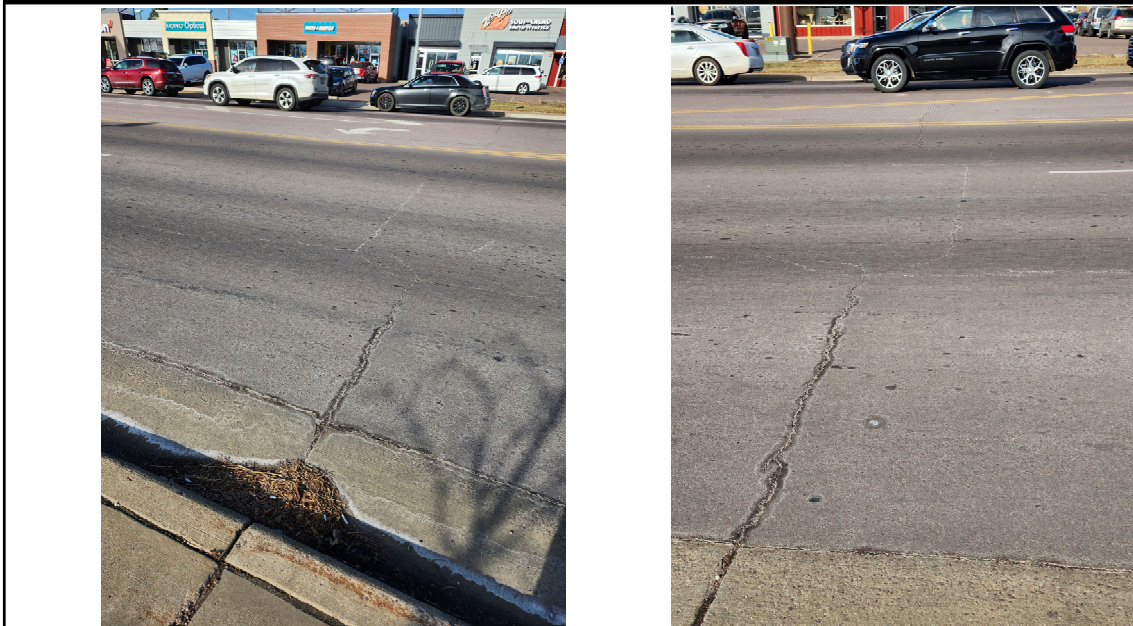
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41st St – Spring 2022



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41st St – Fall 2022 - after 3 winters



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41st St – Fall 2022 – Sections 2 & 3 after 2 winters asphalt institute



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Section 4 did not get completed in 2022 asphalt institute

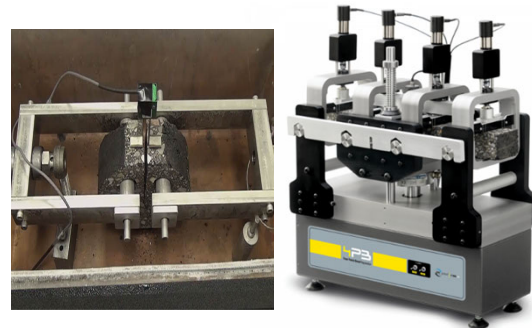


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SD State Asphalt Research Lab



Prof. Rouzbeh Ghabchi has established a complete Binder, Mix Design and Mixture Performance test lab including four point beam fatigue testing.



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Thin-Lift Asphalt Overlay

Performance Assessment Options (Lab Tests)

Option 2

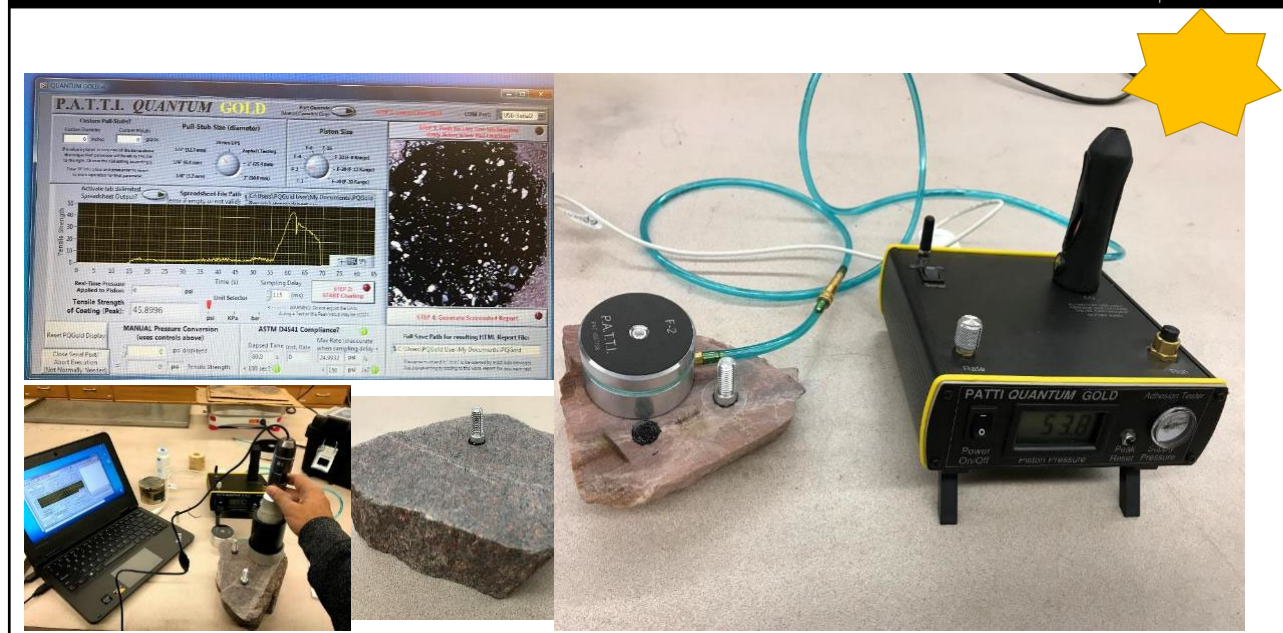
Table 3. Proposed Test Matrix for Option 2

Asphalt Mix Testing Program (Option 2)											
Asphalt Mix No.	NMAS (mm)	Virgin Binder	RAP (%)	Fiber	Proposed Mix Tests*						
					HWT AASHTO T 324	SCB ASTM D8044	TSR AASHTO T 283	4-PFB AASHTO T 321	DCT ASTM D7313	TOT TEX-248-F	IDEAL-CT ASTM D8225
1	9.5	PG 64-34	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	9.5	PG 58-28	20%	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	9.5	PG 58-34	20%	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	9.5	PG 58-34	20%	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	9.5	PG 70-34	20%	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asphalt Binder Testing Program (Option 2)											
Binder Blend No.	Virgin Binder	RAP (%)	Fiber	Proposed Binder Tests							
				DSR AASHTO T 315	BBR AASHTO T 313	PG Grade AASHTO M 320	MSCR AASHTO T 350	BBS AASHTO T 361 (Wet/Dry)			
								Quartzite	Granite		
1	PG 64-34	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	PG 58-28	20%	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	PG 58-34	20%	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	PG 70-34	20%	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

*Note: Tests on asphalt mixes will be conducted on samples compacted to have 7.0%±0.5% air voids.

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Binder Bond Strength Tester (BBS)



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TLO Summary

- SD State is looking for research funding.
- Removing and replacing urban arterials with PCC is cost prohibitive.
- We are hoping to develop a lower cost 15–20 year alternative
 - Remove and replace PCC - \$15M / mi.
 - Premium TLO \$2M / mi.
- Fargo ND recently placed Kevlar fibers.
 - CSF \$11 per mix ton for fiber
 - Fargo \$15 per mix ton
 - Supplier wanted to try a double dose.
- There many premium grades of asphalt binder available. I encourage specifiers to be bold in binder selection on specialty projects. Many alternatives will perform better at a lower LCCA.
- The 2022 CSF project will use PG 70-34 with 90%R at 64°C

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Training Opportunities at AI



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Why did we make PIC?



There is a need for inspector training and certification on many levels:

- *City*
- *County*
- *State*
- *Federal*
- *Contractor*
- *Consultant*



Asphalt Institute's MS-22 "Construction of Quality Asphalt Pavements" naturally lends itself to asphalt pavement inspection training.

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Why should an organization have their employees take PIC?



Constructing high-quality asphalt pavement is the goal of the asphalt paving industry, and effective inspection plays an important role.

- Online course format allows students to work at their own pace
 - ✓ *Exam after each module (8 total) must be passed to proceed*
 - ✓ *16 PDHs total*
 - ✓ *Certification upon completion demonstrates understanding*
- PIC is an ideal orientation course for new inspectors
 - ✓ *provides broad overview of construction process*
 - ✓ *builds confidence of new inspector*
 - ✓ *assures owners that inspection staff has level of competence to be effective*
- PIC provides great deal of information to augment knowledge of experienced inspectors

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More on PIC



- **Course Outline**
 - Module 1: Inspector's Authority and Responsibility
 - Module 2: Materials
 - Module 3: Mixtures and Mix Design
 - Module 4: Plants & Production
 - Module 5: Transportation, Delivery, & Preparation
 - Module 6: Placement
 - Module 7: Compaction
 - Module 8: Acceptance and Testing

- **Each module roughly 90-120 mins**
- **Modules consist of ppt slides with audio, exam**
- **Rollout in early 2021**

<http://www.asphaltinstitute.org/training/seminars/paving-inspector-certification-pic/>



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