



Michigan CEW 2026

MIRAFI® H₂Ri

The Road to 100-Year Pavement Foundations

3 February 2026
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spiccoli@solmax.com





#WEARESOLMAX
ONE COMPANY.
UNPARALLELED SOLUTIONS.

My email...



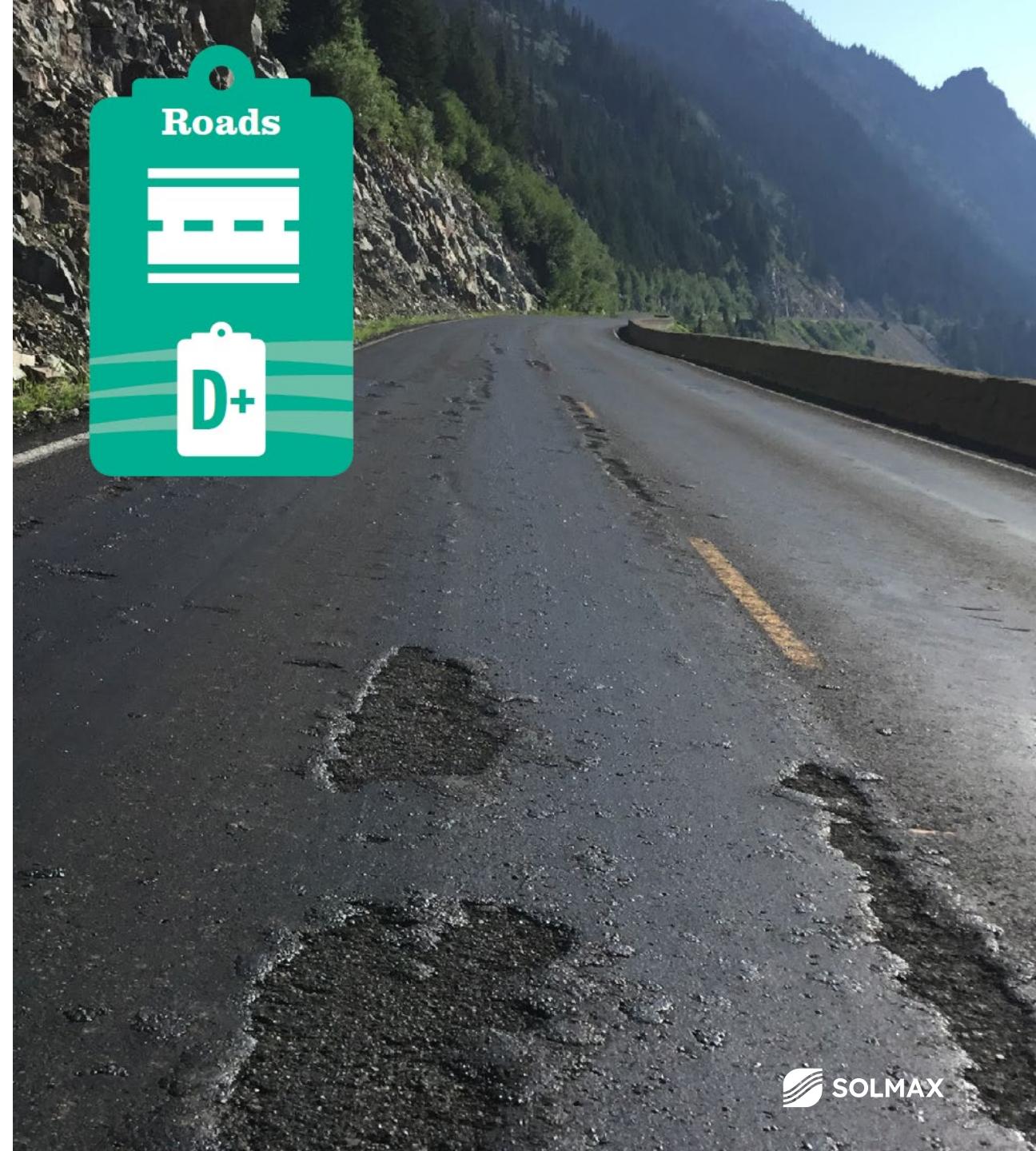
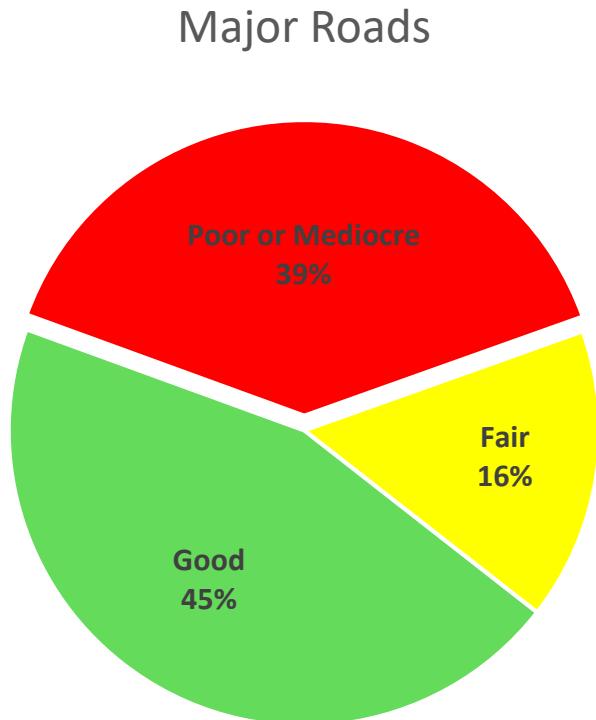
@solmax.com

Our roads...
Where are we today?

2025

ASCE Report Card on Roads

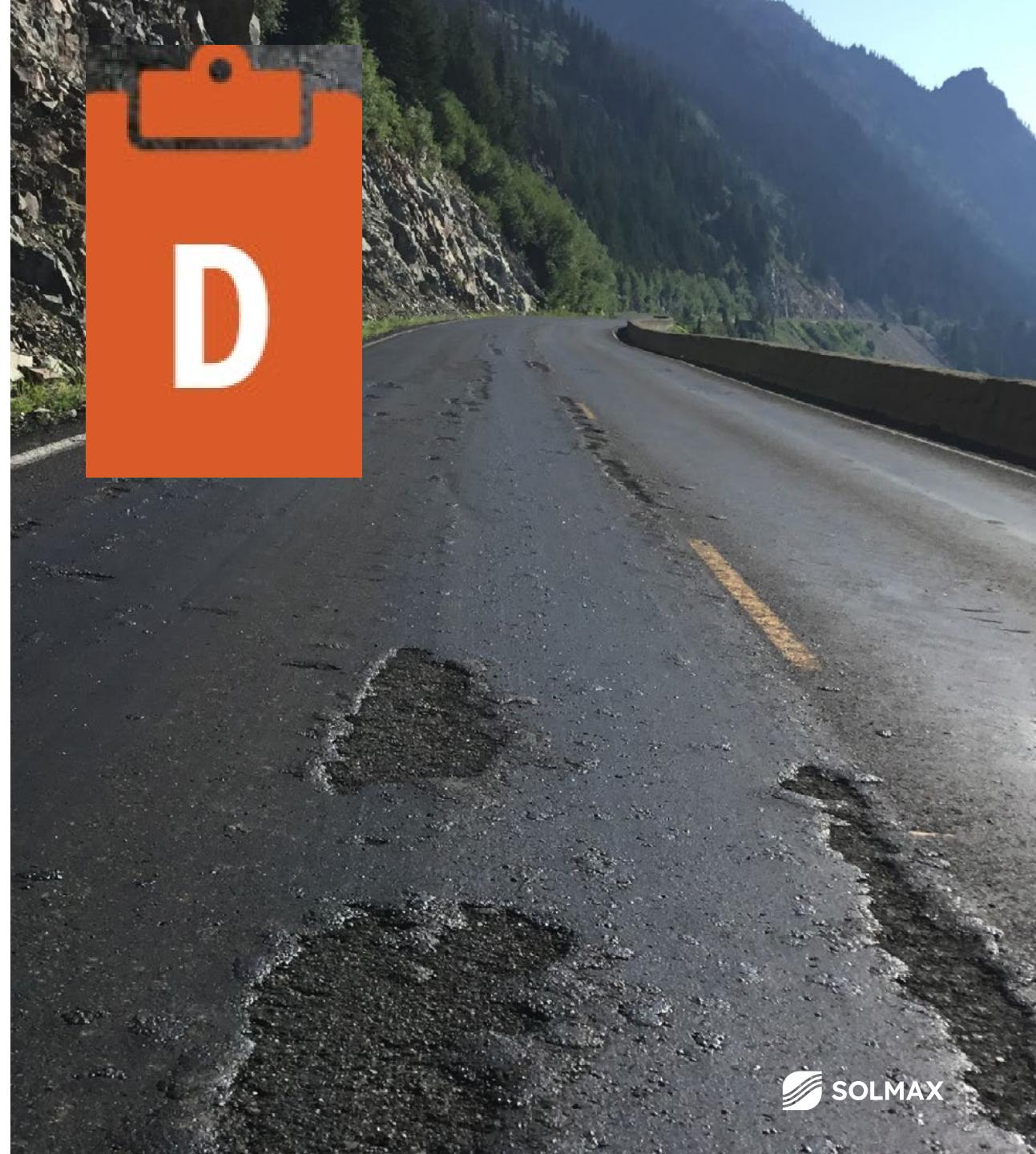
- > **4.1 million miles** of public roadways in US
- Pavement failure: **traffic, moisture and climate**



2025

ASCE Report Card on Roads

- ~122,040 miles of public roadways in Michigan
- Pavement failure: traffic, moisture and climate





The Road to 100-Year Pavement Foundations

MIRAFI H₂Ri

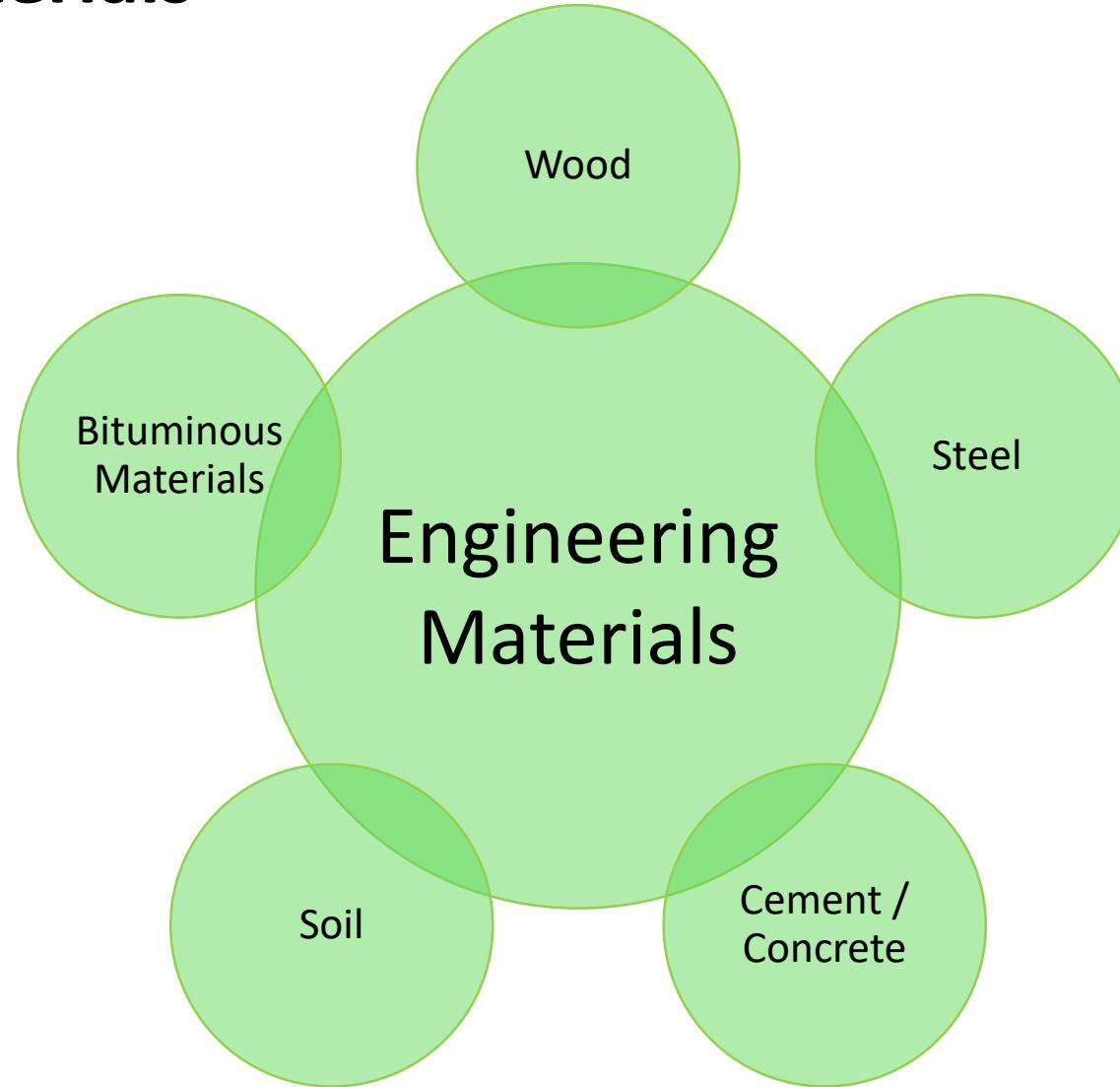
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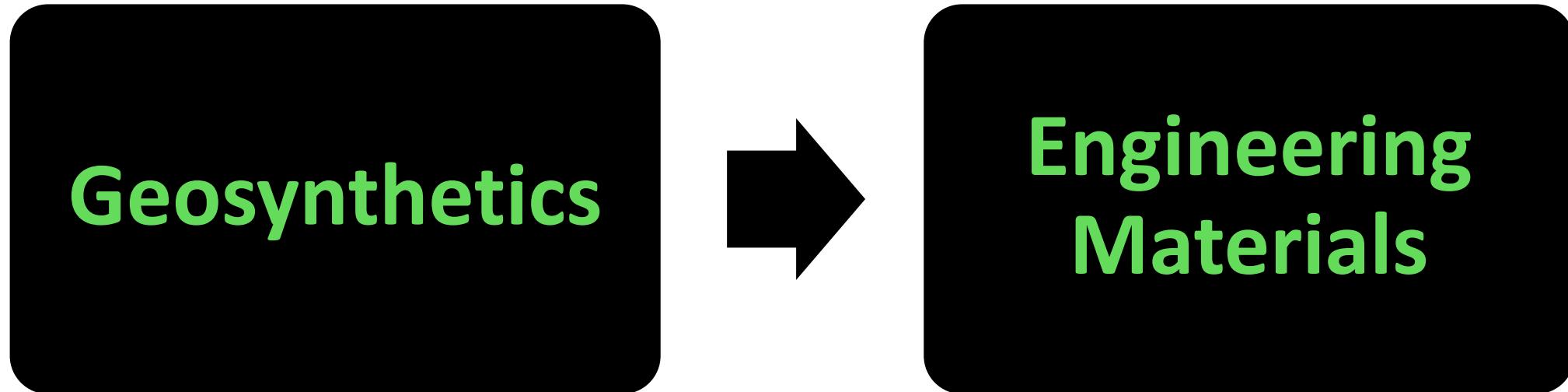
Geosynthetics...

Engineering Materials

Engineering Materials

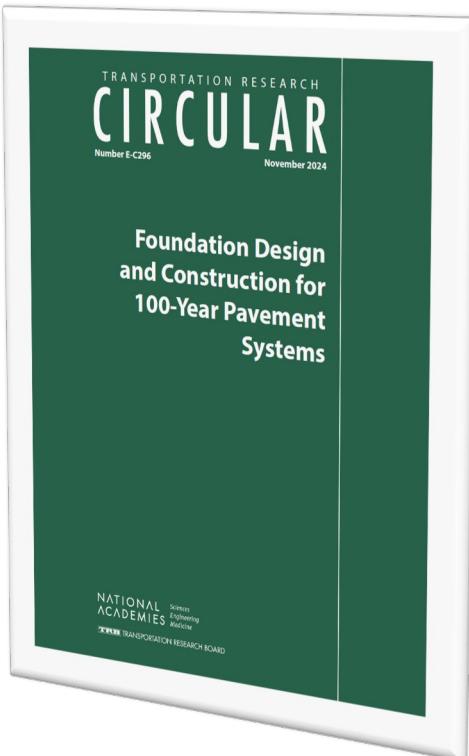


Engineering Materials

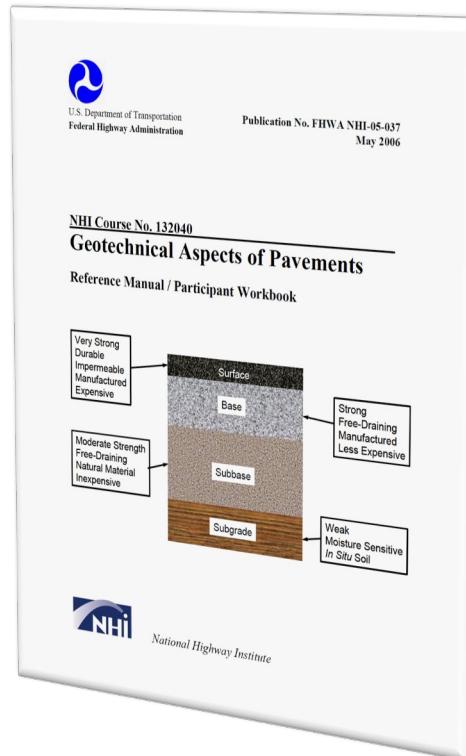


Let's focus on three documents

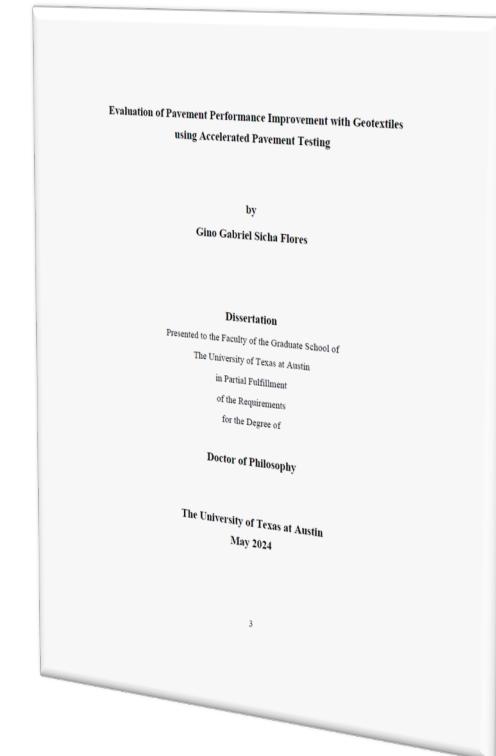
Transportation Research Board Circular



FHWA: Geotechnical Aspects of Pavements



University of Texas @ Austin: Accelerated Pavement Testing



Circular E-C296 – November 2024

Transportation Research Board

- Workshops conducted in 2023, 2024 & 2025
- 68 page circular published (2023/24)



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH
CIRCULAR
Number E-C296 November 2024

Foundation Design and Construction for 100-Year Pavement Systems

NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Sciences Engineering Medicine
TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Key recommendations to attain a 100-year pavement foundation

- Evaluate projects for **increased sustainability and resiliency**... to achieve long-term performance.
- “Quantify the benefits and costs of geomaterial stabilization materials, such as **geosynthetics**”
- “**Deploy geosynthetics** and other stabilizing materials **to provide sustainable and effective solutions** for long-term durability, adequate support, and pavement foundation uniformity”
- “Pavement foundation design using durable and resilient geomaterials including **improved control of moisture variation** to increase the long-term performance”
- “Quantify the benefits and costs of constructing and maintaining durable foundations with **effective drainage** during the expected long-term performance period of the pavement foundation asset”



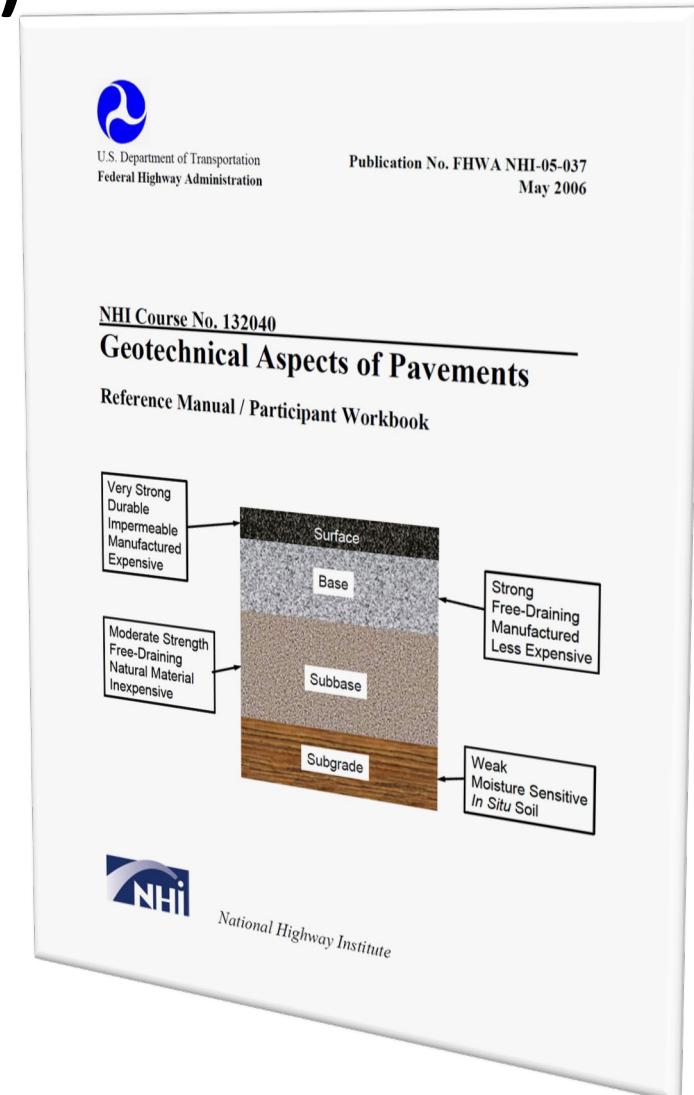
Geotechnical Aspects of Pavements (May 2006)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Publication No. FHWA NHI-05-037
May 2006

*“Pavement failures may occur due to the **intrusion of subgrade soils** into the granular base...
excessive loads... surface fatigue... excessive settlement, volume change, freezing and thawing of the subgrade...
inadequate drainage of water from the base and subgrade”*



These issues are costly

- Motorists pay **> \$725 every year** in additional vehicle operating costs
- Potholes cost US motorists **> \$26 billion every year**
- **\$684 billion funding gap** to 2035
- **Average annual investment of \$151.1 billion** needed annually until 2038
- Pavement rehabilitation costs **20-30% higher** in expansive soils, **10%-20% higher** in frost susceptible soils

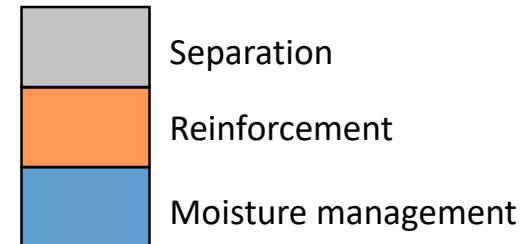


Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
Contamination	✓	✓			✓		✓
Insufficient Base Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓

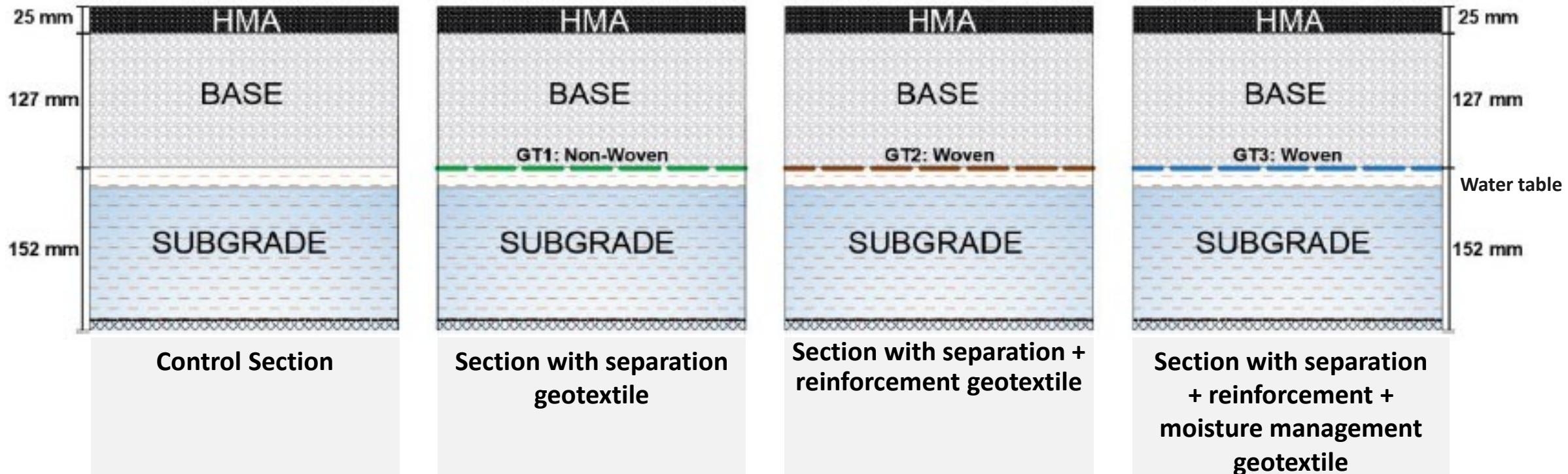
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Swelling				✓			✓



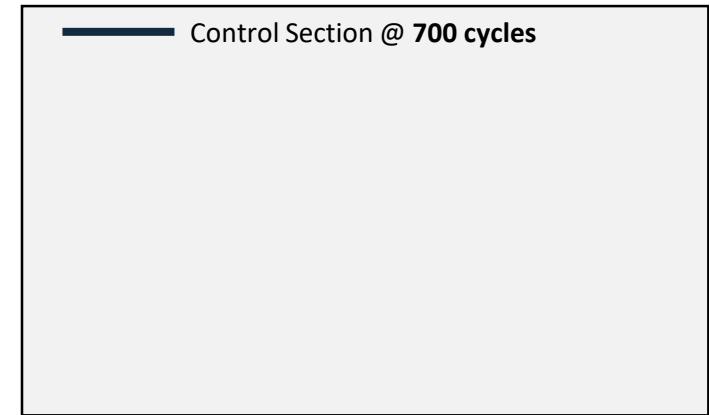
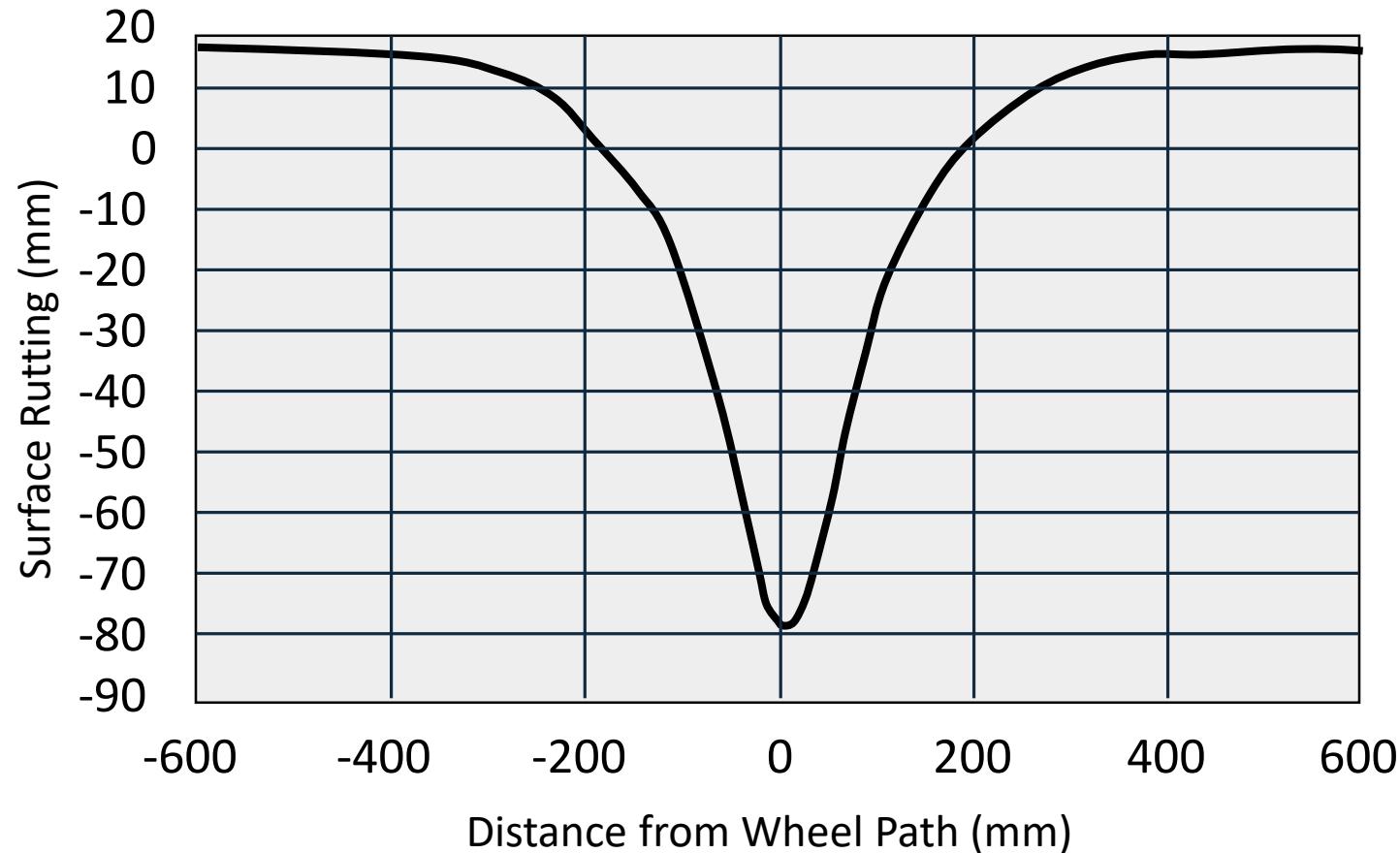
Road to 100-year pavement foundation

Evaluation of Pavement Performance Improvement with Geotextiles Using Accelerated Pavement Testing



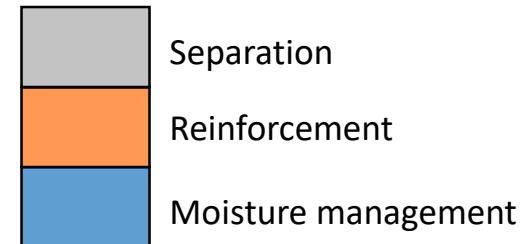
Pavement rutting profiles at different loading cycles

University of Texas at Austin – Accelerated pavement testing



Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

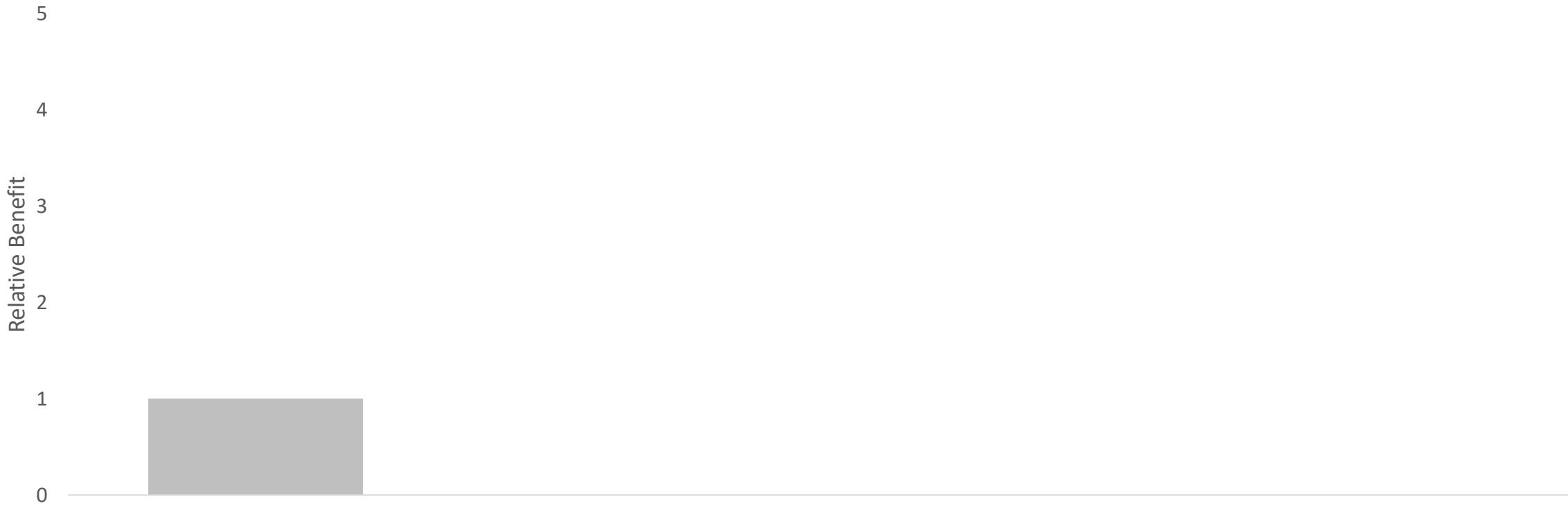
	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
Contamination	✓	✓			✓		✓
Insufficient Base Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓

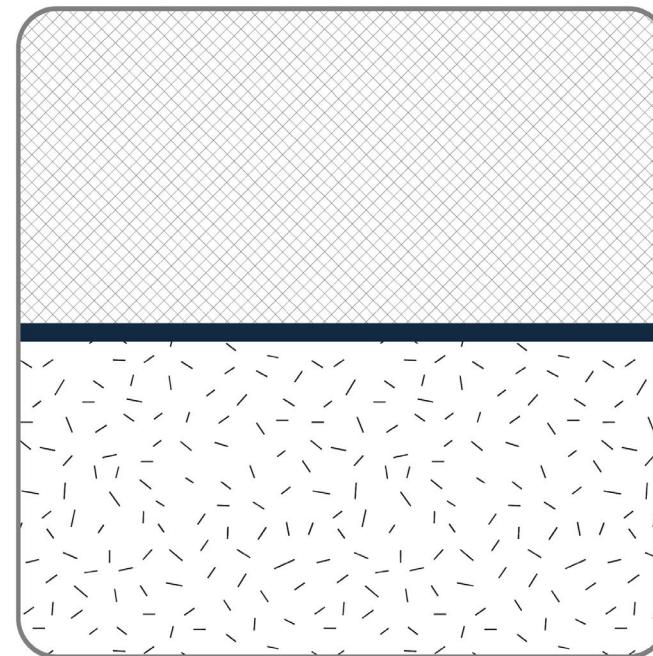


Road to 100-year pavement foundation

Status Quo

Compounding function benefit to roadways



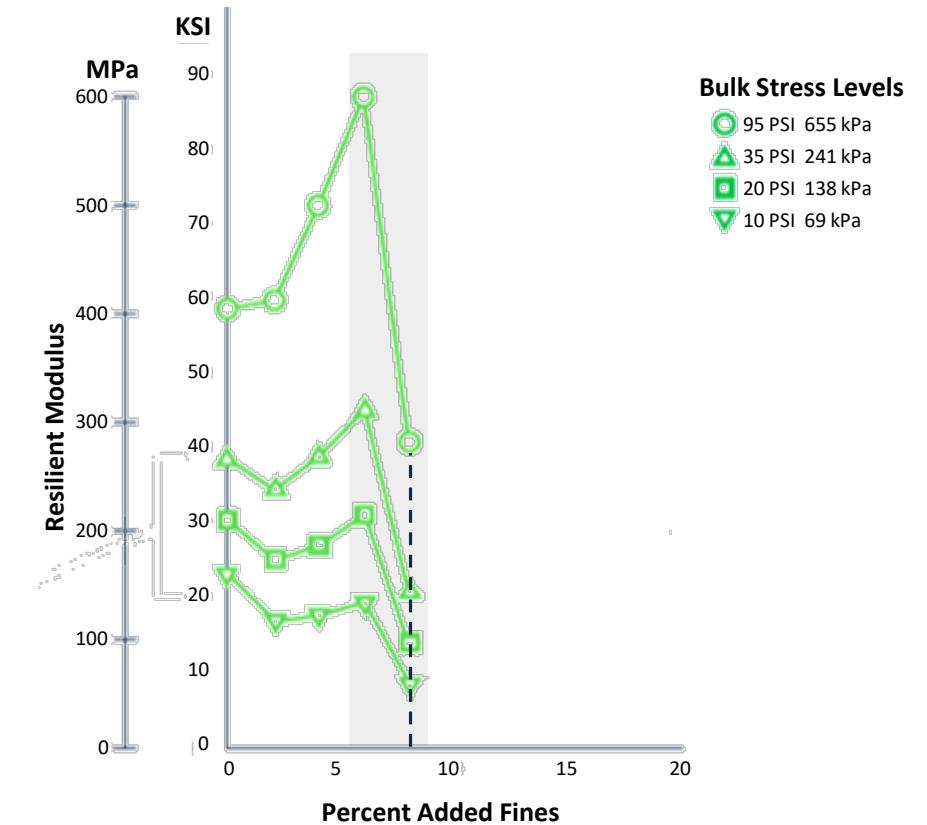


SEPARATION

The importance of separation in roadways



Gravel road without separation geotextile



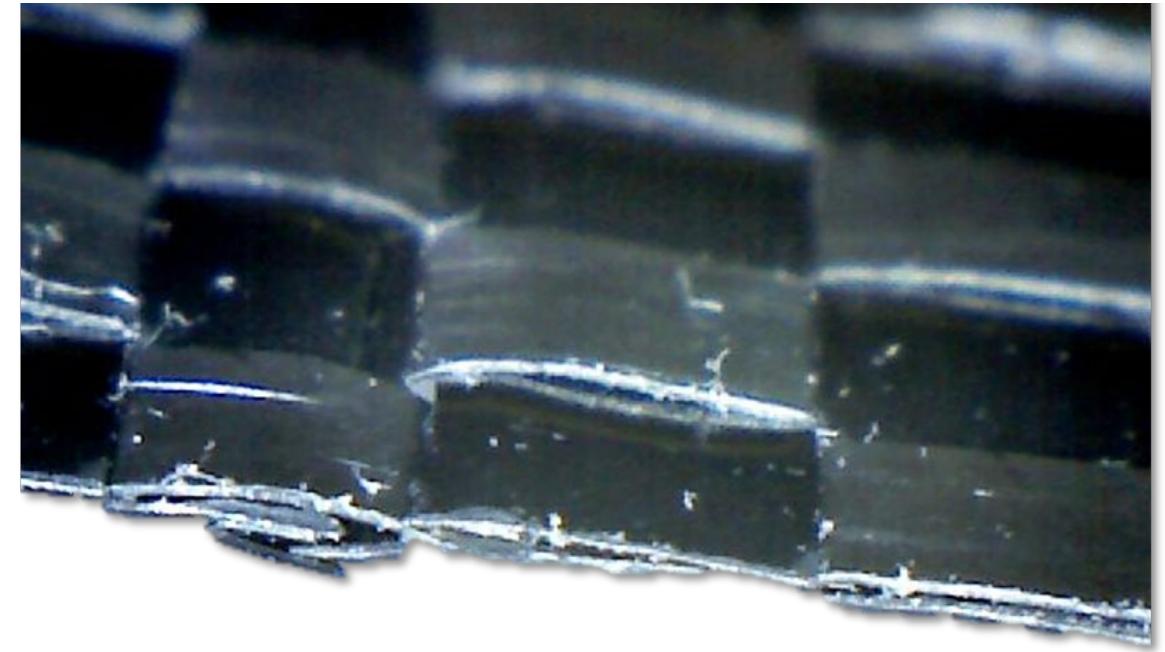
Less than 10% fines contamination of the unbound aggregate base can lower its effective strength by as much as 50%

-Jorenby & Hicks (1986)-

Not all separation geotextiles are created the same



Nonwoven geotextile



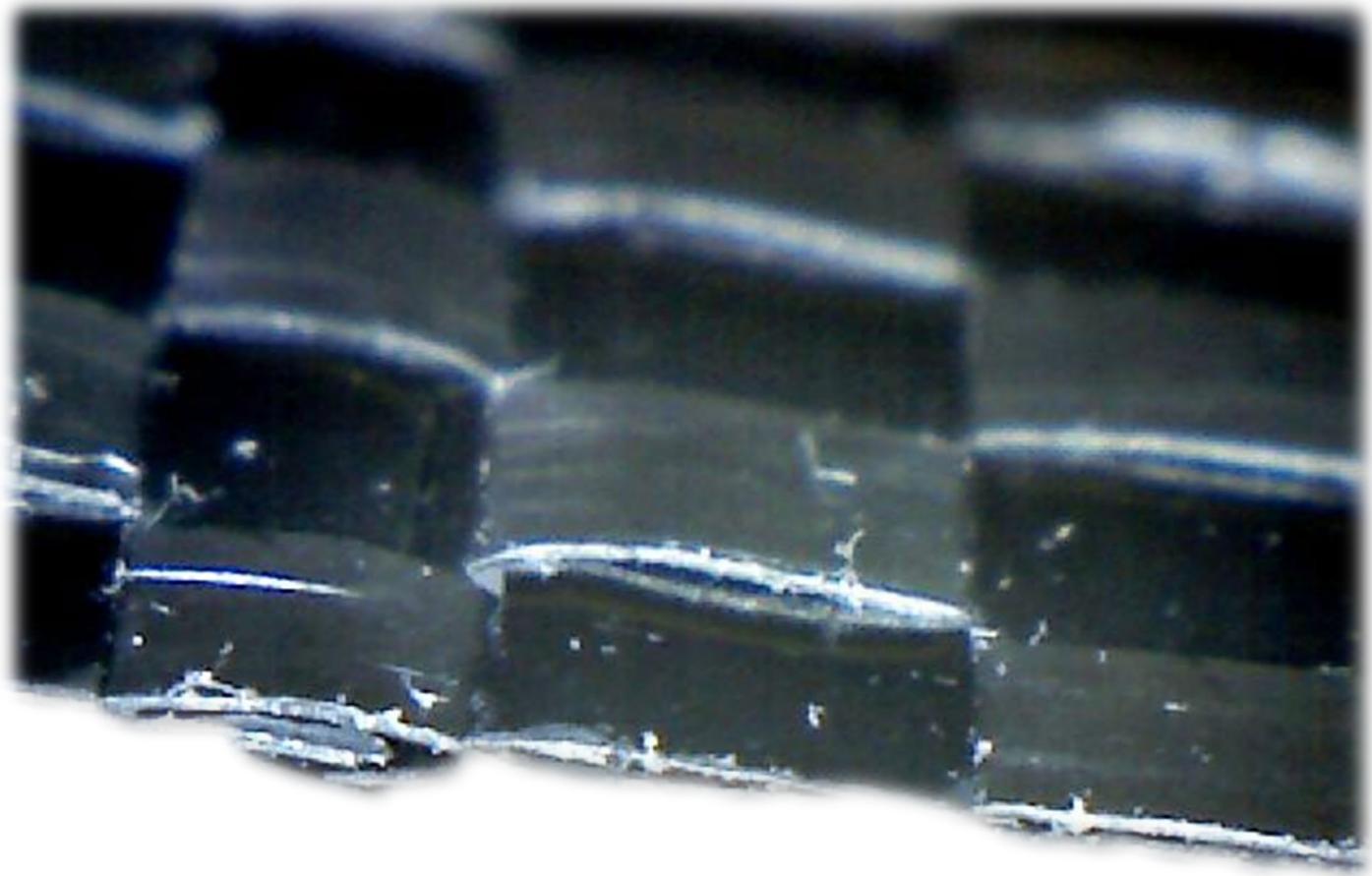
Slit tape geotextile

Slit tapes have poor water flow characteristics



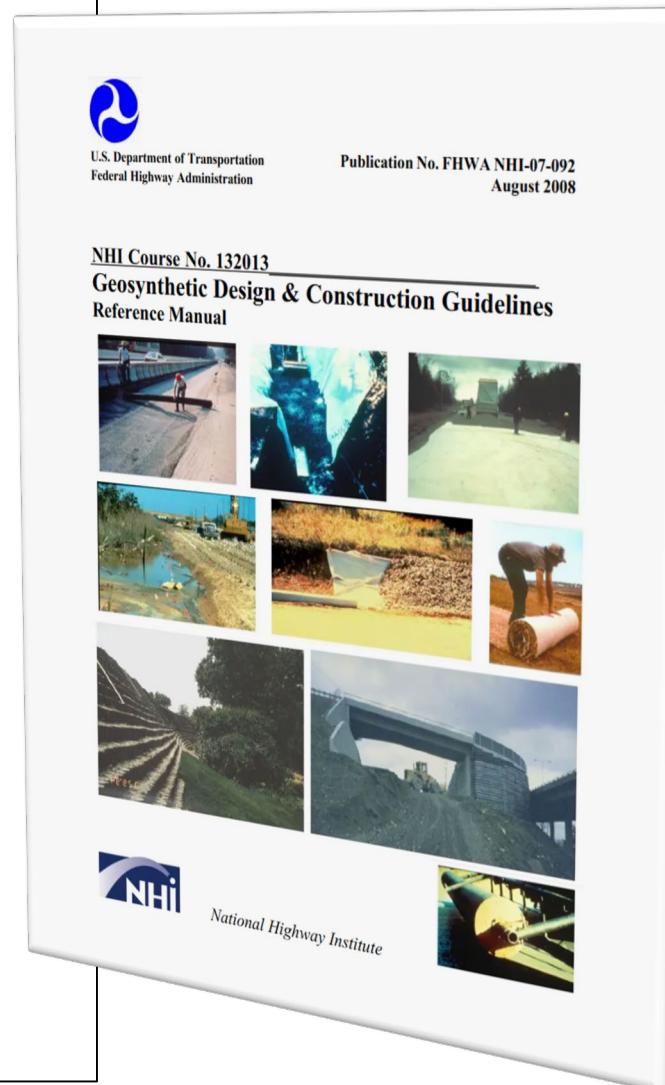
MDOT Geotextile Specification

MDOT Section 910
Table 910-1
Woven Geotextile Separator
and
Stabilization Geotextile



Geosynthetic Design & Construction Guidelines (2008)

Table 5-3 Geotextile Property Requirements ^{1,2,3} for Stabilization Applications (CBR < 3) (after AASHTO, 2006)						
Property	ASTM Test Method	Units	Requirement			
SURVIVABILITY		Geotextile Class 1 ⁴				
			< 50% ⁵	Elongation > 50% ⁶		
Grab Strength	D 4632	lb (N)	315 (1400)	200 (900)		
Sewn Seam Strength ⁶	D 4632	lb (N)	270 (1200)	180 (810)		
Tear Strength	D 4533	lb (N)	110 (500)	80 (350)		
Puncture Strength	D 6241	lb (N)	620 (2750)	433 (1925)		
Ultraviolet Stability (Retained Strength)	D 4355	%	50% after 500 hours of exposure			
DRAINAGE AND FILTRATION ⁷						
Apparent Opening Size	D 4751	mm	0.43 for < 50% passing No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve < 0.3 for > 50% passing No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve			
Permeability	D 4491	sec ⁻¹	0.5 for < 15% passing No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve 0.2 for 15 to 50% passing No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve 0.1 for > 50% passing No. 200 (0.075 mm) sieve			
NOTES:						
1.	Acceptance of geotextile material shall be based on ASTM D 4759.					
2.	Acceptance shall be based upon testing of either conformance samples obtained using Procedure A of ASTM D 4354, or based on manufacturer's certifications and testing of quality assurance samples obtained using Procedure B of ASTM D 4354.					
3.	Minimum; use value in weaker principal direction. All numerical values represent minimum average roll value (i.e., test results from any sampled roll in a lot shall meet or exceed the minimum values in the table). Lot samples according to ASTM D 4354.					
4.	Default geotextile selection. The engineer may specify a Class 2 geotextile (see Appendix D) for moderate survivability conditions, see Table 5-2.					
5.	As measured in accordance with ASTM D 4632.					
6.	When seams are required. Values apply to both field and manufactured seams.					
7.	The geotextile permeability should be greater than the soil permeability.					
8.	Due to filtration and drainage requirements, woven slit film geotextiles should not be allowed.					



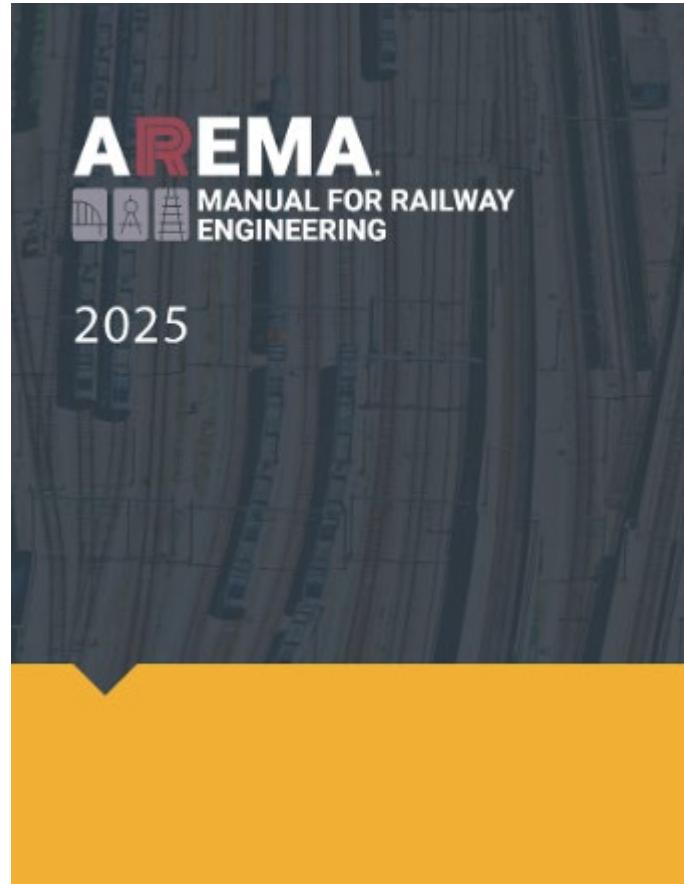
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AREMA Manual for Railway Engineering 2025



Volume 1 – Track

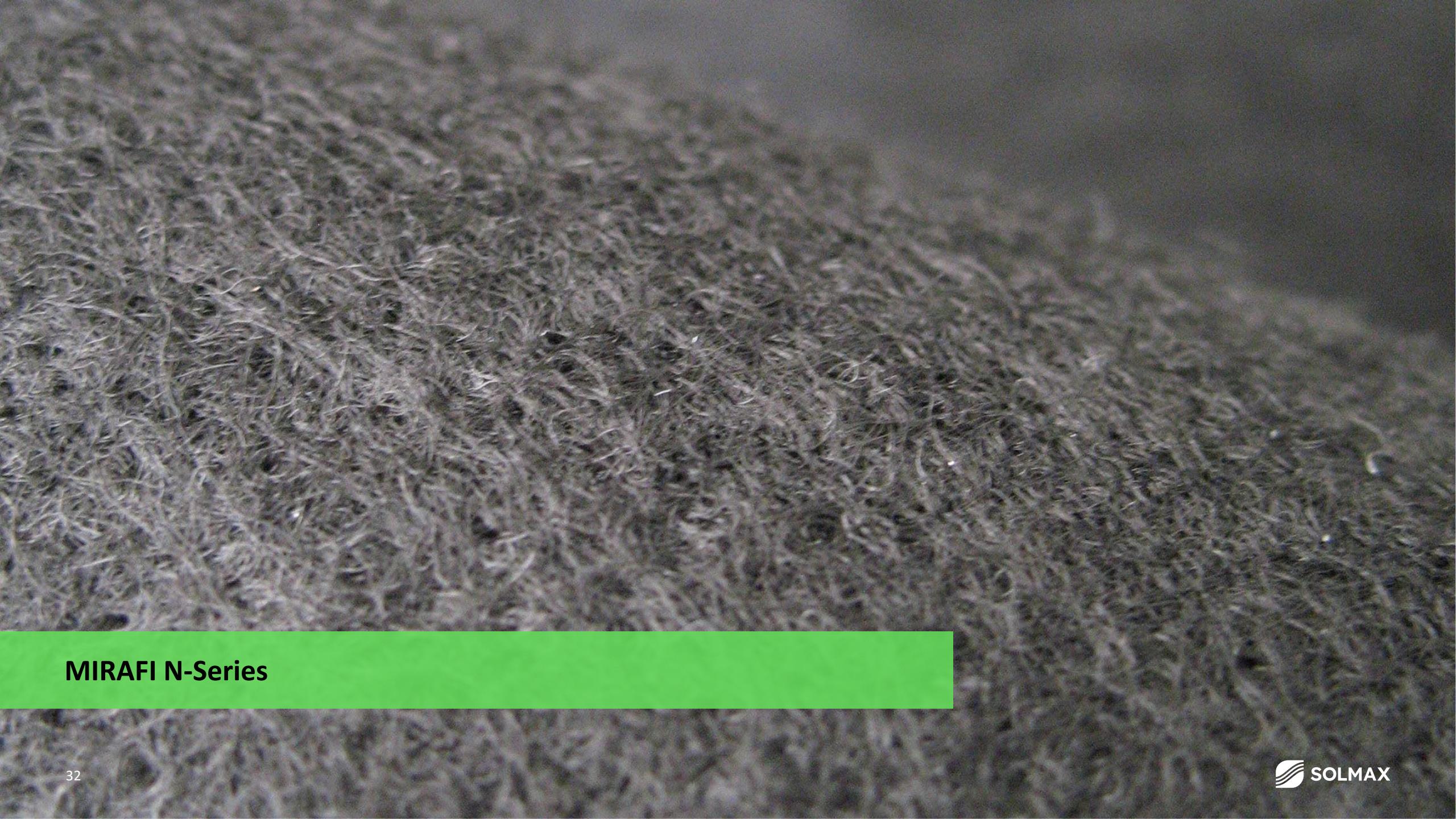
- Chapter 1 – Roadway & Ballast
 - Part 10 - Geosynthetics

Does not allow slit film geotextiles!

20 State DOTs...and counting

US State DOTs that DOT ALLOW Slit Tape Geotextiles

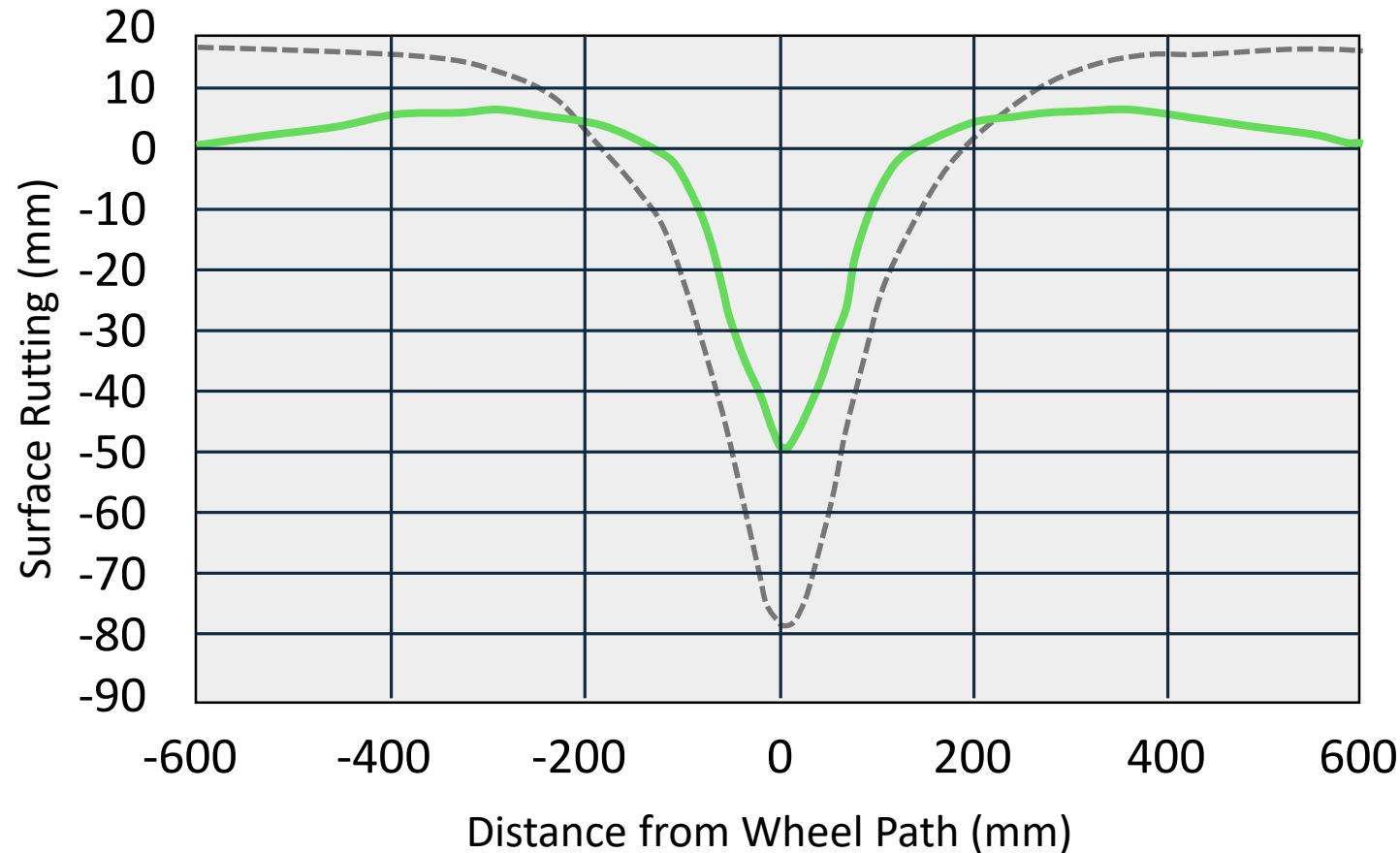
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nevada
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Vermont
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly a carpet or fabric, with a fine, irregular pattern of dark fibers.

MIRAFI N-Series

Pavement rutting profiles at different loading cycles

University of Texas at Austin – Accelerated pavement testing



Control Section @ 700 cycles
Separation @ 1185 cycles

**35% less rutting
70% more axle passes**

Compounding function benefit to roadways



Circular E-C296 – November 2024

Transportation Research Board

- *Separation* mentioned 7 times

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH
CIRCULAR
Number E-C296 November 2024

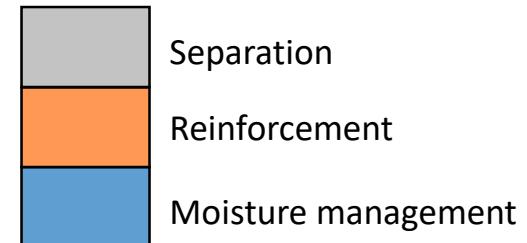
Foundation Design and Construction for 100-Year Pavement Systems

NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Sciences Engineering Medicine

TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

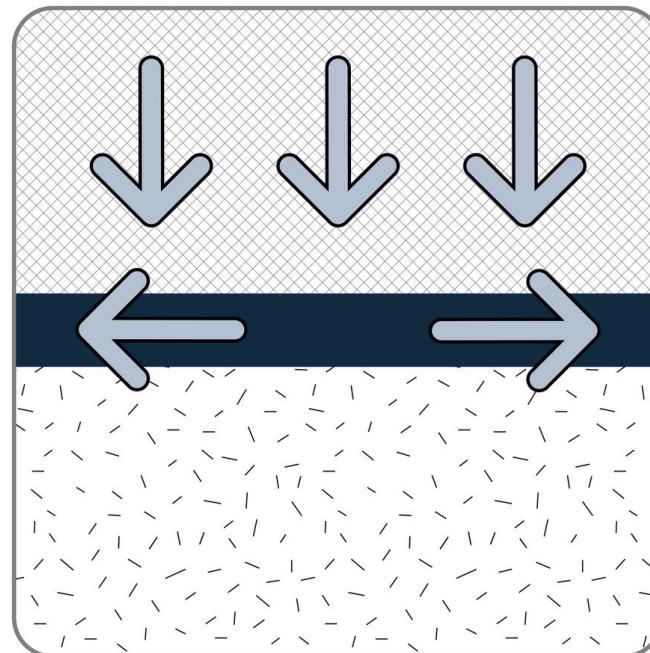
	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
Contamination	✓	✓			✓		✓
Insufficient Base Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓



Road to 100-year pavement foundation

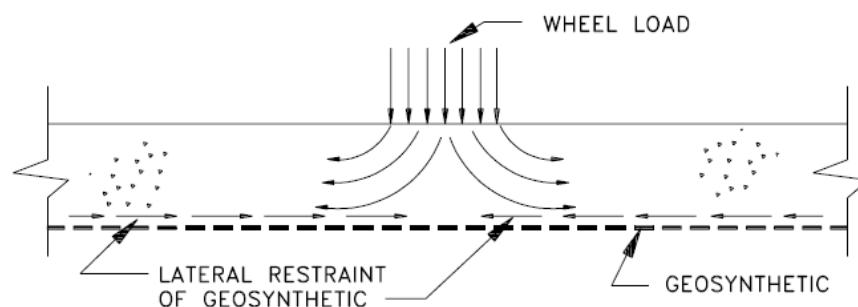
Status Quo

Separation

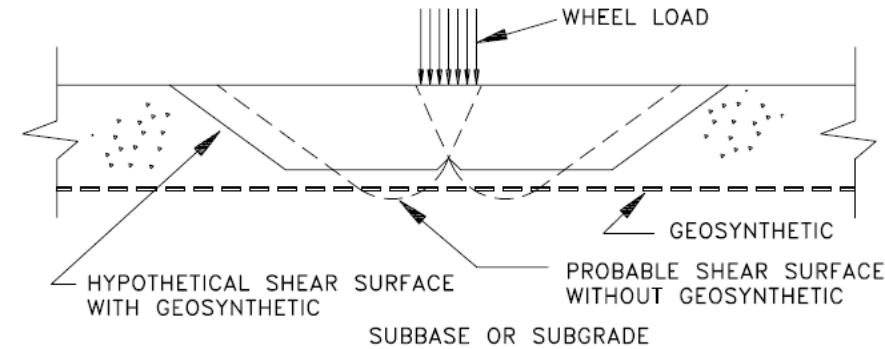


REINFORCEMENT

Reinforcement mechanisms for 100-year pavement foundation



**Lateral restraint
(Confinement)**



**Increased bearing capacity
(Tensile modulus)**

Why is reinforcement necessary in civil structures?





MIRAFI RSi-Series

What is the MIRAFI RS*i*-Series?

*High modulus
woven geotextile*

Higher water flow

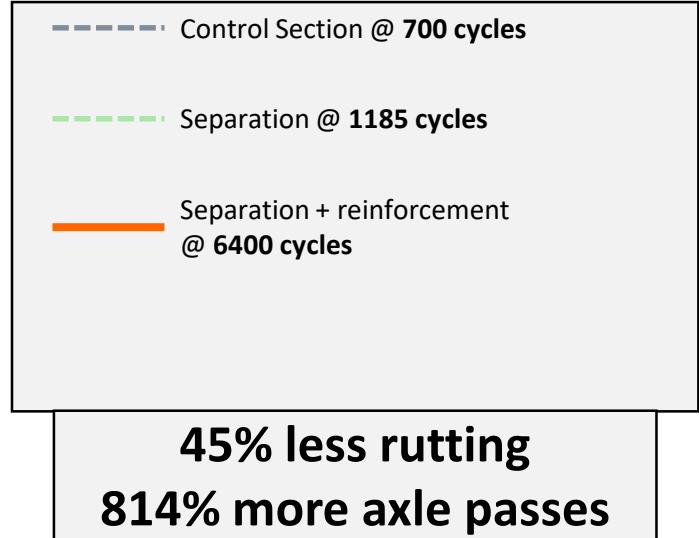
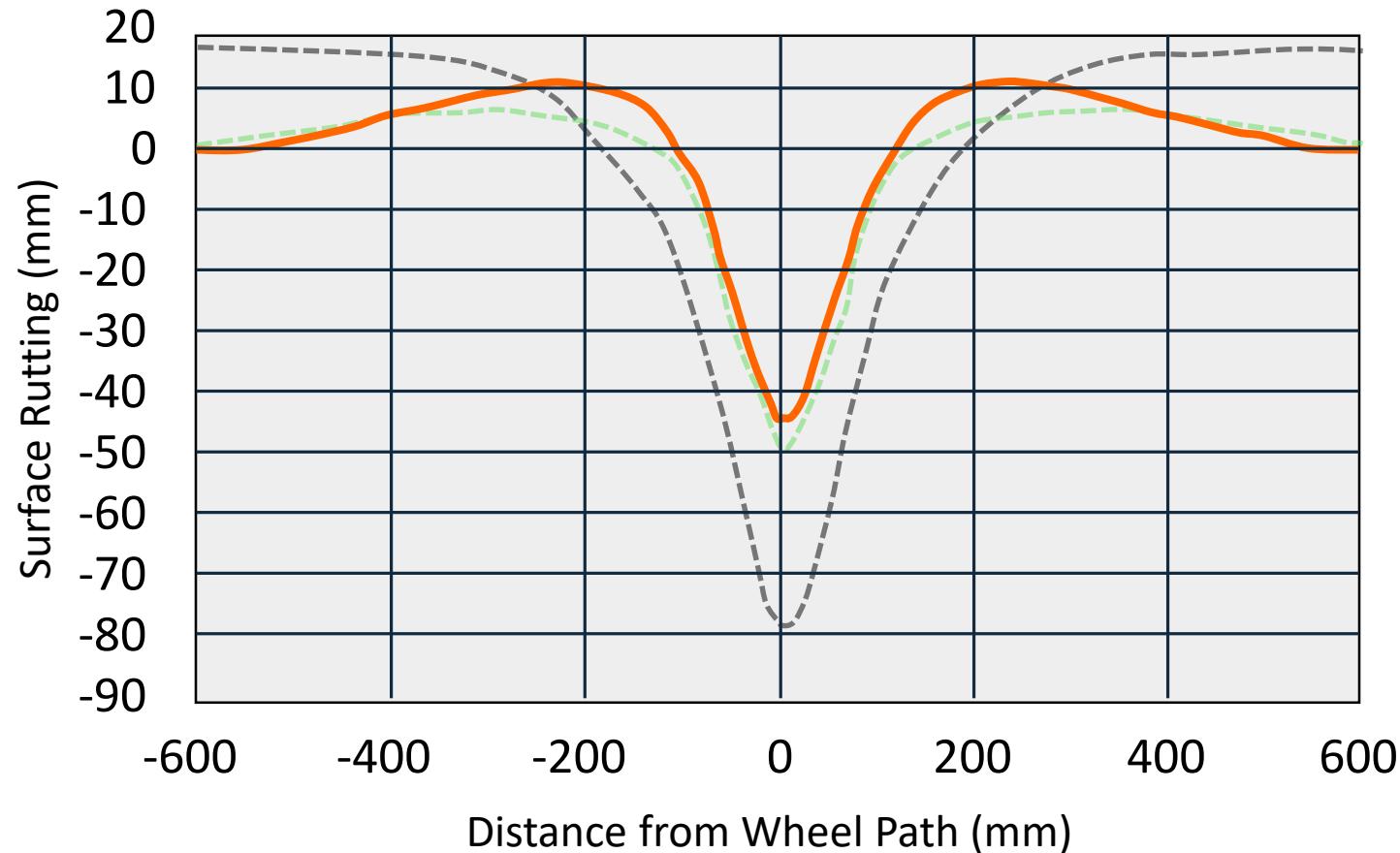
*Better separation
& confinement*

*MIRAFI RS580*i* was
best performing
geosynthetic in the
“Montana State
Report”*

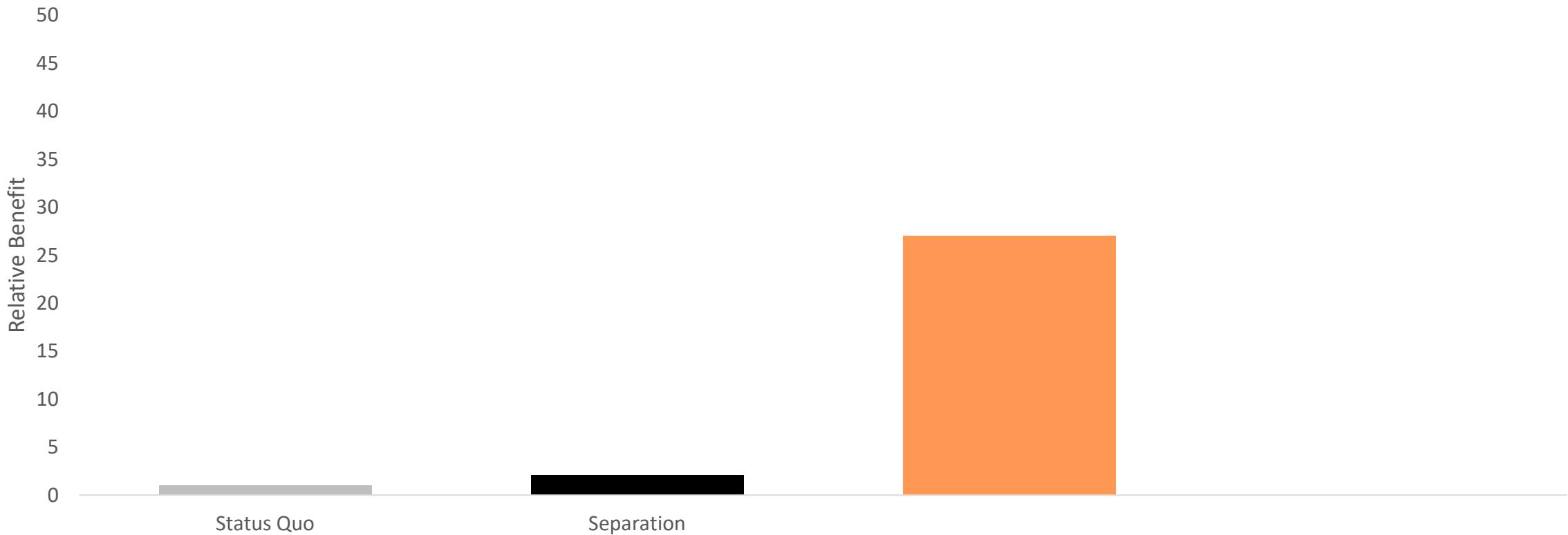


Pavement rutting profiles at different loading cycles

University of Texas at Austin – Accelerated pavement testing



Compounding function benefit to roadways



Transportation Research Board

- *Separation* mentioned 7 times
- *Reinforcement* mentioned 8 times

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CIRCULAR

Number E-C296

November 2024

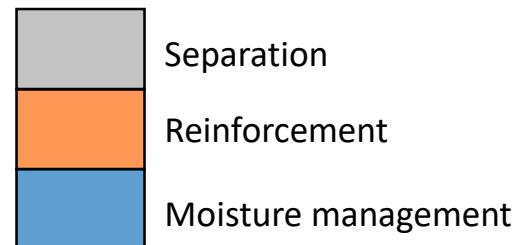
Foundation Design and Construction for 100-Year Pavement Systems

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TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
Contamination	✓	✓			✓		✓
Insufficient Base Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓



Road to 100-year pavement foundation

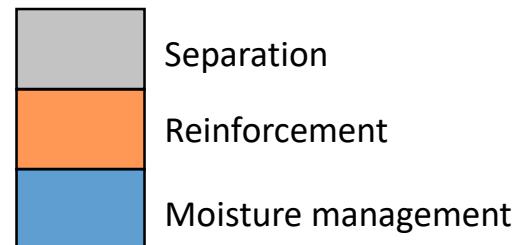
Status Quo

Separation

Separation + Reinforcement

Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
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Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓



Road to 100-year pavement foundation

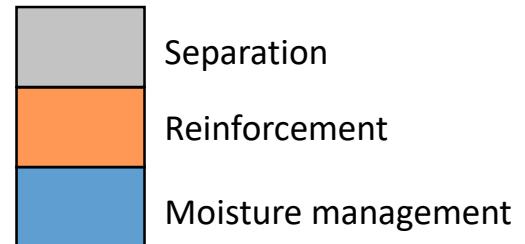
Status Quo

Separation

Separation + Reinforcement

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Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓

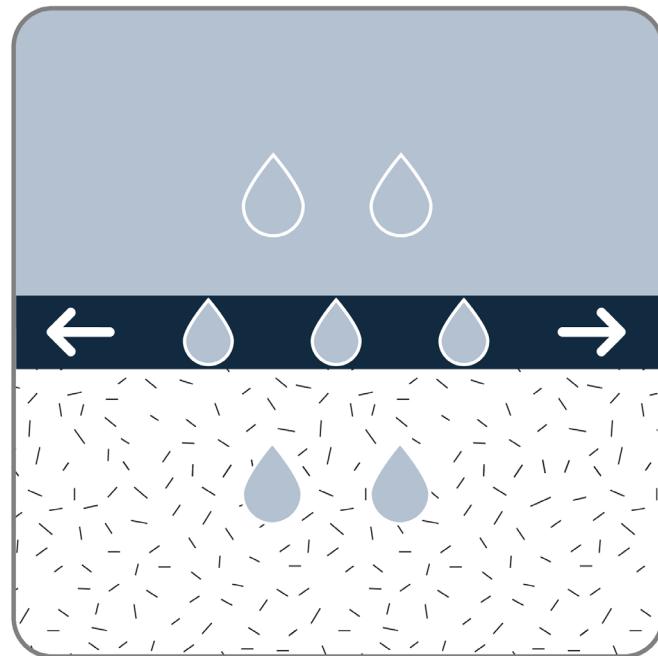


Road to 100-year pavement foundation

Status Quo

Separation

Separation + Reinforcement

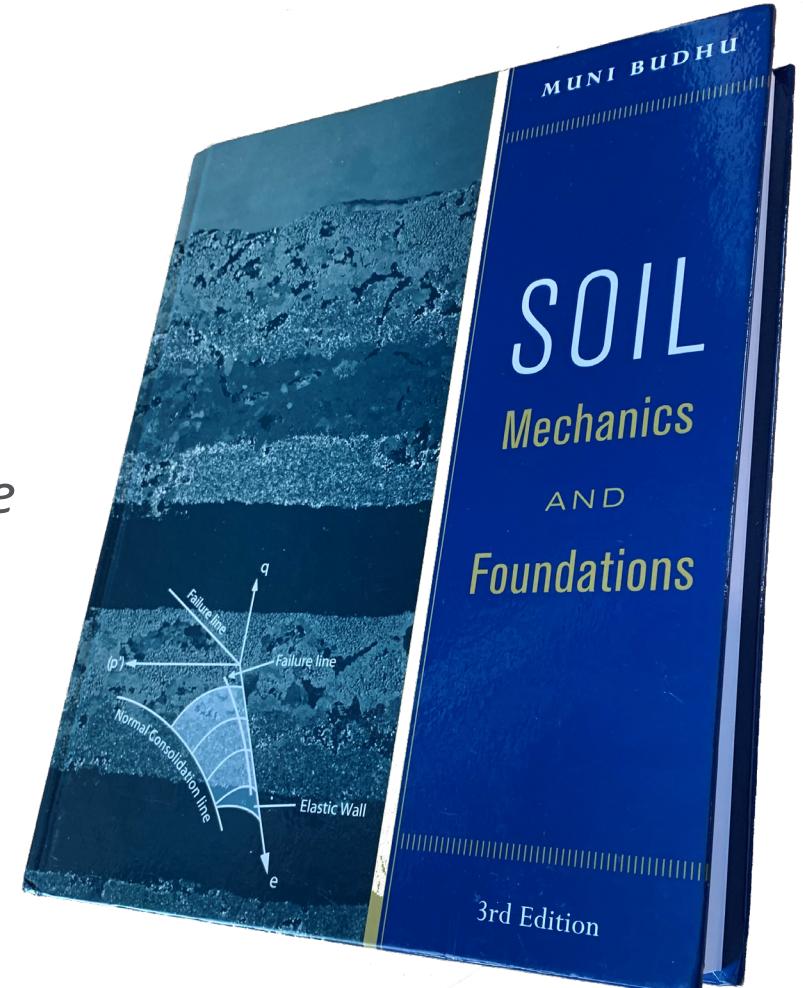


MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

According to Budhu (2008)

Moisture in the subgrade

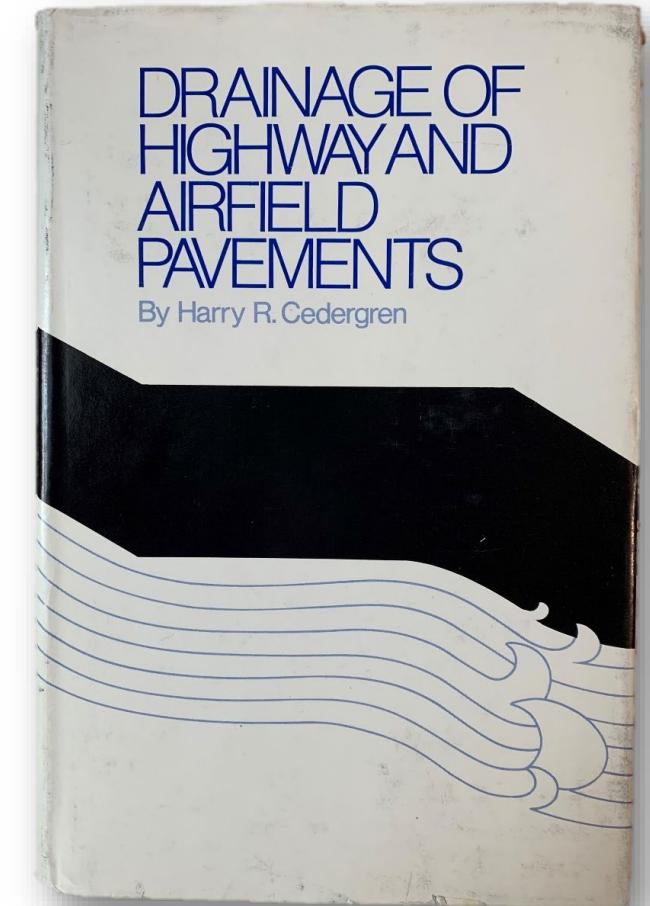
The undrained shear strength of fine-grained soils can increase about 20% for 1% reduction in the moisture content



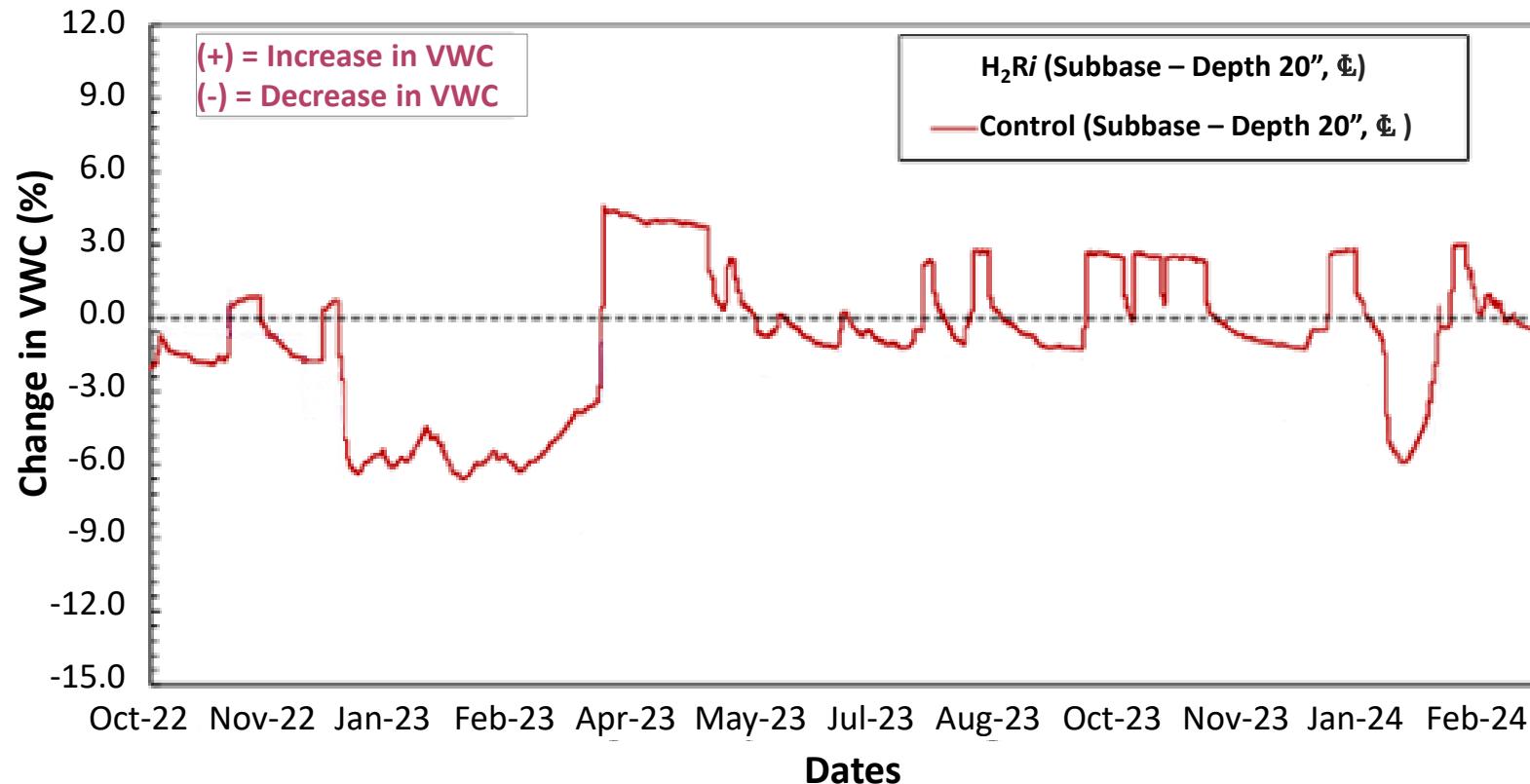
Cedergren (1987)

Drainage of Highway and Airfield Pavements

*“...pavement service life could be **reduced by half** if the pavement approaches **saturation** just 10% of the time.”*



Volumetric water content comparison in the subbase



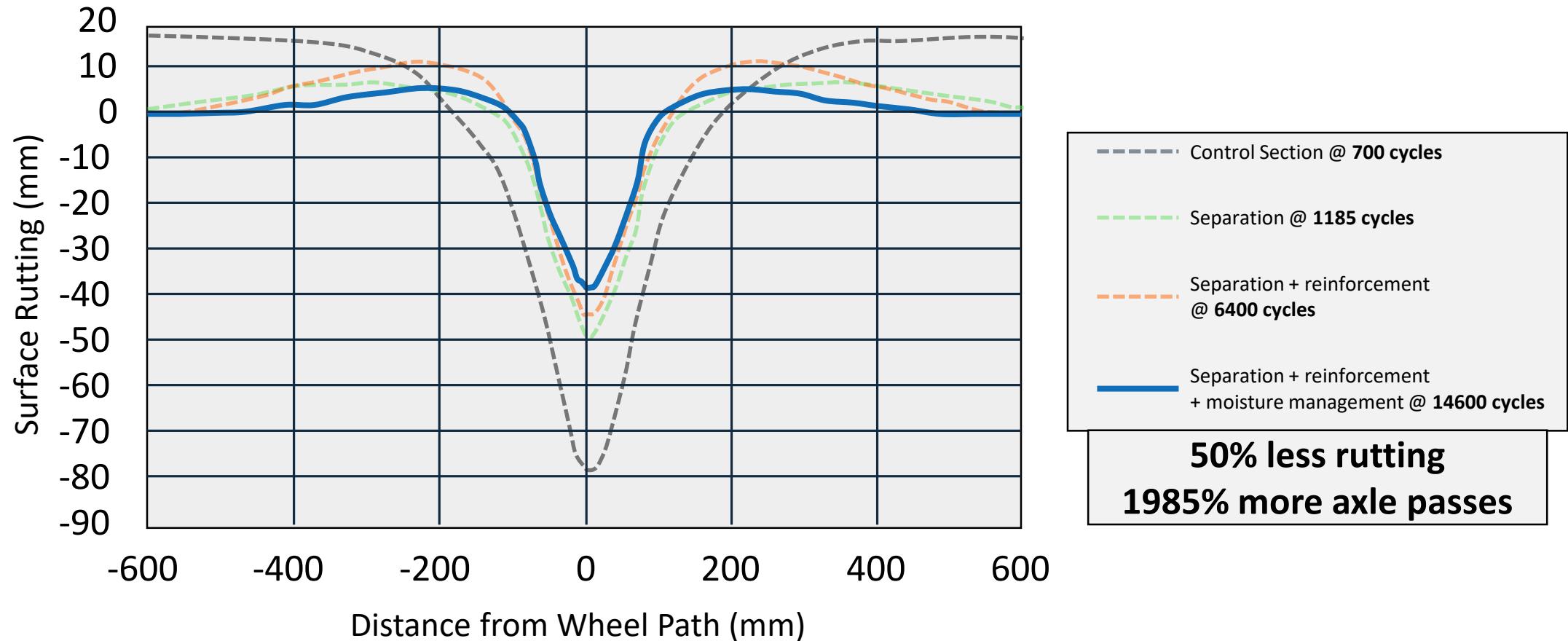


MIRAFI H₂Ri

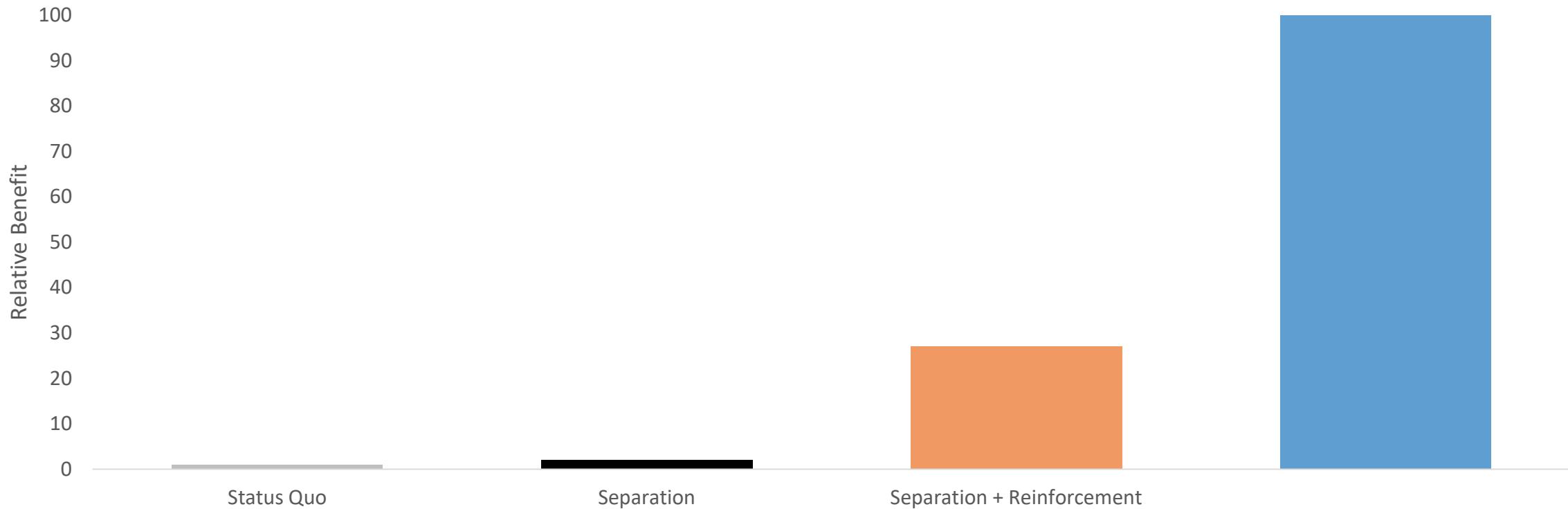
 SOLMAX

Pavement rutting profiles at different loading cycles

University of Texas at Austin – Accelerated pavement testing



Compounding function benefit to roadways



Transportation Research Board

- *Separation* mentioned 7 times
- *Reinforcement* mentioned 8 times
- *Moisture/water/drainage* mentioned **243 times**

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CIRCULAR

Number E-C296

November 2024

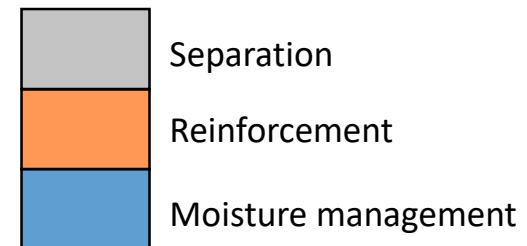
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TRB TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

	Fatigue Cracking	Rutting	Corrugation	Bumps	Depressions	Potholes	Roughness
Contamination	✓	✓			✓		✓
Insufficient Base Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Insufficient Subgrade Stiffness/Strength	✓	✓					✓
Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓



Status Quo

Separation

Separation + Reinforcement

Separation + Reinforcement + Moisture Management

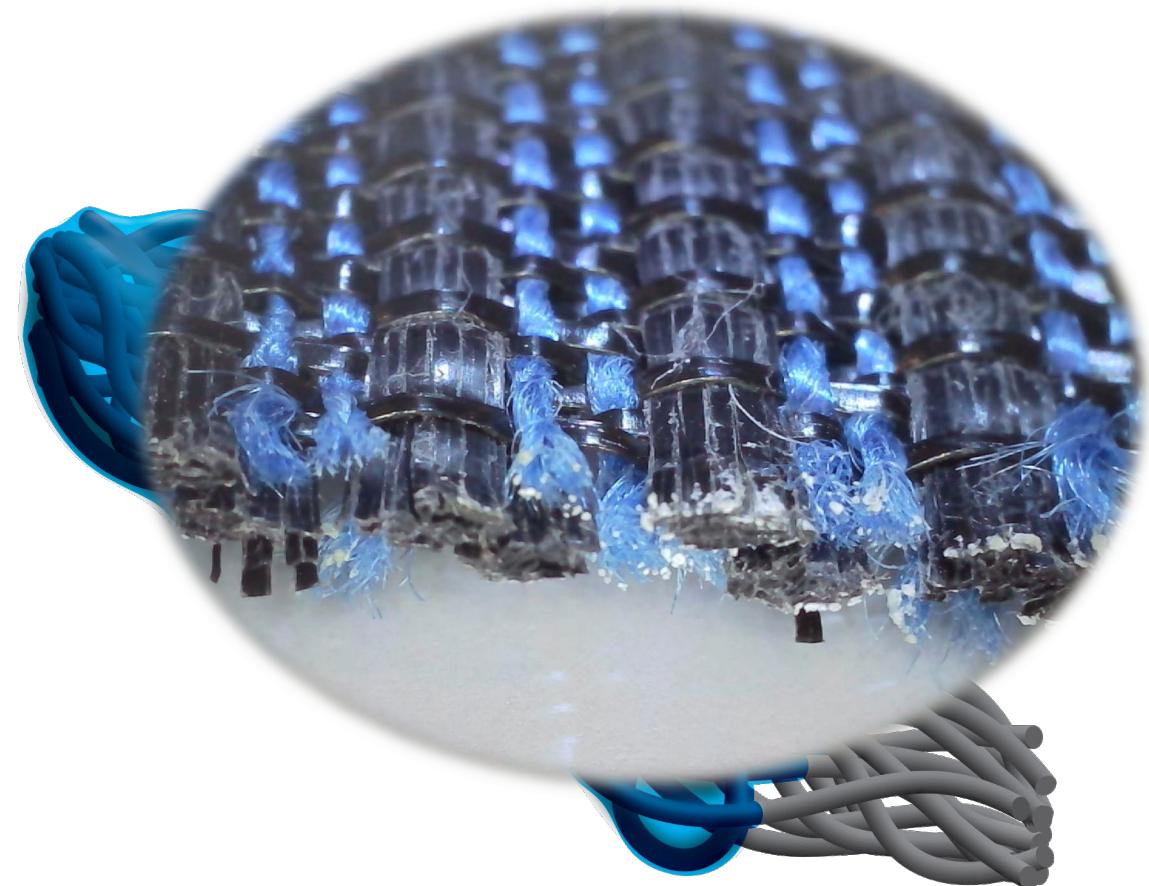
Road to 100-year pavement foundation



The 100-year foundation solution: MIRAFI H₂Ri

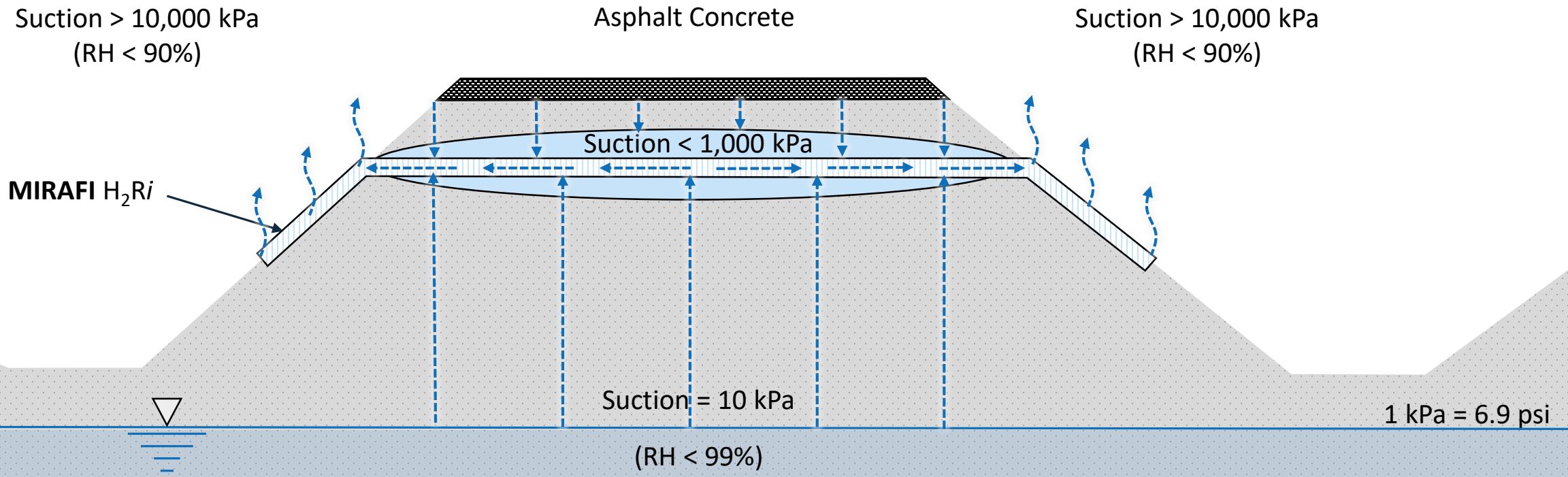
A pathway for moisture – Wicking filaments

- Two components
 - Black **high-modulus** reinforcement yarns
 - Blue engineered **moisture management** yarns: ~10 million filaments in every 15' x 300' roll
- Each filament is the size of a human hair





How is moisture drawn out?



MIRAFI H₂Ri provides *Active Moisture Management*

***Continuous process of controlling and removing moisture
from soil and aggregate materials
to ensure the stability and longevity of civil structures***



Three key aspects of MIRAFI H₂Ri

Unsaturated Conditions

It can remove water in saturated & unsaturated conditions

Influence

It has a zone of hydraulic influence within base course & subgrade

Gradient

It can overcome a negative gradient

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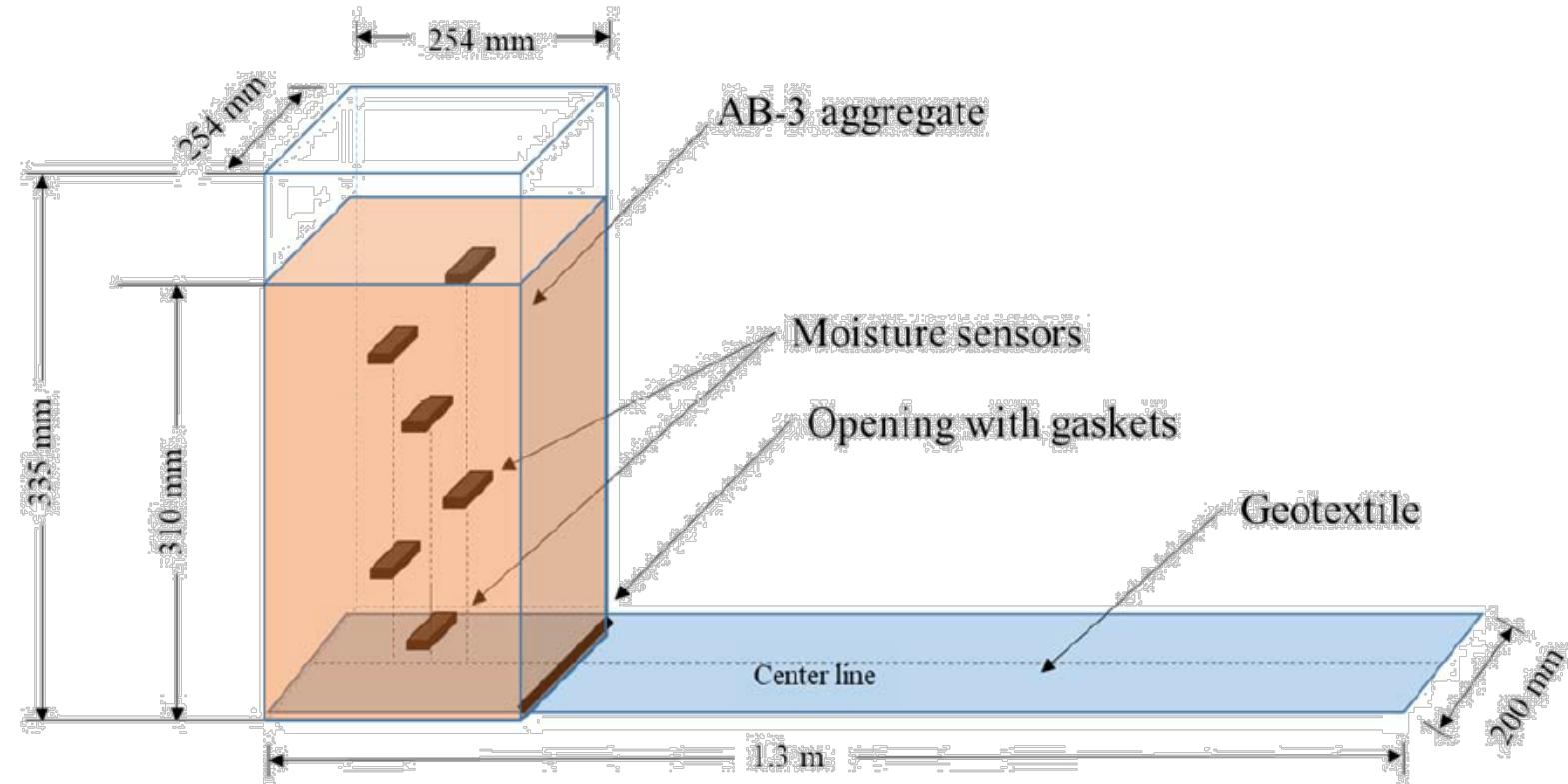
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Evaluation and Design of Wicking Geotextile for Pavement Applications



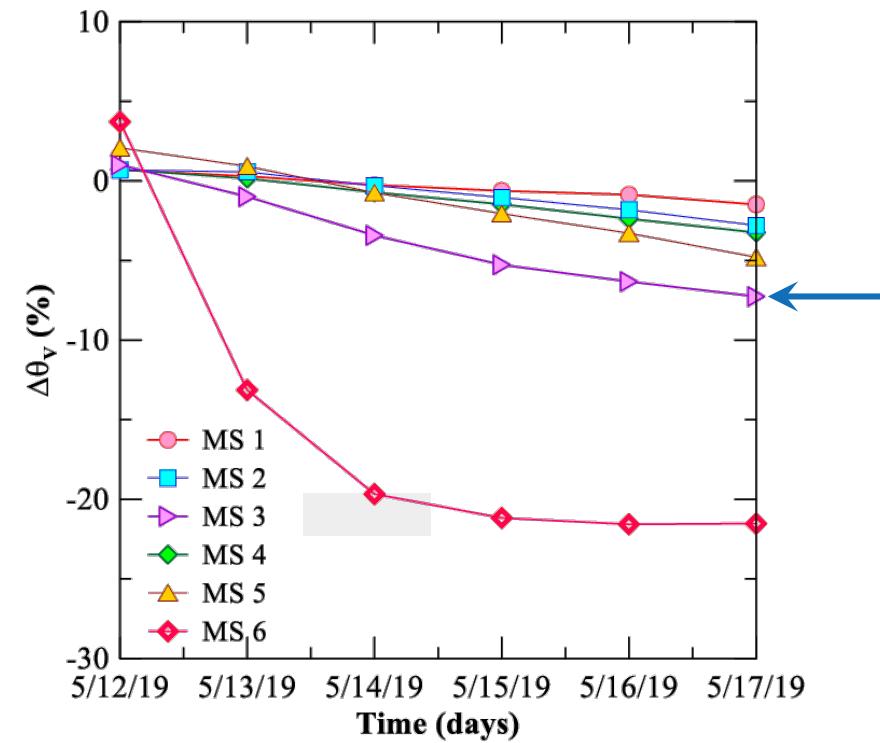
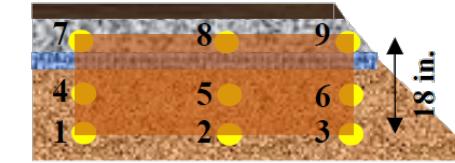
Zone of influence in base course up to 10"

Zone of influence in subgrade soils

Depth of Influence of a Wicking Geotextile Below the Flexible Pavement Constructed Over Expansive Subgrade

- Percentage reduction in θ_v at different depths
- Remember: CH soil
- MS 3 located 12" below MIRAFI H_2Ri

***Zone of influence in
CH subgrade up to 12"***



Three key aspects of MIRAFI H₂Ri

Unsaturated Conditions

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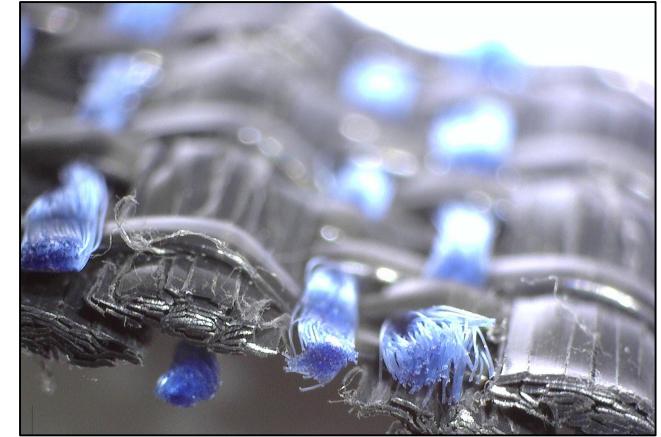
We've added some wicking yarns to MIRAFI RS380i & RS580i

*Managing moisture is **ALWAYS** a good idea*

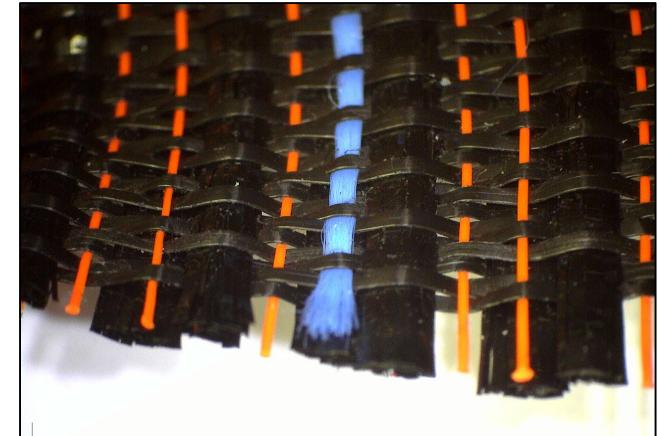
Same mechanical reinforcement

1/10th the wicking of MIRAFI H₂Ri

Provides Passive Moisture Management



MIRAFI H₂Ri – Side View



MIRAFI RS580i – Side View

Moisture Management: *Active vs Passive*

ACTIVE

(MIRAFI H₂Ri)

*Continuous process of controlling and removing moisture
from soil and aggregate materials
to ensure the stability and longevity of civil structures*

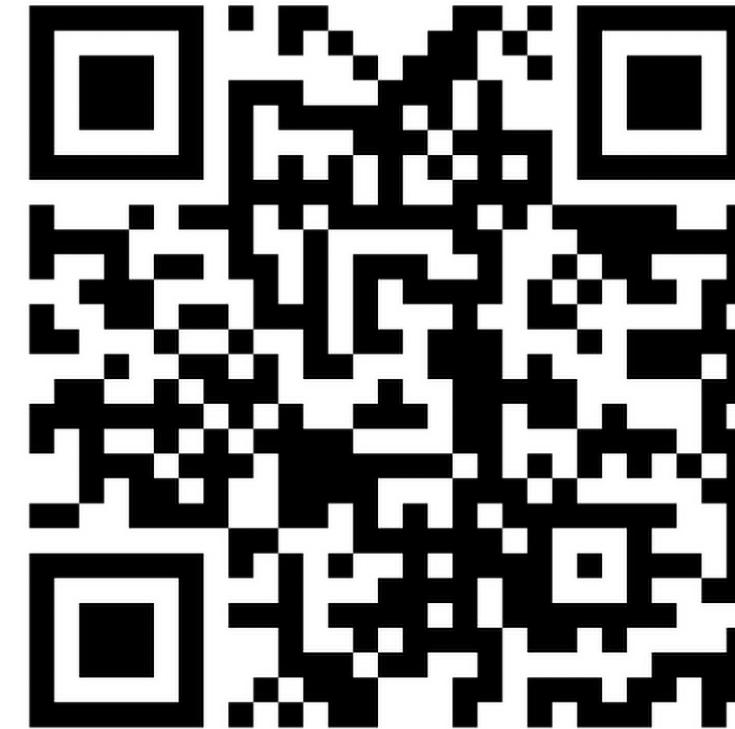
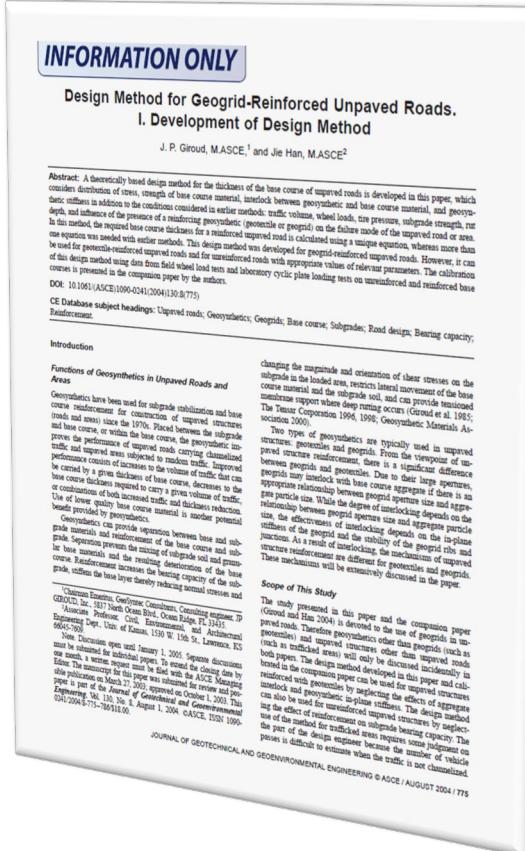
PASSIVE

(MIRAFI RS380i & RS580i)

*Process of balancing moisture in soil
and aggregate materials to ensure uniformity
and enhance the durability and functionality of infrastructure*

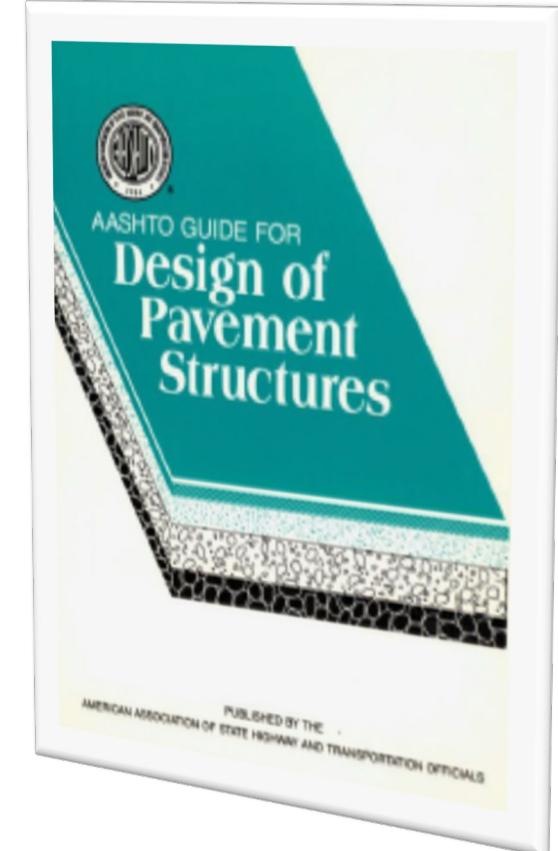
Paved and unpaved roads

Current roadway design methodologies using geosynthetics



www.InfraSolve.com

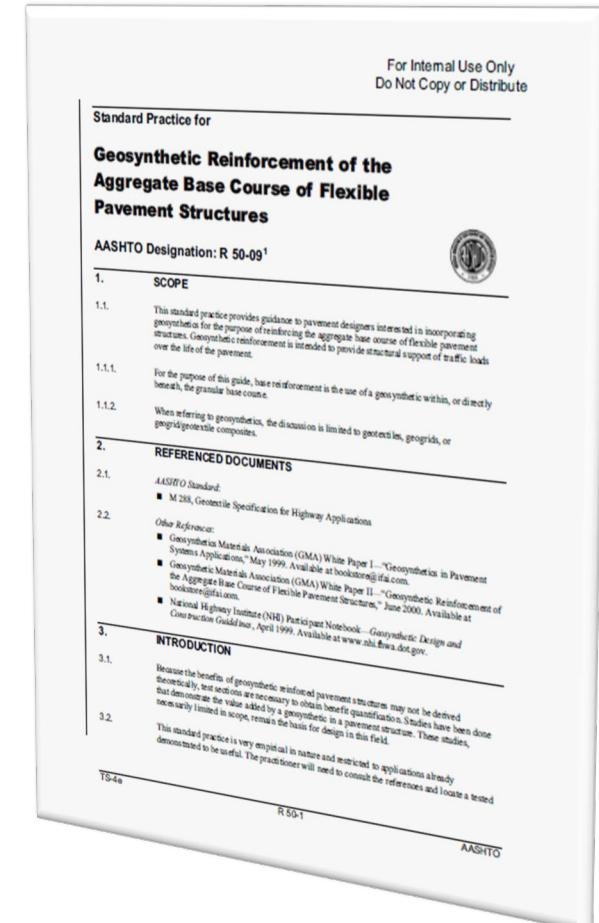
Giroud-Han (2004)



AASHTO '93

**MIRAFI RS*i*-Series and H₂R*i* are
tested and calibrated
to these design methodologies**

Geosynthetic Reinforcement of the Aggregate Base Course of Flexible Pavement Structures



Geosynthetic Design & Construction Guidelines

“To assess and characterize the appropriate TBR or BCR values, the user is advised to refer to **product-specific studies and test sections that demonstrate the value added by the geosynthetic reinforcement** in pavement structures”

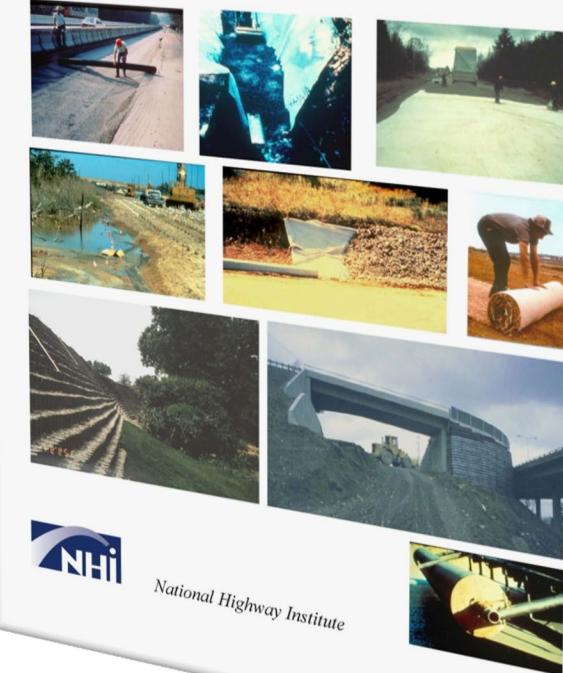


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Publication No. FHWA NHI-06-116
February 2007 DRAFT

NHI Course No. 132013

Geosynthetic Design & Construction Guidelines
Reference Manual



National Highway Institute

Value-Added Examples





Vol. 35, No. 3 – Winter 2023/2024

The **Bridge**



A quarterly newsletter from Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program

The Alaska Department of Transportation successfully installed a wicking fabric in the Beaver Slide pavement to help drain the embankment, thus reducing hazardous rutting and maintenance needs on the road segment.



Beaver Slide: How Geotextiles Made One Road Safer

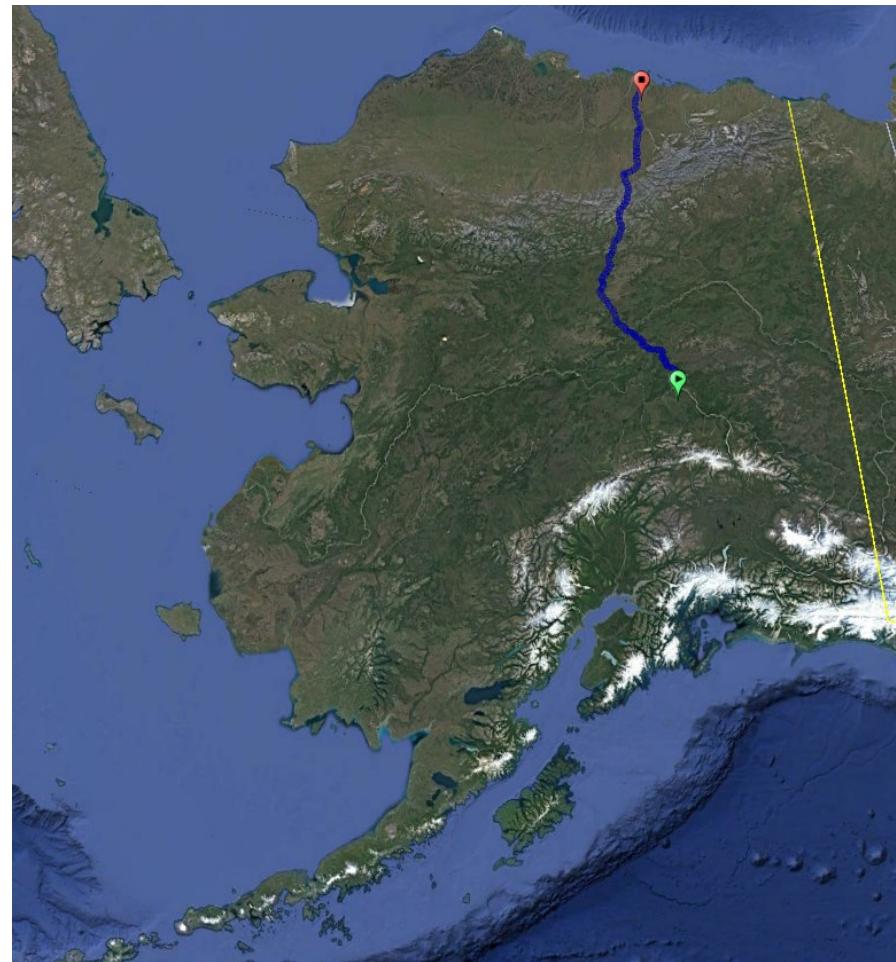
Allison Szlachta, Technical Writing Intern
Center for Technology & Training



Photo: Courtesy of Solmax

Dalton Highway, AK

- Beaver Slide in 2010
- >160,000 yd² installed in 2012
- Dalton Hwy MP 97 – 209 in 2013
- AK DOT&PF issued their final report in December 2016



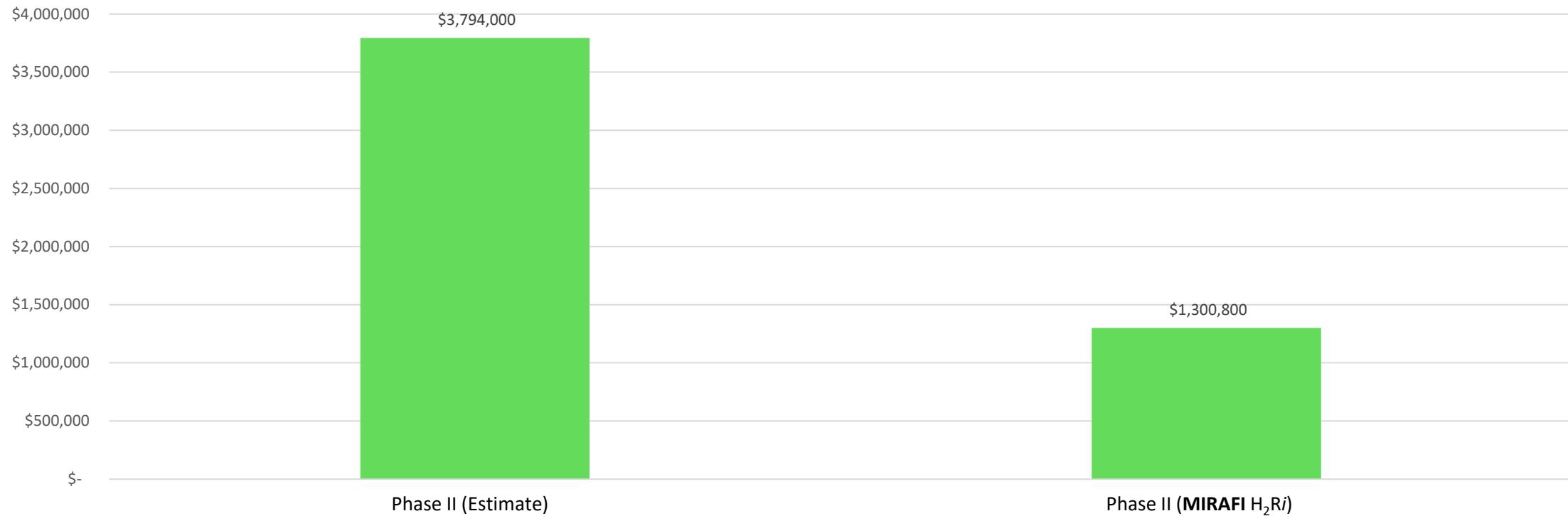


Dalton Highway without **MIRAFI** H_2Ri , June 2013



Dalton Highway with **MIRAFI H₂Ri**, June 2013

Dalton highway MP197-209 rehabilitation project



Total savings was \$2.5 million in construction costs alone

MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

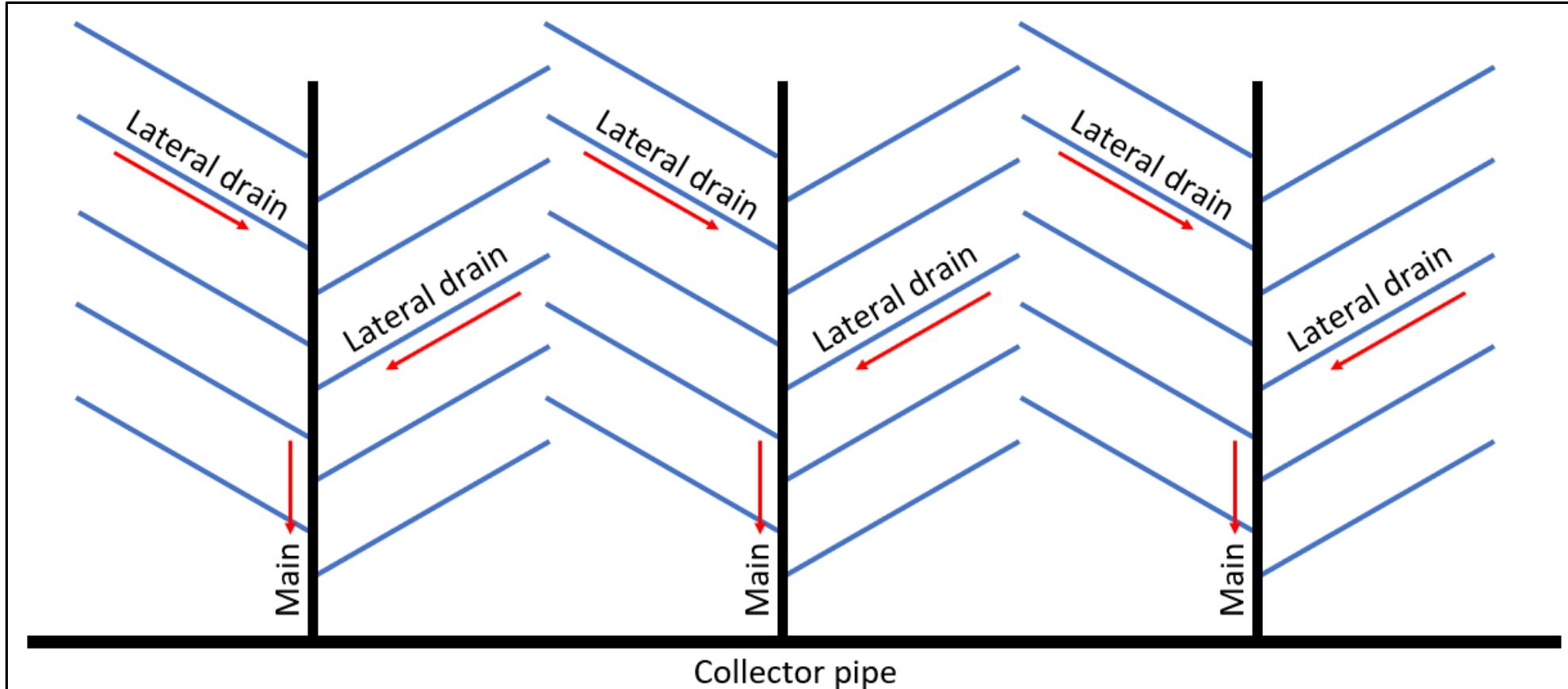
Port Improvements Project

- 72-acre Container Yard (~ 350,000 yd²)
- Reconfigure layout to add capacity
- Tear out and replace pavement and rail (in 4 phases over 3 years)
- High water table, concern with water intruding into new pavement system
 - Herringbone drainage system beneath the pavement system



MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

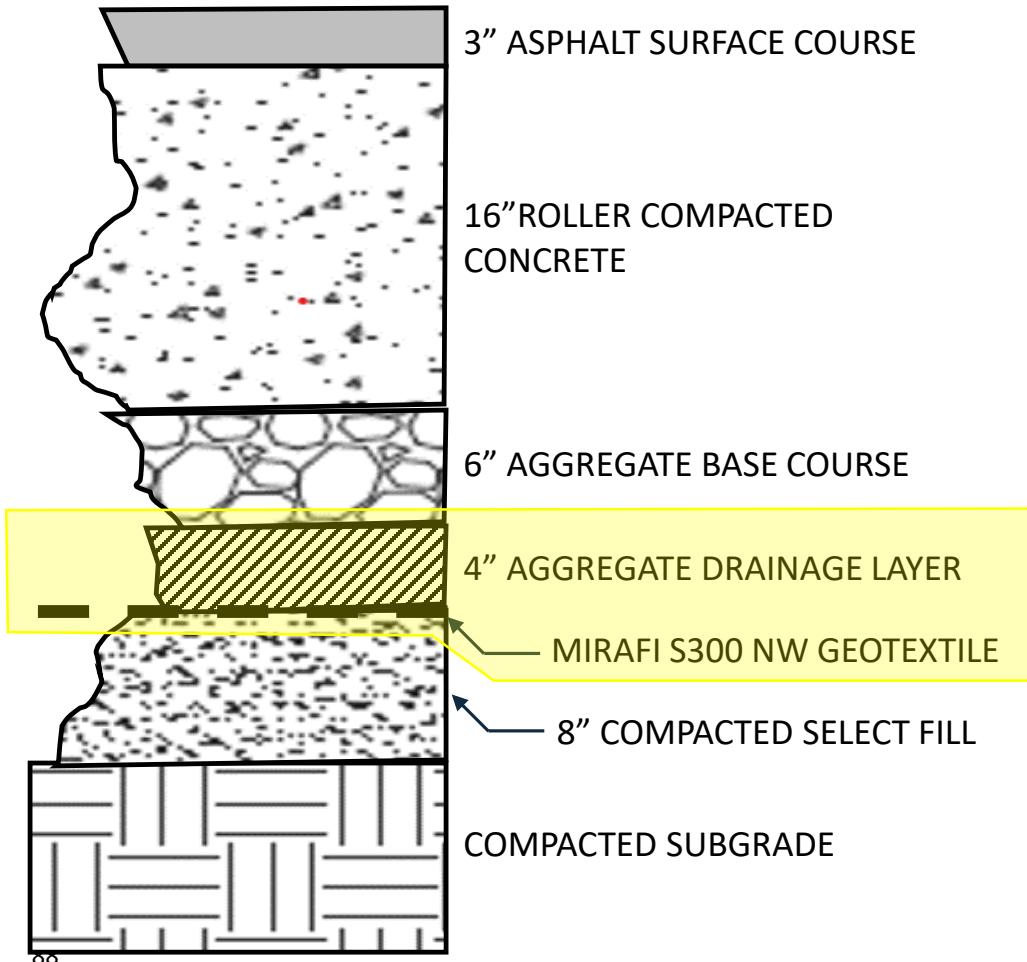
Typical Herringbone Drain Layout – Plan View



Port Project in North America

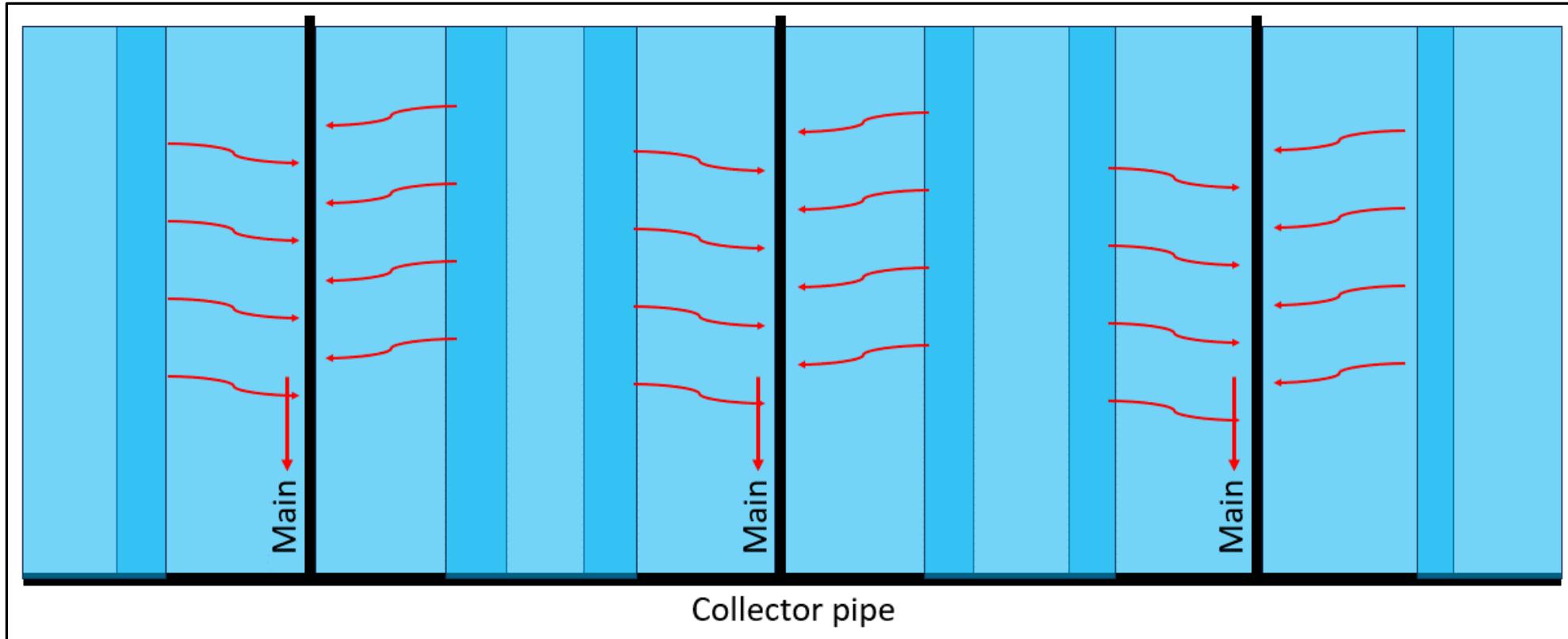
MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

Design Section



MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

MIRAFI H₂Ri Layout – Plan View



MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

Port Improvements Project – Benefits of the MIRAFI H₂Ri Option

- Eliminated the 4-inch aggregate drainage layer
 - 77,364 tons aggregate
 - 3,095 truckloads of aggregate (25 tons per truck)
- Non-performed the nonwoven geotextile separation fabric
- Eliminated the lateral drains of the herringbone system
 - Trench excavation, aggregate and pipe

MIRAFI H₂Ri – Value Engineering Example

Benefits of the **MIRAFI H₂Ri** Option...



Less Cost



Reduced Carbon Footprint



Faster Construction



More Sustainable Solution



Less Natural Resources



Increased Safety

Madison Ave SE & Fulton St. Reconstruction (2015)

CSO 21 & CSO 22 Projects Grand Rapids, MI



THE PROBLEM

- Fluctuating ground water causing water issues with pavement and adjacent buildings.



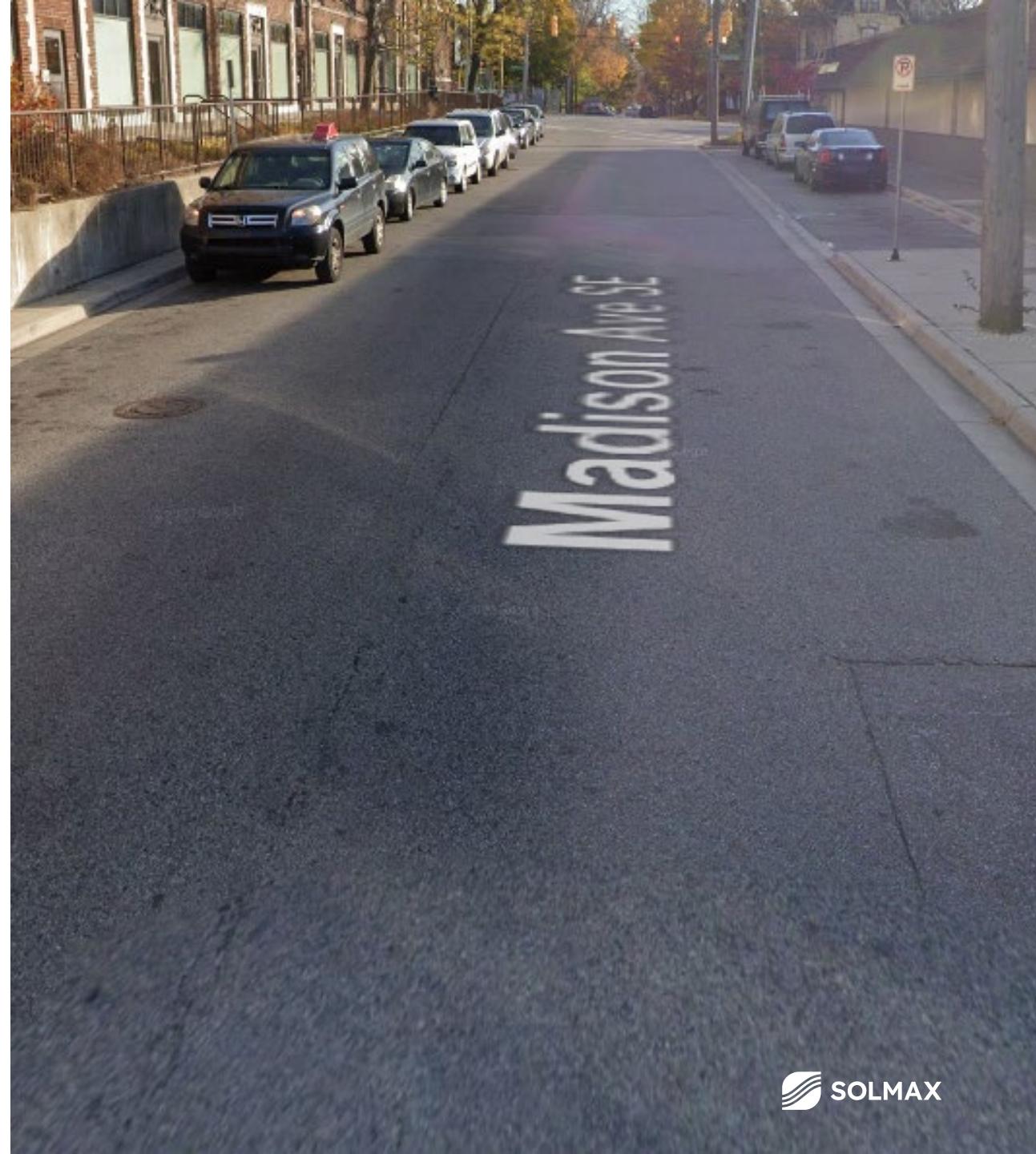
THE SOLUTION

- Engineered Reinforcement & Moisture Management Geotextile, [MIRAFI H₂Ri](#)



BENEFITS

- Reduced pavement cross section while maintaining desired structural performance (SN = 4.24)
- Provides continuous active moisture management system beneath pavement section.
- Provides more resilient infrastructure



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LRE Asphalt Parking Lot (2023)

LRE Engineers & Surveyors Walker, MI



THE PROBLEM

- Changes in subgrade moisture led to increased settlement, heaving, cracking and deterioration of the asphalt parking lot.



THE SOLUTION

- **Engineered Reinforcement & Active Moisture Management Geotextile, MIRAFI H₂Ri** was used in the reconstructed pavement section.



BENEFITS

- **Reinforced** aggregate base course of the flexible pavement section to extend service life.
- **Active Moisture Management** technology to continuously remove excess water and minimize impact of moisture on the pavement system.
- Provides **more resilient infrastructure**



LRE

LRE

LRE
LÉGÈRE & RÉTROUVÉE



100th Street SE – Reconstruction (August 2022)

Kent County Road Commission

Kent County, MI



THE PROBLEM

- Excess water in subgrade.
- Perpetual freeze-thaw issues.



THE SOLUTION

- **Engineered Reinforcement & Active Moisture Management** Geotextile was used in the reconstructed pavement section.



BENEFITS

- **Reinforced** aggregate base course of the flexible pavement section to extend service life.
- **Active Moisture Management** technology to continuously remove excess water and minimize impact of moisture on the pavement system.
- Provides **more resilient infrastructure**



100th Street

Kent C



Key takeaways

- ASCE Report Card on roads: **D+**
- TRB & FHWA agree on issues
 - Intrusion of fines
 - Excessive loads
 - Moisture
- **MIRAFI H₂Ri** addresses these issues
- Real-world applications
- Cost savings
- **InfraSolve** design tool



**Infrastructure is built to last.
Your designs should be, too.**

**Reach out today, and let's start building
smarter, stronger, and more resilient roads.**

“Nothing changes if nothing changes.”

- Said someone

Thank you

Questions?

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