Evolution of RCC Construction in Texas

ACI – Milwukee April 18, 2016a

Jan Prusinski, P.E. Executive Director Cement Council of Texas



Concrete Pavement – Types



Jointed-Reinforced



Jointed-Plain (unreinforced)



Continuously Reinforced



Roller Compacted Concrete

Roller Compacted Concrete

- Concrete pavement placed a different way
- No-slump concrete (very stiff)
- No forms
- No reinforcing steel
- Placed with asphalt-style pavers
- Consolidated with Vibratory Rollers
- No finishing
- Low water-cement ration (i.e. less shrinkage)



RCC vs. Conventional Paving

- RCC vs. Asphalt
 - Less expensive
 - Rigid-less subgrade stress
 - Less maintenance
 - Placement time same or less
 - Asphalt smoother

RCC vs. Conventional Concrete

- Less expensive (no reinforcing/dowels)
- Faster, high production
- Carries light traffic in hours
- Higher speed grinding
- Project size/complexity can dictate economic benefits



"Growing Pains" with RCC

- 1980's 2000: Lack of experienced contractors
- "One bad project" can hamper market or owner in a region
- Project size: small vs. large projects
- Equipment requirements
 - Pug mill & high density asphalt paver
 - Ready mixed plant and conventional asphalt paver
- Types of projects
- Over and under specifying
- Managing expectations

Texas – "Birthplace" of RCC Pavement in the U.S.

- First large RCC job Fort Hood
 - Attribute COE acceptance to Dr. David Pittman
- 1984 18,000 sy, 10" thick, \$58/sy at time
- > 300 lb cement, 160 lb FA
- 1 ½" aggregate had some segregation
- ¾" agg test area better
- Placed in very hot, windy weather
- Natural cracks
- Flex strength of 800–900 psi
- 1987 Second RCC project at Fort Hood





Central Freight Distribution Ctr. Austin, Texas – 1987

- Truck terminal
 - 7" & 8" pavements
 - 90,000 sy

Peltz

- RCC bid 25% less than asphalt
- Natural cracks
 - 23-50' spacing
 - Routed/sealed @ 5 yr
- Continuous use, little maintenace @ 26 yrs:
 - Still performing now used for post office and UPS
 - ~5,500 sy repairs performed in 2014





Hornsby Bend Compost Yard Austin, TX - 1987 & 90

- 90,000 sq yd, Five basins – "Dillo Dirt"
 - 12 in thick, 2 lifts
 - Haul roads, 9 in RCC
 - 3:1, 5:1 and 10:1 slopes

Mix Design

- 12% cement, no fly ash
- ¾ in max aggregate
- 3300 psi @ 38 D
- \$43.47/cu yd or ~\$31/sq yd
- Still functions daily
- Peltz



Los Tomates Border Station Brownsville

- 1999, 15 Acres
- 10 in, 2 lifts
- 5000 psi, 520 lbs cement
- Pavement underdesigned, replaced w/ conventional pavement ~2011
- Peltz





Port of Houston Bayport Container Terminal – 2007 to 2016

- Spurred RCC Renaissance in TX
- Largest RCC site in U.S.
 - 45, 48, 35, 30 acres 2007, 09, 12 and 15
- 14 and 18" RCC
 - 2–lift construction
 - 30 yr design
 - 8" CTB, 4" perv, 12" lime/cem
- Production:
 - 8-11 acres/month RCC
 - 2 acres/month PCC (2004 60 acre project)
- Costs:
 - RCC \$45-\$72/sy (18")
 - PCC \$65-\$100/sy (15")
 - 2009 alt: \$32.2 Conv. vs. \$27.5M RCC (15% savings)





Port of Houston Future Projects, 2016–2019

Project	Area	Year	
Ph. 6, S. Container	22 ac/18"	Let 3/30/16	
"West Yard" Container	25 ac/18"	2016	Private lease
Barbours Cut Container	~15 ac/14-18"	2016	
Phase 2 Container	30 ac/18"	2017	
Phase 1 Container	60 ac/18"	2017	Possibly 2 contracts
Phase 7 Container	70 ac/18"	2019	Possibly 2 contracts

By 2020, POH will have 380 acres of mostly 18" RCC, Nearly 1,000,000 *cubic* yards of RCC.

City Arterials San Angelo, TX - 2011 & 2012

- Grape Creek Road: 15,000 sy
- 50th Street: 30,000 sy
- 50-year design life
- Years of deferred maintenance on asphalt roads
- > 75 yr maintenance:
 - Asphalt (8 yr sealcoat + 24-year mill/o'lay) = \$7.5M
 - RCC (overlay @ 50-60 yrs = 1.4 M)
- Reece Albert



Pioneer Natural Resources Victoria, TX – 2013

- Rollcon, LLC Contractor
- Pipe fabrication for Eagle Ford oil/gas
- ▶ 60 acres
- Originally 15" unsurfaced aggregate
- Replaced with 7" RCC on stabilized base
- > 20% cost savings
- Significant maintenance savings
- Owner cited less risk/cleanup in fuel/oil spills
- 60 acres placed in less than two months





Midland, TX Lamesa Road Arterial, 2014

- 1 ¼ mile, 4-lane principal arterial, 36,000 sy
- Justified on life cycle cost:
 - 3.5" Asphalt/12" base \$2.3M
 - 7" RCC \$2.7M
 - Reece Albert Low bid on both asphalt and concrete
- First concrete pavement in Midland in 40+ years
 - 2 days of open house
- True inlay
 - 4 days Southbound
 - 3 days Northbound



Residential Developments Liberty County

- County standards added for RCC
- Developer wanted added value and eliminate repairs
- 5" on CMS same cost as 2" asphalt + 6" flex base
- Largest RCC residential developments in US
- Bella Vista + more
- > 60 miles of streets, nearly 1,000,000 sy
- Rollcon





Asphalt vs. RCC Comparison Residential Street or Car Parking

> 3 Trucks per day, sandy subgrade, 20-year life, 1 mile x 24 ft (126,000 sf)



\$13,152 Cost Differential

Kansas City Southern Intermodal Yards 2007–2015

- Kendleton, TX (SW of Houston)
 - Started as opportunity during 1st Port of Houston
 - Several KCS yards in US and Mexico
 - Most recent, 57 ac, Wylie (DFW-area), 10" and 7"
 - AG Peltz and Rollcon





TxDOT beginning to use RCC

- TxDOT beginning to use RCC
 - Special spec approved
 - First project let: 16 lanemiles frontage I-20 Abilene (alt bid w/ asphalt - placed as asphalt)
 - Several safety rest areas (in construction or bid)
 - First State Highway San Angelo District, 2016





RCC Promotional Benefits

- RCC can fill "gap" between asphalt and conventional concrete
- Non-concrete users may consider RCC after dismissing conventional concrete
- Asphalt contractors can transition to RCC
- RCC can allow designers to "think outside the box" with design

Future of RCC in Texas

- Continued use in industrial pavements
 - Houston ship channel/intermodal, industrial
 - Dallas intermodal
 - South Texas trucking and industrial
- TxDOT use should expand gradually
 - Safety rest areas
 - Rural frontage roads
 - Lower volume FMs and oil/gas/wind farms with overweight vehicles
- Local public roads
 - Arterials
 - Residential
- Smaller projects, RM production

Thank You!

- Jan R. Prusinski, P.E.
 - Cement Council of Texas (Texas PCA affiliate)
 - jprusinski@cementx.org
 - 832-265-7130