# TRENDS IN ASPHALT PAVING: ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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#### **Economics and the Environment**

- Primary drivers of innovation in the industry today.
- Sustainability
  - Of materials
  - Of pavements
  - Of energy
  - Of funding
  - Of market share



#### SUSTAINABILITY

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.
  - Conservation of resources (materials and energy)
  - Reduction of environmental impacts (GHG, carbon footprint, landfills, quarries, etc.)
- Growing awareness and demand from the public for sustainable practices.

#### **OLD NEWS**



- Asphalt pavement is the most widely recycled material in the USA.
- 100 million tons reclaimed annually.
- 95% is reused or recycled.
- \$1.8 billion in savings each year.
- Reduces demand for new aggregates and binder and the energy to produce them.



#### **MORE OLD NEWS**

- Beneficial reuse of waste materials and by-products in asphalt mixes
  - Slag
  - Asphalt Shingles
  - Crumb Rubber
  - Glass
  - Waste Oils
  - Foundry Sands

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**



- Warm Mix Asphalt
  - Reduced fuel used for heating (15 to 30% reduction)
  - Reduced Greenhouse Gases
  - Construction benefits
- Porous or Open Graded Mixes
  - Reduced noise, improved safety (reduced splash and spray)
  - Improved water quality, stormwater management

ON THE (NEAR) HORIZON

- Biofuels and Biobinders
  - Plant based
  - Algae
  - Animal based
- Alternate Energy Sources
- Harvesting Energy
- Removing Pollutants
  - Photocatalytic pavements



# RAP – An Oldie but Goodie



- Used in US since the 1970s
  - Spurred by high prices, Arab Oil Embargo
  - Development of milling technology
- Today strong incentives to use higher amounts of RAP in more mixes
  - High prices again
  - Helps contractors stay competitive
  - Helps asphalt compete with concrete

#### TYPICAL ASPHALT MIX

- 95% aggregate
- 5% asphalt binder
- Reusing:
- Reduces need to quarry more aggregate
  - Increasingly difficult to open a new pit or quarry
- Reduces energy/costs to produce, process, transport aggregate
- Reduces asphalt demand

# Fractionated RAP = Crushed and screened into different sizes



- Improves uniformity (remixes)
- Allows use of different sizes to meet mix design
- Better control of gradation (and binder content)



# RAS = Recycled Asphalt Shingles

- Asphalt shingles can have very high binder contents, as high as 30%.
  - Greatly reduces demand for new binder
  - Contain hard, angular fine aggregate and fibers
- But, shingle binder is very stiff (oxidized) so there is concern about cracking.
- So, allowable shingle content is about 20-25% as high as allowable RAP content.



# Other Recycled Materials Used



- Ground tire rubber
  - Economical substitute for polymers
  - Keeps tires out of landfills
  - Reduces tire disposal costs
- Slag
  - Premium, high friction aggregate
- Others in lesser quantities

### **Environmentally Friendly Plant Production**

#### Warm Mix Asphalt

- Energy Savings
- Decreased Emissions
  - Visible and Non-Visible
- Decreased Fumes
- Decreased Binder Aging
- Extended Paving Season
- Compaction Aid
- Increased RAP usage



## **Environmentally Friendly Pavements**

- Growing interest in 100% recycling
  - Cold In Place Recycling
  - Hot In Place Recycling
  - Full Depth Reclamation
- Perpetual Pavements
  - Leave in place for 50+ years with minimal surface renewal
- Porous Asphalt Pavements

# Office Complex 1982 - 20 years old



# **Roadway Applications**



# **Intelligent Compaction**

- Inadequate compaction is major cause of pavement distress
- Intelligent Compaction allows:
  - Monitoring coverage during rolling to improve rolling patterns
  - Monitoring strength gain or increased density
  - Mapping underlying layers to identify weak areas



# Importance of Compaction

Each 1% increase in air voids (over 7%) reduces pavement life by about 1 year!

Intelligent Compaction can help us ensure good compaction.

# **GPS Set Up**

**GPS Base Station** 



GPS Radio & Receiver

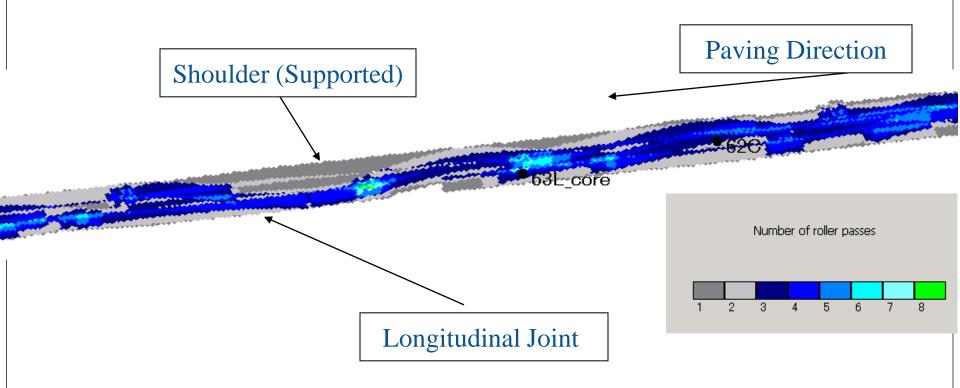


**GPS** Rover



Real Time Kinematic (RTK) GPS Precision

# Mapping of Roller Passes

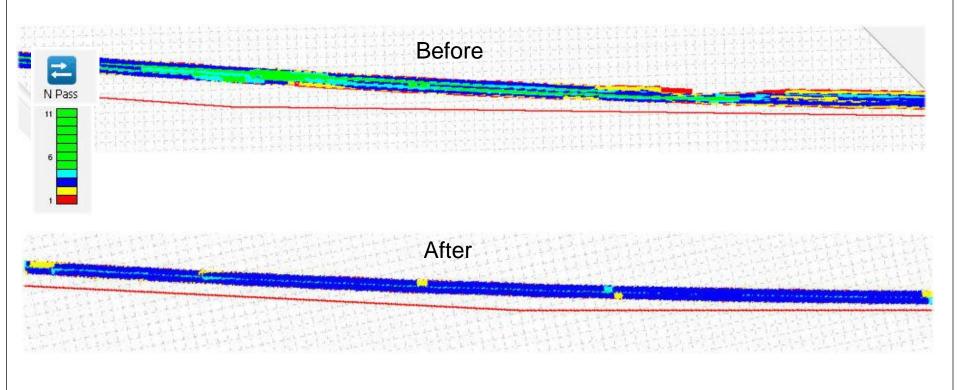


Courtesy Sakai America

## Infra-Red Thermal Sensor



# **Improved Rolling Pattern**



# **Improved Night Paving**

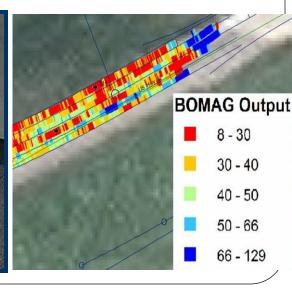


#### Benefits of IC for HMA

- Improve density....better performance
- Improve efficiency....cost savings
- Increase information...better QC/QA





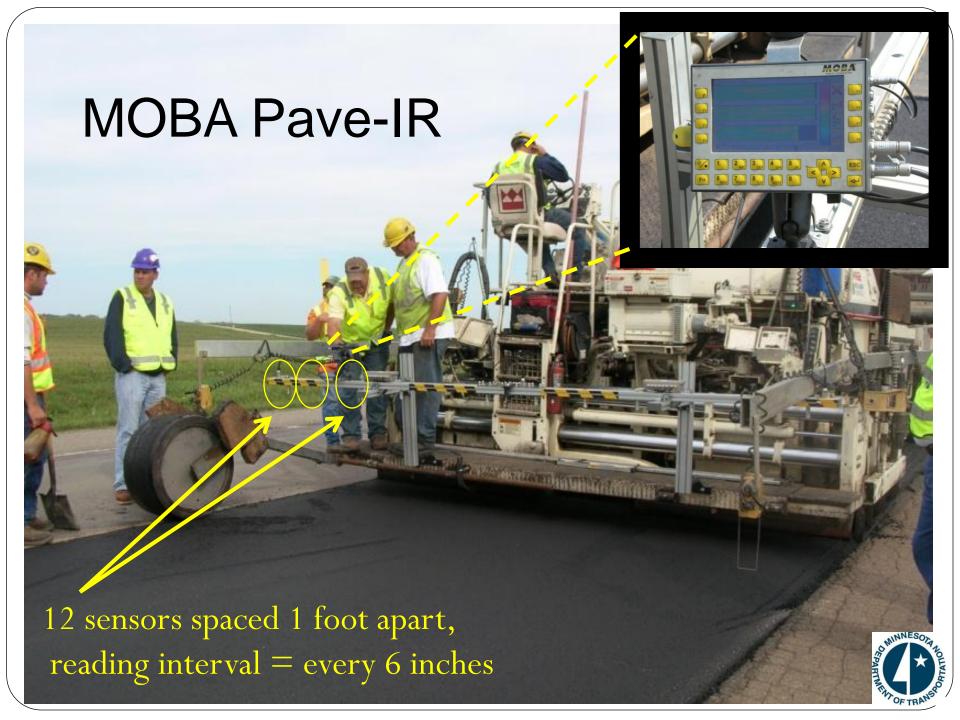


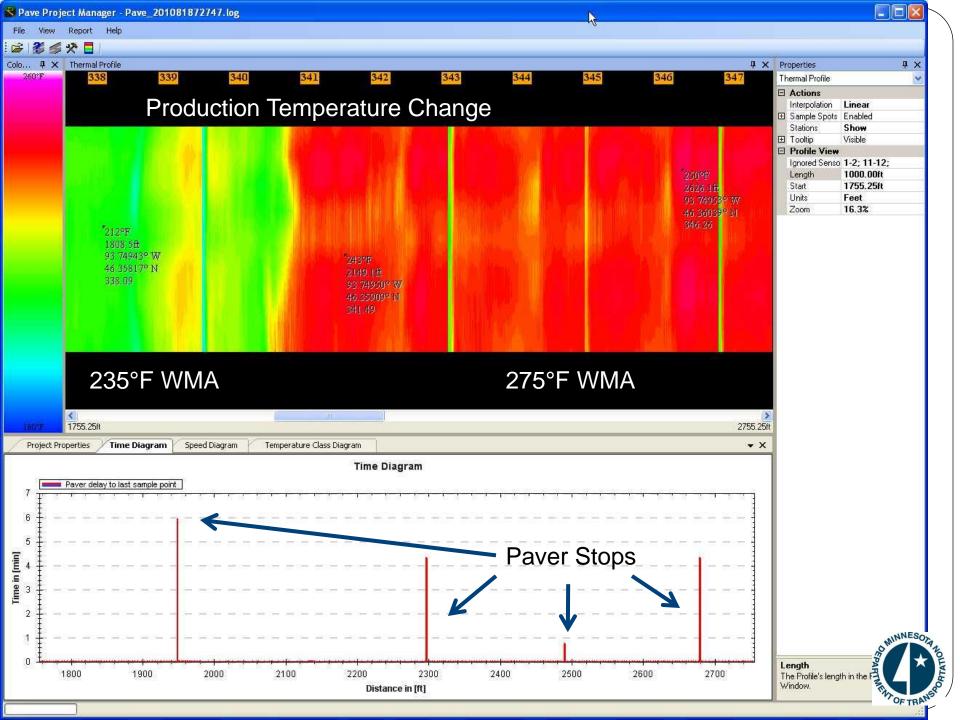


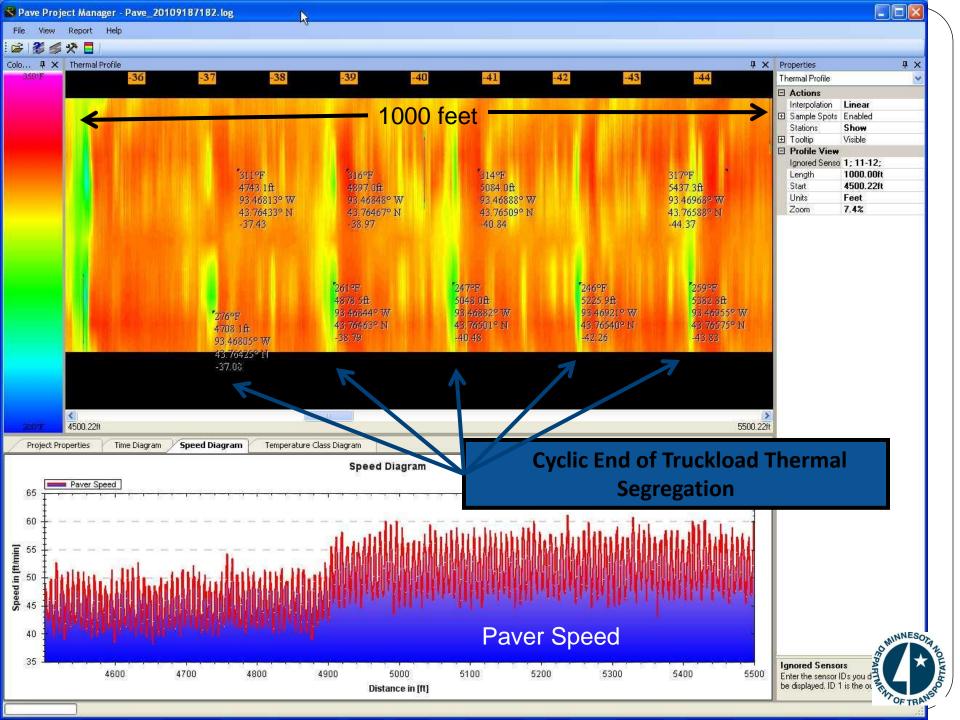
## Pave-IR Purpose

- Promote more uniform, higher quality pavements
- WaSDOT, NCAT, And TTI found thermal uniformity useful for detecting segregation.
- A segregated mat increases the contractor's chances of QC/QA core being in a poor/low density area.
- A segregated mat increases agency's risk of early distress.











#### Conclusion

#### IC and Pave-IR together can provide:

- Feedback and control of the paving process
- Increase uniformity of mix placement and compaction
- Increase the performance of our pavements
- Ability to decrease the amount of QC/QA testing needed
- Proof of quality placement and compaction
- Increased accountability



# Increasing Trends in Asphalt Paving

- Recycling
  - Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement
  - Recycled Shingles
  - Ground Tire Rubber
  - Other waste or by-product materials
- Warm Mix Asphalt
- Porous Pavements
  - Stormwater and Noise Control



# **Future Trends in Asphalt**



- Bio-Binders
- Harvesting energy from pavements
- Pavements that clean the environment (photo-catalytic pavements)
  - Cermak Road, Chicago

#### **Motivation for Innovation**

Sustainability

Performance

Economy



#### THANK YOU!

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