SECTION III
Pavement Maintenance/Rehabilitation Procedures

This section is intended to introduce, in a general way, basic pavement maintenance and rehabilitation treatments.

PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Pavement maintenance procedures are designed to slow the pavement aging process. Mainly, the procedures are designed to protect the pavement from the adverse effects of water and to some extent vehicle traffic.

Maintenance procedures, which protect the pavement from aging, are crack sealing, digouts, slurry seals, and cape seals. When pavements have extensive cracking and are beyond their design life, interim holding measures including skin patches and thin overlays are used as a stop gap prior to major rehabilitation.

Crack Sealing

Crack sealing prevents surface water from getting beneath the asphalt concrete layer into the aggregate bases. Crack sealing is generally performed using hot rubberized crack sealing material. The procedure includes routing small cracks, cleaning and sealing.

Digouts

Digouts are small areas of deteriorated pavements which are removed and replaced with new asphalt concrete. Pavement removal is accomplished by cold planning or saw cutting and excavation. New asphalt is installed in at least two lifts. The digout depth is determined depending on the street type and construction.

Seal Coats

Seal coats consist of emulsified oil that is spread or mopped on a pavement. Fine sand is sometimes added to address raveling. A seal coat slows water intrusion into the underlying layers, preventing damage to the pavement structure. Seal coats are used for parking lot pavements but can be used for roads with low speed limits.

Slurry Seals

Slurry seals consist of a combination of fine aggregate and emulsified oil. The type of slurry seal designates the coarseness of the largest aggregate. Type I slurry seal has

aggregates less than 1/8 of an inch, Type II has aggregates less than 1/4 of an inch, and Type III has aggregates less than 5/16 of an inch.

The most commonly used slurry seals for residential street pavements are Type I or Type II. The coarser aggregate contained in a slurry seal helps to fill the voids and produce a smother surface for pavements which are moderately to severely raveled.

Cape Seals

Cape seals consist of a chip seal overcoated with a slurry seal. A chip seal is an application of small angular rock (chips) approximately 1/4" to 3/8" in a maximum size embedded into a thick application of asphalt emulsion. Most chip seals incorporate polymer modified binders.

Cape seals are used on residential and collector streets to maintain a pavement which may need an overlay, but sufficient funds are not available. Chip seals are placed over low to moderate alligator cracks and block shrinkage cracking. Due to the distress covered by the chip seal, small areas of disbanding or failure may occur and will require patching.

Cape sealed surfaces are fairly coarse compared to new paving. Due to this characteristic, they may not be acceptable to some segments of the public.

Interim Holding Measures

Interim holding measures are used to "hold" the pavement together until funds become available for major rehabilitation. The common holding measures used by cities include skin patches and thin overlays.

Skin patches are thin lifts of fine asphalt concrete placed over deteriorated areas.

Thin maintenance overlays are placed to hold the surface together. The asphalt concrete layer is generally 3/4 to 1 inch think and 3/8 inch aggregate is used.

PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROCEDURES

Pavement rehabilitation consists of procedures used to restore the existing pavement quality or to add additional structural support to the pavement. Rehabilitation procedures include conventional overlays; pulverization and resurfacing; ARHM (asphalt rubber hot mix) overlays; AC removal and replacement (Mill and Fill); and reconstruction.

Conventional Overlays

Conventional overlays generally consist of surface preparation, pavement fabric and varying thicknesses of asphalt concrete. Surface preparation can consist of crack filling, pavement repairs of base failures and leveling courses.

Pavement fabric is often used as a water inhibiting membrane and to retard reflective cracking. Care must be used with fabric to avoid intersections with heavy truck breaking, steep grades (generally over 8 percent), and areas where subsurface water might be trapped.

The overlay thickness is determined by the structural requirement of the deflection analysis and reflective cracking criteria. The reflective cracking criteria requires the thickness of the overlay to be a minimum 1/2 the thickness of the existing bonded layers. Pavement fabric can account for 0.10 ft of asphalt for reflective cracking criteria if the structural requirements from the deflection analysis are met.

Conventional overlays have an expected service life of 7 to 13 years if they are designed to meet structural and reflective cracking criteria and are well constructed.

Pulverization and Resurfacing

Pulverization and resurfacing is an alternative to conventional overlays for streets that are structurally adequate but exhibit sufficient enough cracking to warrant improvement to the asphalt surface.

Pulverization and resurfacing is an intermediate step between overlays and reconstruction. The existing asphalt concrete is recycled into aggregate base and the recycled base increases the total structural section. The surface is re-graded to conform to flush facilities similar to the way the pavement is keycut for overlays. The re-grading allows for some improvement to the cross section and profile. This method eliminates the stress history and cracking of the old asphalt concrete pavement, thus eliminating negative impacts on the new asphalt concrete surface.

Some instability can be encountered when the pulverization method is used. PEI typically recommends budgeting 5 to 10 percent of the pulverized sub-grade area for stabilization. Stabilization can be performed using 6-inch deep lift asphalt concrete.

Pulverization and resurfacing has a life expectancy of 13 to 18 years. The life expectancy is slightly less than full reconstruction because some residual deficiencies in thickness or quality of the unaffected layers may still exist. Additional testing is necessary to determine if pulverization is a viable alternative. This testing includes measuring the existing structural section and testing the native soil for bearing capacity (R-value).

RHMA Overlays

RHMA is the shortened reference for Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt. This new material uses crumb rubber mixed with traditional asphalt binders to produce a more flexible paving material than conventional dense graded hot mix asphalt (HMA).

Caltrans has developed design criteria for use of this material based on accelerated performance testing using its dual wheel accelerated pavement testing equipment. The Caltrans criteria allows RHMA to be used in a one to two ratio to conventional hot mix asphalt. Thus, 1 inch of RHMA is equal to two inches of conventional hot mix asphalt. This is true for both structural and reflective cracking criteria.

RHMA costs approximately 1-3/4 times as much as conventional asphalt and provides a similar service life to that of conventional hot mix asphalt, 7 to 13 years. RHMA is generally only feasible when vertical constraints such as curb and gutter restrict the thickness of the overlay. RHMA typically has more open surface than conventional hot mix asphalt and is more difficult to obtain a high quality finished product.

AC Removal and Replacement (Mill and Fill)

On some thick asphalt concrete pavements, the most economical approach to rehabilitating the pavement is to remove some of the existing asphalt concrete surface, which matches the existing profile. The replacement material can be either conventional hot mix asphalt (HMA) or RHMA, depending on the design criteria.

In other cases, due to drainage or other physical constraints, additional thickness cannot be placed. If the underlying base is sufficient enough to support anticipated loading, the asphalt layer can be removed and replaced. Depending on existing conditions, this method should have a life of 15 to 20 years.

Reconstruction

When the pavement has severe cross section deficiencies or requires significant structural strengthening, reconstruction may be the only alternative. Generally, existing pavement materials are recycled and incorporated into the new pavement structure. Structural section material alternatives include treated soils, full depth asphalt concrete, recycled materials and Portland cement concrete.