



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

WORKSHOP ON
IMPLEMENTING ULTRA
THIN SLURRY SURFACINGS
ON TXDOT ROADWAYS

Texas A&M Transportation
Institute

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Workshop Objectives

- To present findings of research study 5-6615-01 “Implementing the Next Generation of Ultra Thin Slurry Seals”
- To present the benefits and limitations of ultra thin slurry seals.
- To provide guidelines and recommendations on the use of ultra thin slurry seals.
- To discuss future directions for these types of surfacings.

Research Performed

The ultra thin surfacing which was evaluated in this study was based on a special specification introduced within TxDOT in the last few years known as SS 3028 “Frictional Asphalt Surface Treatment”. It is a spray applied fog seal which contains very fine aggregate to enhance friction. Potential applications include

- Sealing pavement surfaces,
- Blacking out obsolete pavement markings,
- Demarcating shoulders for visual safety improvements, and
- Reducing raveling for seal coats, HMA or PFC.

A few districts have tried the surfacing and so researchers evaluated some field sections documenting performance and monitoring skid. Researchers also sampled the product in the field for laboratory evaluation and attempted to improve the formulation by introducing different types of aggregates and quantities.

Field sections were evaluated using TxDOT’s skid trailer. Laboratory studies were conducted to measure permeability of PFC and dense-graded mixtures after treatment. In addition, slabs were made for conducting dynamic friction tests (DFT) and circular texture meter (CTM) for prediction of skid number after polishing in the 3-wheel polisher.

Findings

Field sections were evaluated in San Antonio, Beaumont and Fort Worth. The San Antonio section was placed to try to save a raveling PFC. The Beaumont sections were used to seal a HMAC FM pavement and bridge decks. The Fort Worth district routinely uses the product on shoulders.

Findings from these field projects indicated:

- No matter what the existing skid resistance of the roadway, the after treated skid number is around 20 until the product completely wears off which appears to be within about 12 to 16 months.
- Where only the shoulders were treated, the products held up better since there is minimal traffic.
- These results initiated further studies in the laboratory to attempt to get more rock into the slurry and improve friction.

Laboratory studies indicated

- The skid performance of ultra thin slurry mixtures can be assessed in the lab using the Polisher, DFT and CTmeter.
- The current formulation provided by the manufacturer which uses an aggregate known as “Black Beauty (BB)” and is a type of slag does not improve the skid of HMA pavement surface which corroborates what we saw with the field sections.
- Researcher evaluated TXI lightweight aggregates in different sizes and quantities as an alternative to the BB aggregate.

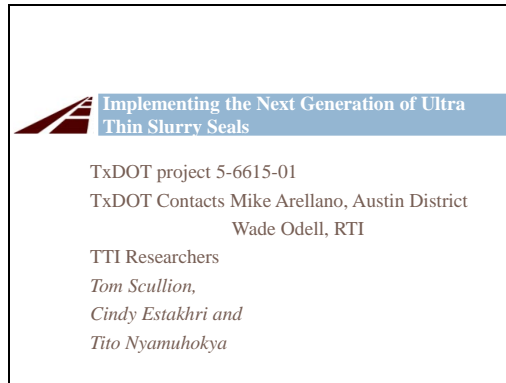
Based on the additional lab work, the research team determined that the following mixtures be subjected to further assessment in the field. Researchers worked with the Bryan district to place square yard test patches on SH 21 in the outside wheel path:

- 18% Black Beauty Aggregate at 0.25 gsy, (current manufacturer formulation)
- 24% Black Beauty Aggregate at 0.25 gsy,
- 18% -#16 lightweight aggregate at 0.25 gsy,
- 15% -#6 lightweight aggregate at 0.25 gsy, and
- 15% -#6 lightweight aggregate at 0.20 gsy.

While some of the patches showed an initial improvement in friction (as measured with DFT/CTM), after 2 ½ months of traffic, most of the aggregates in the slurry had worn off and the predicted SN for all of the patches was 20.

Based on these results, this product in its current form cannot be recommended for use by TxDOT in the main travel lanes due to skid concerns. However, it appears that industry is in the process of upgrading the process to apply it with new equipment which has the potential to incorporate more and larger aggregate which may alleviate friction concerns.

Slide 1

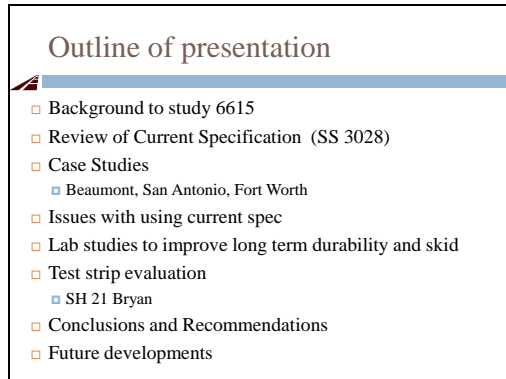


Implementing the Next Generation of Ultra Thin Slurry Seals

TxDOT project 5-6615-01
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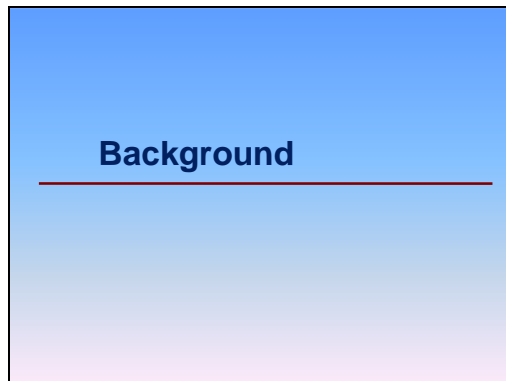
Slide 2



Outline of presentation

- Background to study 6615
- Review of Current Specification (SS 3028)
- Case Studies
 - Beaumont, San Antonio, Fort Worth
- Issues with using current spec
- Lab studies to improve long term durability and skid
- Test strip evaluation
 - SH 21 Bryan
- Conclusions and Recommendations
- Future developments

Slide 3



Background

Slide 4

Study 0-6615

- Promoted as a high speed, low cost maintenance treatment with both safety and pavement preservation applications
- Used widely on shoulders but is the treatment appropriate for travel lanes applications?

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Ultra-Thin Slurry Overlays


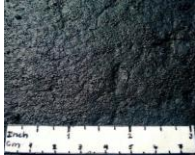
- Spray applied maintenance treatment.
- Cross between slurry and fog seal.
- Cost \$1:60 – \$1:80 Sq. yard
 - Chip Seals \$2:50
 - Overlays \$6 - \$8
- Properties:
 - Polymer-mod emulsion.
 - Embedded aggregate.
 - Rapid cure time.
 - Long-term black color.



Slide 6

Original Performance Summary

- Higher skid performance over fog seal.
- Macrotexture, highly dependent on existing surface
- Unknown long-term durability.




Slide 7

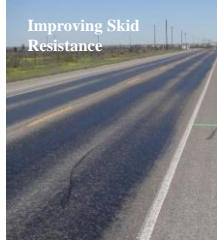
Proposed Safety Applications

Under consideration by TxDOT Districts

Blacking Out old lane markings



Improving Skid Resistance

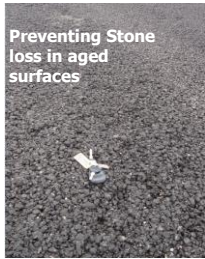


Slide 8


Pavement Preservation

Under consideration by TxDOT Districts

Preventing Stone loss in aged surfaces



Sealing Minor Cracking



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Work Plan

- Task 1 Plan Construction of Test Sections
 - Three Districts - Austin, Fort Worth and Beaumont
 - Document upfront condition
- Task 2 Update Specifications
 - Existing SS 3028 (largely industry recommendations)
- Task 3 Construct and Monitor test Sections
 - Skid measurements for duration of study
 - Collect samples/Lab testing
 - Performance evaluation

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Work Plan Continued

- Task 4 Prepare Workshop training materials
 - Guidelines to TxDOT Districts on where and how to use these
 - Findings of study
- Task 5 Present Training materials Workshop

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Review of Current Specification

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Review of Current Specification

- Largely proposed by Industry

Special Specification 3028
Frictional Asphaltic Surface Preservation Treatment

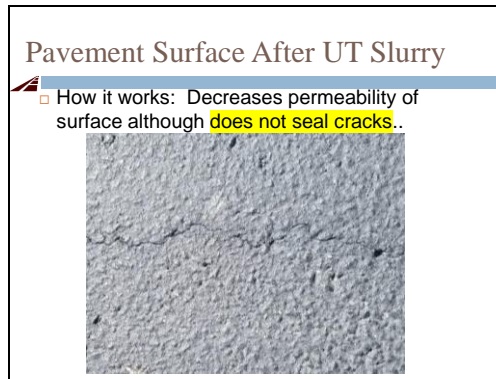


1. **DESCRIPTION**
Apply a surface preservation treatment consisting of one or more applications of a single layer of asphaltic and aggregate material.

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Slide 18

Mix Design Criteria

3. MIX DESIGN

3.1 Furnish a laboratory mix design meeting the requirements shown in Table 3:

Table 3. Laboratory Mix Design

Test	Test Procedure	Min	Max
Wet-Track Abrasion Loss, 3 day soak, g/m ²	D 3910 ¹	--	80
Asphalt Content by Ignition Method, %	T 308	30	--
Dynamic Friction Test Number, 20 kph	E 1911 ²	0.90	--

1. Use the modified method to account for realistic application depth and fine emulsion mixture.
2. Establish base friction value using prepared laboratory compacted slab of approved mix as surface to be tested. The Dynamic Friction Test (DFT) number ratio should indicate that after application of the mastic seal, the surface retains required minimum percentage DFT number of the original pavement surface.

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Recommended Applications Rates

5.3. **Application.** Apply the mixture when the air temperature is at or above 60°F, or above 50°F and rising. Measure the air temperature in the shade away from artificial heat. The Engineer will determine when weather conditions are suitable for application.

Distribute material at the following rates or as directed:

- First application: 1.0 to 1.5 lbs per SY.
- Second application: 1.0 to 1.5 lbs per SY.
- Total application after the second application: 2.5 lbs per SY minimum.

5.4. **Edges.** Adjust the shot width so operations do not encroach on traffic or interfere with the traffic control plan, as directed. Use paper or other approved material at the beginning and end of each shot to construct a straight traverse joint. Unless otherwise approved, match longitudinal joints with the lane lines. The Engineer may require a string line if necessary to keep the edge straight. Use sufficient pressure to flare the nozzles fully.

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Opening typically after 2 hours

5.6. **Opening to Traffic.** Open the treated surface to traffic when directed. Furnish and uniformly distribute clean, fine sand on the surface to blot the excess when an excessive quantity of mixture is applied. Maintain ingress and egress as directed by applying sand to freshly treated areas.

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Case Studies

Slide 25

Case Studies

- San Antonio
- Beaumont
- Fort Worth

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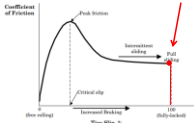

Monitoring Tools

- Visual Observation
- Locked Wheel Skid Truck
- Dynamic Friction Tester
- Circular Track meter

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Locked-wheel (ASTM E 274)

- 100% slip
- Tire oriented in direction of travel (no side friction)
- Tested at 40 or 50 mph



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Dynamic Friction Tester

- Requires lane closures
- Spot measurements

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Circular-Track Meter (ASTM E 2157)

- Macro-texture**
- Laser-based measurement
- Measures same track as DFT
- Correlates with sand patch
- Standard to compute IFI
- Lane closures/spot measurements

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San Antonio IH 35

- UT Slurry Seal applied on raveling old PFC to retain rock

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San Antonio IH 35

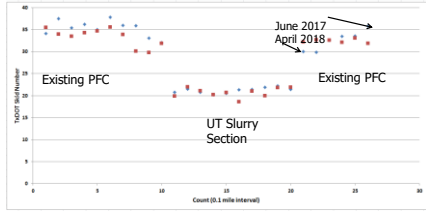
- Condition after 18 months of service
- Wear off in wheel paths – raveling continued



Slide 32

San Antonio IH 35

- Skid reduction on UT slurry sections

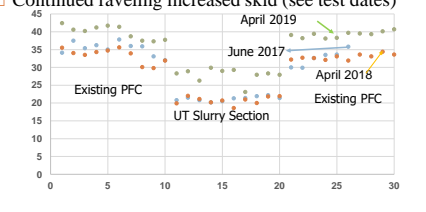


Section	Date	SN10 (approx. range)
Existing PFC	June 2017	35-45
Existing PFC	April 2018	35-45
UT Slurry Section	June 2017	20-25
UT Slurry Section	April 2018	20-25

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San Antonio IH 35

- Skid reduction on UT slurry sections (existing vs slurry)
- Continued raveling increased skid (see test dates)



Section	Date	SN10 (approx. range)
Existing PFC	April 2019	35-45
Existing PFC	June 2017	35-45
Existing PFC	April 2018	35-45
UT Slurry Section	April 2019	25-30
UT Slurry Section	June 2017	25-30
UT Slurry Section	April 2018	25-30

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Beaumont Applications


- Ultra-thin slurry treatment @ Beaumont District



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Beaumont Applications

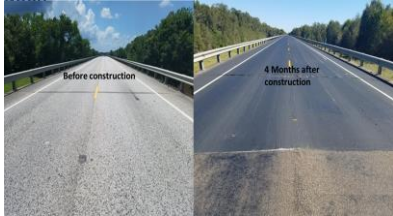
- Ultra-thin slurry was placed on 6 miles long on FM 2518 existing (HMAC)



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Beaumont Applications

- Ultra-thin slurry was placed on SH 105 bridge deck



Slide 37

Beaumont Applications

- Skid Numbers on SH 105 bridge deck

	Section	SH 105, K1	SH 105, K6
April 2018	Ultra-Thin Slurry	24.6	24.6
	Pavement between bridges	55.6	55.4
June 2019	Ultra-Thin Slurry	23.9	23.9
	Pavement between bridges	19.6	17.8

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Beaumont Applications

- Skid Numbers on FM 2518 existing (HMAC)

	Section	FM 2518, K1	FM 2518, K6
April 2018	Ultra-Thin Slurry	20.1	19.9
	Pavement at end of section	23.7	23.5
June 2019	Ultra-Thin Slurry	16.7	14.9
	Pavement at end of section (new seal)	65.1	61.4

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- ### Fort Worth Applications
- Fort Worth District has been using the Thin Slurry mixes on highway shoulders
 - In July of 2018, TTI researchers assessed newly installed sections of Ultra-thin slurry on Spur 102 near Keene, Tx and IH 35 Frontage Road
 - Used DFT & CTMeter to predict SN50
 - DFT and CTM were taken soon after application

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Fort Worth Applications

- Shoulder Section on Spur 102 near Keene, TX



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Fort Worth Applications

- Fort worth predicted Skid Numbers

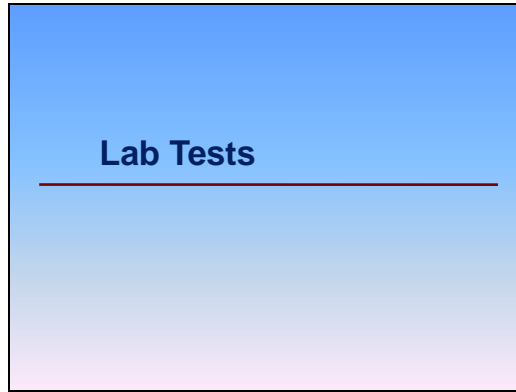
	Avg of DFT 20	Avg MPD from CTM	Predicted SN 50
III 35 Frontage Road			
Treated Shoulder	0.38	0.84	28.8
Untreated Main-lane	0.39	1.03	31.8
Spur 102			
Treated Shoulder	0.36	0.78	26.9
Untreated Main-lane	0.22	0.68	18.9

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Issues Current applications

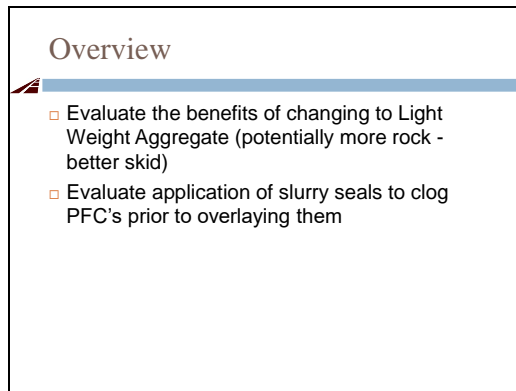
- No matter what the existing skid resistance of the highway, the after treated skid will be around 20. Which is a problem on high speed roadways
- Based on experience the treatment appears to wear off in 12 to 16 months
- Need to investigate in the lab methodologies to get more rock into these slurries

Slide 43



Slide 43 features a blue gradient background. The text "Lab Tests" is centered in a dark blue font, underlined with a thin red line. Below the text, there is a light blue gradient area.

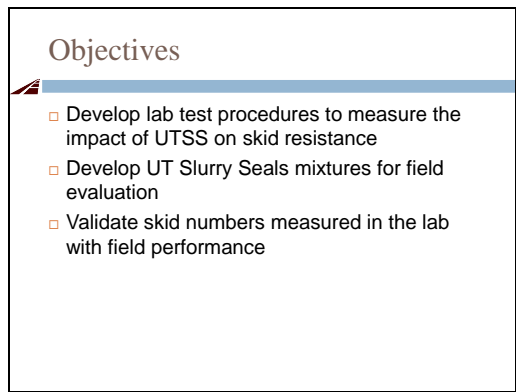
Slide 44



Slide 44 has a white background with a blue horizontal bar at the top. The title "Overview" is in a dark blue font. Below the bar, there is a small red and white icon. The slide contains two bullet points:

- Evaluate the benefits of changing to Light Weight Aggregate (potentially more rock - better skid)
- Evaluate application of slurry seals to clog PFC's prior to overlaying them

Slide 45



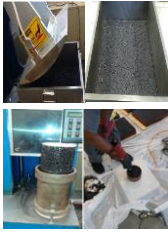
Slide 45 has a white background with a blue horizontal bar at the top. The title "Objectives" is in a dark blue font. Below the bar, there is a small red and white icon. The slide contains three bullet points:

- Develop lab test procedures to measure the impact of UTSS on skid resistance
- Develop UT Slurry Seals mixtures for field evaluation
- Validate skid numbers measured in the lab with field performance

Slide 46

Specimen Fabrication


- Used plant prepared mixtures for Slabs & 6-inch molds
- Specimen Mixture types
 - Dense-graded (type D)
 - Permeable friction course (PFC)
 - 7±1% air voids (20 ± 2% air void for PFC)
- Slurry Aggregates mixture
 - Black beauty (BB) and
 - Lightweight aggregates (LWA)
 - passing #6 (1/8"), #8, #16 and #30



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UT Slurry Application

- Slurry application on Lab prepared slabs




Measuring 0.125/SY with improvised deep stick .@ Red mark = 1 shot

Applying and uniformly spreading the Slurry on slab surface using a brush

Final look of the Treated slab after 72hrs@60°C curing

Slide 48

UT Slurry Application

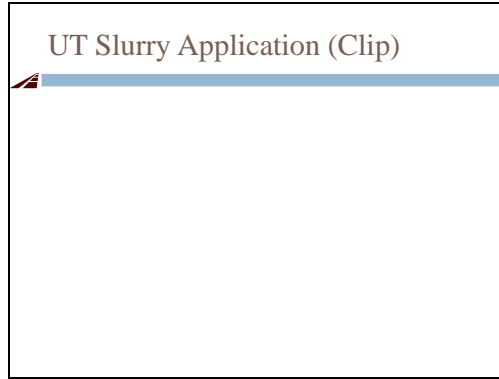


0.25gal/sy Light Weight UT Slurry on a Type D slab

0.25gal/sy Black Beauty UT Slurry on a Type D slab

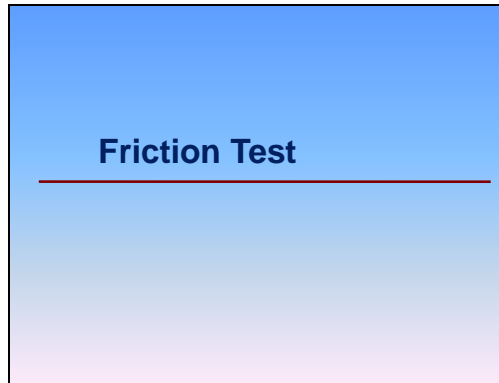
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UT Slurry Application (Clip)



Slide 50

Friction Test



Slide 51

Wet Track Abrasion

Thin sample preparation



- For determination of the wear value
- Intended to check if the binder is enough or adhere well to the aggregates (Wear <80)
- Other factors such application spray limited the agg %.

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Wet Track Abrasion

□ Wear values

ID	Weight before test (g)	Weight after test (g)	Weight loss (g)	Wet track value (g/m ²)	Description
BB#18%	60.3	57.2	3.1	90.675	WTV>80 (less binder)
BB#18%	74.3	72.6	1.7	49.725	WTV<80 (OK)
BB#18%	82.1	79.7	2.4	70.2	WTV<80 (OK)
LWA#30/12%	140.3	136.9	3.4	99.45	WTV>80 (less binder)
LWA#30/18%	114.3	98.7	15.6	456.3	WTV>>80 (may be excessive aggregates/less binder)
BB#18%	83.9	78.7	5.2	152.1	WTV>80 (less binder)
BB#18%	128.2	126.2	3	87.75	About right
LWA#30/12%	140.3	136.9	3.4	99.45	WTV>80 (less binder)
LWA 16-0/18%	132.8	130.5	2.3	67.275	WTV<80 (OK)
LWA16-0/18%	75.1	72.5	2.6	76.05	WTV<80 (OK)
LWA#30/18%	90.8	89.4	1.4	40.95	WTV<<80 (bleeding or excessive binder)
LWA#16-0/18%	82.1	79.7	2.4	70.2	WTV<80 (OK)
LWA #16-0/18%	124.2	122	2.2	64.35	WTV<80 (OK)

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Impact of UT Slurry on Friction

- The slab is wheel polished
- Fan dried
- MPD determined using CTMeter
- μ determined using DFT

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Impact of Slurry Seal on Friction

- A full lab skid test was performed on the UT Slurry mixture comprised of LWA # 6-0 aggregates
 - Four slabs with different UT Slurry treatment combination and one untreated were used
 - The slabs were: Type D1 (0.2/18%), Type D2 (0.2/15%), Type D3 (0.25/18%), Type D4 (0.25/15%), and Type D5 (Control)

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Impact of Slurry Seal on Friction

- The SN for different LWA UT slurry

Slab Type	Untreated Slab	Treated - No Polish	Treated - Polished 1000 Passes	Treated - Polished 5000 Passes	Treated - Polished 20000 Passes
Type D1 (0.2/18%)	15.0	30.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Type D2 (0.2/15%)	15.0	25.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Type D3 (0.25/18%)	15.0	25.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Type D4 (0.25/15%)	15.0	25.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Type D5 Control (Not Treated)	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0

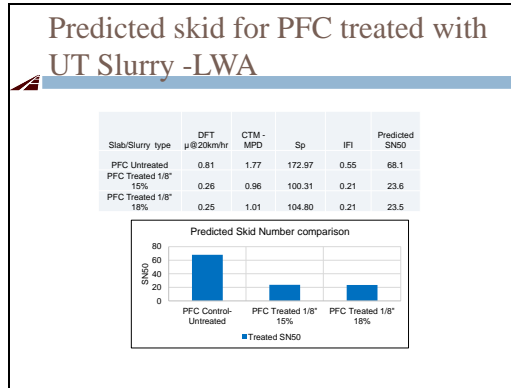
Slide 60

Impact of Slurry Seal on Friction

- Normalized SN for different LWA UT slurry

Slab Type	Untreated slab	Treated - No Polish	Treated - Polished - 1000 Passes	Treated - Polished 5000 Passes	Treated Polished 20000
Type D1 (0.2/18%)	0.60	1.20	0.60	0.60	0.60
Type D2 (0.2/15%)	0.60	0.90	0.60	0.60	0.60
Type D3 (0.25/18%)	0.60	0.90	0.60	0.60	0.60
Type D4 (0.25/15%)	0.60	0.90	0.60	0.60	0.60
Type D5 Control (Not Treated)	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60

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Slide 62

- ### Conclusion on Friction Tests
- The skid performance of UT Slurry mixtures can be assessed in the lab using the Polisher, DFT and CTmeter.
 - The current UT Slurry mixture based on BB aggregates does not improve the skid of HMA pavement surface.
 - An alternative to BB aggregates could be the LWA based UT Slurry applied in two shots of 0.125gal/yd².

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- ### Recommendation - Friction Tests
- The research team recommended the following mixtures for further assessment in the Field.
 - #6-0 LWA based UT Slurry (15% aggregates) at two shots of 0.125gal/yd² each
 - #16-0LWA) based UT Slurry (18% aggregates) at two shots of 0.125gal/yd² each
 - #60-0 BB - based UT Slurry (18% aggregates) at two shots of 0.125gal/yd² each. Though it showed relatively poor results in TTI lab, it will give a good comparison in the field


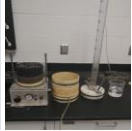

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Permeability Tests

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Recommendation - Friction Tests

- Varied amount of UT Slurry on lab produced specimens
- Specimens were saturated before testing
- Reported flow time and coefficient of permeability, k




Slide 66

Permeability test - Florida Method

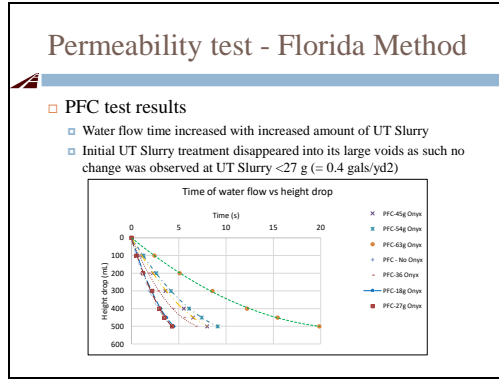
- Performed accordance with Florida Test Method FM 5-565 on 2.5-inch Type D, PFC and Field specimens

HMA Mixture	UT slurry, g			Surface UT Slurry (g)	UT slurry, g		
	0	18	27	40	-	-	-
Type D	0	18	27	40	-	-	-
PFC	0	18	27	36	45	54	63

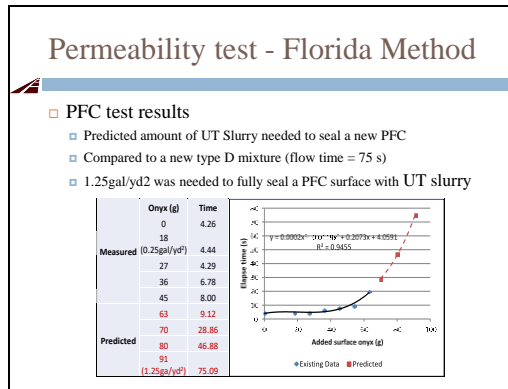
- No UT Slurry was applied on Field Specimens (FM 359)

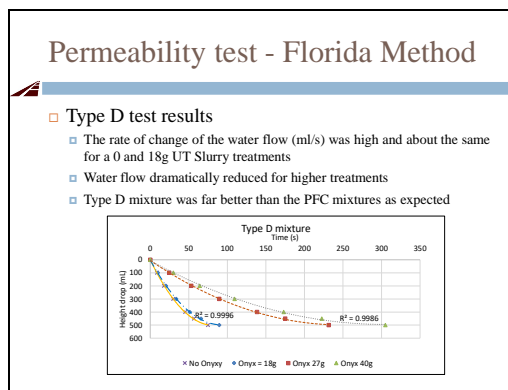
Slide 67



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Permeability – Permeameter Method

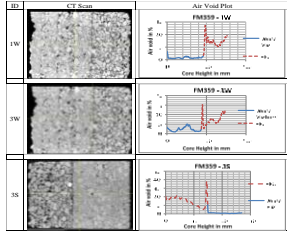
- In the Field, US 359
 - Three locations (shoulder (S), inner (WP) and outer wheel (W))
 - The pavement is practically sealed

#	PFC Slabs	Time of water flow
1	 -Shoulder (S)	13 mins and 56.79 sec
2	 -Outer Wheel (W)	11 mins and 48.56 sec
3	 -Inner Wheel (WP)	77 mins and 17.50 sec

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Permeability test – CT-Scan

- CT Scan Results are shown below,



The figure displays three rows of CT scan results. Each row includes a CT scan image on the left and an Air Void Plot on the right. The plots show Air Void (%) on the y-axis and Core Height in mm on the x-axis. The three rows correspond to different pavement types: FM319-1W, FM319-LW, and FM319-SL.

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Conclusion – Based on Permeability

- The permeability of UT Slurry treated can be assessed with field permeameter (on slabs) or Florida test method on field cores/lab molds.
- The field flow test and CT scan on cores indicated that after a long time of service, PFC pavements become sealed.

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Conclusions from lab Studies

- The transition to lightweight aggregate and heavier shot rates has a beneficial impact on short term skid resistance
- Long term skid resistance as inferred from the polisher is still questionable
- The application of the UT slurries does significantly cut the water flow into PFC;'s but it has a negative impact on skid resistance

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New Field section evaluation

Slide 78

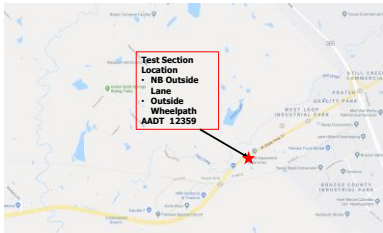
Field Section Evaluation

- The UT Slurry was applied on 5 sections of 3ft x 3ft
- Different UT Slurry mixture combinations were applied manually on each of the sections
- Each application was split in small 4 equal bays to avoid the temperature effects and setting
- Two shots were applied (spaced at about 1hrs)
- 2-hours after applying the last coat on the sections, friction and profile data were collected using the DFT and CTmeter respectively

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Field Section Evaluation

- SH21 test section



The map displays a road network with a red star marking the test section location. A text box points to this location, stating: 'Test Section Location - NB Outside Lane - Outside Wheelpath AADT 12359'. The map includes labels for 'STILL CREEK' and 'BRASS CREEK'.

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Field Section Evaluation




Two workers wearing high-visibility yellow safety vests and hard hats are kneeling on a road surface. They are using a large, dark, rectangular mat or device to conduct a field section evaluation. Various tools and equipment are scattered around them on the pavement.

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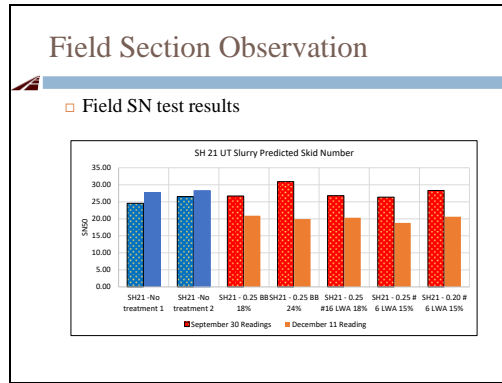
Field Section Evaluation

- Friction evaluation before and after traffic passes

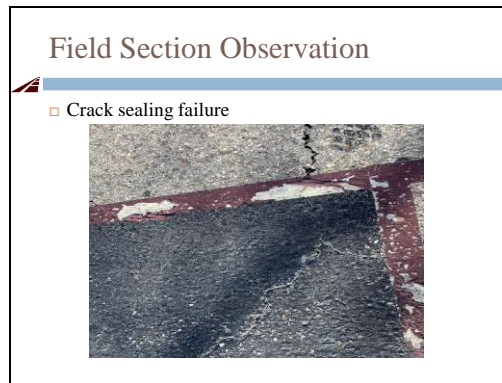


The left photograph shows a worker in a high-visibility vest operating a piece of equipment on a road surface. The right photograph shows a worker in a high-visibility vest standing next to a piece of equipment on a road surface, with a vehicle visible in the background.

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- ### Field Test Observation
- The initial SN of LWA treated sections hovered around 28,
 - Whereas for BB with 24% agg, SN = 31
 - Note: the BB mixture that showed SN = 31 had 6% extra aggregates
 - The initial average SN of the Untreated sections was at around SN = 26

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Field Test Observation

- After 2 months of traffic passes, the SN on treated locations reduced to 20 whereas
- The SN of the Untreated sections remained relatively the same at around SN = 27
- The UT Slurry could not seal the cracks
- The UT Slurry can not be used for High traffic volume roads

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Field Test Conclusion

- The SN of the Ultra-thin slurry always dropped to 20 after traffic passes; in the lab the SN =20 was reached after about 10, 000-15,000 polishing passes
- The Ultra-thin slurry could not seal cracks
- The Ultra-thin slurry can not be used for High traffic volume roads
- The Ultra-thin slurry improved the black top surface of the pavement

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Future Development

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Future developments

- Improved Construction techniques developed by Industry - offers potential for improvement



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Topics for Discussion

- In its current form the UT slurry even with the use of Light-Weight and heavier shot rate has a negative impact on skid and wears off within a few months
- The new construction technique offers potential to radically increase the amount of rock in this product.
- More work is needed to redesign these slurries
- Specifications need to be revised to include a DFT/Polisher requirement. For example "50,000 passes of the polisher with less than a 10% loss in skid"
- Will in be cost effective ?
- Will it look the same as a grade 5 chip seal ?

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Thank you
