



# Designing Concrete Overlays

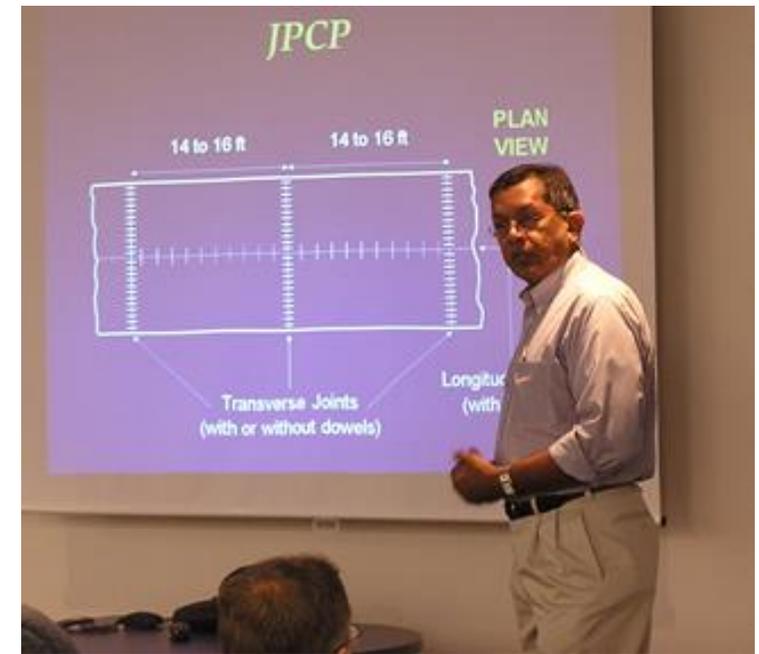
ACI Virtual Concrete Convention

**Julie M. Vandebossche, Ph. D., P. E.**

William Kepler Whiteford Professor

University of Pittsburgh

-April 1, 2021-



# Dr. Shiraz Tyabji



Field Observations



# Dr. Shiraz Tyabji



Leadership and Service

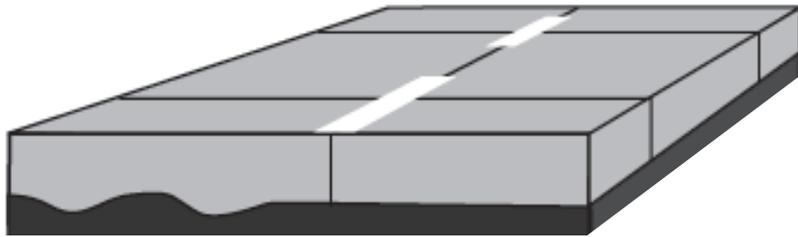


International Info. Exchange



# Evolution in overlay design

## Whitetopping



[https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay\\_construction\\_doc\\_dev\\_guide\\_w\\_cvr.pdf](https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay_construction_doc_dev_guide_w_cvr.pdf)



## First Whitetopping

South 7<sup>th</sup> street in Terre Haute, Indiana -  
1918

Existing flexible pavement was overlaid with  
3 - 4 in. of reinforced concrete

## During 40's and 50's -

Used to upgrade military & civil airports

## Highway use

Started approx. 1960

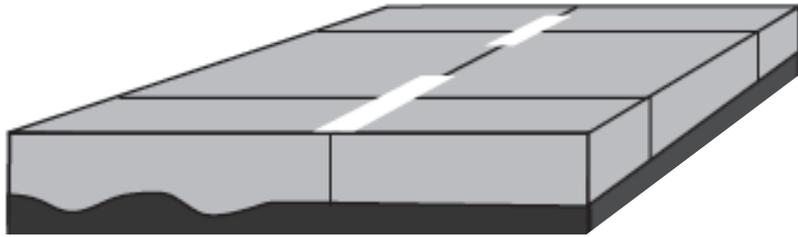
Types have included JPCP, JRCP, CRCP, FRC

-Jim Mack

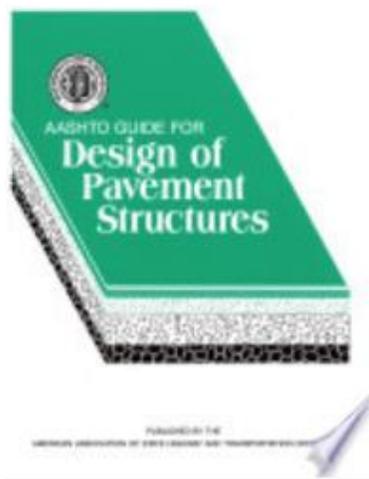


# Evolution in overlay design

## Whitetopping



[https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay\\_construction\\_doc\\_dev\\_guide\\_w\\_cvr.pdf](https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay_construction_doc_dev_guide_w_cvr.pdf)



Design as a JPCP on HMA base.

## First Whitetopping

South 7<sup>th</sup> street in Terre Haute, Indiana - 1918

Existing flexible pavement was overlaid with 3 - 4 in. of reinforced concrete

## During 40's and 50's -

Used to upgrade military & civil airports

## Highway use

Started approx. 1960

Types have included JPCP, JRCP, CRCP, FRC

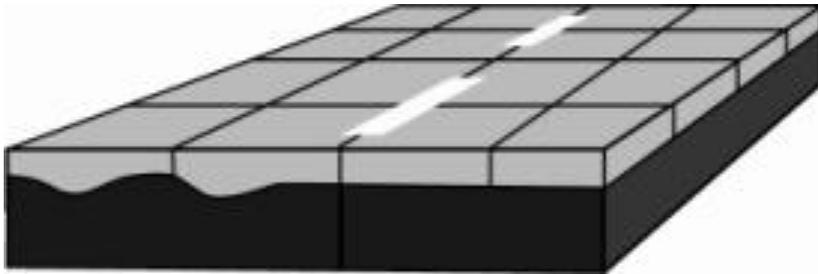
-Jim Mack



# Evolution in overlay design

Ultra-thin whitetopping (UTW)

Typ. 2-4 in



[https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay\\_construction\\_doc\\_dev\\_guide\\_w\\_cvr.pdf](https://intrans.iastate.edu/app/uploads/2018/09/overlay_construction_doc_dev_guide_w_cvr.pdf)

Thin whitetopping (TWT)

Typ. 4-6 in



Unit of Measure  
English Select unit of measure for inputs and outputs  
[click for more info]

Asphalt Concrete Category  
Category A This is the asphalt concrete category  
[click for more info]

Portland Cement Concrete Inputs  
Thickness (inches, mm) 1 This is the thickness of the UTW  
[click for more info]  
Joint Spacing (feet, meters) 30 This is the amount of space between the slab joints  
[click for more info]  
Flexural Strength (psi, MPa) 170 This is the average flexural strength of the concrete  
[click for more info]

Asphalt Concrete Inputs  
Thickness (inches, mm) 2 This is the thickness of the existing asphalt concrete  
[click for more info]

Other Inputs  
k-value (psi, MPa/m) 100 This is the subgrade/leakbase k-value  
[click for more info]

Calculate Allowable Trucks Per Lane

**UTW Calculator**  
Mack et al

**Colorado Design Procedure**  
CTL (Wu Sheehan & Tyabji)

- Pavement instrumentation
- 3-D FE



# Evolution in overlay design

Ultra-thin whitetopping (UTW)  
Typ. 2-4 in



UTW Calculator  
Mack et al



- Additional failure modes
- Climatic considerations
- Expanded 3-D FE models
- Performance data

Thin whitetopping (TWT)  
Typ. 4-6 in



- Colorado Design Procedure  
CTL (Wu Sheehan & Tyabji)
- Pavement instrumentation
  - 3-D FE
  - Trans. cracking



# Evolution in overlay design

Panel Thickness	Panel size	Failure Mode	Design Procedure
≤ 6.5 in	Small slabs (≤ 4.5 ft)	1. Corner Breaks	1. BCOA - ME 2. ACPA
	Midsized slabs (4.5 to 8 ft)	1. Long. Cracks 2. Diagonal Cracks	1. BCOA - ME 2. ACPA 3. ME-SJPCP
	Larger slabs (10 ft width) (wheelpath) Transverse Cracks	1. BCOA - ME 2. Pavement ME-JPCP* 3. CoDOT	
≥ 6.5 in	Full width	1. Transverse Cracks	Conventional design 1. AASHTO '93 2. Pavement ME 3. Etc...

**Faulting not considered...yet**

\*Pavement ME does not design against longitudinal cracks for full lane width slabs



# Incorporating a faulting model

## Frequency and depth of joint activation ?

- Fiber
- Slab size
- PCC/asphalt thickness



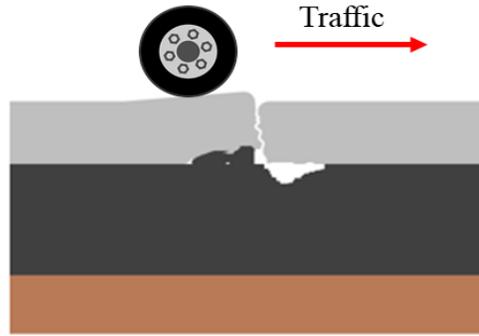
PennDOT and NRRRA



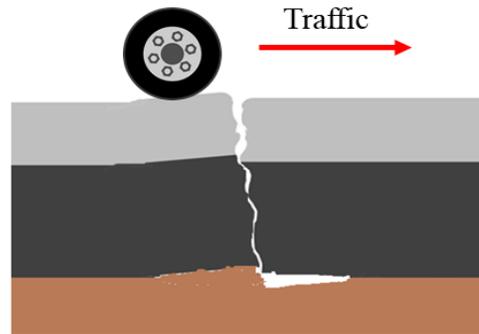
# Incorporating a faulting model

## 1. Flexural stiffness ratio (FSR)

$$\text{Flexural stiffness} = D_i = \frac{E_i h_i^3}{12(1 - \mu_i^2)}$$
$$\text{FSR} = \frac{D_{PCC}}{D_{Asphalt}}$$



or



## Criteria

### Midsize slabs (4.5 ft - 8.5 ft)

- $\text{FSR} \leq 0.4$ : PCC only
- $\text{FSR} > 0.4$ : Partial depth with every 6<sup>th</sup> joint full-depth

## 2. Panel size

- < 4.5 ft
- 4.5 ft - 8.5 ft
- Full lane width

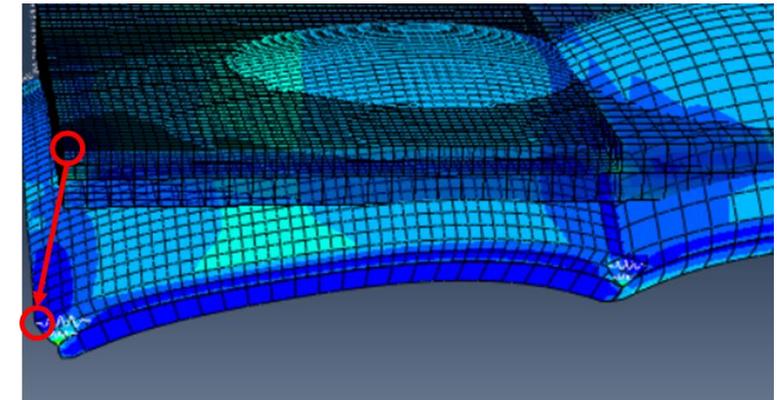
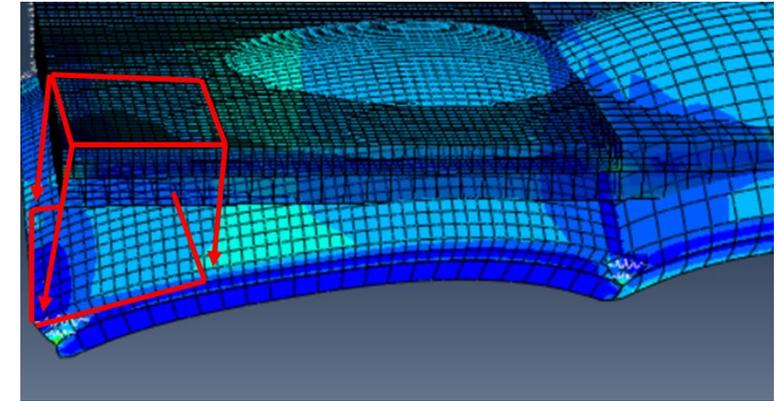
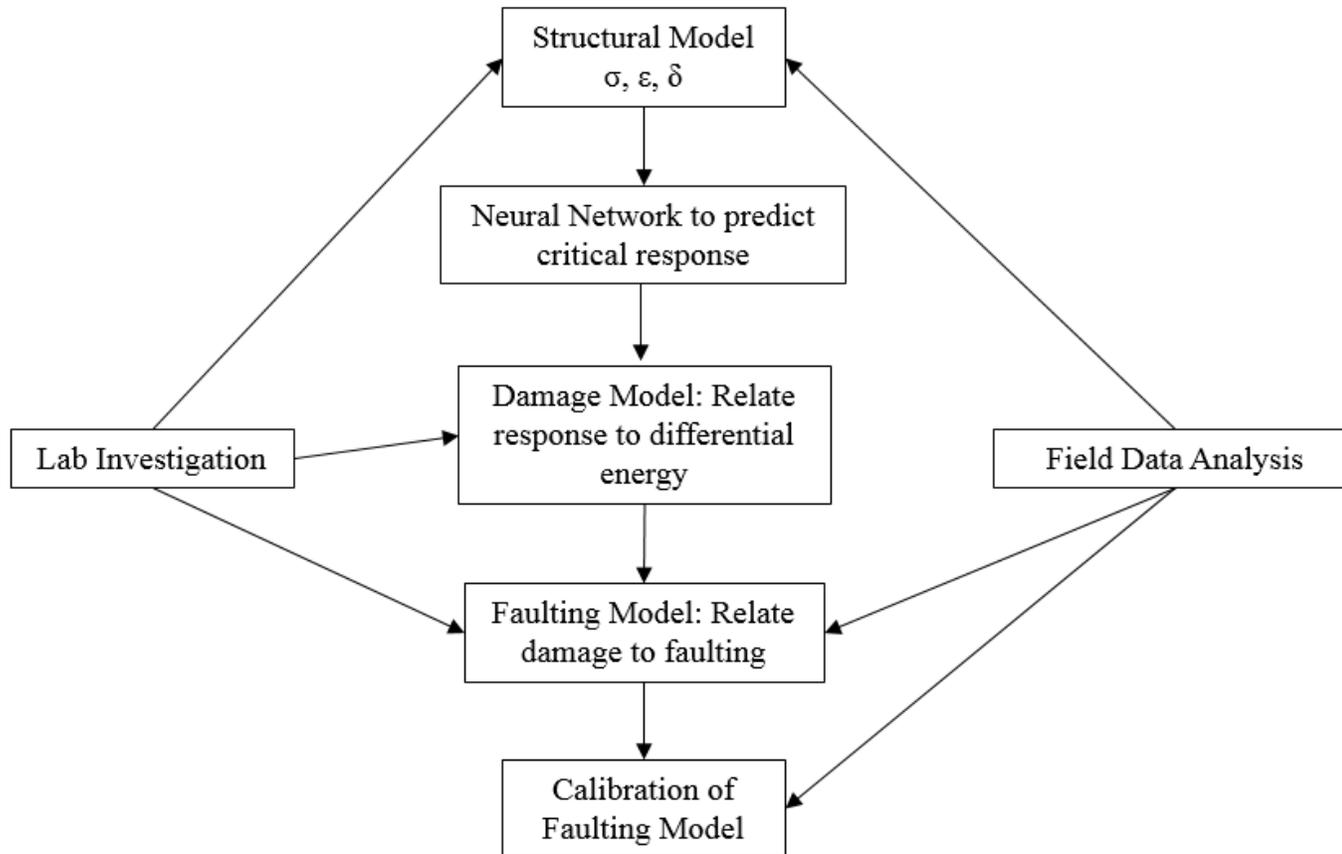
### Full lane width:

- Full-depth for every joint

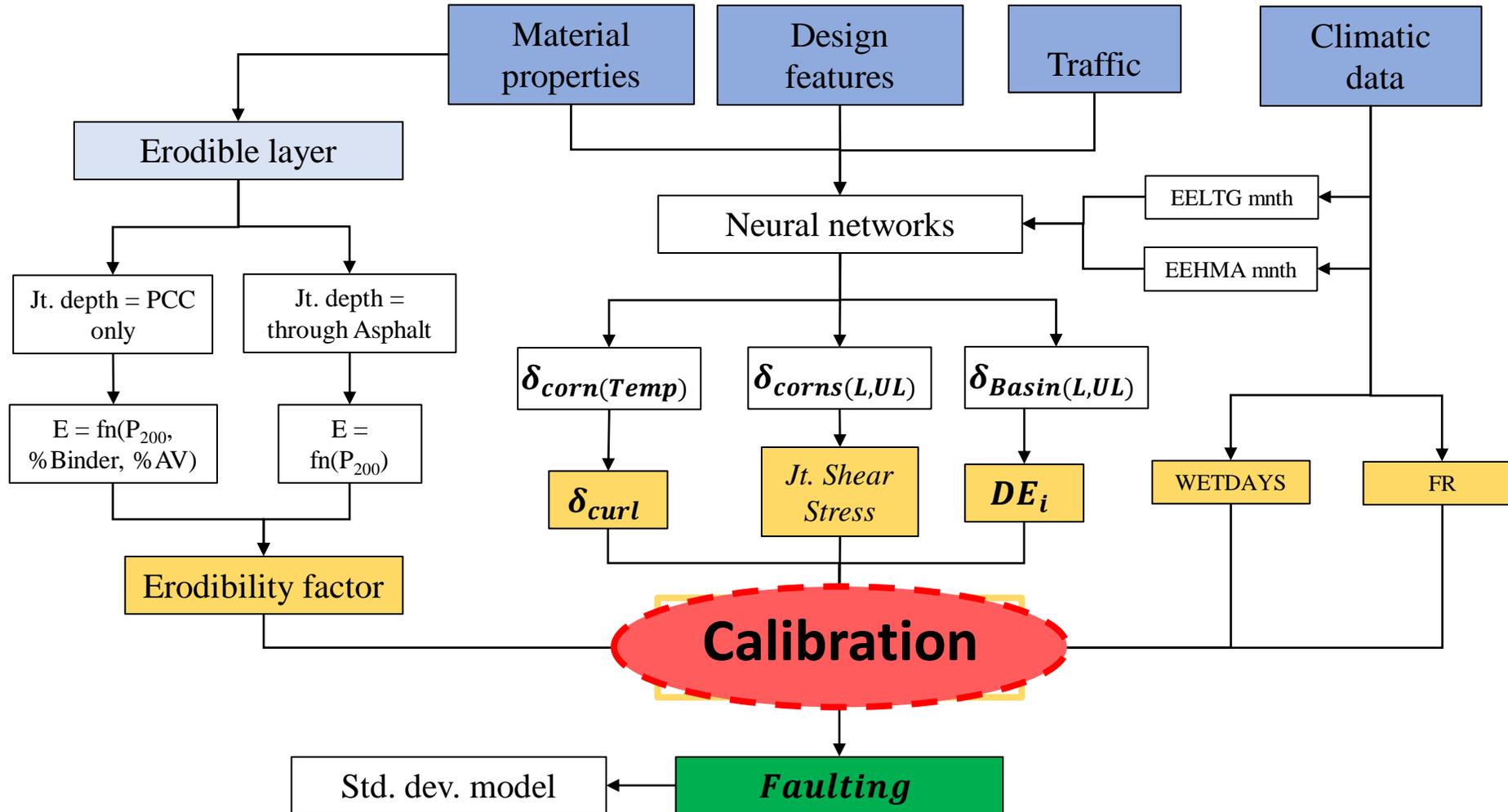
DeSantis et al. 2016 (ICCP 2016)



# Incorporating a faulting model



# Incorporating a faulting model



# Incorporating a faulting model

$$F_i = F_{i-1} + C_7 * C_8 * DE_i * [C_5 * E]^{C_6}$$

$$\Delta Fault_i = (C_3 + C_4 * FR^{0.25}) * (F_{i-1} - Fault_{i-1}) * C_8 * DE_i$$

$$Fault_i = Fault_{i-1} + \Delta Fault_i$$

$F_0$  = initial maximum mean transverse joint faulting (in)

$FR$  = base freezing index (% time that the top of the base is below freezing (<32°F))

$\delta_{curl}$  = max mean monthly PCC upward slab deflection due to curling

$E$  = erosion potential of interlayer: f(% binder content, % air voids,  $P_{200}$  for partial depth)

$P_{200}$  = Percent of interlayer aggregate passing No. 200 sieve

$WETDAYS$  = Average number of annual wet days (> 0.1 in of rainfall)

$F_i$  = maximum mean transverse joint faulting for month i (in)

$F_{i-1}$  = maximum mean transverse joint faulting for month i-1 (in)

$DE_i$  = Differential energy density of accumulated during month i

$\Delta Fault_i$  = incremental monthly change in mean transverse joint faulting during month i (in)

$C_1 \dots C_8$  = Calibration coefficients

$Fault_{i-1}$  = mean joint faulting at the beginning of month i (0 if i = 1)

$Fault_i$  = mean joint faulting at the end of month i (in)



# Incorporating a faulting model

$$F_i = F_{i-1} + C_7 * C_8 * DE_i * [C_5 * E]^{C_6}$$

$$\Delta Fault_i = (C_3 + C_4 * FR^{0.25}) * (F_{i-1} - Fault_{i-1}) * C_8 * DE_i$$

$$Fault_i = Fault_{i-1} + \Delta Fault_i$$

$F_0$  = initial maximum mean transverse joint faulting (in)

$FR$  = base freezing index (% time that the top of the base is below freezing (<32°F))

$\delta_{curl}$  = max mean monthly PCC upward slab deflection due to curling

$E$  = erosion potential of interlayer: f(% binder content, % air voids,  $P_{200}$  for partial depth)

$P_{200}$  = Percent of interlayer aggregate passing No. 200 sieve

$WETDAYS$  = Average number of annual wet days (> 0.1 in of rainfall)

$F_i$  = maximum mean transverse joint faulting for month i (in)

$F_{i-1}$  = maximum mean transverse joint faulting for month i-1 (in)

$DE_i$  = Differential energy density of accumulated during month i

$\Delta Fault_i$  = incremental monthly change in mean transverse joint faulting during month i (in)

$C_1 \dots C_8$  = Calibration coefficients

$Fault_{i-1}$  = mean joint faulting at the beginning of month i (0 if i = 1)

$Fault_i$  = mean joint faulting at the end of month i (in)



# Incorporating a faulting model

## Full depth joint activation:

MEPDG Documentation Appendix JJ

### Erodibility index

Assigned integer value based upon base type

1 – extremely erosion resistant

to

5 – very erodible

Erodibility Class	Material Description and Testing
1	(a) Lean concrete with approximately 8 percent cement; or with long-term compressive strength > 2,500 psi (>2,000 psi at 28-days) and a granular subbase layer or a stabilized soil layer, or a geotextile fabric is placed between the treated base and subgrade, otherwise class 2. (b) Hot mixed asphalt concrete with 6 percent asphalt cement that passes appropriate stripping tests and aggregate tests and a granular subbase layer or a stabilized soil layer (otherwise class 2). (c) Permeable drainage layer (asphalt treated aggregate or cement treated aggregate and with an appropriate granular or geotextile separation layer placed between the treated permeable base and subgrade.
2	(a) Cement treated granular material with 5 percent cement manufactured in plant, or long-term compressive strength 2,000 to 2,500 psi (1,500 to 2,000 psi at 28-days) and a granular subbase layer or a stabilized soil layer, or a geotextile fabric is placed between the treated base and subgrade; otherwise class 3. (b) Asphalt treated granular material with 4 percent asphalt cement that passes appropriate stripping test and a granular subbase layer or a treated soil layer or a geotextile fabric is placed between the treated base and subgrade; otherwise class 3.
3	(a) Cement-treated granular material with 3.5 percent cement manufactured in plant, or with long-term compressive strength 1,000 to 2,000 psi (750 psi to 1,500 at 28-days). (b) Asphalt treated granular material with 3 percent asphalt cement that passes appropriate stripping test
4	Unbound crushed granular material having dense gradation and high quality aggregates.
5	Untreated soils (PCC slab placed on prepared/compacted subgrade)



# Incorporating a faulting model

## Partial depth joint activation:

$$\alpha = \log(1 + a * P_{200} + b * \%AV - c * \%Binder)$$

$\alpha$  = Erodibility index

$P_{200}$  = Percent passing No. 200 sieve in interlayer

$\%AV$  = Percent air voids in asphalt interlayer

$\%Binder$  = Percent binder in asphalt interlayer

$a, b, c$  = Calibration coefficients (8.7346, 1.6989, 1.8323)

$$E = \begin{cases} (a * \alpha^2 - b * \alpha + c) & \text{Undoweled Pavements} \\ (d * \alpha^2 - e * \alpha + f) & \text{Doweled Pavements} \end{cases} \alpha > 1.16$$

$$E = \begin{cases} (h * \alpha) & \text{Undoweled Pavements} \\ (i * \alpha) & \text{Doweled Pavements} \end{cases} \alpha < 1.16$$

$a \dots i$  = Calibration coefficients



# Incorporating a faulting model

## Full depth joint activation:

Coefficient	Values for different models		
	BCOA		
	FULL	PCC ONLY	Pavement ME
CDOWEL	7*Diam.Dow.	0.75	-
C1	1.29		1.29
C2			1.1
C3		0.001725	0.001725
C4		0.0008	0.0008
C5	2E-04	0.05	250
C6	4.215	2.4	0.4
C7	0.90	3.562	1.2
C8 <sup>2</sup>	1/(5x10 <sup>5</sup> )	1/(5x10 <sup>5</sup> )	400

Not finalized

<sup>1</sup>Different Erosion model

<sup>2</sup>Previous model used C8 as dowel damage coefficient not used for calibration



# Unbonded Concrete Overlays (UBOL)

## Existing concrete pavement

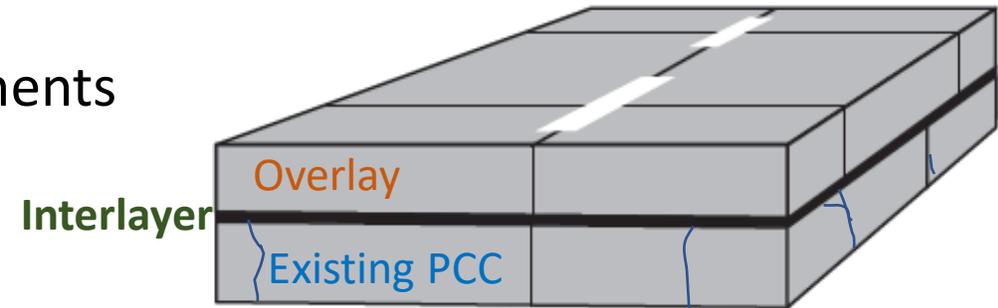
- Moderately to significantly deteriorated pavements
  - Few, if any, pre-overlay repairs required
- Stable and uniform support layer

## Interlayer

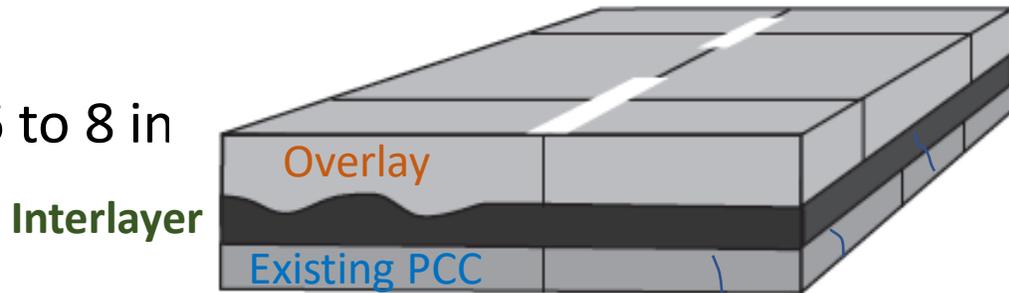
- HMA or nonwoven geotextile fabric

## Overlay

- Thicker than bonded concrete overlays – typ. 6 to 8 in
- Durable surface
- Increased structural capacity



Existing concrete pavement



Composite pavement



# Unbonded Concrete Overlays (UBOL)

## Existing concrete pavement

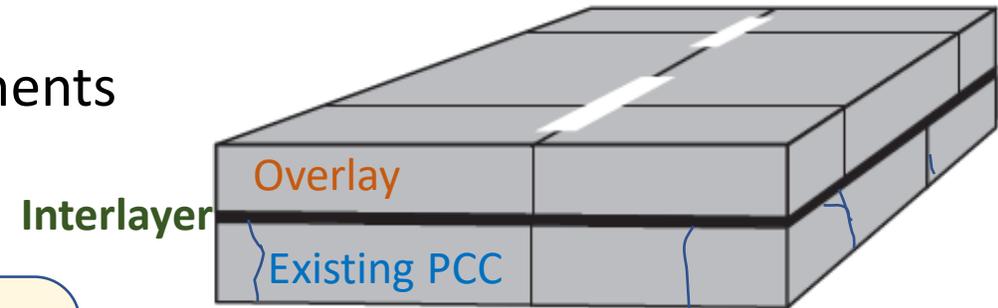
- Moderately to significantly deteriorated pavements
  - Few, if any, pre-overlay repairs required
- Stable and uniform support layer

## Interlayer

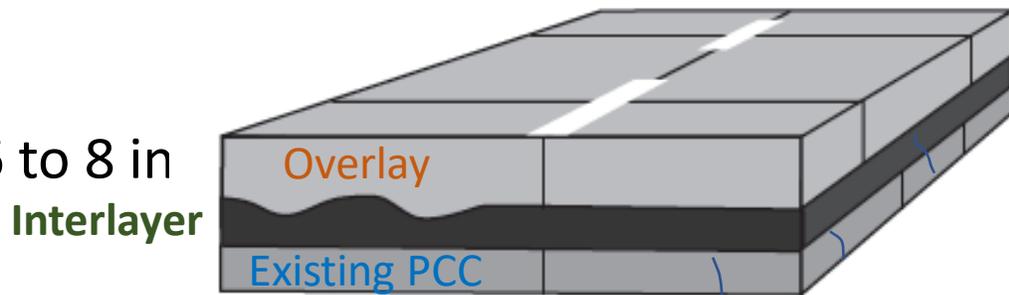
- HMA or nonwoven geotextile fabric

## Overlay

- Thicker than bonded concrete overlays – typ. 6 to 8 in
- Durable surface
- Increased structural capacity



Existing concrete pavement



Composite pavement



# Desirable interlayer characteristics

## 5 Steps to Success

1. Balance permeability and strength
2. Erosion resistant mix (resistant to stripping)
3. Ensure proper compaction is achieved for AC interlayers
4. Keep moisture out of joints (seal/fill)
5. Provide a drainage path for water to exit pavement

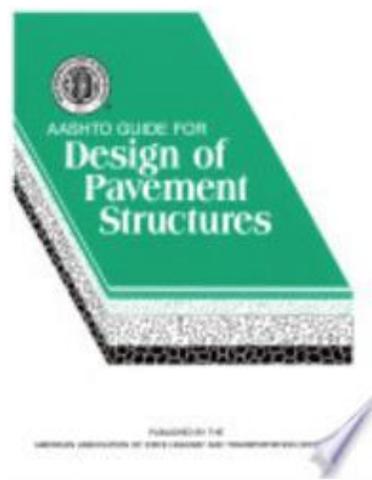
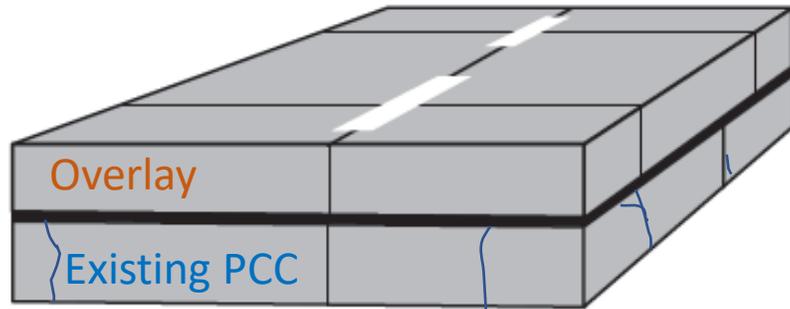
Accounted for  
in Pitt UBOL  
Design  
Procedure

### **Best Practices**

- Construction
- Maintenance
- Design



# Overlay design



TPF(5)-169 - Development of an Improved Design Procedure for Unbonded Concrete Overlays:

Primary Goal:  
Incorporate Effect of Interlayer on Performance

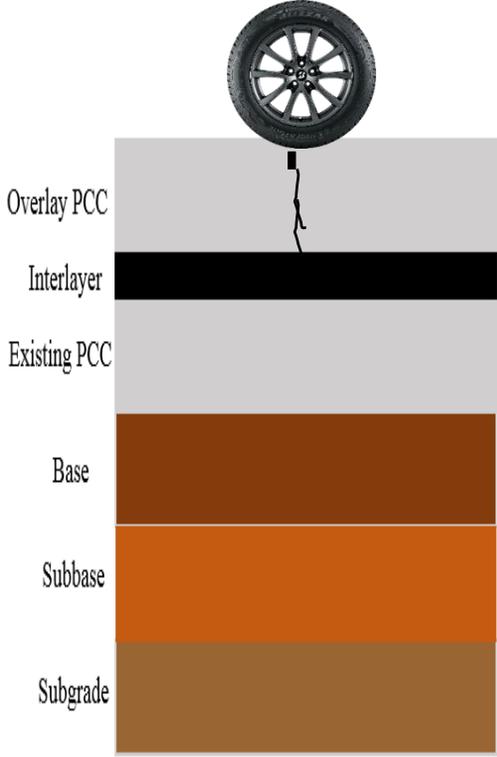
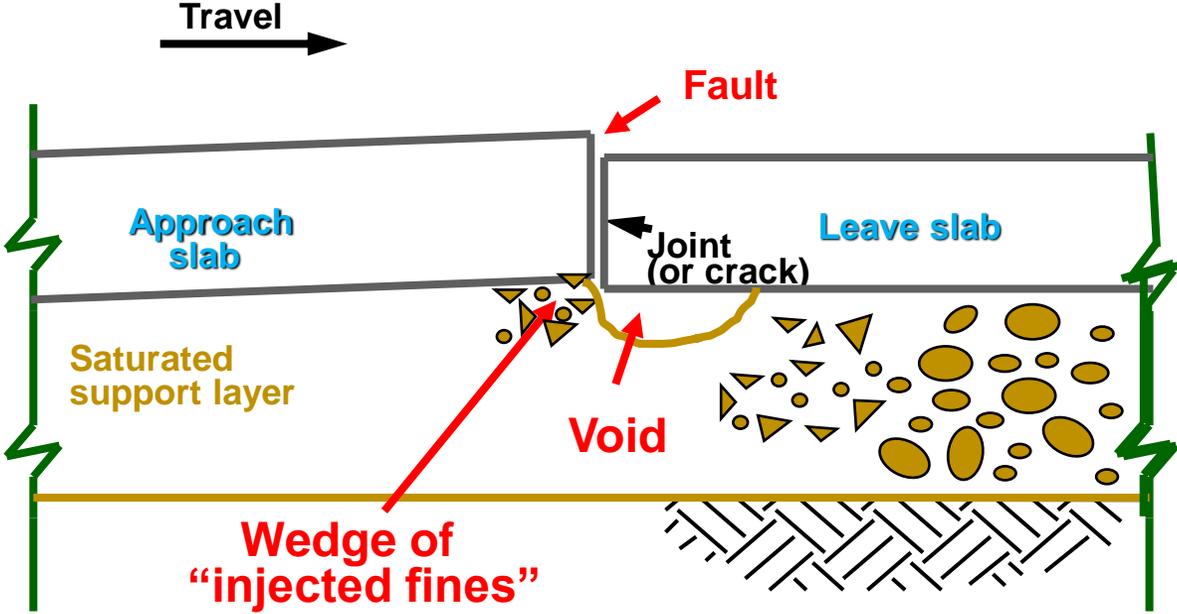
Do NOT consider effect of interlayer on performance



# UBOL Design - Faulting



Pavement Interactive



# UBOL Design

## Failure type:

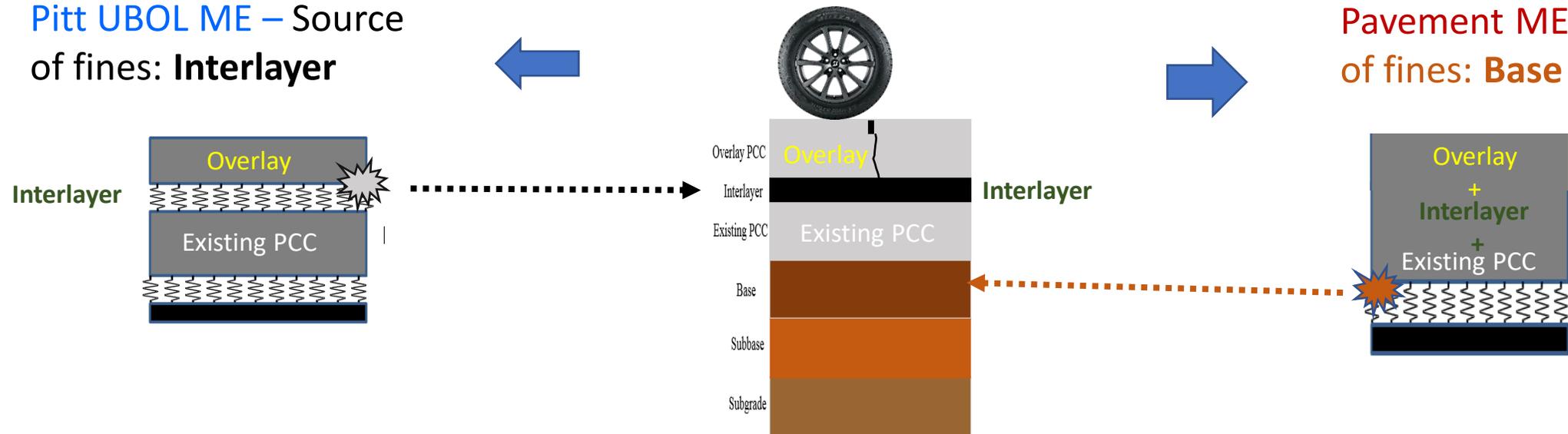
### Cracking

- Transverse fatigue cracking : **Pavement-ME** & **Pitt UBOL ME**
- Corner/longitudinal cracking due to transverse joint interlayer damage: **Pitt UBOL ME**

### Faulting

**Pitt UBOL ME** – Source of fines: **Interlayer**

**Pavement ME** – Source of fines: **Base**



# Pitt UBOL ME

## TPF-5(269) UBOL Design

Help:

Open a PDF file with the project [report](#).

Reliability analysis

Climate station

Design Life, years:

Cracking Reliability, %

Faulting Reliability, %:

Two-way AADTT Year 1:

Linear Yearly Growth, %

Number of Lanes

Joint Spacing, ft

Dowel Diameter, in

Shoulder Type

PCC Flexural Strength, psi:

Existing PCC Thickness, in:

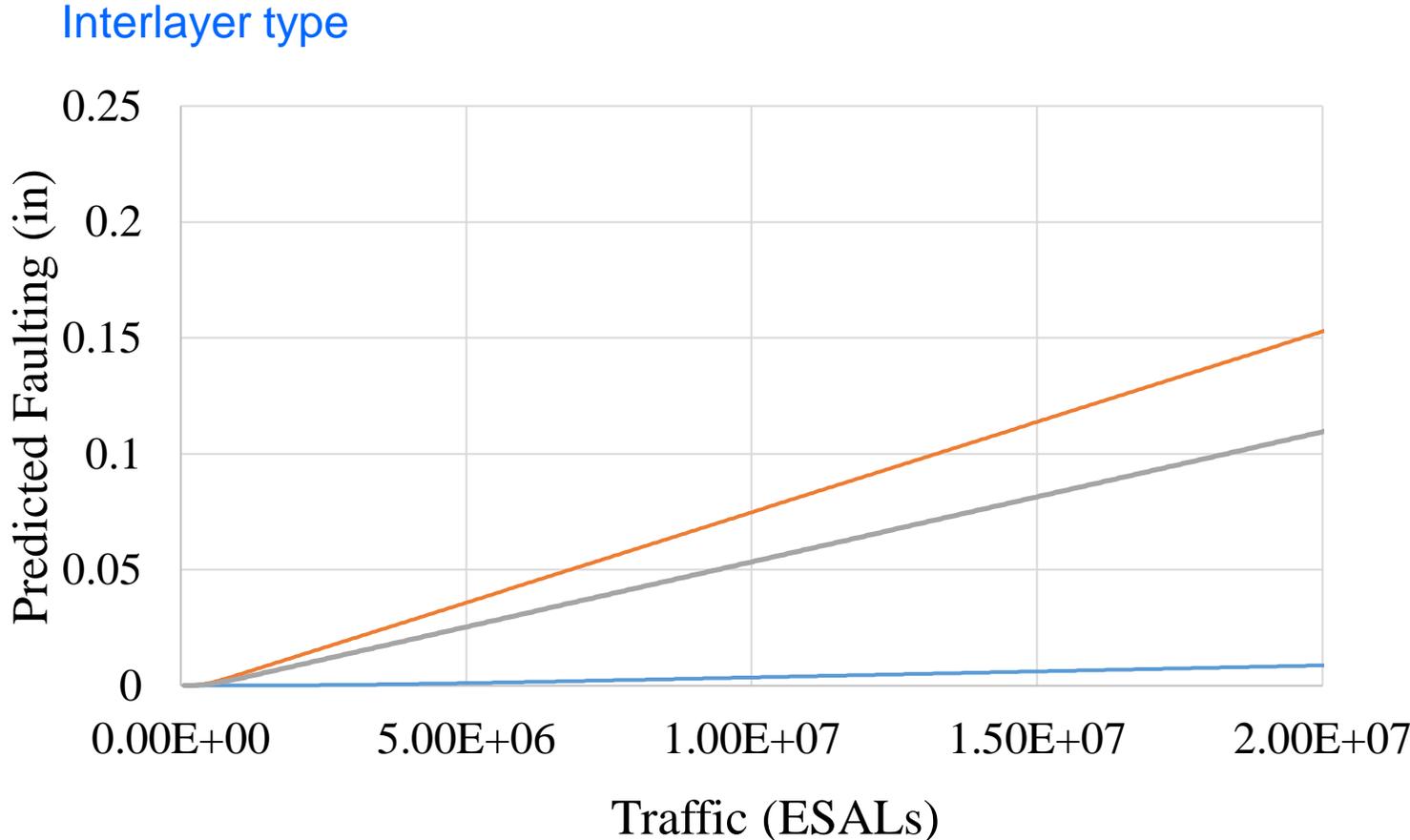
Existing PCC modulus, psi:

Interlayer Type

<http://ubol design3.azurewebsites.net/>



# Pitt UBOL – Interlayer type

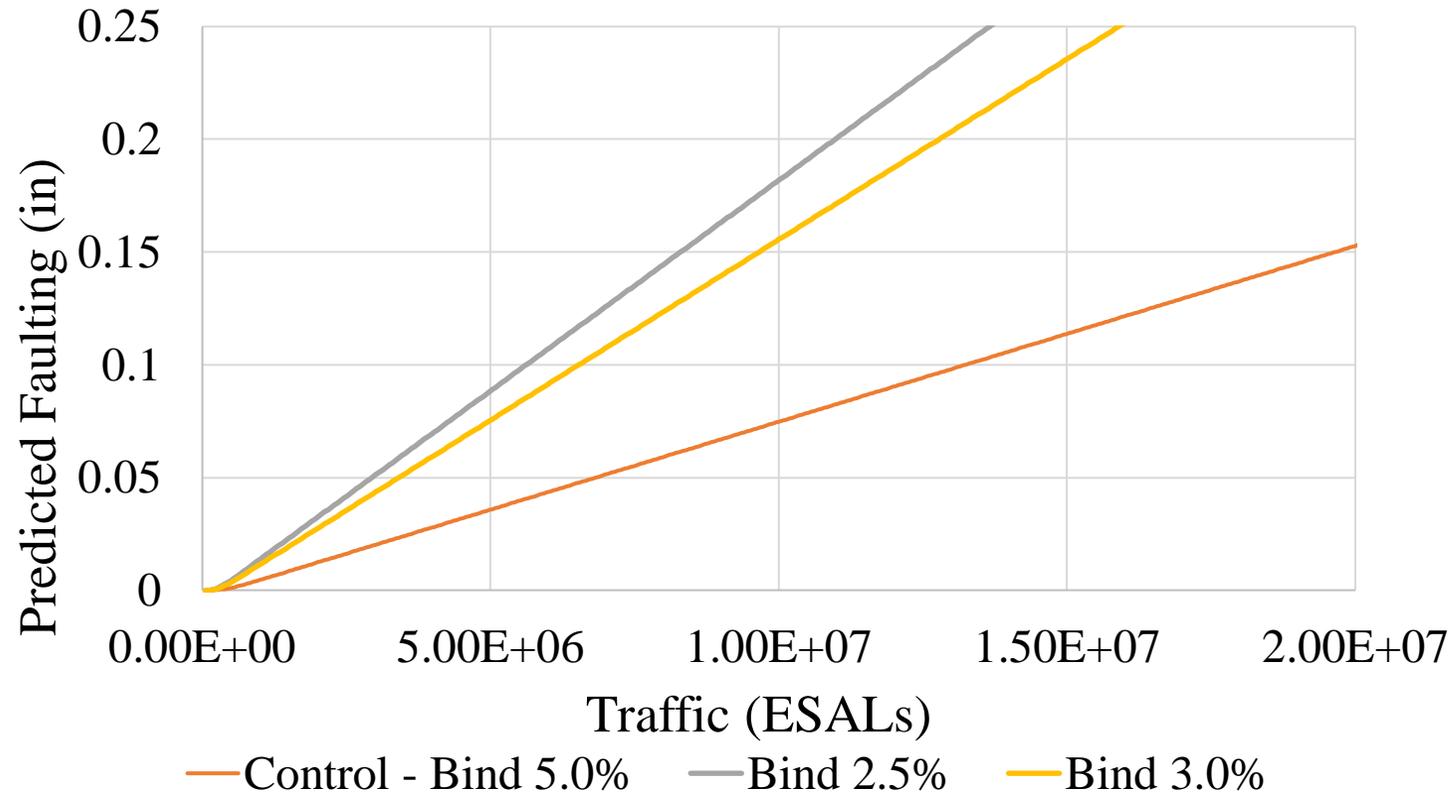


— Control - Dense Graded Asphalt — Fabric Interlayer  
— Open Graded Asphalt

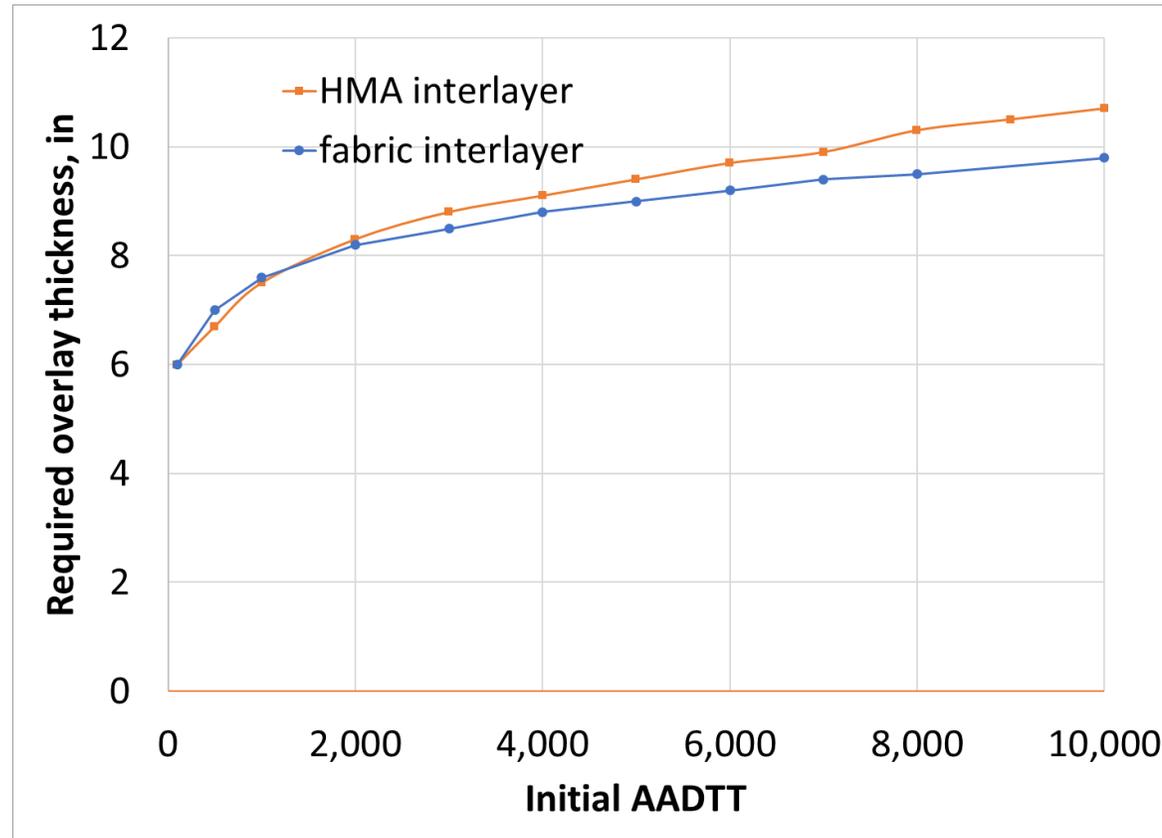


# Pitt UBOL – Interlayer properties

Interlayer effective binder content



# Pitt UBOLO -Effect of Interlayer Type





**Thank You**



**Any Questions?**

Contact Info.

**Julie Vandebossche, P.E., Ph.D.:**

 [jmv7@pitt.edu](mailto:jmv7@pitt.edu)



<https://engineering.pitt.edu/JulieVandebossche>

<https://uboldesign3.azurewebsites.net>