



# Michigan CEW 2026 MIRAFI<sup>®</sup> H<sub>2</sub>Ri

The Road to 100-Year Pavement  
Foundations

3 February 2026  
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**#WEARESOLMAX**

**ONE COMPANY.  
UNPARALLELED SOLUTIONS.**

My email...



@solmax.com

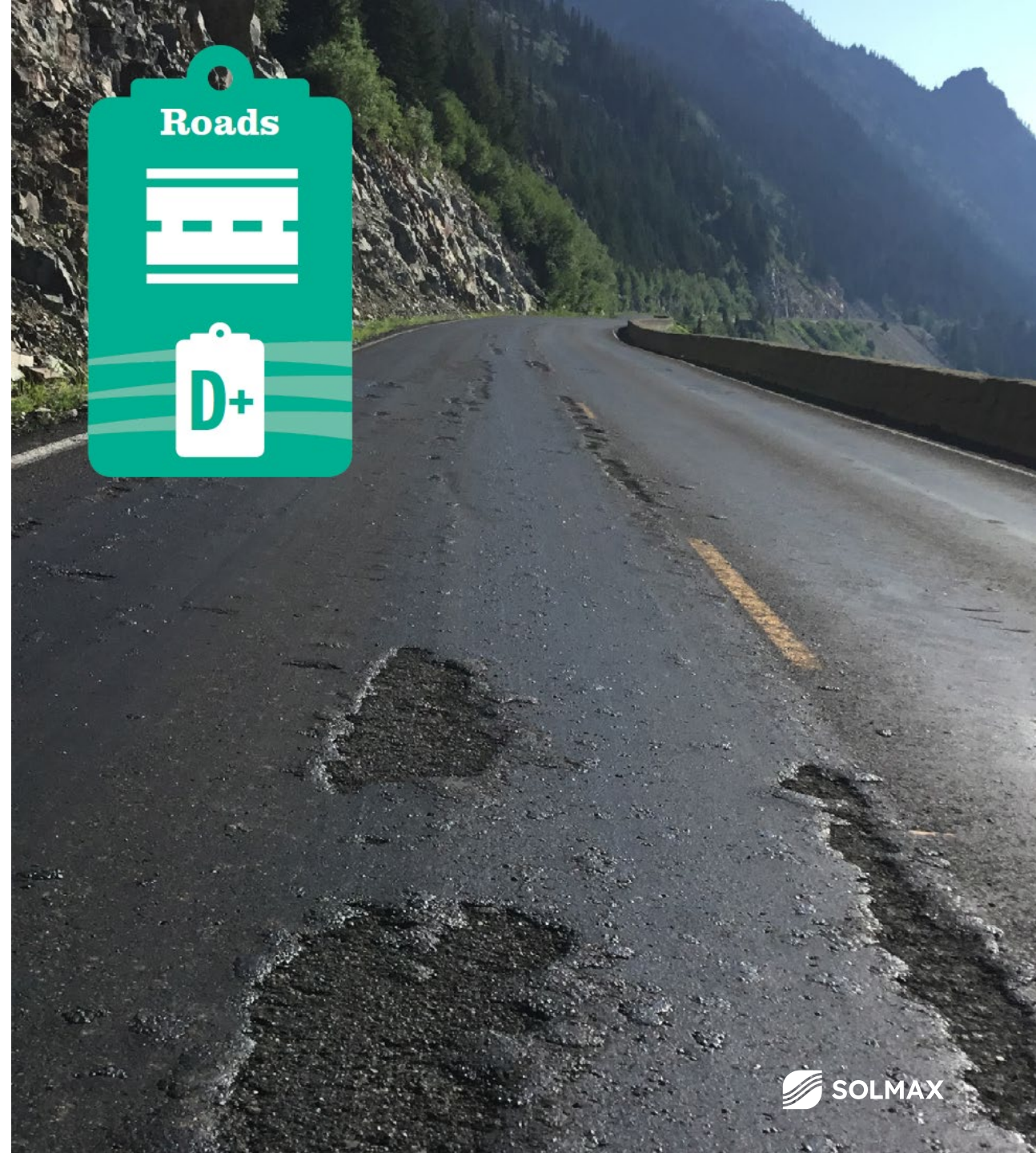
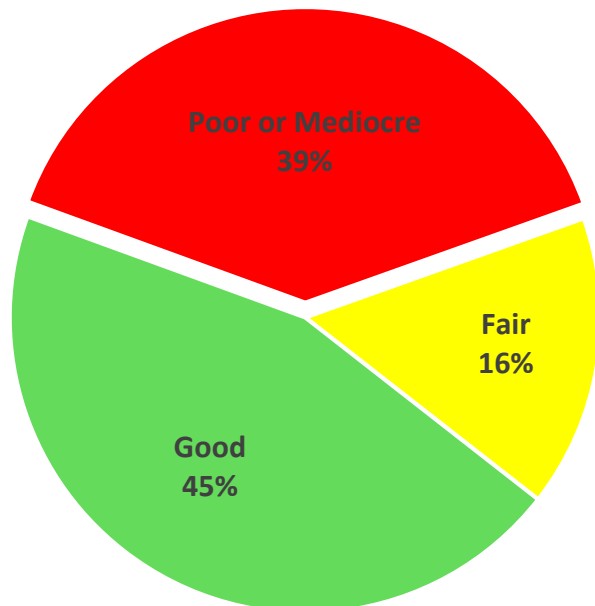
**Our roads...  
Where are we today?**

2025

# ASCE Report Card on Roads

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

Major Roads



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 H<sub>2</sub>Ri

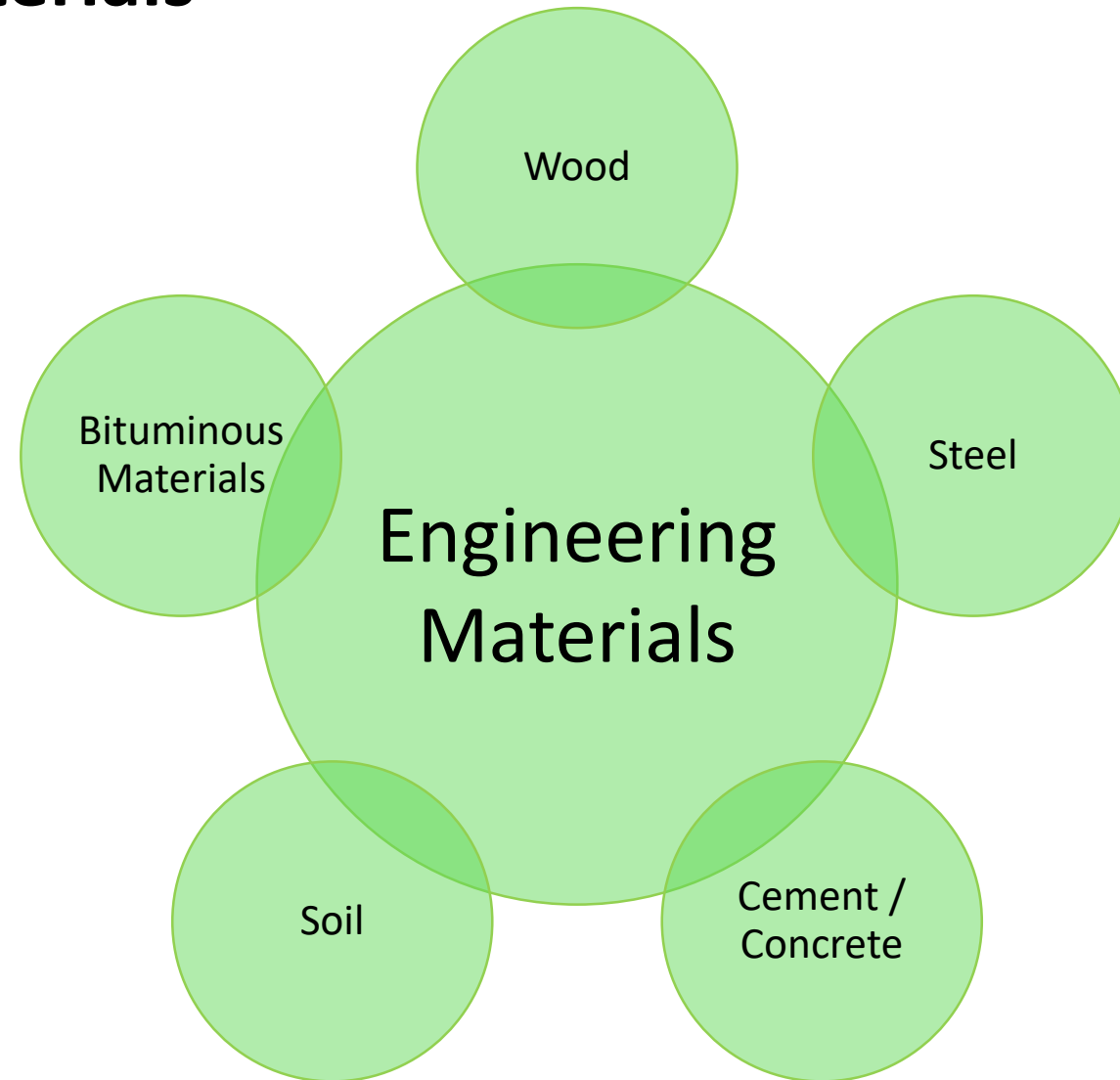
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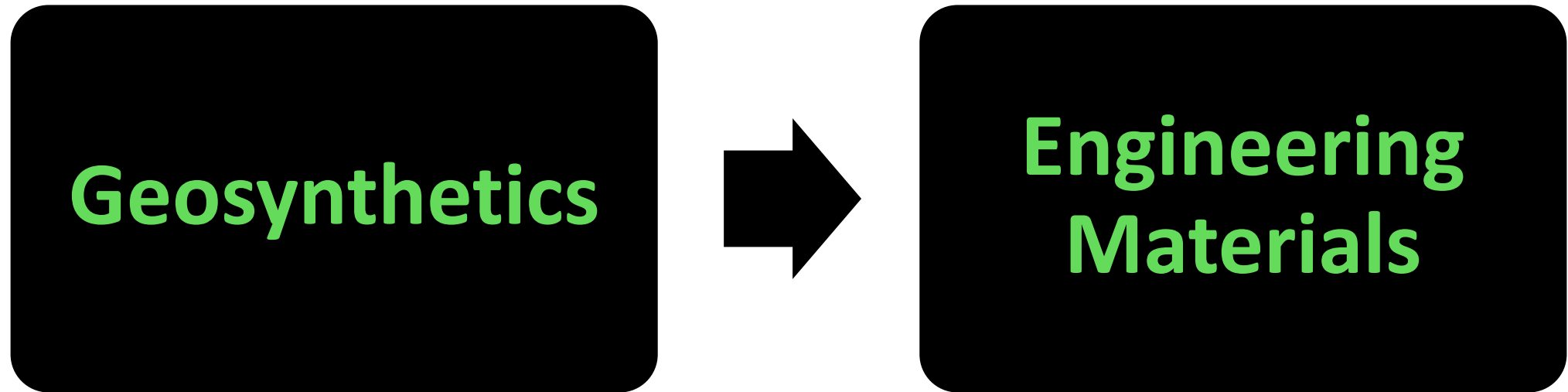
# Geosynthetics...

# Engineering Materials

# Engineering Materials

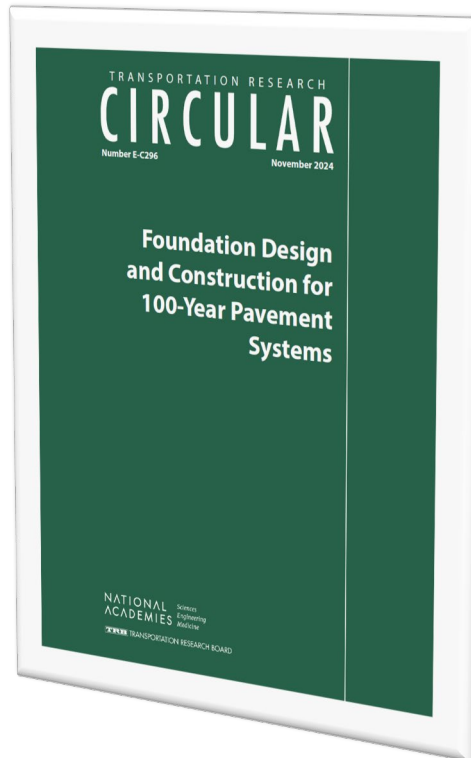


# Engineering Materials

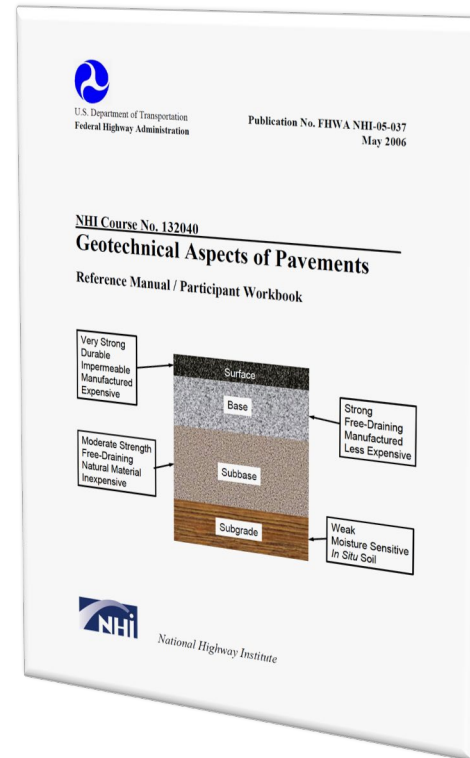


# Let's focus on three documents

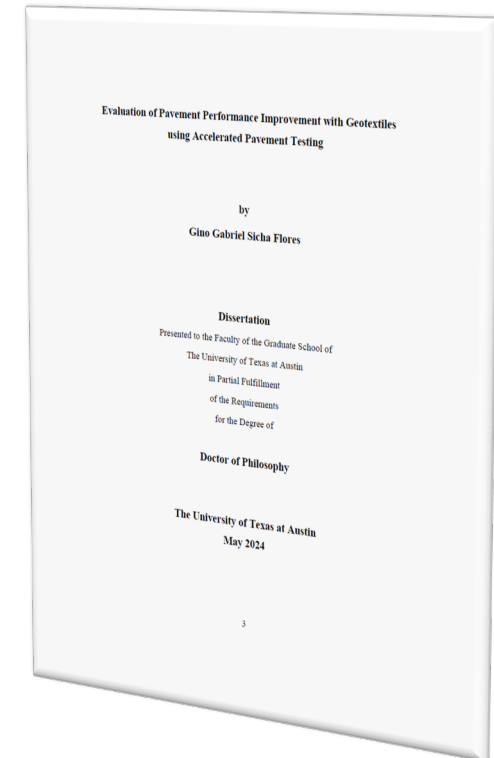
## Transportation Research Board Circular



## 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*  
 TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

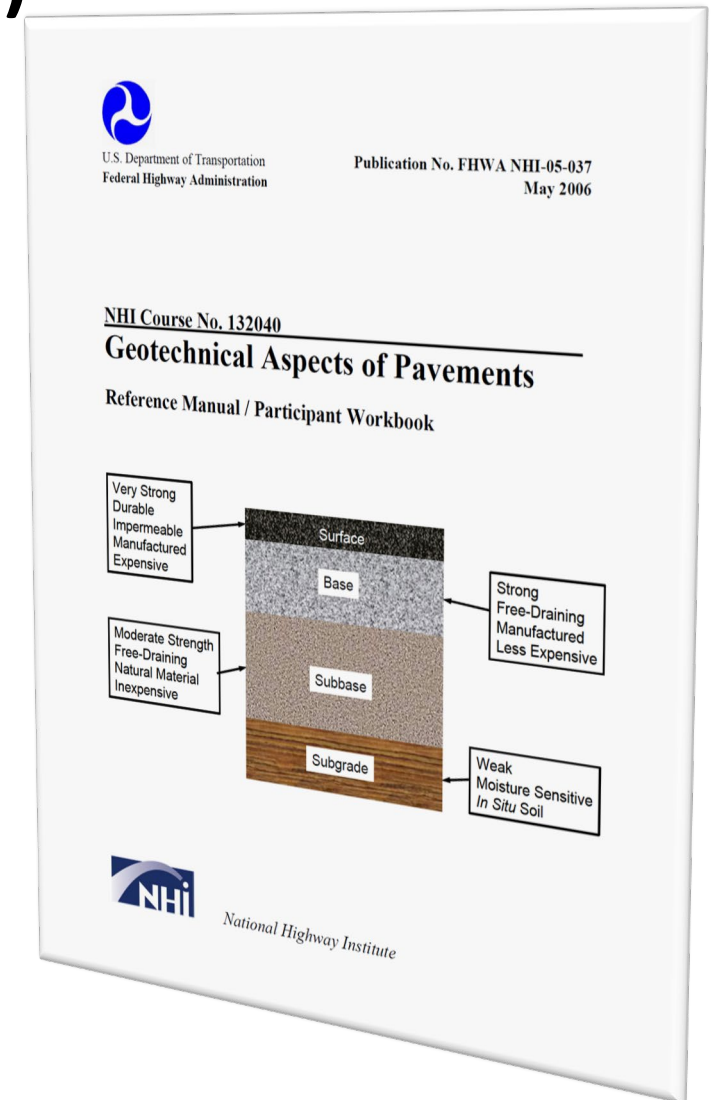
# Key recommendations to attain a 100-year pavement foundation

- 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)

*“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				✓			✓

# Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

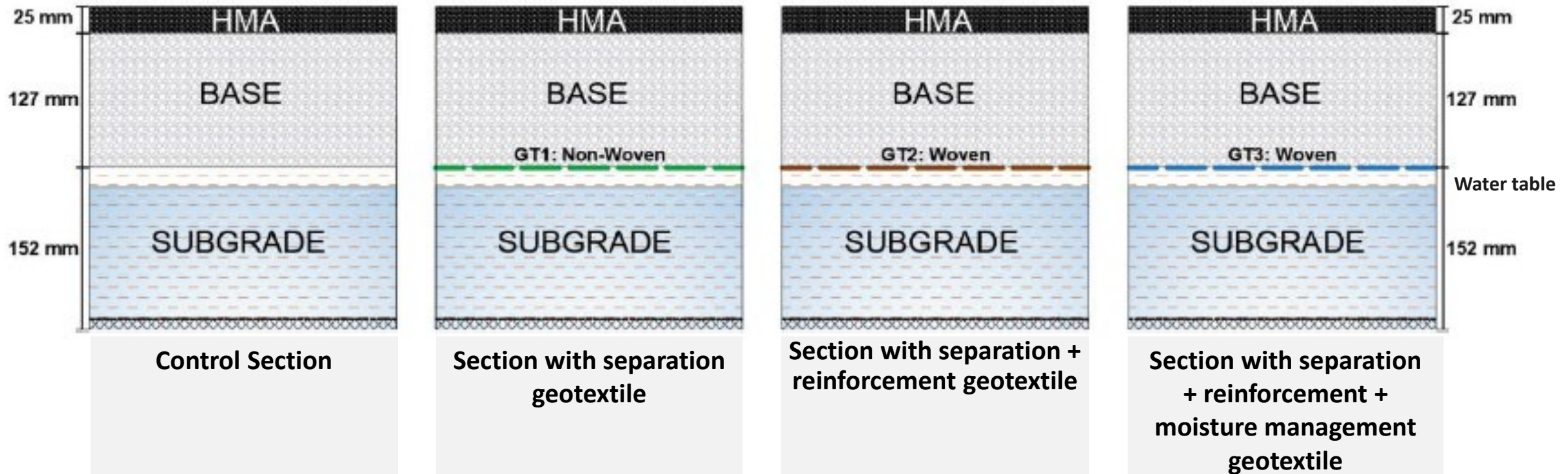
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Swelling				✓			✓

	Separation
	Reinforcement
	Moisture management

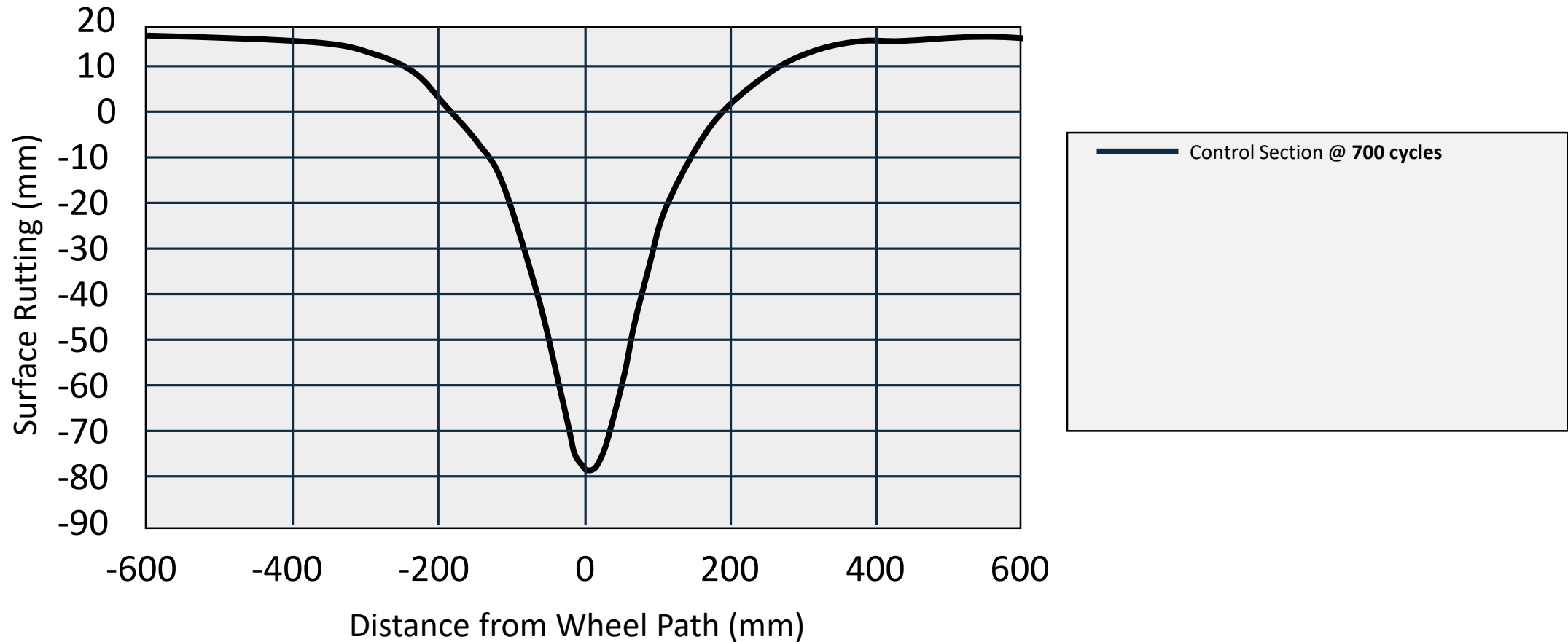


Road to 100-year pavement foundation

# Evaluation of Pavement Performance Improvement with Geotextiles Using Accelerated Pavement Testing



# University of Texas at Austin – Accelerated pavement testing



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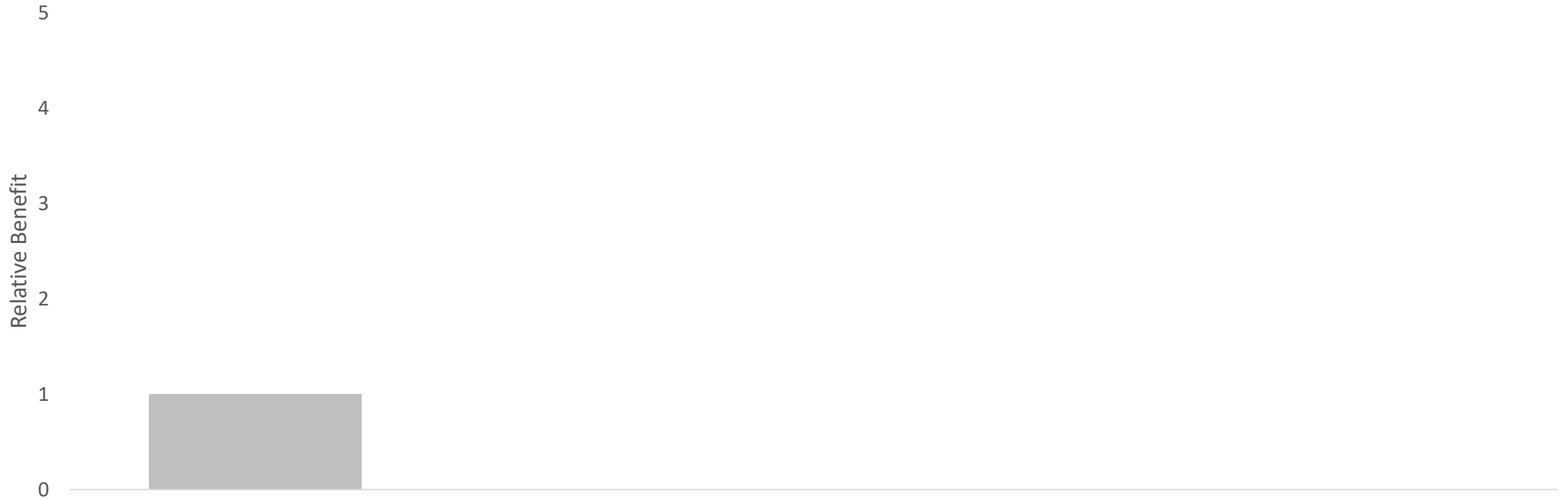
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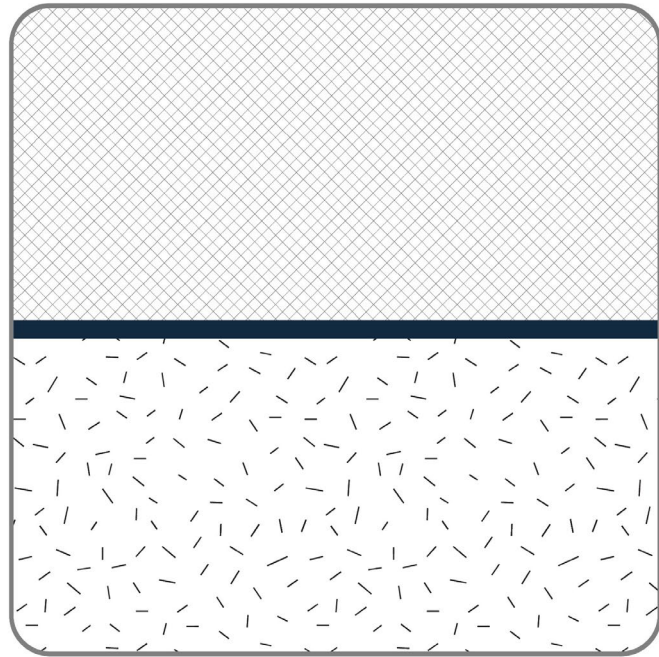


Status Quo

Road to 100-year pavement foundation

# Compounding function benefit to roadways



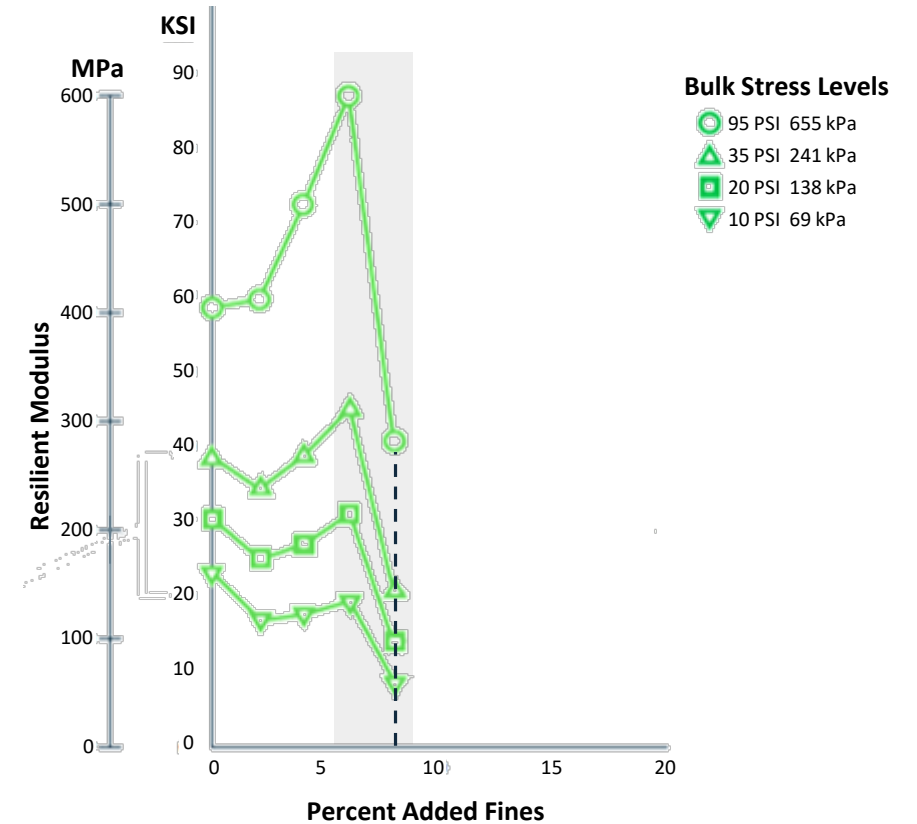


**SEPARATION**

# The importance of separation in roadways



Gravel road without separation geotextile



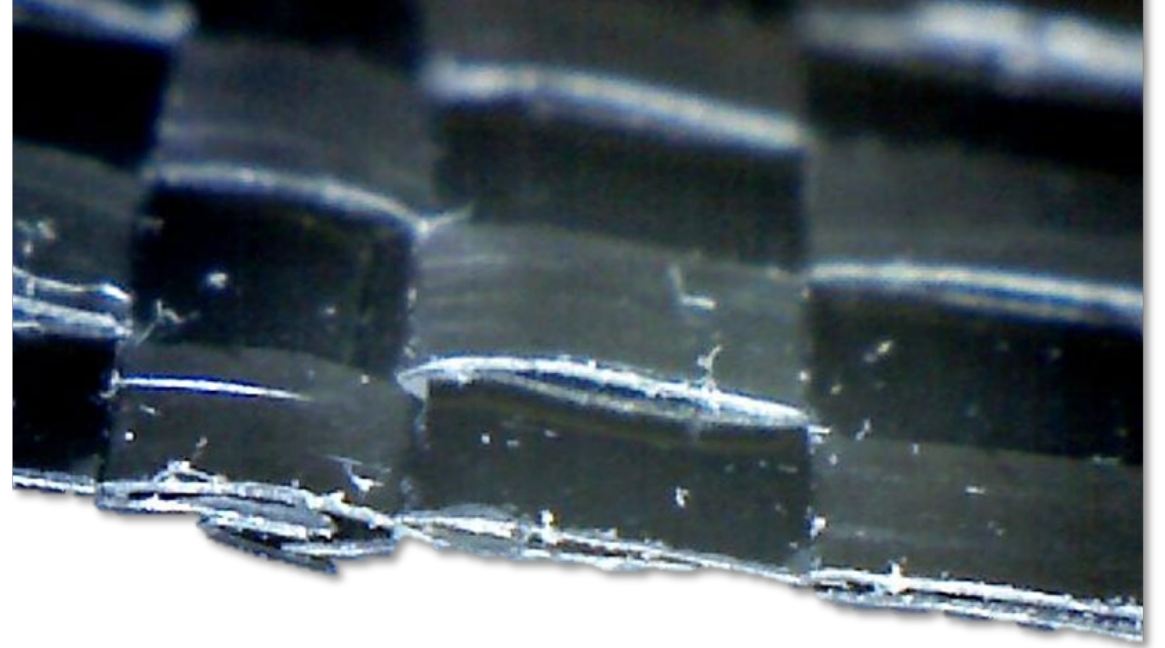
**Less than 10% fines contamination** of the unbound aggregate base can **lower its effective strength by as much as 50%**

-Jorenby & Hicks (1986)-

# Not all separation geotextiles are created the same



**Nonwoven geotextile**



**Slit tape geotextile**

# Slit tapes have poor water flow characteristics

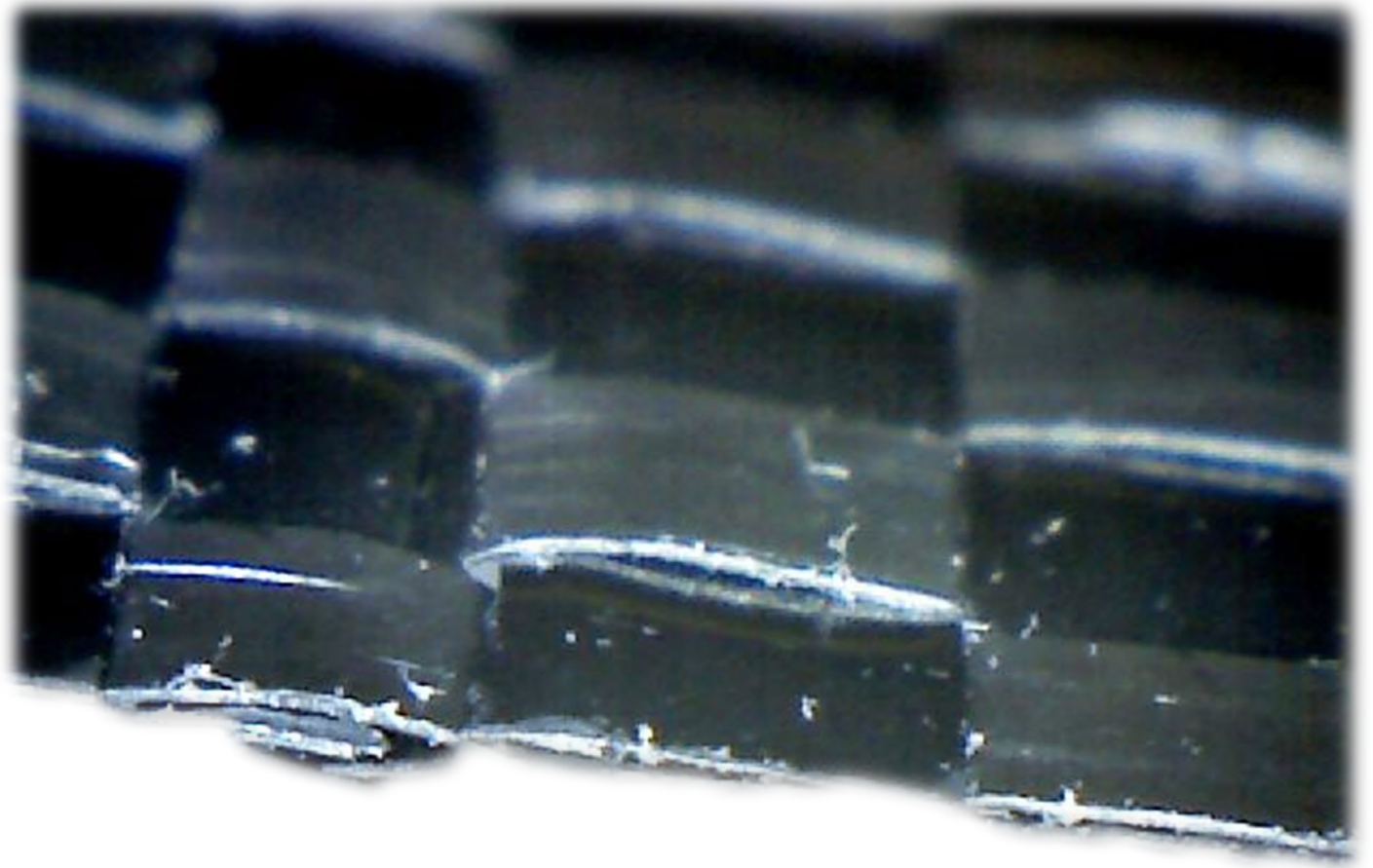


# MDOT Geotextile Specification

**MDOT Section 910**

**Table 910-1**

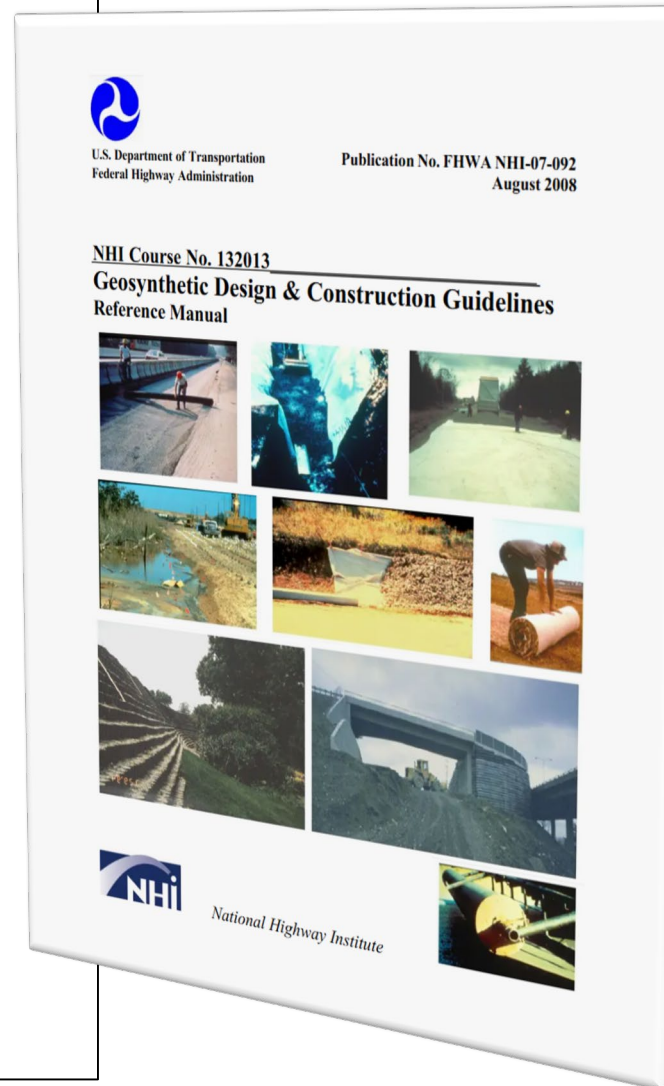
Woven Geotextile Separator  
and  
Stabilization Geotextile



# Geosynthetic Design & Construction Guidelines (2008)

**Table 5-3**  
**Geotextile Property Requirements<sup>1,2,3</sup>**  
**for Stabilization Applications (CBR < 3)**  
**(after AASHTO, 2006)**

Property	ASTM Test Method	Units	Requirement	
SURVIVABILITY			Geotextile Class 1 <sup>4</sup>	
			Elongation	
			< 50% <sup>5</sup>	> 50% <sup>5</sup>
Grab Strength	D 4632	lb (N)	315 (1400)	200 (900)
Sewn Seam Strength <sup>6</sup>	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 <sup>7</sup>				
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	
Permittivity	D 4491	sec <sup>-1</sup>	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>i.e.</i> , 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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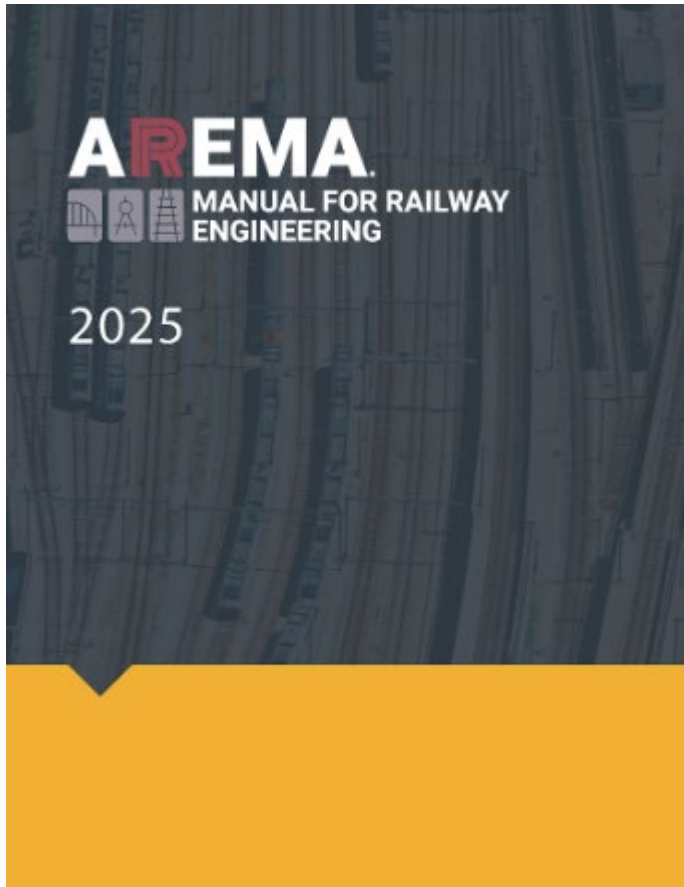
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# AREMA Manual for Railway Engineering 2025



## Volume 1 – Track

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

***Does not allow slit film geotextiles!***

20 State DOTs...and counting

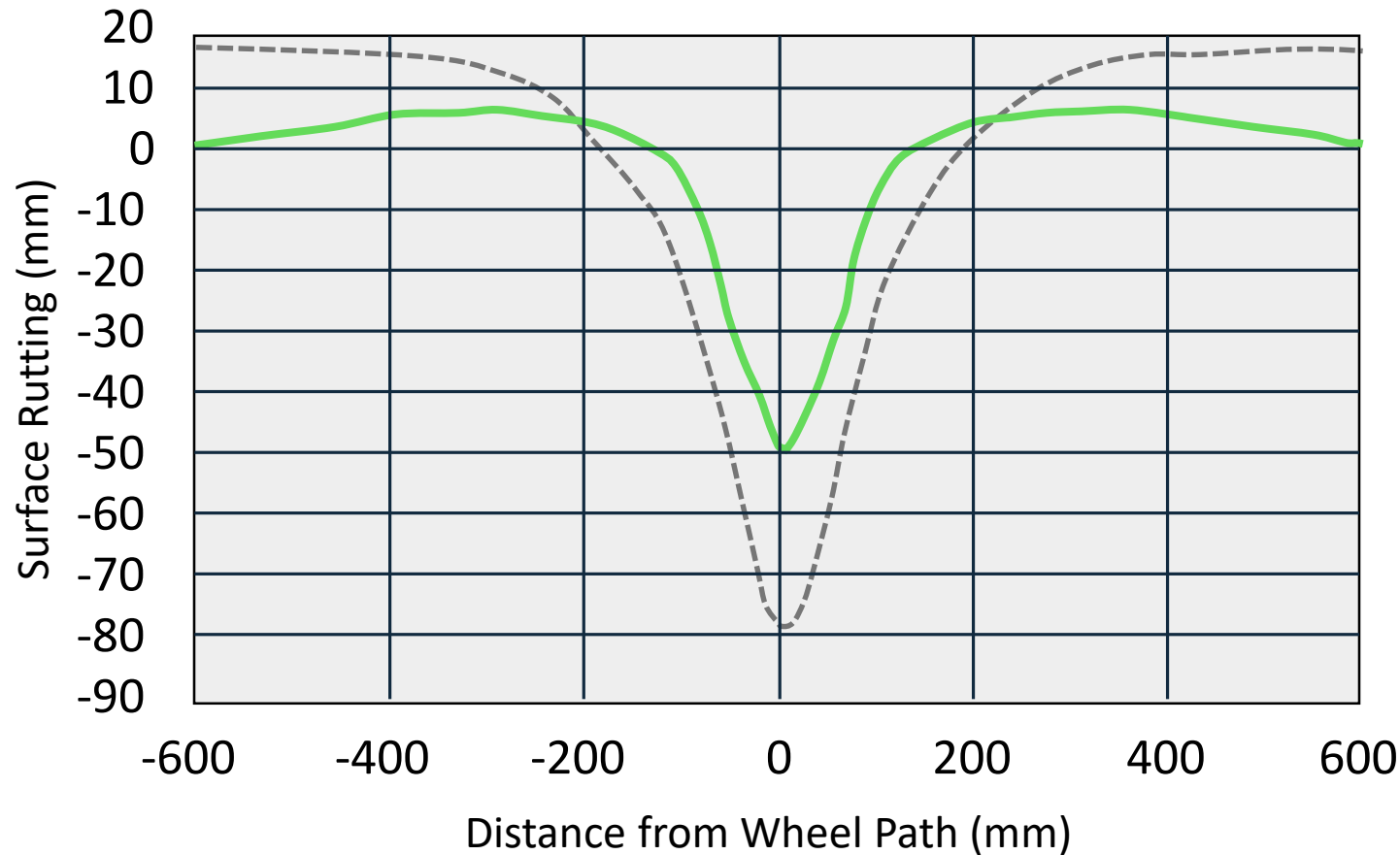
## US State DOTs that DOT ALLOW Slit Tape Geotextiles

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



## MIRAFI N-Series

# 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

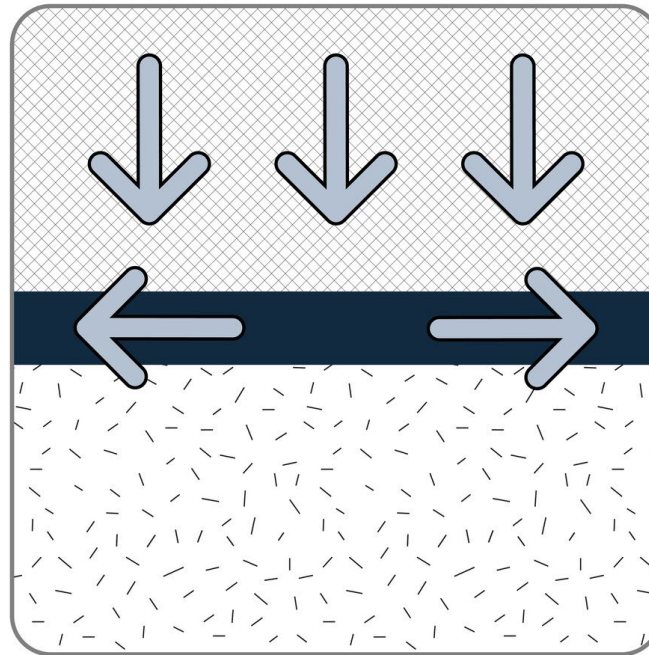
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Swelling				✓			✓

	Separation
	Reinforcement
	Moisture management

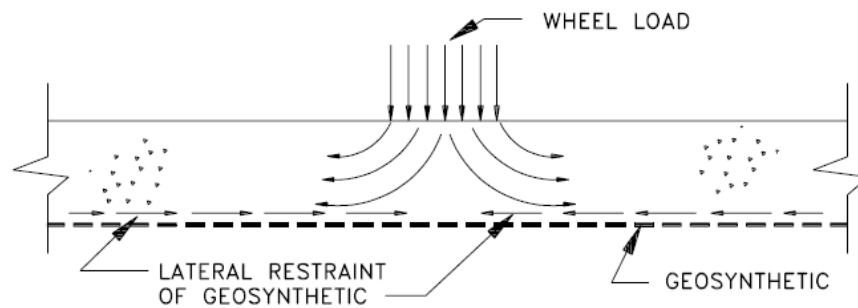


Road to 100-year pavement foundation

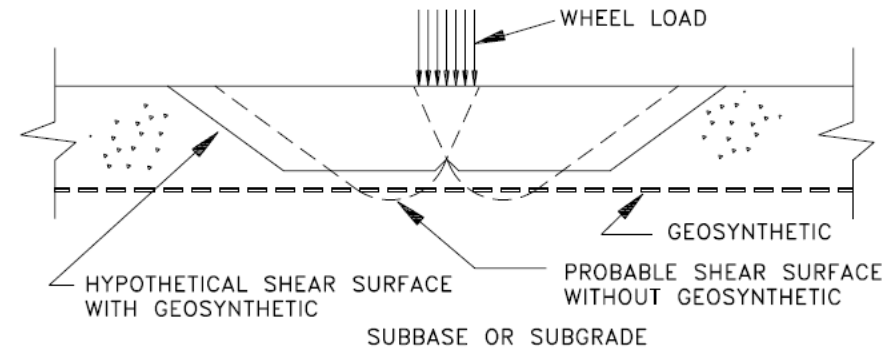


**REINFORCEMENT**

# 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**

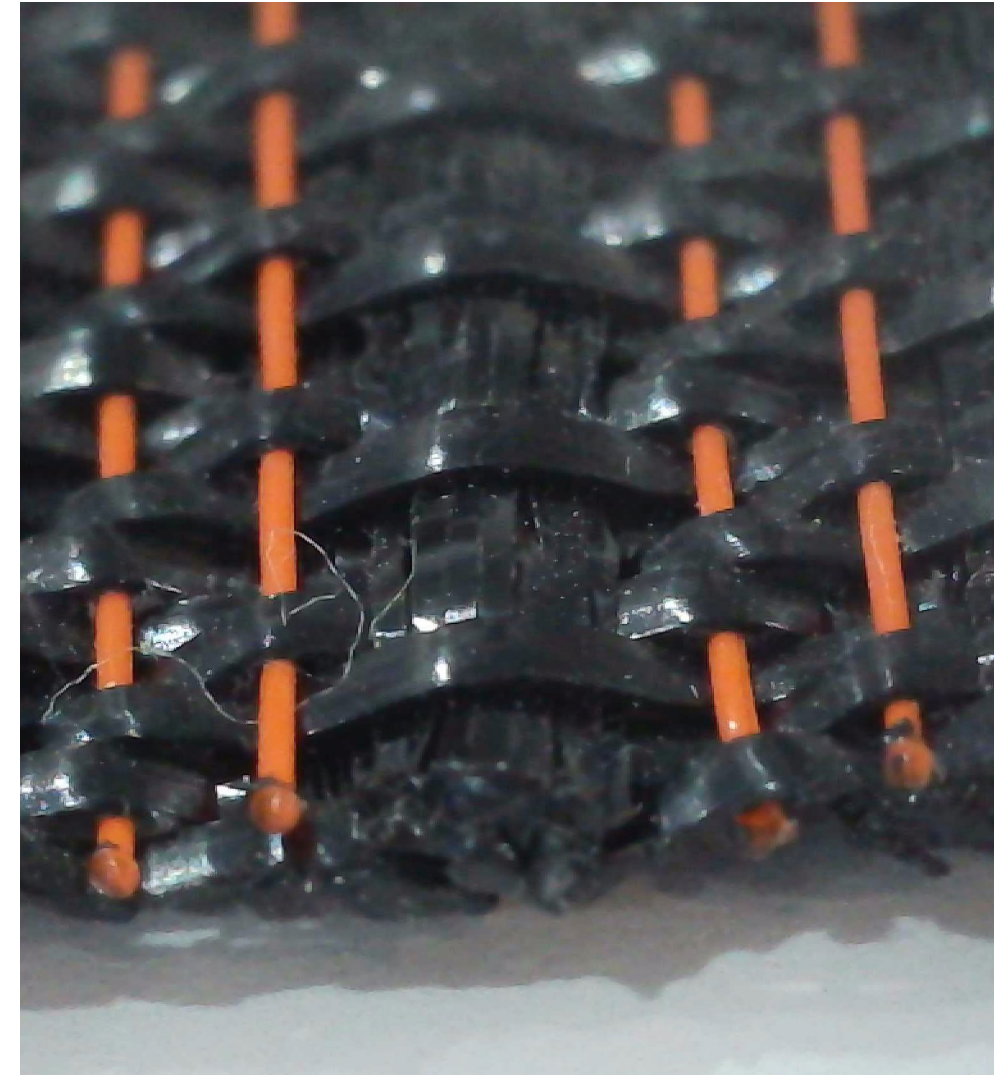
# What is the MIRAfi RSi-Series?

*High modulus  
woven geotextile*

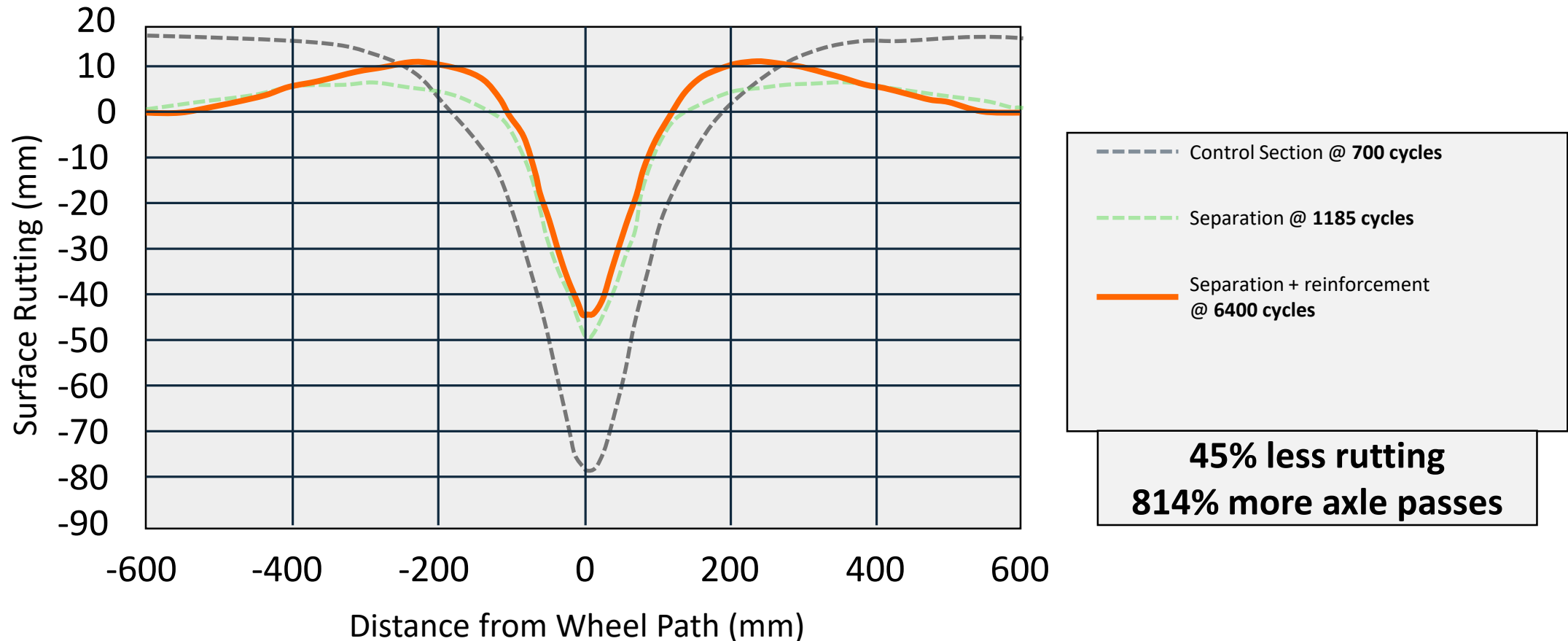
*Higher water flow*

*Better separation  
& confinement*

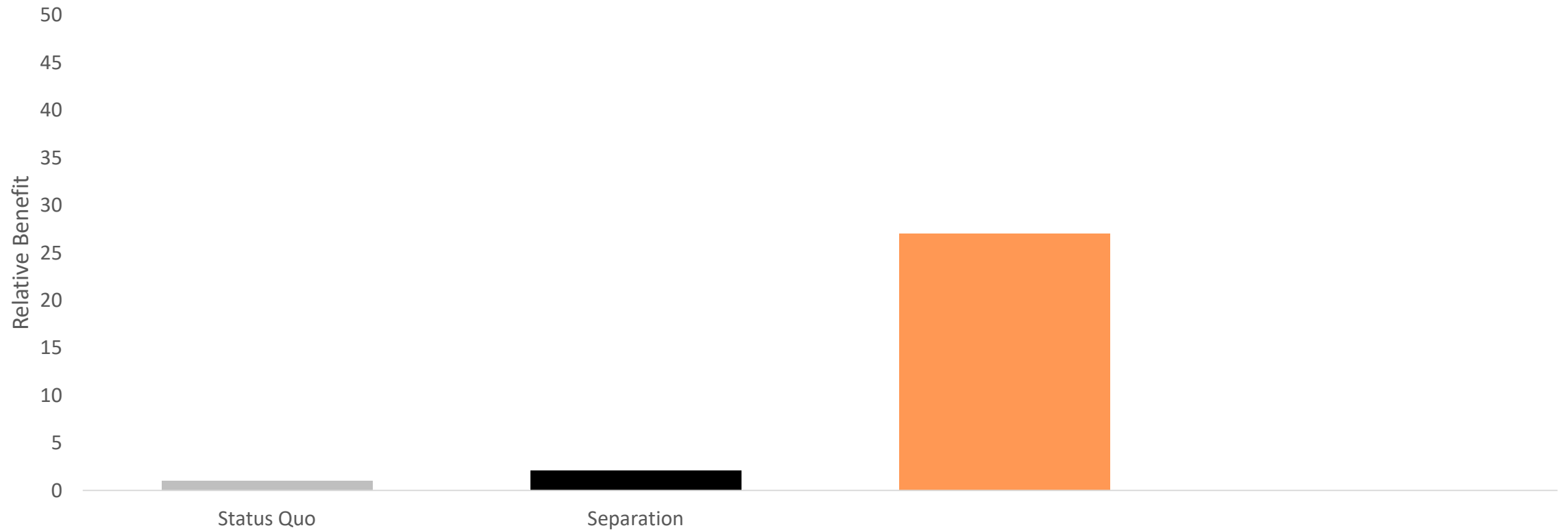
*MIRAfi RS580i was  
best performing  
geosynthetic in the  
“Montana State  
Report”*



# 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

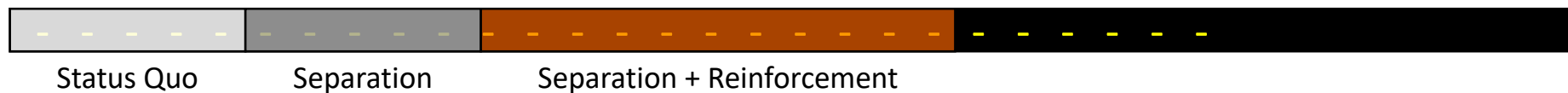
NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES Sciences  
Engineering  
Medicine

**TRB** TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

# Geotechnical influences on major distresses in flexible pavements

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Moisture/Drainage Problems	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Freeze/Thaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swelling				✓			✓

	Separation
	Reinforcement
	Moisture management

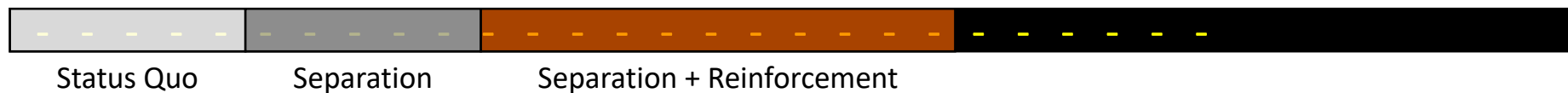


Road to 100-year pavement foundation

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	Separation
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Swelling				✓			✓

Separation

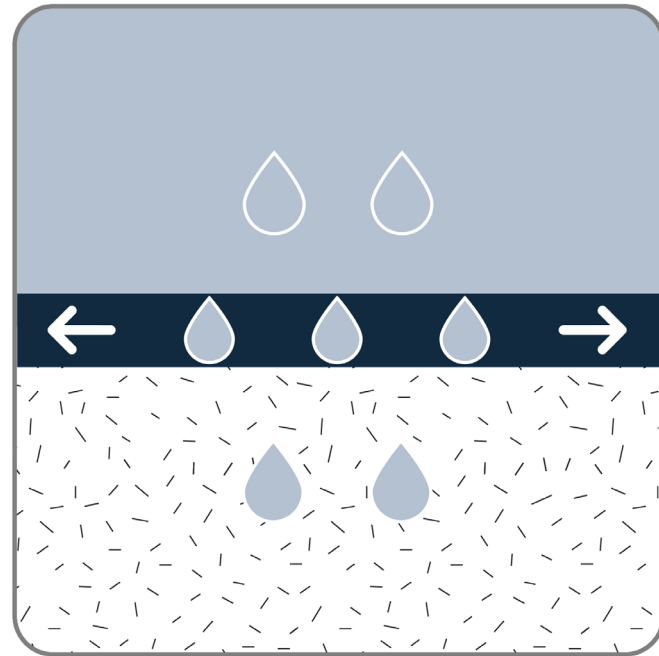
Reinforcement

Moisture management



Status Quo      Separation      Separation + Reinforcement

Road to 100-year pavement foundation

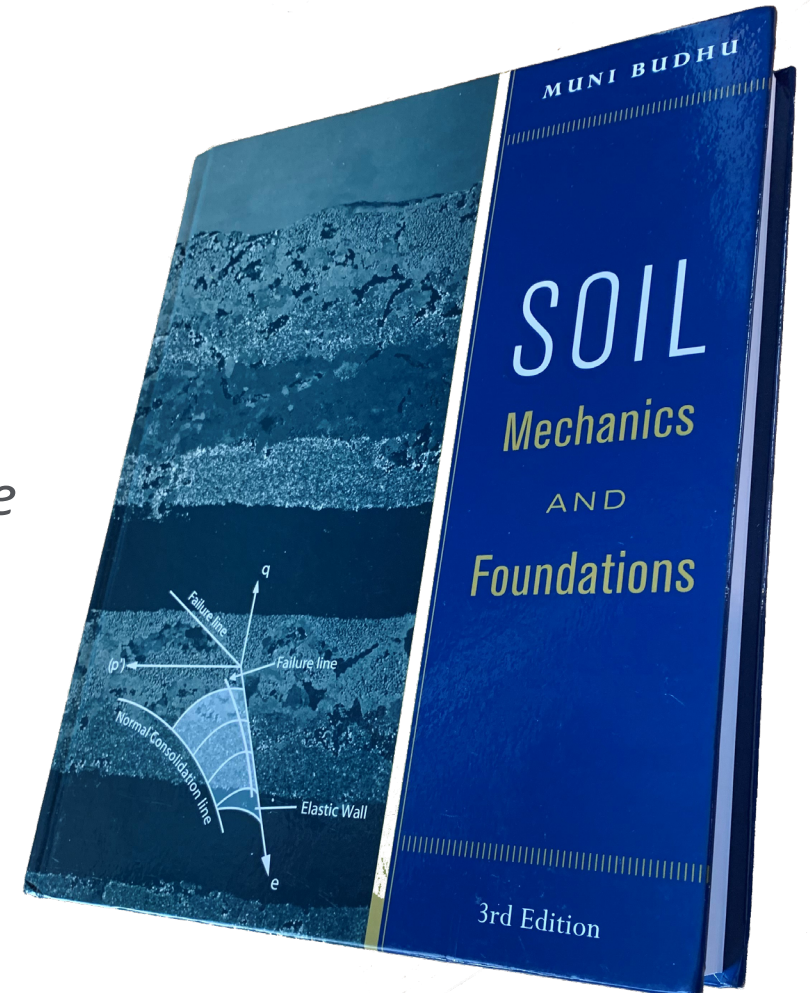


## **MOISTURE MANAGEMENT**

According to Budhu (2008)

## Moisture in the subgrade

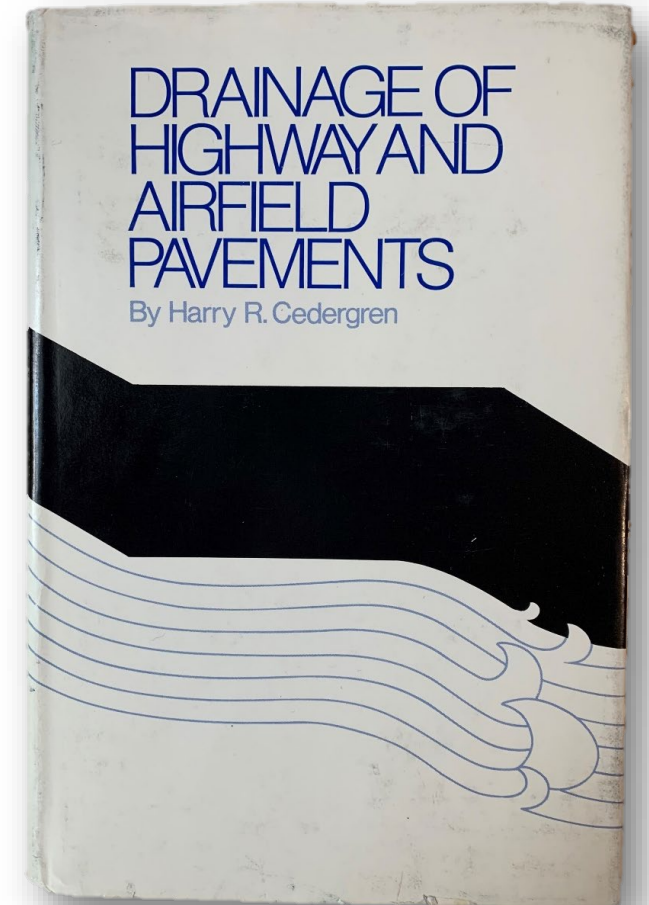
*The undrained shear strength of fine-grained soils can increase about 20% for 1% reduction in the moisture content*



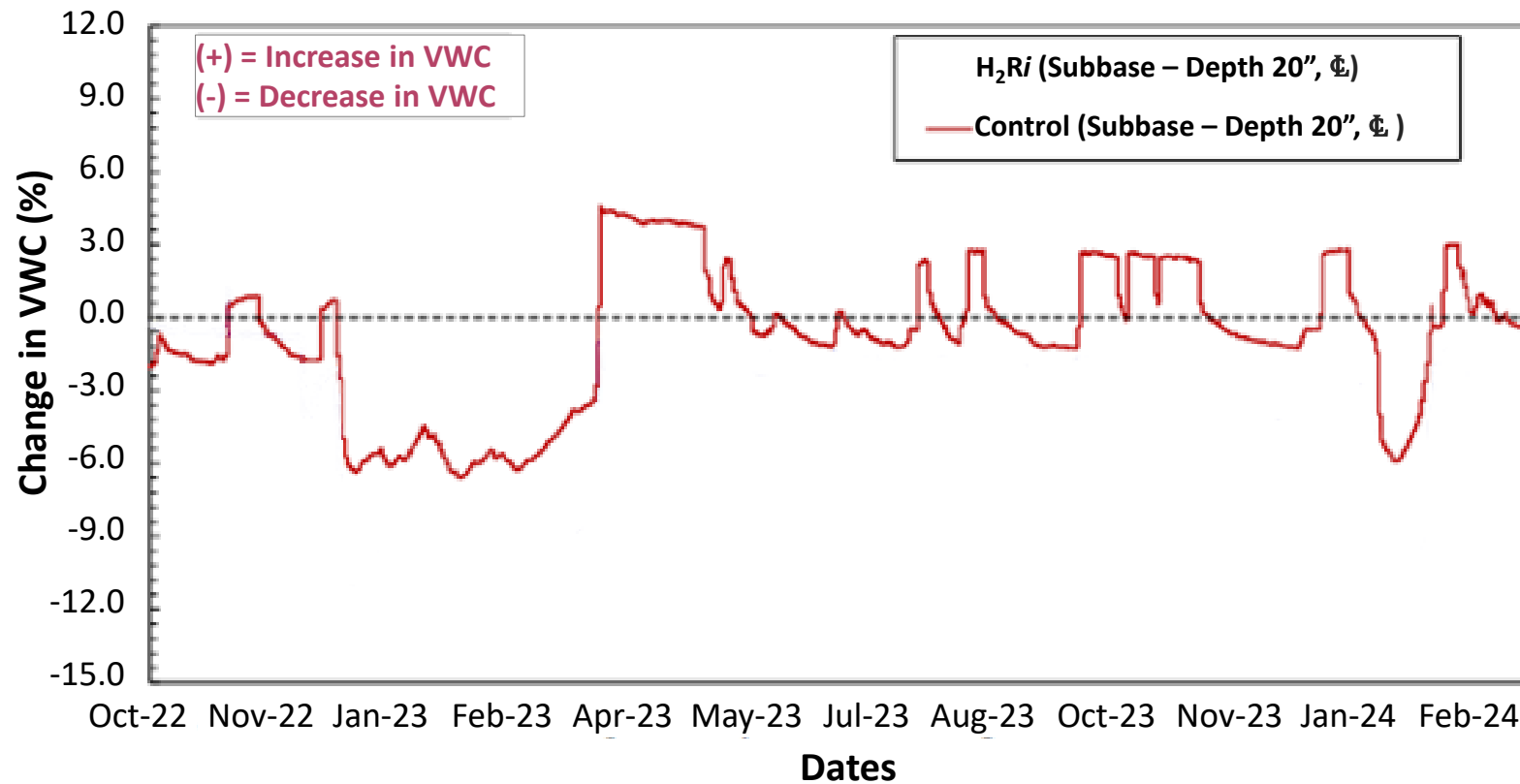
Cedergren (1987)

# Drainage of Highway and Airfield Pavements

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



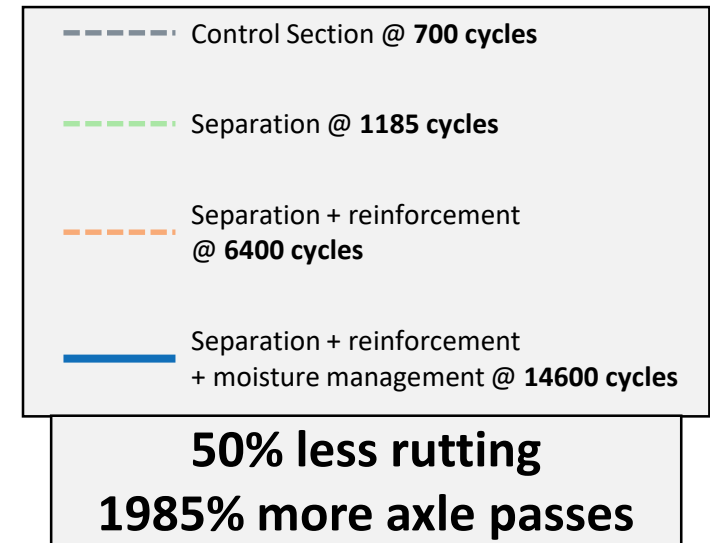
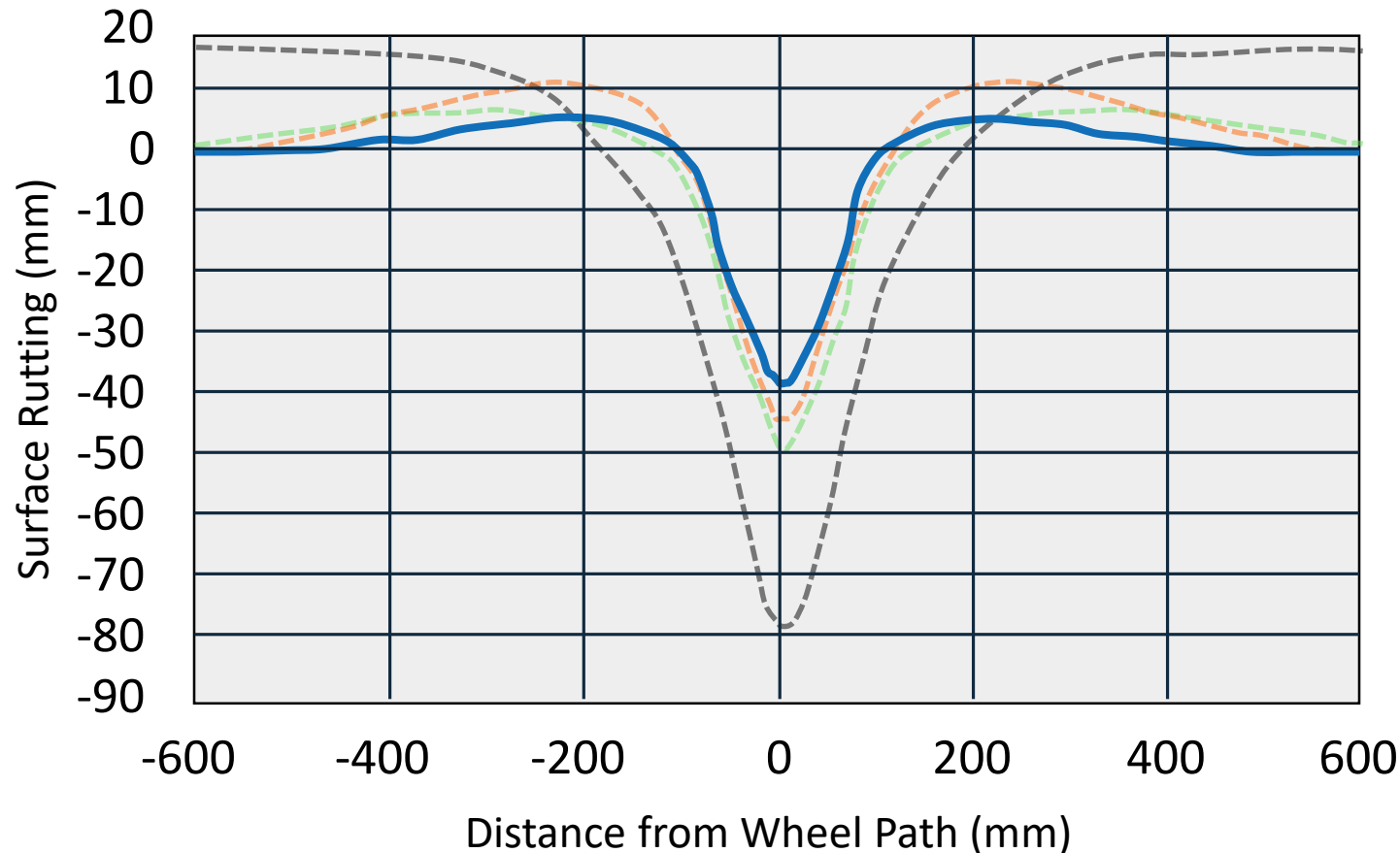
# Volumetric water content comparison in the subbase



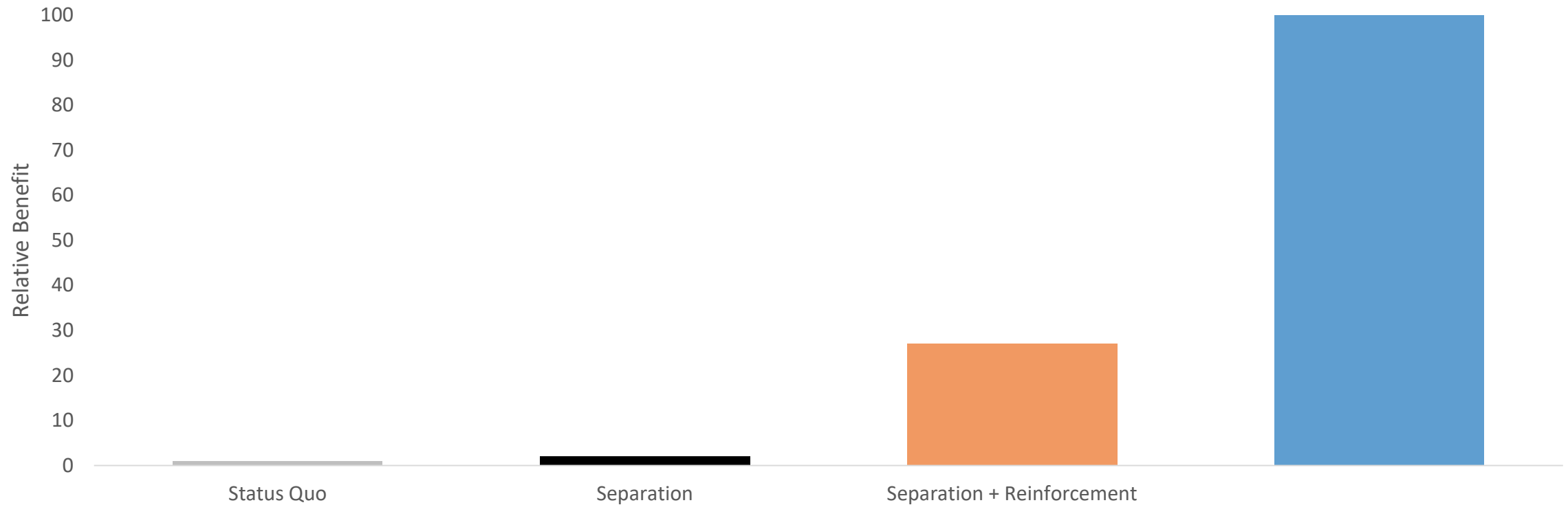


MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

# 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**

## Foundation Design and Construction for 100-Year Pavement Systems

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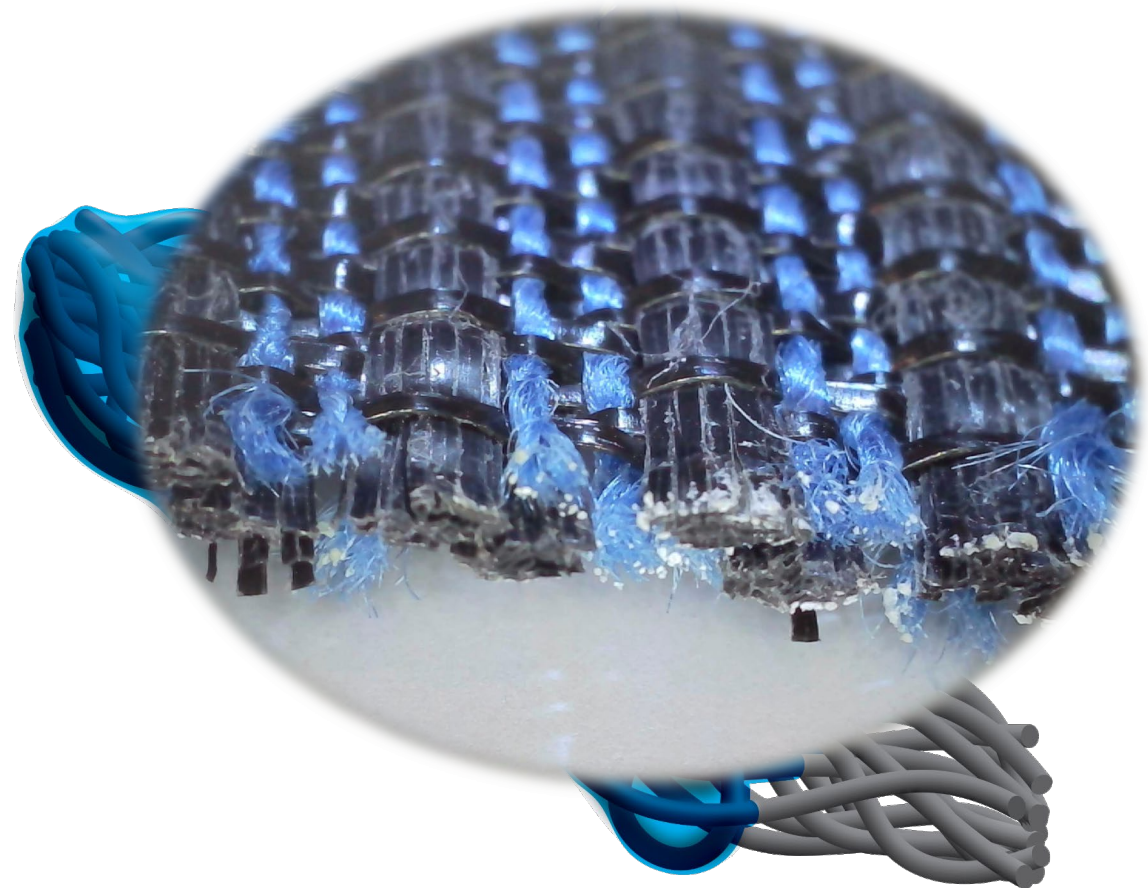
Road to 100-year pavement foundation



The 100-year foundation solution: MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

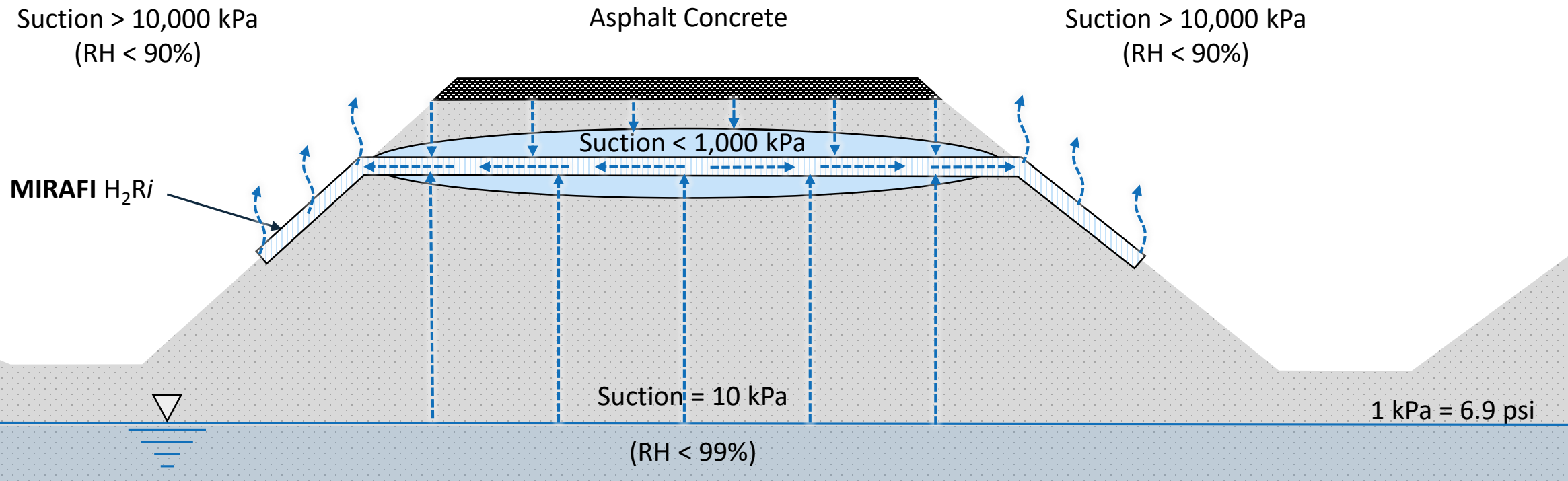
# A pathway for moisture – Wicking filaments

- 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





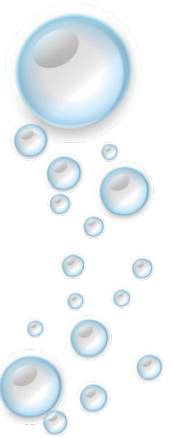
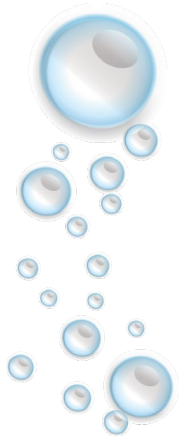
# How is moisture drawn out?





# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri 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 H<sub>2</sub>Ri

## 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

# Three key aspects of MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

## Unsaturated Conditions

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# Three key aspects of MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

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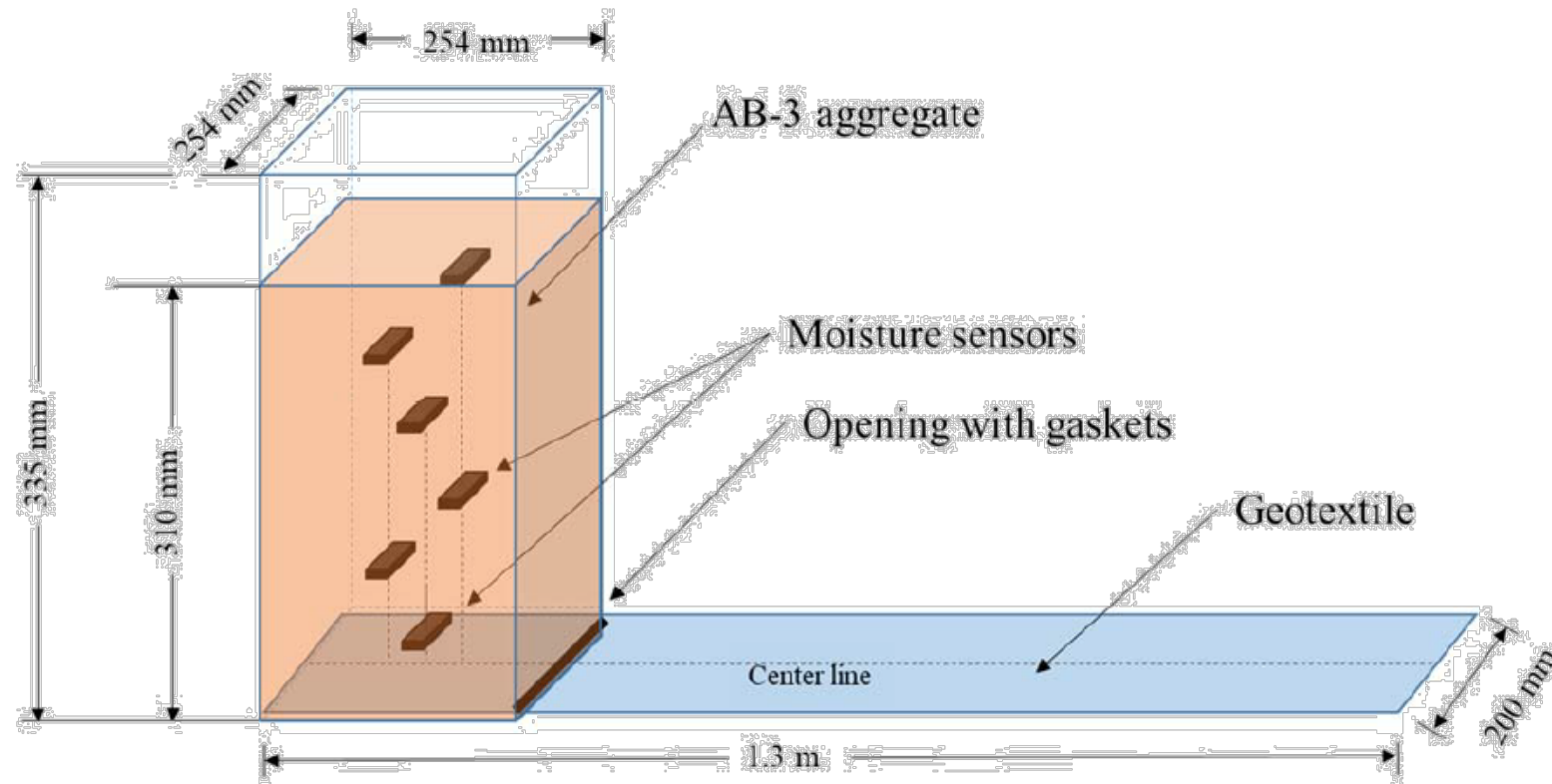
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It has a zone of hydraulic influence within base course & subgrade

## Gradient

It can overcome a negative gradient

# Evaluation and Design of Wicking Geotextile for Pavement Applications



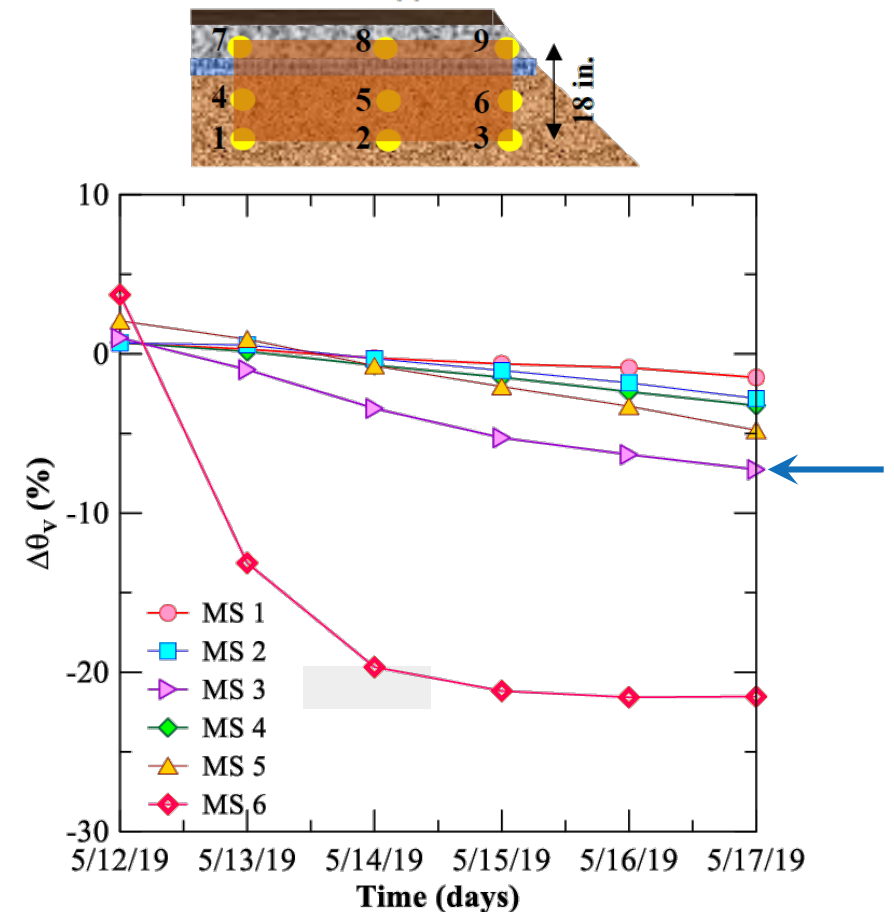
***Zone of influence in base course up to 10"***

## Zone of influence in subgrade soils

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

- Percentage reduction in  $\theta_v$  at different depths
- Remember: CH soil
- MS 3 located 12" below MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

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



# Three key aspects of MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri

## 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

# We've added some wicking yarns to MIRAfi RS380i & RS580i

Managing moisture is **ALWAYS** a good idea

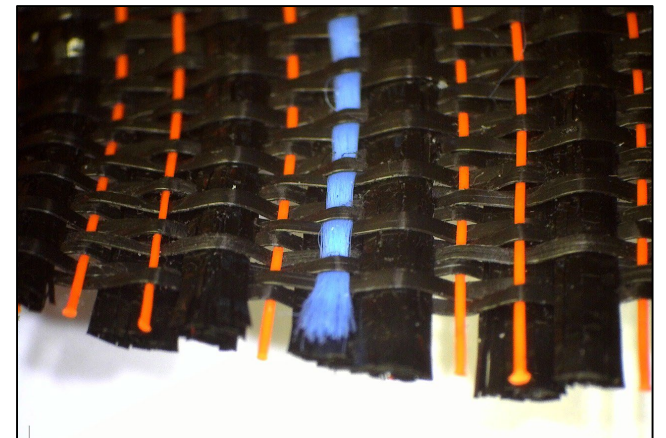
Same mechanical reinforcement

1/10th the wicking of **MIRAfi H<sub>2</sub>Ri**

Provides **Passive Moisture Management**



MIRAfi H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Side View



MIRAfi RS580i – Side View

# Moisture Management: *Active vs Passive*

## ACTIVE

(MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri)

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

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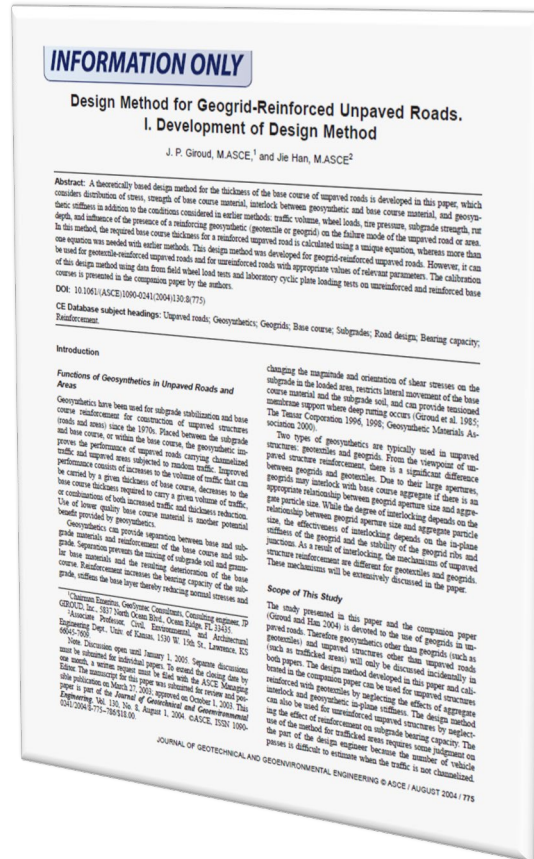
## PASSIVE

(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

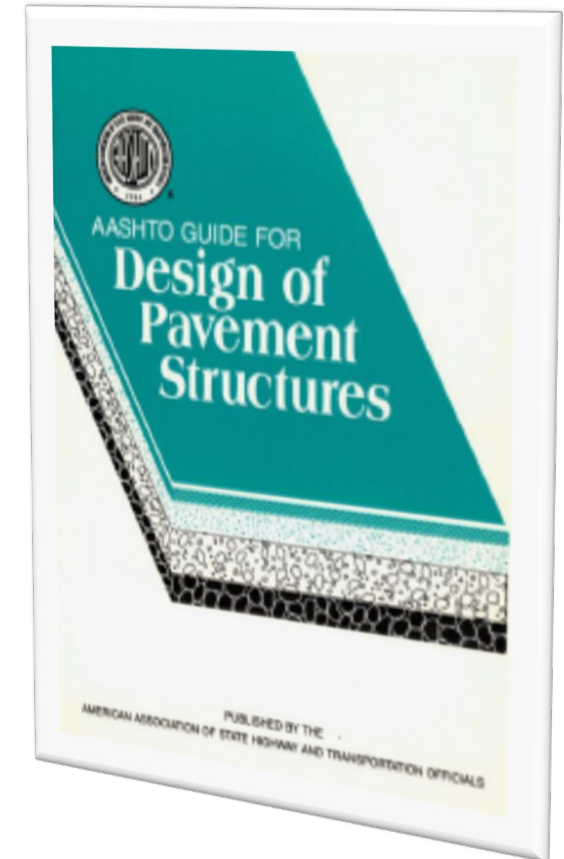
# Current roadway design methodologies using geosynthetics



Giroud-Han (2004)



[www.InfraSolve.com](http://www.InfraSolve.com)



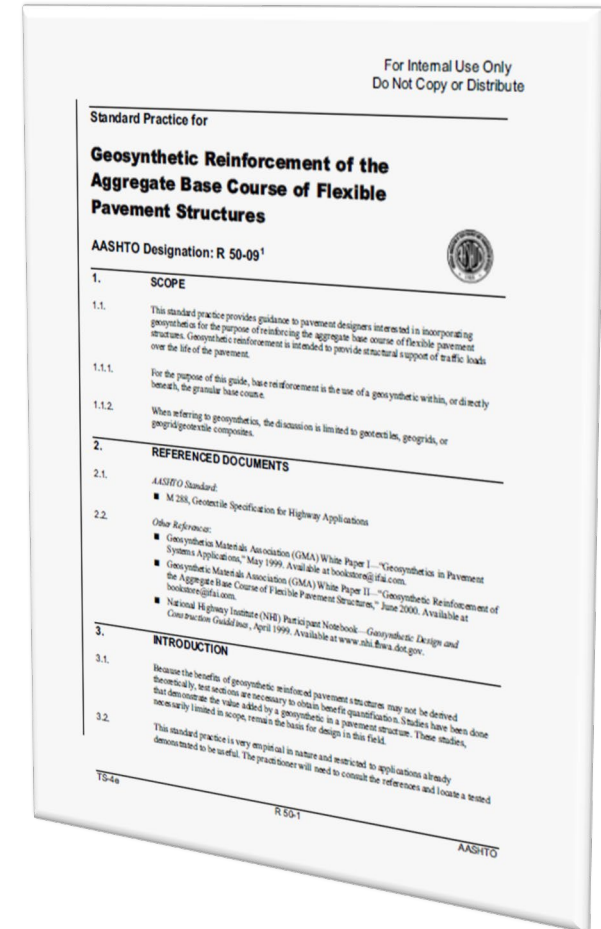
AASHTO '93

**MIRAFI RSi-Series and H<sub>2</sub>Ri are  
tested and calibrated  
to these design methodologies**

AASHTO R50-09

# Geosynthetic Reinforcement of the Aggregate Base Course of Flexible Pavement Structures

- ☒ Provides guidance to designers
- ☒ Benefits cannot be obtained theoretically
- ☒ Relevant test sections are required
- ☒ Geosynthetic specific



FHWA NHI-07-092

# 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”



TBR = Traffic Benefit Ratio  
BCR = Base Course Reduction

# Value-Added Examples



**Vol. 35, No. 3 – Winter 2023/2024**

# The Bridge



A quarterly newsletter from Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program

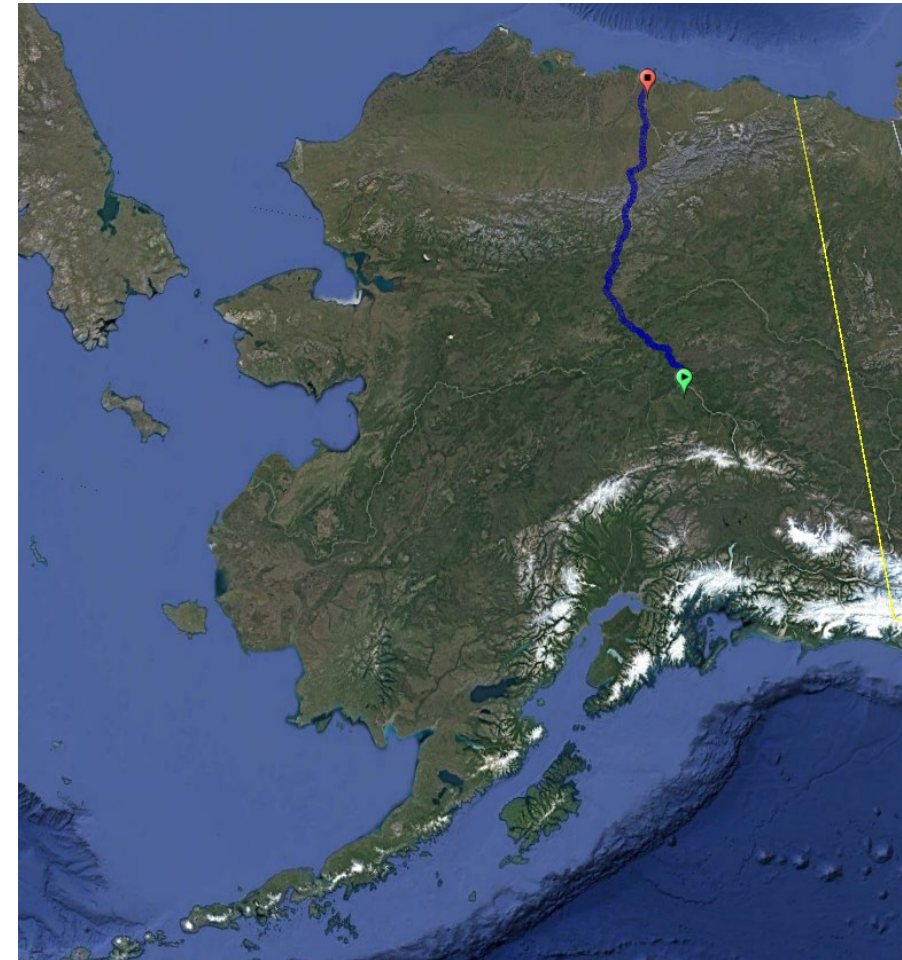
The Alaska Department of Transportation successfully installed a wicking fabric in the Beaver Slide pavement to help drain the embankment, thus reducing hazardous rutting and maintenance needs on the road segment.

## Beaver Slide: How Geotextiles Made One Road Safer

Allison Szlachta, Technical Writing Intern  
*Center for Technology & Training*

# Dalton Highway, AK

- Beaver Slide in 2010
- >160,000 yd<sup>2</sup> installed in 2012
- Dalton Hwy MP 97 – 209 in 2013
- AK DOT&PF issued their final report in December 2016



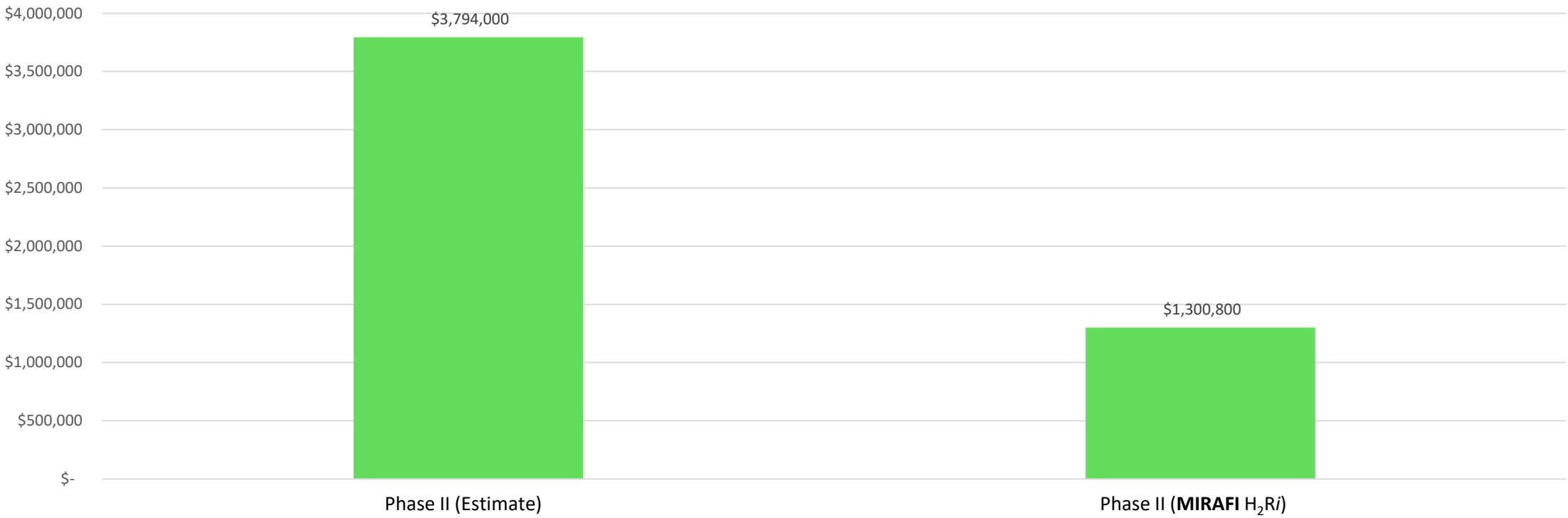


Dalton Highway without **MIRAFI** H<sub>2</sub>Ri, June 2013



Dalton Highway with **MIRAFI** H<sub>2</sub>Ri, June 2013

# Dalton highway MP197-209 rehabilitation project

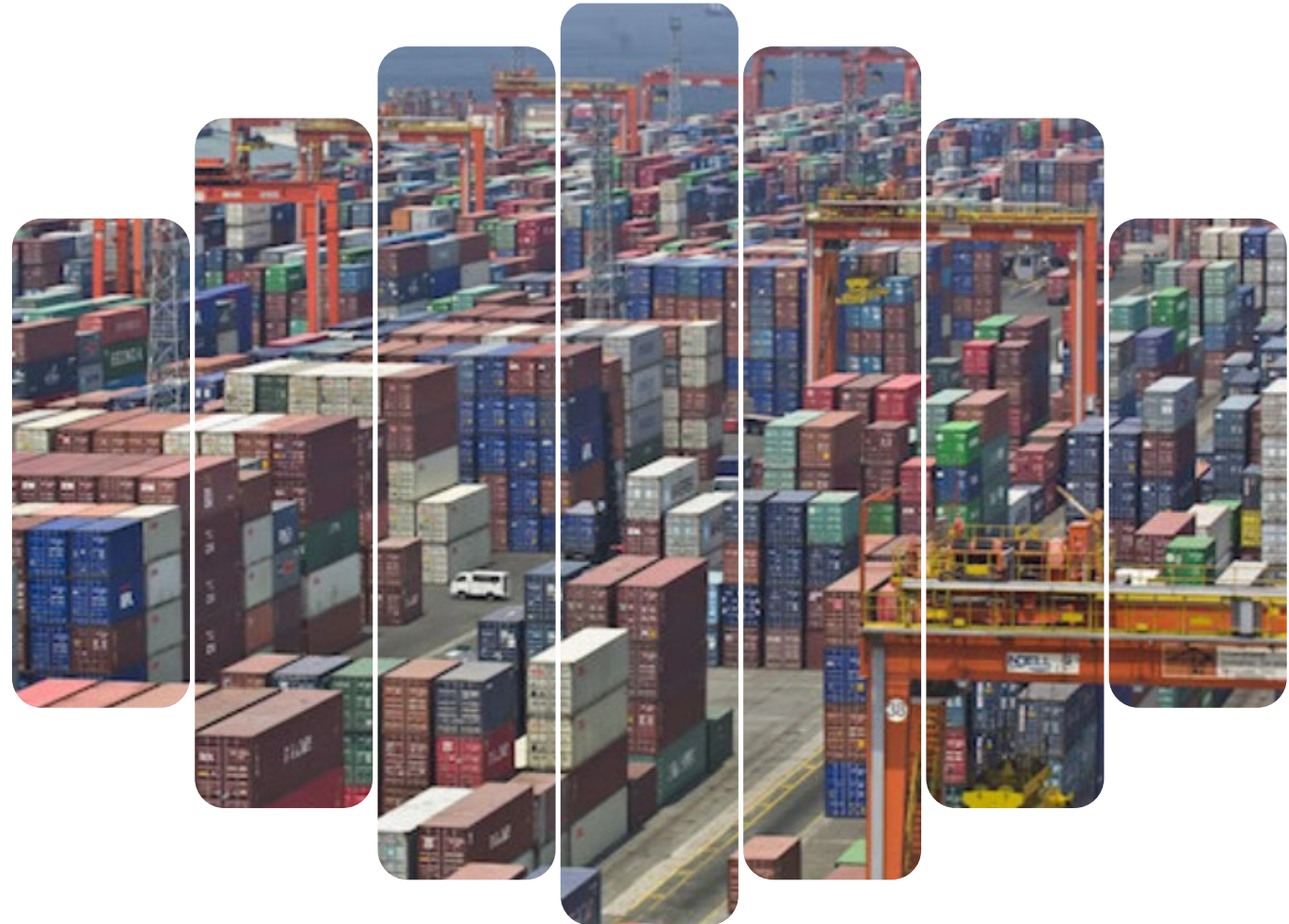


***Total savings was \$2.5 million in construction costs alone***

# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

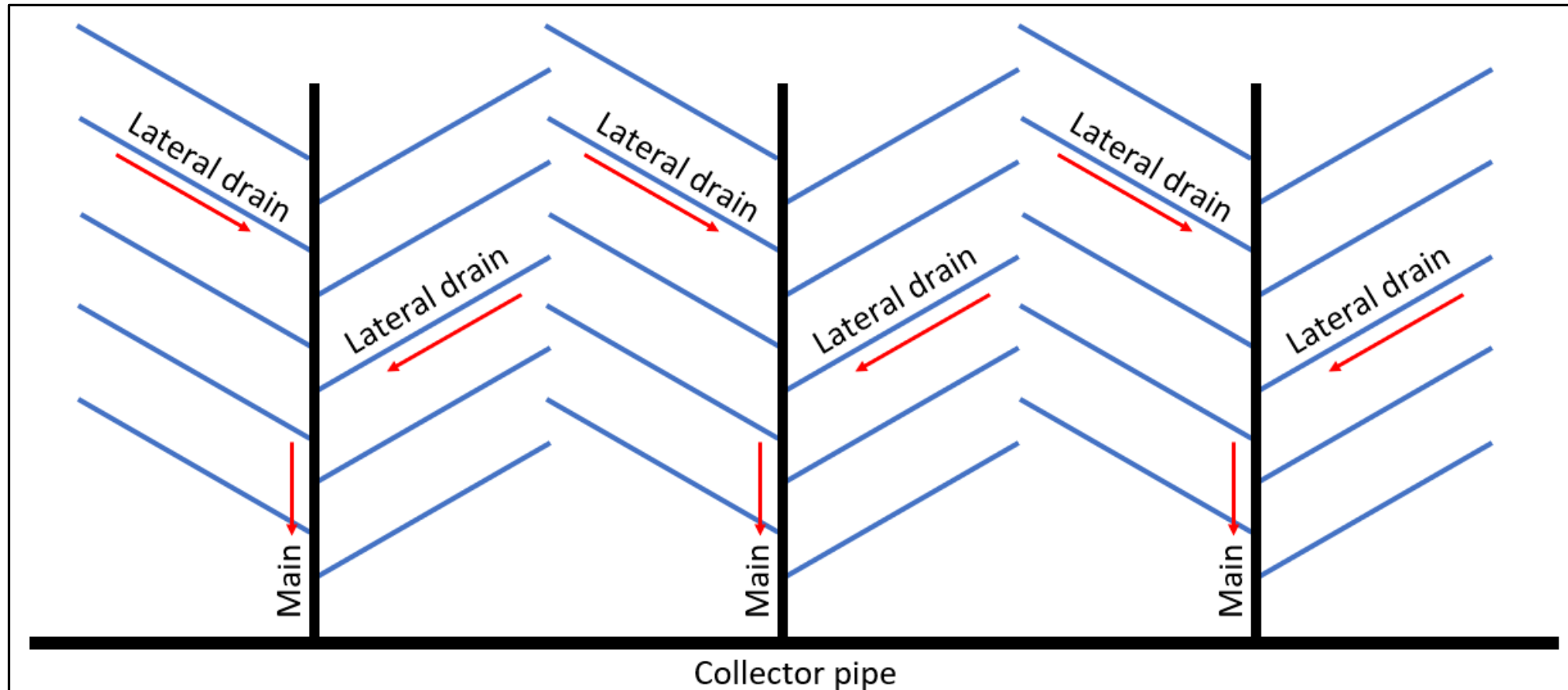
## Port Improvements Project

- 72-acre Container Yard (~ 350,000 yd<sup>2</sup>)
- 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



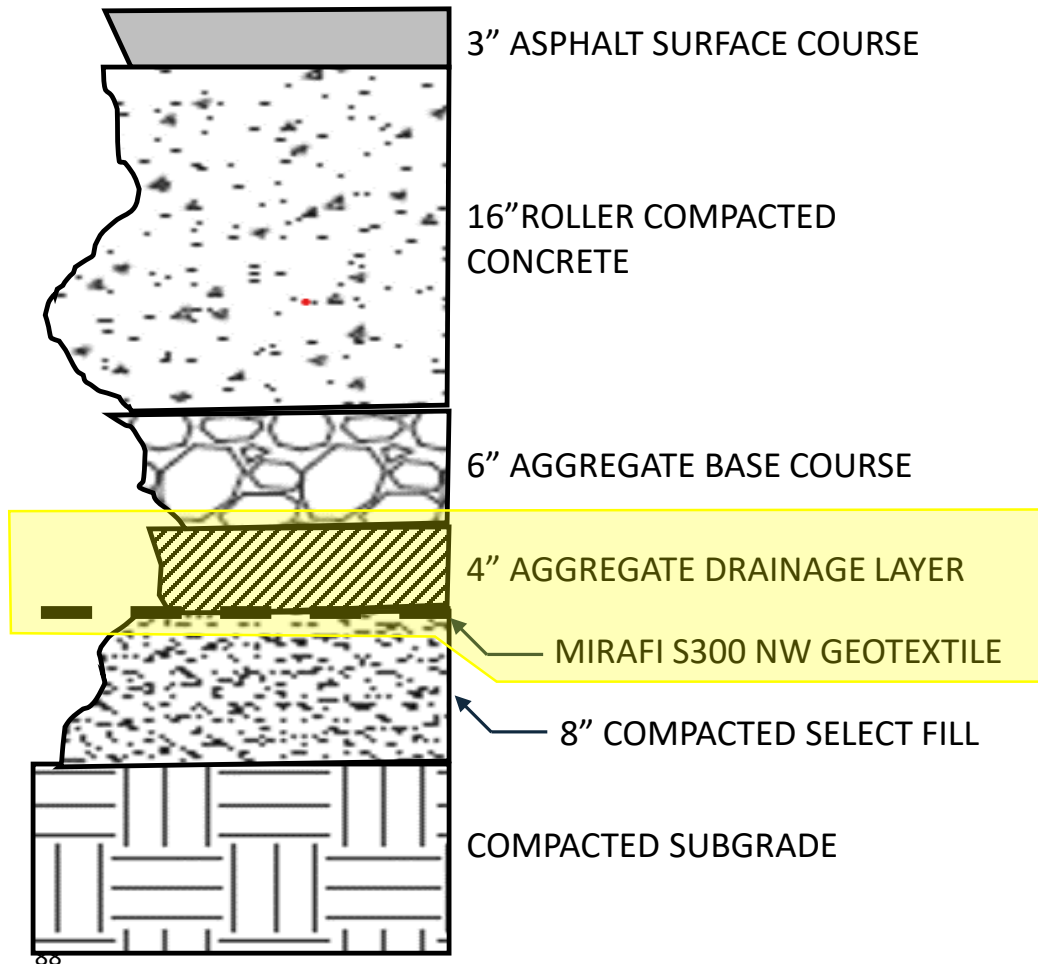
# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

## Typical Herringbone Drain Layout – Plan View



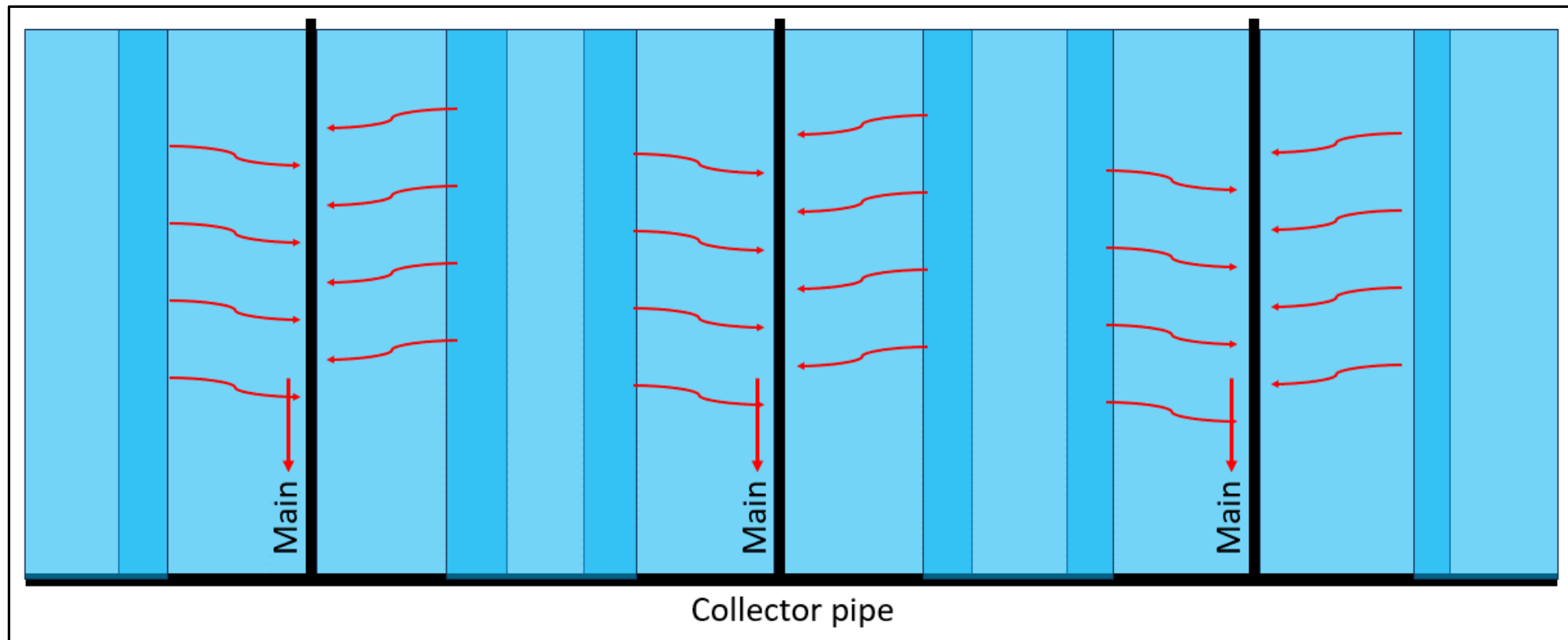
# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

## Design Section



# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

## MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri Layout – Plan View



# MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

## Port Improvements Project – Benefits of the MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri 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 H<sub>2</sub>Ri – Value Engineering Example

Benefits of the MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri 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.



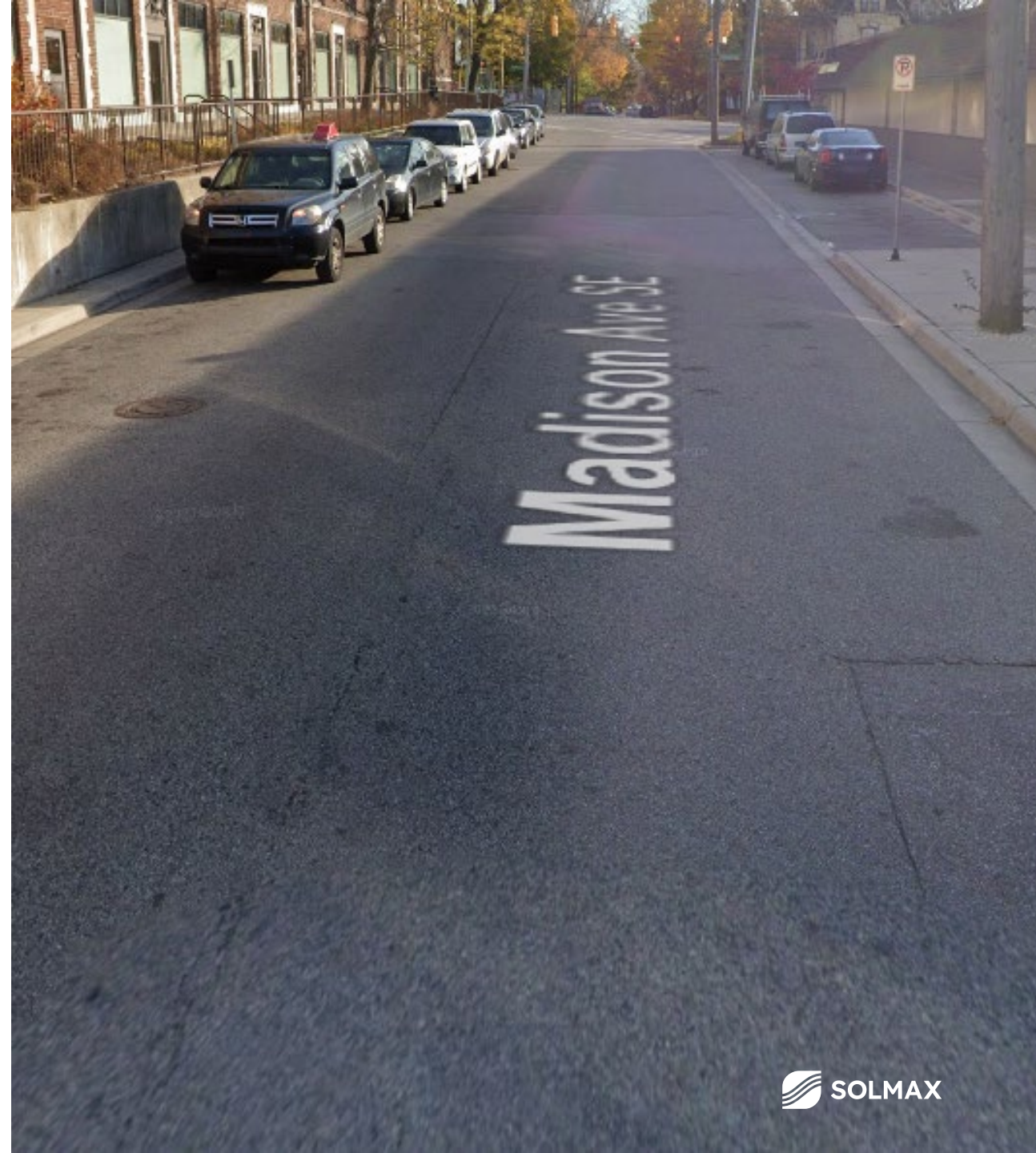
#### THE SOLUTION

- **Engineered** Reinforcement & Moisture Management Geotextile, **MIRAFI H<sub>2</sub>Ri**



#### 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**



Madison Ave SE & Fulton St. Reconstruction (2015)

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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 H<sub>2</sub>Ri** 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



100<sup>th</sup> 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**



100<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kent Co



# Key takeaways

- ASCE Report Card on roads: **D+**
- TRB & FHWA agree on issues
  - Intrusion of fines
  - Excessive loads
  - Moisture
- **MIRAFI** H<sub>2</sub>Ri addresses these issues
- Real-world applications
- Cost savings
- **InfraSol****ve** 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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