



Moving forward with concrete results

Performance Engineered Mixtures Testing in Wisconsin

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The PEM Concept and Initiative

- A partnership of agency and industry to
 - Understand what makes concrete “good”
 - Specify the critical properties and test for them
 - Design the paving mixtures to meet those specifications



Performance Engineered Mixtures

Standard Practice for Developing Performance Engineered Concrete Pavement Mixtures

AASHTO Designation: PP 84-17¹

Tech Section: 3c, Hardened Concrete

Release: Group 1 (April 2017)

AASHTO

INTRODUCTION

[Print](#)

Specifications for concrete pavement mixtures have traditionally been prescriptive, with State Highway Agencies (SHA) specifying means and methods for both constituent materials and specific requirements for proportioning. This places the majority of the performance risk on the SHA and limits innovation. Recent trends of blending cementitious materials, reducing paste content, using modern additives and admixtures, and other innovations in the industry open the opportunity to move towards specifying the performance characteristics of concrete mixtures and allowing industry to design mixtures that address specific performance requirements. New methods to evaluate concrete performance have been developed, and others are being formulated, that can result in improved performance and economics. Shifting the responsibility for performance to the contractor provides an opportunity for innovation.



Performance Engineered Mixtures in Wisconsin

- More than a National priority, we have made it a state priority
- FHWA Pooled Fund Study – WisDOT and WCPA are both participating and funding.
- Our Joint Concrete Pavement Technical Committee is in the lead
 - We are getting beyond the decades old practice of blue book mixes, ACI 211 and tests of air, strength and slump.
 - WisDOT and contractors are supporting the emphasis on durability and performance based specifications
- Wisconsin Highway Research Program project to verify what we are doing



PEM Research in Wisconsin

- Evaluation of Current WI Mixes Using Performance Engineered Mixture Testing Protocols - Interim Report
- <https://wisconsindot.gov/documents2/research/0092-17-07-interim-report.pdf>



Evaluation of Current WI Mixes Using Performance Engineered Mixture Testing Protocols - Interim Report

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WisDOT ID no. 0092-17-07
August 19, 2019



RESEARCH & LIBRARY UNIT



WISCONSIN HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM



Aggregate Quality and Stability

OUR FIRST PRIORITY



Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Concrete Mixtures

- National Research
- Tarantula Curve – Dr. Tyler Ley, OSU
- Promoted by NCPTC
- WisDOT and WCPA jointly developed the Standard special provisions (STSP) and specifications for WisDOT work
- Used on some construction projects in 2017 and has been incorporated into all concrete pavement projects by STSP since 2018.

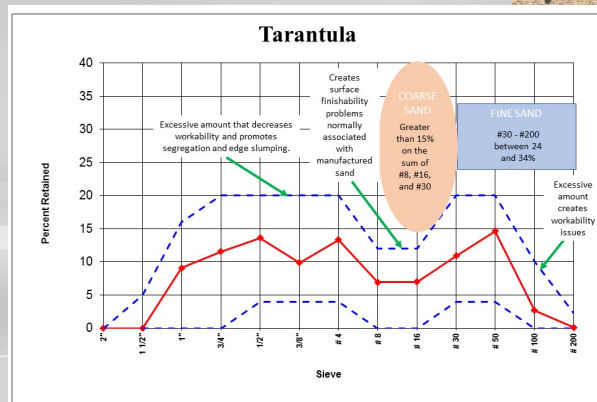


Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Concrete Mixtures

- The GOALS
 - Stronger
 - More durable
 - Less permeable more dense concrete
 - Easier consolidated/workability
 - Improved ride



The TARANTULA curve!!!!



Optimized Aggregate Gradation Spec

TABLE 1 TARANTULA CURVE GRADATION BAND

SIEVE SIZES	PERCENT RETAINED
2 in.	0
1 1/2 in.	≤5
1 in.	≤16
3/4 in.	≤20
1/2 in.	4-20
3/8 in.	4-20
No. 4	4-20
No. 8 ^[1]	≤12
No. 16 ^[1]	≤12
No. 30 ^[1] ^[2]	4-20
No. 50 ^[2]	4-20
No. 100 ^[2]	≤10
No. 200 ^[2]	≤2.3

^[1] Minimum of 15% retained on the sum of the #8, #16, and #30 sieves.
^[2] Conform to 24-34% retained of fine sand on the #30-200 sieves



Optimized Aggregate Gradation Spec

TABLE 2 JMF WORKING RANGE

SIEVE SIZES	WORKING RANGE ^[1] (PERCENT)
2 in.	±5
1 1/2 in.	±5
1 in.	±5
3/4 in.	±5
1/2 in.	±5
3/8 in.	±5
No. 4	±5
No. 8	±4
No. 16	±4
No. 30	±4
No. 50	±3
No. 100	±2
No. 200	≤2.3

^[1] Working range limits of composite gradation based on moving average of 4 tests.



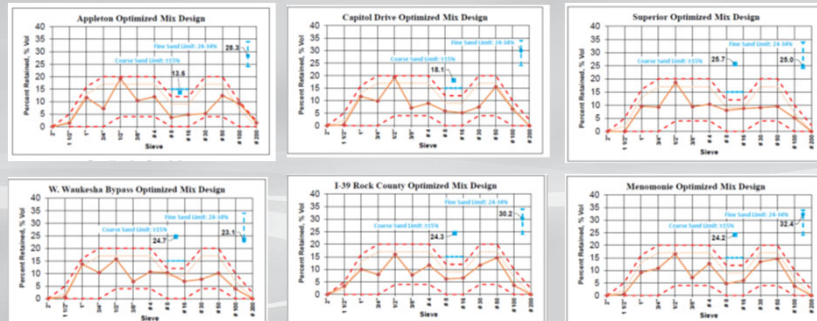
WisDOT Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Mixture Design STSP

PART 1

- Defines optimized gradation
- Outlines spec and testing requirements
- Contractor eligible for 3% incentive
- Sample on the belt leading to the weigh hopper
- Or, working face of the stockpile
- Test each component aggregate once per 1,500 CY of concrete production
- Moving average of four tests



What does the research project say?



Concrete Pavement Mixture Design and Analysis (MDA): An Innovative Approach To Proportioning Concrete Mixtures

National Concrete Pavement
Technology Center

Technical Report
March 2015

Sponsored through
Federal Highway Administration (DTHB06-H-0001) (Work Plan 25)
Pooled Fund Study TPF 5(20): Colorado, Iowa (lead state), Kansas,
Michigan, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



WisDOT Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Mixture Design STSP

PART 2

- Once aggregate gradation is optimized contractor can elect to go to mixture optimization
- Can reduce cementitious content to 520 lbs/CY.
- Utilizes new national design procedure
- Up to 30% replacement with fly ash, slag or combination
- Need to include the departments Flexural Strength for Mix Design STSP or the Concrete Pavement Flexural Strength SPV



WisDOT Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Mixture Design STSP

1. Utilizes mix design procedure and spreadsheet developed by the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center
2. Utilize the spreadsheet to obtain an aggregate gradation system that fits within the Tarantula Curve and is relatively close to the power 45 curve.
3. Determine the volume of voids in the selected aggregate gradation system.
 - a) Run ASTM C29 Specific Gravity on the proposed proportions of each aggregate.
4. Select the paste parameters; binder type, percentages, air content, w/cm.
5. Select an Initial $V_{\text{paste}} / V_{\text{voids}}$ value (1.25 – 2.00).



WisDOT Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Mixture Design STSP

6. Calculate the paste content utilizing the spreadsheet. WisDOT requires a **minimum cement content of 520 lbs** so the $V_{\text{paste}} / V_{\text{voids}}$ value may need to be adjusted to meet this minimum cement content
7. Prepare trial batches and **assess fresh properties and workability.**
8. Prepare final trial batch and assess hardened properties.

BOX TEST



Workability

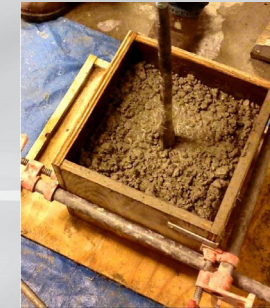
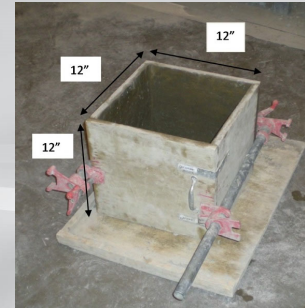


Assess Workability

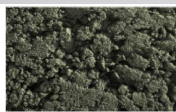
- Box Test
- V Kelly Ball



BOX TEST

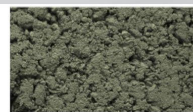


BOX TEST



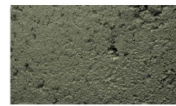
4

Over 50% overall surface voids.



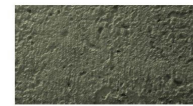
3

30-50% overall surface voids.



2

10-30% overall surface voids.



1

Less than 10% overall surface voids.

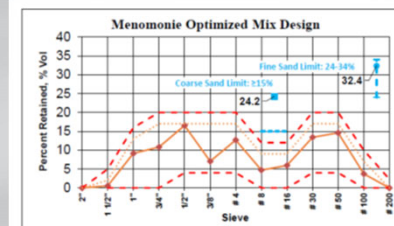


Figure 25: Menomonic Taramula Curve.

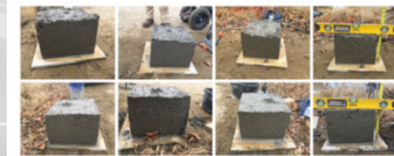


Figure 26: Menomonic Box Test Photos.

From the
research
project





V-KELLY

ASR Testing

- First time incorporated into the standard specifications

501.2.5.4.4 Alkali Silica Reactivity Testing and Mitigation Requirements

- (1) If using coarse aggregate from sources containing significant amounts of fine-grained granitic rocks including felsic-volcanics, felsic-metavolcanics, rhyolite, diorite, gneiss, or quartzite; **test coarse aggregate according to ASTM C1260 for alkali silica reactivity**. Gravel aggregates are exempt from this requirement.
- (2) If ASTM C1260 tests indicate a 14-day expansion of 0.15 percent or greater, **perform additional testing according to ASTM C1567**. Test mortar bars made with coarse aggregate and the blend of cementitious materials proposed for concrete placed under the contract. The department will reject the aggregate if ASTM C1567 tests confirm mortar bar expansion of 0.15 percent or greater at 14 days.

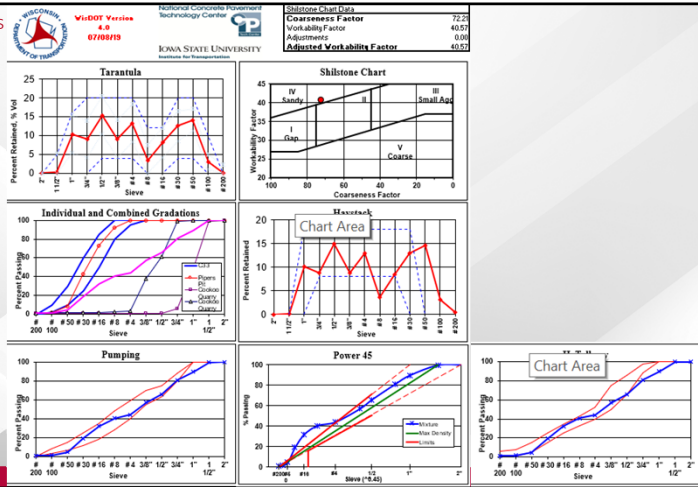
WisDOT Optimized Aggregate Gradation and Mixture Design STSP

- WisDOT Spreadsheet
- Originally developed at National Center for Concrete Pavement Technology
- Adapted for WisDOT use
- STSP requires use and submittal of this spreadsheet for approval
- <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnsit-rsrcs/qmp/default.aspx>

New Aggregate System

CONCRETE MIXTURE DESIGN										Date	8/10/2026						
Project Information																	
Construction Project ID		Contract ID		Highway		Highway A		County		County B							
11223544												125456					
Project Title												Project Limits					
Project Title A												Project Limits B					
Prime Contractor												Subcontractor (if applicable)					
Prime Contractor E												Subcontractor (if applicable) F					
AGGREGATE SOURCES																	
Type		Unique Aggregate ID #		Description		Quantity #		S.G. (OD)		Absorp. (%)		S.G. (SSD)					
#1 Stone		55-47-008-QRY		Cookoo Quarry		225-0005-2020		2.493		3.836		2.583					
Fine		55-32-001-PT		Pipers Pit		162-0152-2020		2.648		0.847		2.670					
#2 Stone		55-31-002-QRY		Cookoo Quarry		225-0008-2020		2.493		3.836		2.583					
Other A - If Used								1.000		1.000		1.000					
Other B - If Used								1.000		1.000		1.000					
CEMENTITIOUS												820					
AGGREGATE CORRECTION FACTOR												0.3					
SRTV ANALYSIS DATA																	
Max nominal aggregate size each (0.75, 1.0 or 1.5)																	
100.00		#1 Stone		Cookoo Quarry		Fine		Pipers Pit		#2 Stone		Cookoo Quarry		Combined			
Percent mass		37.61		42.73		41.26		39.56		39.56		39.56		39.56			
Percent vol		38.57		45.73		41.26		39.56		39.56		39.56		39.56			
Source		% Pass		% Min		% Pass		% Min		% Pass		% Min		% %			
2"		100.0		37.6		100.0		42.7		100.0		19.7		100.0			
1 1/2"		100.0		37.6		100.0		42.7		98.9		19.4		98.9			
1"		100.0		37.6		100.0		42.7		47.5		9.3		89.7			
3/4"		98.5		37.0		100.0		42.7		5.6		1.1		80.9			
1/2"		61.1		23.0		100.0		42.7		1.2		0.2		46.9			
3/8"		37.6		14.1		100.0		42.7		1.1		0.2		57.1			
#4		3.2		1.2		100.0		42.7		1.1		0.2		44.2			
#10		2.2		0.8		92.8		39.5		1.1		0.2		40.6			
#16		2.0		0.8		73.0		31.2		1.1		0.2		32.2			
#30		2.0		0.8		42.8		18.3		1.0		0.2		19.2			
#50		1.9		0.7		8.7		3.7		1.0		0.2		4.6			
#100		1.6		0.6		1.6		0.7		1.0		0.2		1.5			
#200		1.3		0.5		0.9		0.4		0.8		0.2		1.0			
FINENESS MODULUS												2.61					
TARANTULA CURV LIMITS (percent retained chart)																	
Description		Sieves Retained on		Limit		Min Retained (%)		Results									
Fine		#10 - #200		b/w 24% and 34%		31.1		Pass									
Coarse		#5 - #10 and #200		>10%		74.9		Pass									

New Data Charts



New Paste Quality

CONCRETE MIXTURE DESIGN				Date
Project Information				01/02/20
Construction Project ID	Contract ID	Highway	County	
11223344	123456	Highway A	County B	
Project Title		Project Limits		
Project Title C		Project Limits D		
Prime Contractor		Subcontractor (if applicable)		
Prime Contractor E		Subcontractor (if applicable) F		
CEMENTITIOUS MATERIAL				
	Manufacturer	Source	Type Class Grade	Specific Gravity (S.G.)
Cement				3.15
Fly Ash				2.65
Slag				1.98
CEMENTITIOUS 520				
CONCRETE PROPERTIES				
w/cm	0.42			
Air %	7.0	%		
SAM #	0.20	during trial batching		
Fly Ash	30	%		
Slag	0	%		
Ben Test Eval	1	Rating #		
Voids in Agg	19.0	%		
* Ben Voids %				
AGGREGATE SOURCES				
	Unique ID #	Description	S.G. (OD)	S.G. (SSD)
#1 Stone	25-47-005-QRT	Cookoo Quarry	2.493	2.589
Fine	25-32-001-PIT	Pipers Pit	2.645	2.670
#2 Stone	25-31-002-QRT	Cookoo Quarry	2.493	2.589
Other A - If Used			1.000	1.000
Other B - If Used			1.000	1.000
WATER				
	Gal	Source		
Water	26.19			
ADJUSTURE				
	Name	Dosage (cc/cwt)		
1				
2				

New Mix Design (Solver)

CONCRETE MIXTURE DESIGN				Date
Project Information				01/02/20
Construction Project ID	Contract ID	Highway	County	
11223344	123456	Highway A	County B	
Project Title		Project Limits		
Project Title C		Project Limits D		
Prime Contractor		Subcontractor (if applicable)		
Prime Contractor E		Subcontractor (if applicable) F		
MIXTURE PROPORTIONS				
Material	Manufacturer	Source	Weight (lbs)	Actual R.D.
Cement			364	3.15
Fly Ash			156	2.65
Slag			0	1.00
#1 Stone	---	Cookoo Quarry	1170	2.59
Fine	---	Pipers Pit	1330	2.67
#2 Stone	---	Cookoo Quarry	612	2.59
Other A - If Used	---		0	1.00
Other B - If Used	---		0	1.00
Water			218	1.00
Air %			7.0	1.89
TOTAL			3851	27.20
Cementitious	520	520	pcv	
Volume of paste			30.1	%
Volume of aggs			69.9	%
Volume of voids			13.3	%
vp/vv	>125	226.6	%	
w/cm	0.42	0.42		
% SCM 1	30	30	%	
% SCM 2	0	0	%	
Mass aggs	3112	3112	pcv	

STRENGTH

Flexural Strength

- WisDOT basis for design is flexural strength in AASHTO pavement design procedure.
- Makes sense to assure we are achieving what was designed for



Special Provision Flexural Strength

Maximum resistance of a concrete specimen to bending.

- 6-inch x 6-inch x 21-inch concrete beams
- Third-point loading in accordance with AASHTO T 97.



Flexural Strength

- Two SPV's
 - SPV for mix qualification
 - SPV for strength acceptance
- Incentive/disincentive pay model for flexural strength is based on data from pilot projects over the last decade



Flexural Strength

- <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrcs/qmp/default.aspx>
- Requires design of a mix using flexural strength
- Replaces all 28-day compressive strengths with flexural strengths
- New pay equations



Flexural Strength Challenges

- Molds
- Equipment – breakers
- Curing facilities to assure QC and QV are cured equally
- Sensitivity of flexural beams
- Risk Management (beam and mold can weigh as much as 110 pounds)

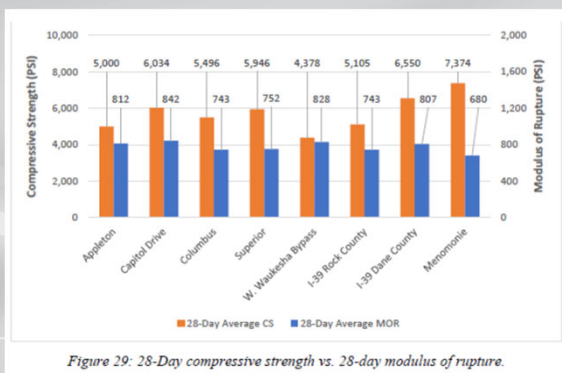


Flexural Strength Moving Forward

- Limited use
- Interstate/freeway only type projects
- Greater than 20,000 square yards
- Coordination with central office



From the research project:



FREEZE THAW RESISTANCE



SUPER AIR METER (SAM)



SAM Moving Forward

- Incorporated into specifications in December 2017
- Requires doing SAM during Mix Design (715.2.3.1)
- Requires SAM test once per lot during concrete paving (715.3.1.1)
- Shadow specification to begin building database of where WI mixes are
- Does not impact acceptance
- Timeline to move to acceptance in 2021?
- WisDOT moving to structure specifications. Shadow testing begins in 2020



2021 SAM spec?

- 2 years of shadow specification
- 587 data points
- 72.7% ≤ 0.2
- 19.4% > 0.2 and ≤ 0.25
- 2.9% > 0.25 and ≤ 0.3
- 4.9% > 0.3

Acceptance Specifications

Draft Specs:

- ≤ 0.2 – Accept
- > 0.2 to ≤ 0.25 – Corrective action.
- > 0.25 to ≤ 0.3 – Remain in place, consider price reduction.
- > 0.3 – Remove and Replace.
- A minimum of 4% air would also be required.



From the research project:

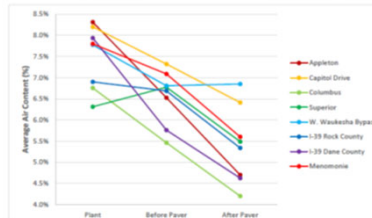


Figure 32: Air content changes throughout production and placement from the plant to before and after the paver.

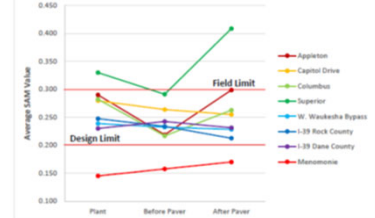


Figure 33: SAM value changes throughout production and placement from the plant to before and after the paver.



TRANSPORT PROPERTIES (the next priority)



Electric Resistivity

- Durability measurement
- Correlates very well with Rapid Chloride Permeability.
- RPC 28-day test
- This can be used on any cylinder or concrete.

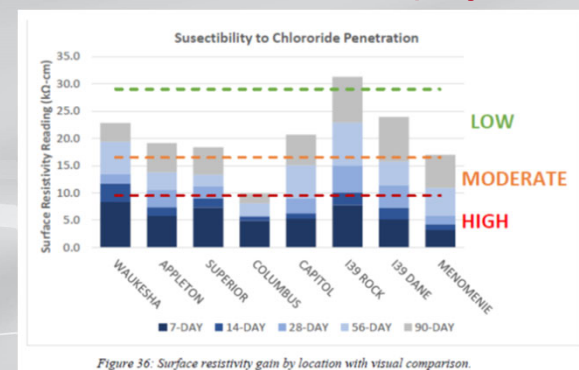


Formation Factor

- Resistivity
 - Store a cylinder in a fixed salt solution
 - Pull out at desired age
 - Read and put back
 - Repeat
 - Calculate formation factor (x10)
- $F = \frac{\text{Resistivity (bulk)}}{\text{Resistivity (solution)}}$



From the research project:



After that?

- Resistance to deicing salt attack?
 - Calcium Oxychloride test
 - SCM use
- Shrinkage (the last piece of the puzzle)
 - Is this impacting pavement performance?



Shrinkage

- Paste content (read the batch sheet)
 - Easy
 - Fast

Project	Gravel 1"	5/15/2017		
Mixture Proportions		Targets	Pounds	Actual
				R.O. Volume
Cement	Type 1		592	5.15 1.74
SCM 1	F Ash		86	2.65 0.52
SCM 2	Slag		0	1.00 0.00
Coarse Agg	A85006		1785	2.72 10.33
Fine Agg	A25518		1318	2.66 7.94
Intermediate	A85007		340	2.43 2.24
Water			180	1.00 2.88
Air %			5.0	1.35
			4019	27.00
Concentrations		428	428	pcy
Volume of paste			24.0	%
Volume of aggs			76.0	%
Volume of voids			19.2	%
sp/vv		125	125.0	
w/cm		0.42	0.42	
% SCM 1		20	20	%
% SCM 2		0	0	%
Mass aggs		3411	3411	pcy
Excess paste, %			4.8	%



Shrinkage Discussion To Date With WisDOT

- Pavements
 - Low priority
 - Short joint spacing
 - Early cracking not a performance problem/concern
- Structures
 - Higher priority
 - Reduction in bridge deck cracking is a high priority



QUESTIONS?

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