

North Central Superpave Center



The NCSC

- Established in 1995 as joint effort between INDOT and Purdue. Administered by the JTRP.
- Start-up funding and equipment provided by FHWA.
- Clear initial mission – assist states and industry in the region as they implement Superpave mix design system.
- Continued funding from 6-10 states in the region plus research, training and other “income.”



What is Superpave?

- An improved system for selecting materials (aggregates and asphalt binders) and designing asphalt paving mixtures
 - ◆ Introduced in 1992/93
- Builds on past experience with improved test methods and specifications

Major NCSC Activities

- Research
 - ◆ Gaps in system to fill
- Training and Education
 - ◆ Over 2000 people trained
- Communication
 - ◆ Great need as system evolved
- Test and Equipment Evaluations
 - ◆ New equipment, new problems
- Outreach Activities
 - ◆ Local agencies, material suppliers, students



Evolution of the NCSC Role

- By 2000, all states in the region had adopted Superpave
 - ◆ Superpave became routine
- States developed training programs
- NCSC evolved to focus on any asphalt related research of interest to our region – recycling, friction and texture, noise, etc.
 - ◆ Had to evolve to stay relevant
 - ◆ Strategic planning, marketing analysis



Provide a Benefit

- Center must show funding partners that there is a benefit
 - ◆ Provide complimentary training.
 - ◆ Be available to answer questions, offer advice, make presentations, stay up to date and stay in touch.
 - ◆ Address issues of regional and state-specific interest.
 - ◆ 0% overhead through JTRP/pooled funds.
 - ◆ Facilitate regional meetings.

Securing Continued Funding

- Cannot rely solely on state support.
- Seek external funding
 - ◆ National research funding (FHWA, NCHRP)
 - ◆ States outside the region (overhead)
 - ◆ Industry testing and research
 - Became an accredited laboratory
- Partner with other groups (subcontract)

More info:

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