



# ACI Session: Design and Construction of Concrete Streets and Local Roads

Sponsored by ACI Committee 325 – Concrete Pavements

Tue, October 22, 2019 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, C-Junior Ballroom B

AIA/ICC approved for 2 CEU/PDH credits

- Investigating and Characterizing Soils for Use in Local Road Concrete Pavement Design
- Cement Based Pavement Design Methods and Tools for the Practitioner
- Construction and Jointing of Local Concrete Roads: State of the Practice
- Concrete Overlays for Streets and Roads

## ACI Session: Design and Construction of Concrete Streets and Local Roads

# Investigating and Characterizing Soils for Use in Local Road Concrete Pavement Design

Brian Killingsworth, P.E.  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
ACI Fall Convention  
Cincinnati, OH

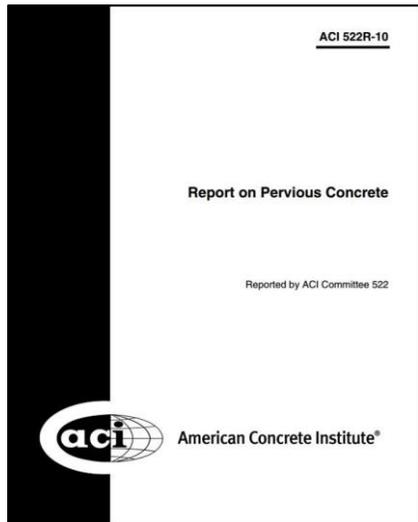




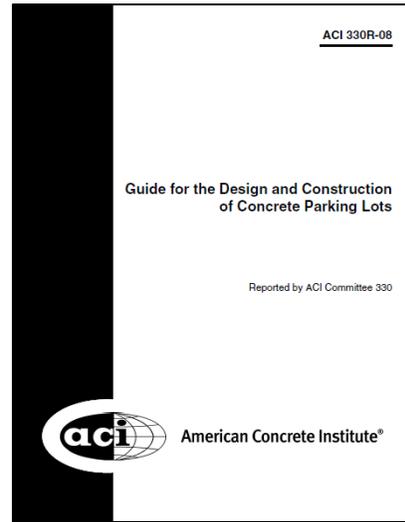
# ACI Pavement Design & Construction



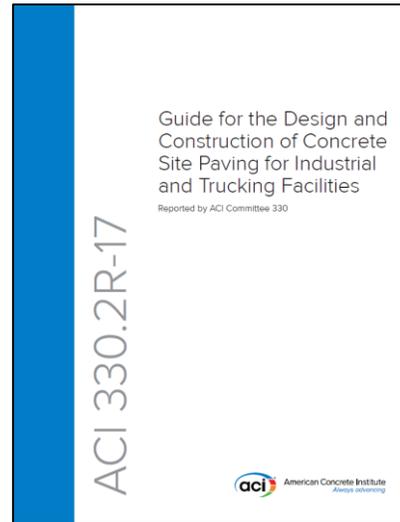
- ACI 325.9R-15 Guide for Construction of Concrete Pavements
- ACI 325.11R-19 Accelerated Techniques for Concrete Paving
- ACI 325.12R-02(13) Guide for Design of Jointed Concrete Pavements for Streets and Local Roads
- ACI 325.13R-06: Concrete Overlays for Pavement Rehabilitation
- ACI 325.14R-17 Guide for Design and Proportioning for Concrete Pavements
- ACI 325.YR Report on Precast Concrete Pavements - State of the Practice
- ACI 325.ZR: Design and Construction of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavements



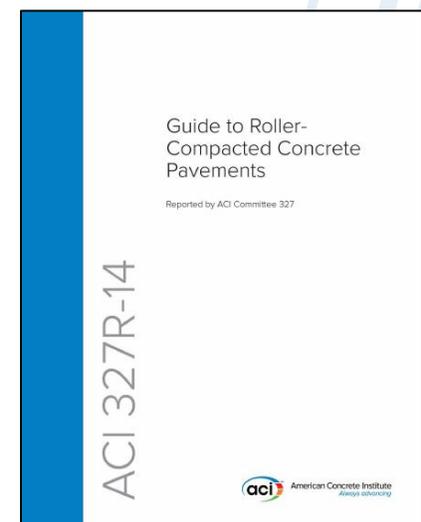
522: Pervious



330: Parking Lot & Industrial



327: Roller Compacted



# ACI 325.12R Guide for Design of Jointed Concrete Pavements for Streets and Local Roads



**ACI 325.12R-02**

## Guide for Design of Jointed Concrete Pavements for Streets and Local Roads

Reported by ACI Committee 325

Jack A. Scott  
Chairman

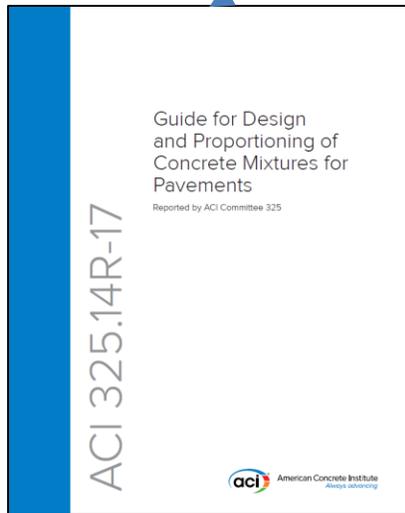
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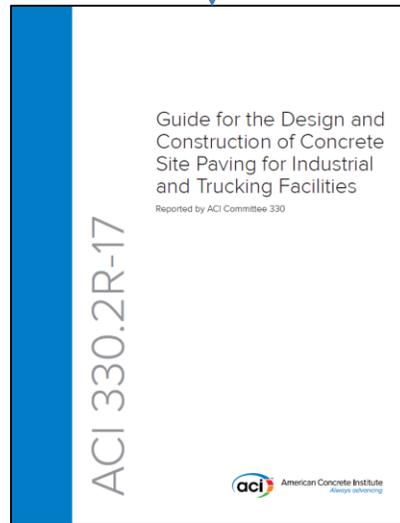
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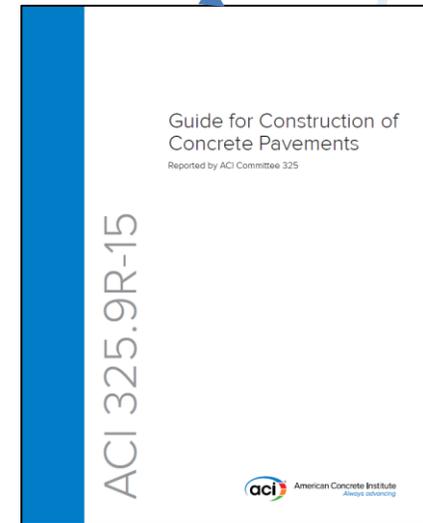
# ACI 325.12R



Proportioning



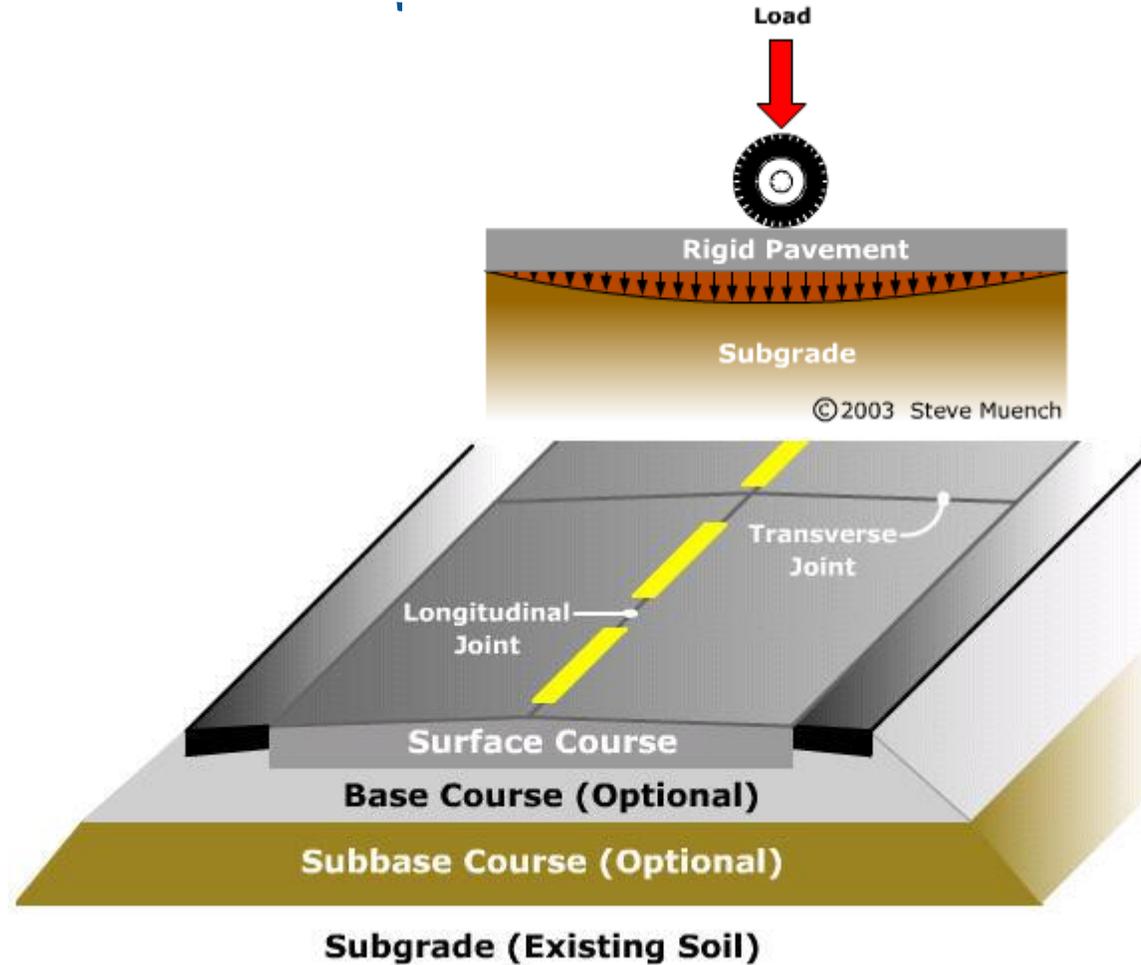
Industrial



Construction

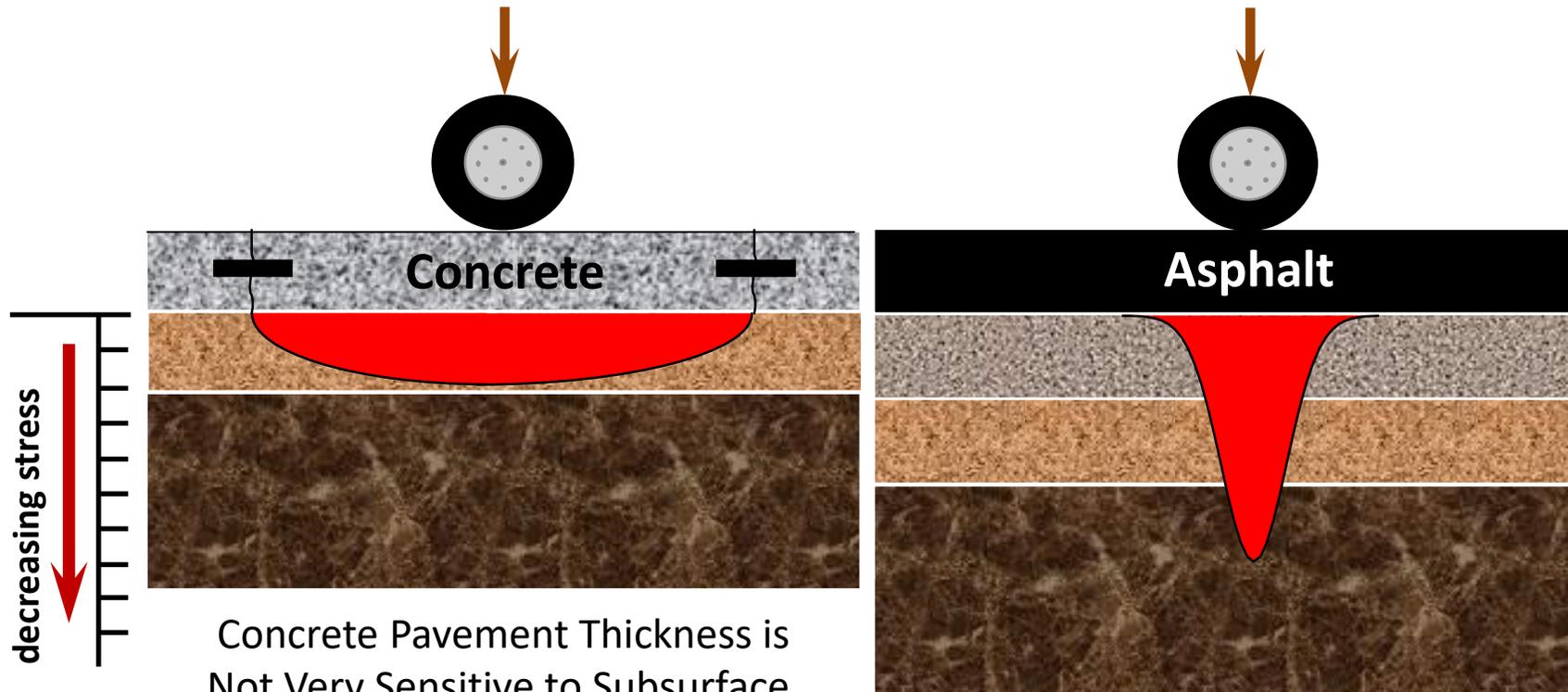
# Rigid Pavement Typical Cross Section

- Structure
  - Surface course
  - Base course
  - Subbase course
  - Subgrade



# Pavements & Loads – Concrete vs. Asphalt

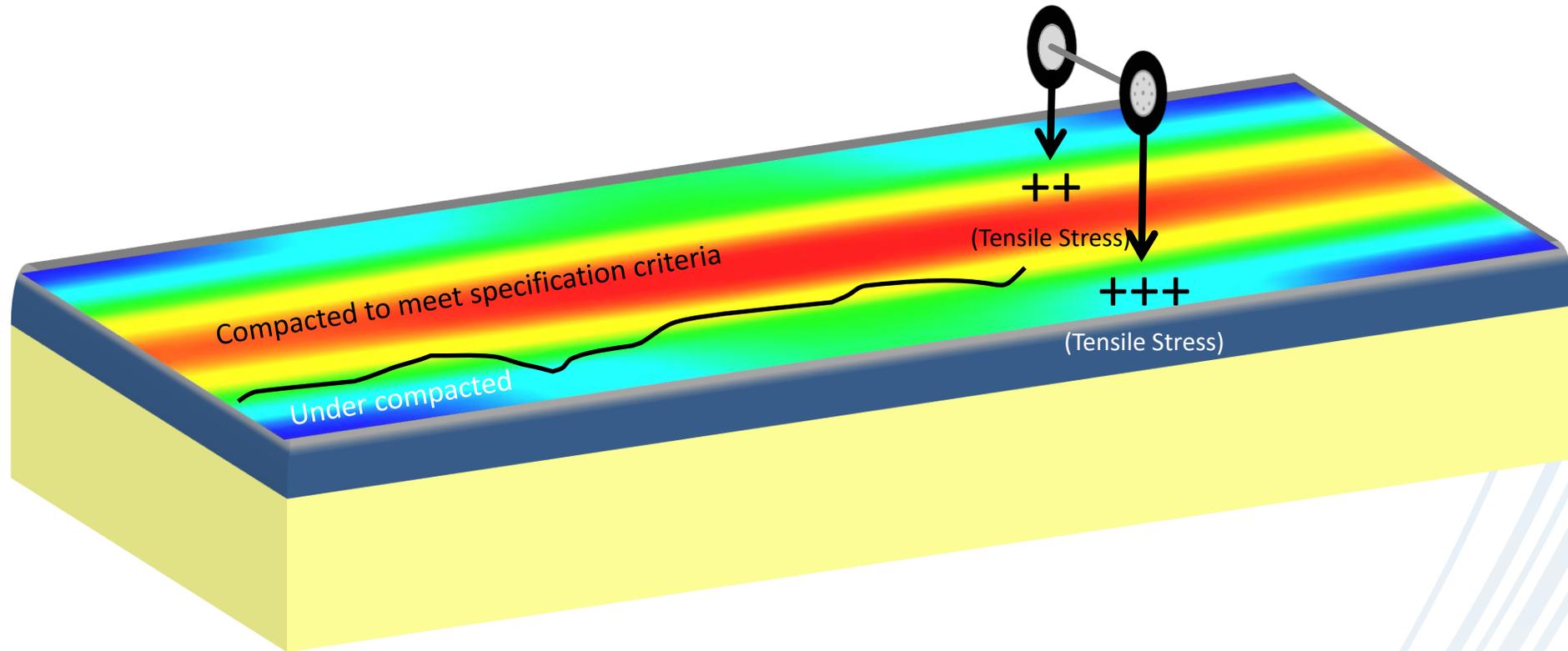
*Subgrade stresses differ considerably.*



Concrete Pavement Thickness is Not Very Sensitive to Subsurface Strength.

Source: [www.pavementinteractive.com](http://www.pavementinteractive.com)

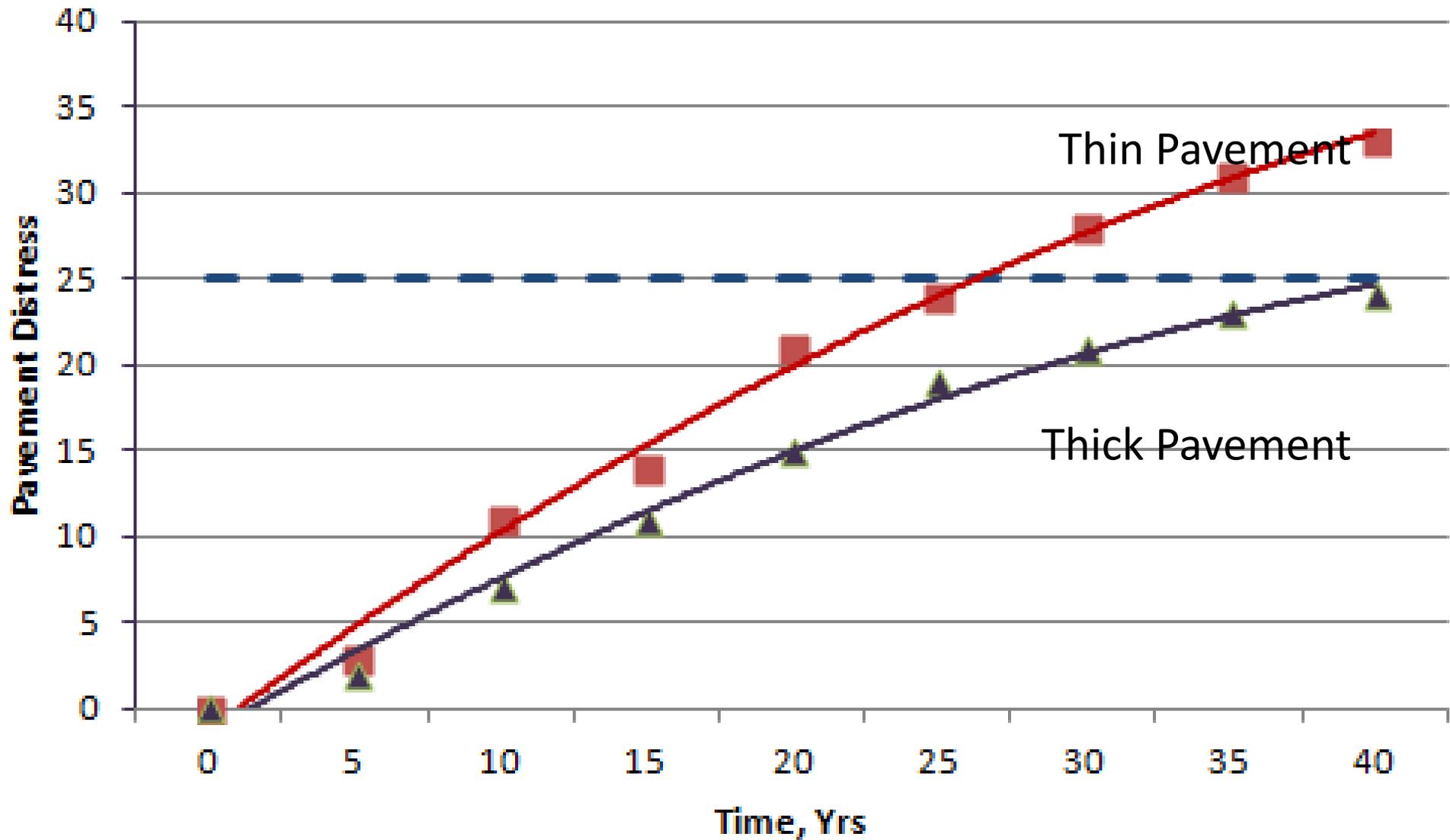
# Support Uniformity vs. Strength Under Concrete Pavements



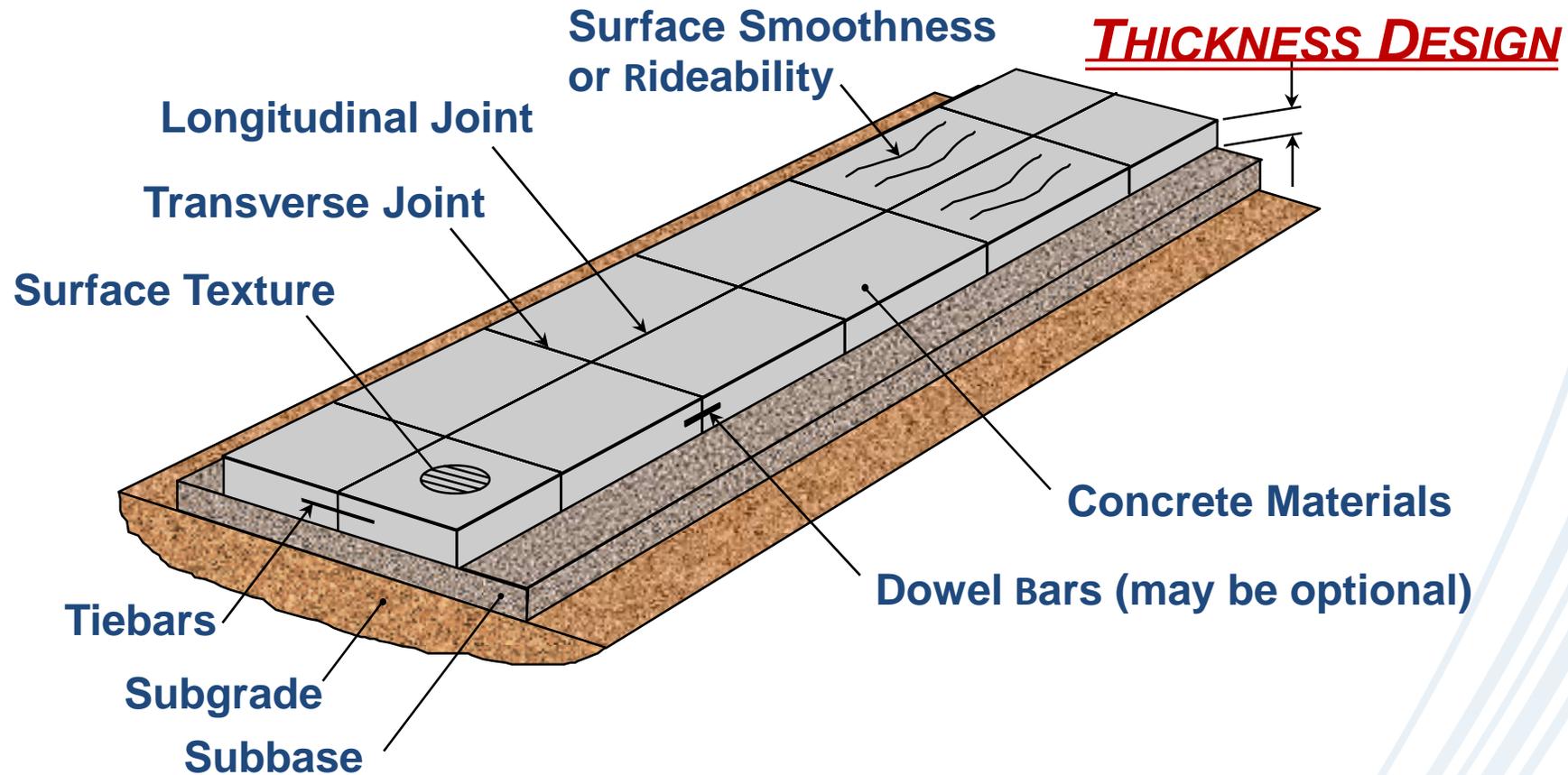
## Design to Minimize Key Distresses



# Pavement Distress Development



# Pavement Design



# Concrete Pavement Design

- Thickness Determination, Based on:
  - Design life
  - Traffic loads & frequencies
  - Concrete strength
  - Subgrade/subbase support (strength characterization)
- Jointing & Reinforcement:
  - Load transfer considerations
  - Prevention of uncontrolled cracking
- Other Design Considerations:
  - Grades & drainage
  - Edge support conditions (e.g. curb & gutter, shoulder...)
  - Pavement/subsurface interaction

## Suitability of Subgrade Soils

- Classification (Gradation, Atterberg Limits, etc.)
- Depth to Bedrock
- Depth to Water Table
- Potential for Compaction
- Presence of Weak or Soft Layers or Organics
- Susceptibility to Frost Action or Excessive Swell
- Soil Strength Characteristics

## Soil/Subbase Strength Characterization

- Soil Support Value (SSV)
- Resistance Value (R-Value)
- California Bearing Ratio (CBR)
- Resilient Modulus ( $M_r$ )
- Modulus of Subgrade Reaction (k-value)

## Data Collection Activities - Drilling

- Geotechnical Drilling (New Street Pavements)
  - Minimum 5 feet below final top of subgrade elevation\*\*
  - Spacing a function of roadway type and soil conditions
  - High plasticity soils increase drilling depth to 10 to 15 feet
  - Materials for strength testing must be representative of subgrade soil supporting pavement materials
  - May require larger augers at some boring locations
- Geotechnical Drilling (Existing Street Pavements)
  - Obtain existing pavement thicknesses
  - Spacing as stated above
  - Drilling depths as stated above
  - Materials for soil strength as stated above
  - Consider test pits if full depth reclamation is possible

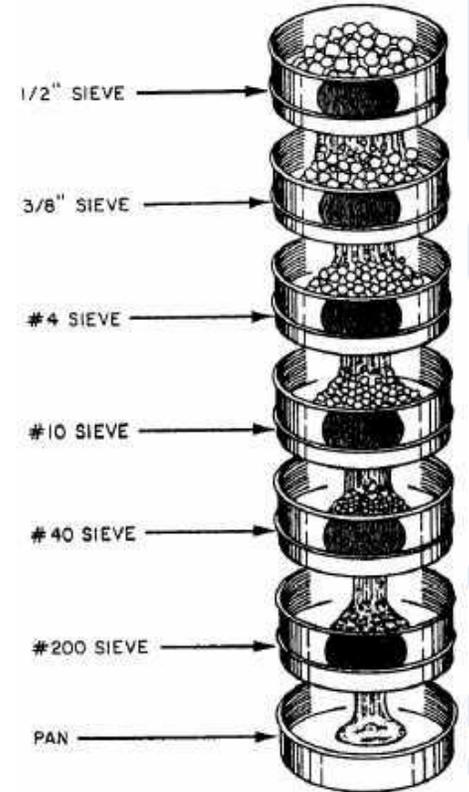
\*\*Airport, Industrial, and Port Facilities may be different!

# Subgrade Foundation Soils

- Geotechnical Engineering Report
  - Borings Logs
  - Standard Penetration Test (SPT) blows/ft
  - Material Descriptions
  - Atterberg Limits (LL, PL, PI)
  - Density
  - % Swell (freeze and/or moisture related)
  - Subgrade Strength Characterization

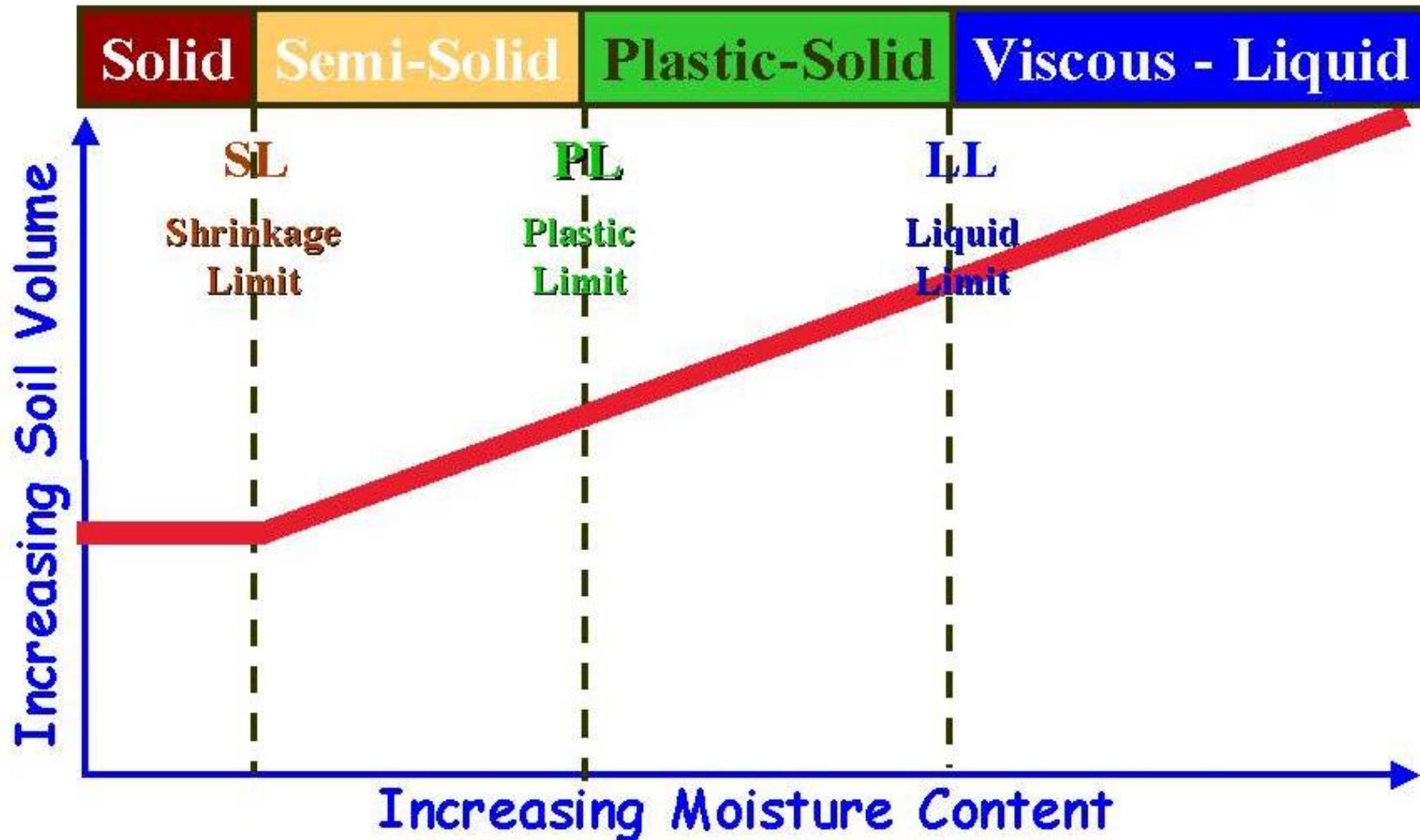
# Soil Classification

- Course or Fine Grained
- Typically Classified as:
  - Gravel
  - Sand
  - Silt
  - Clay (Lean or Fat: Based on Plasticity\*)
  - Or a combination of any of the above
    - e.g. Sandy Gravel With Clay



\*Soil plasticity refers to the manner in which water interacts with the soil particles.

# States of Consistency for Cohesive Soils (Soil Passing #40 Sieve)



# Atterberg Limits

- Liquid Limit (LL)
- Plastic Limit (PL)
- Plasticity Index (PI)
- $PI = LL - PL$



PI indicates soils reaction to water content.



Albert Atterberg  
1846-1916

# Common Classification Systems

- Unified Soil Classification System (USCS)
  - (ASTM D 3282)
- AASHTO Classification System
  - (AASHTO M 145)



## How Do ASTM/AASHTO Compare?

Soil groups in AASHTO system	Comparable soil groups in USCS		
	<i>Most probable</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Possible but improbable</i>
A-1-a	GW, GP	SW, SP	GM, SM
A-1-b	SW, SP, GM, SM	GP	-----
A-3	SP	-----	SW, GP
A-2-4	GM, SM	GC, SC	GW, GP, SW, SP
A-2-5	GM, SM	-----	GW, GP, SW, SP
A-2-6	GC, SM	GM, SM	GW, GP, SW, SP
A-2-7	GM, GC, SM, SC	-----	GW, GP, SW, SP
A-4	ML, OL	CL, SM, SC	GM, GC
A-5	OH, MH, ML, OL	-----	SM, GM
A-6	CL	ML, OL, SC	GC, CM, CM
A-7-5	OH, MH	ML, OL, CH	GM, CM, GC, SC
A-7-6	CH, CL	ML, OL, SC	OH, MH, GC, GC, SM

Source: Liu, 1967

# Soil Characteristics

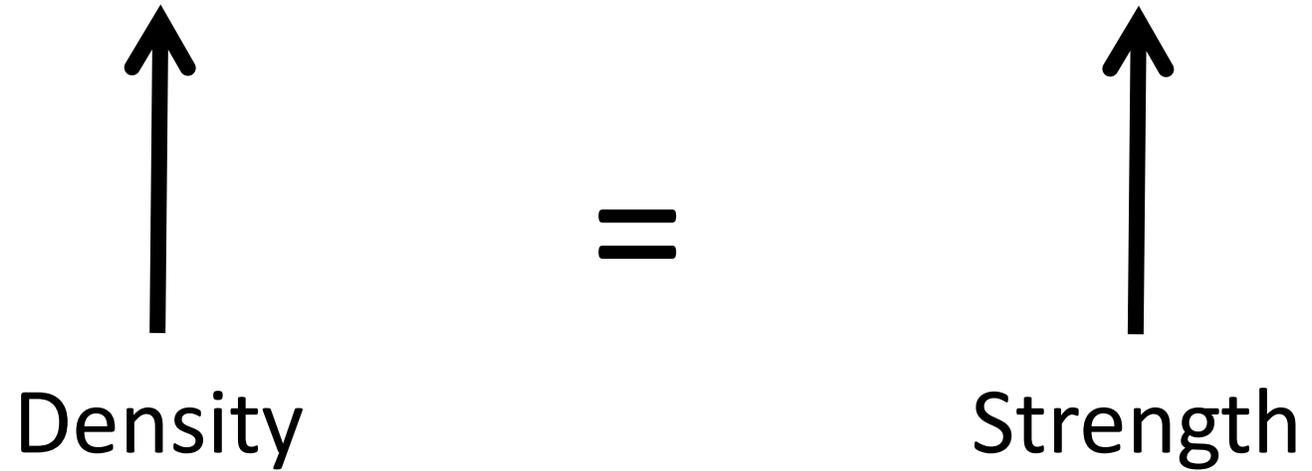
- Three Components:
  - Solids, Water, and Air
- Water Effect
  - Capillary Forces
- Soil Density Test
  - The Proctor Curve



# Soil Compaction

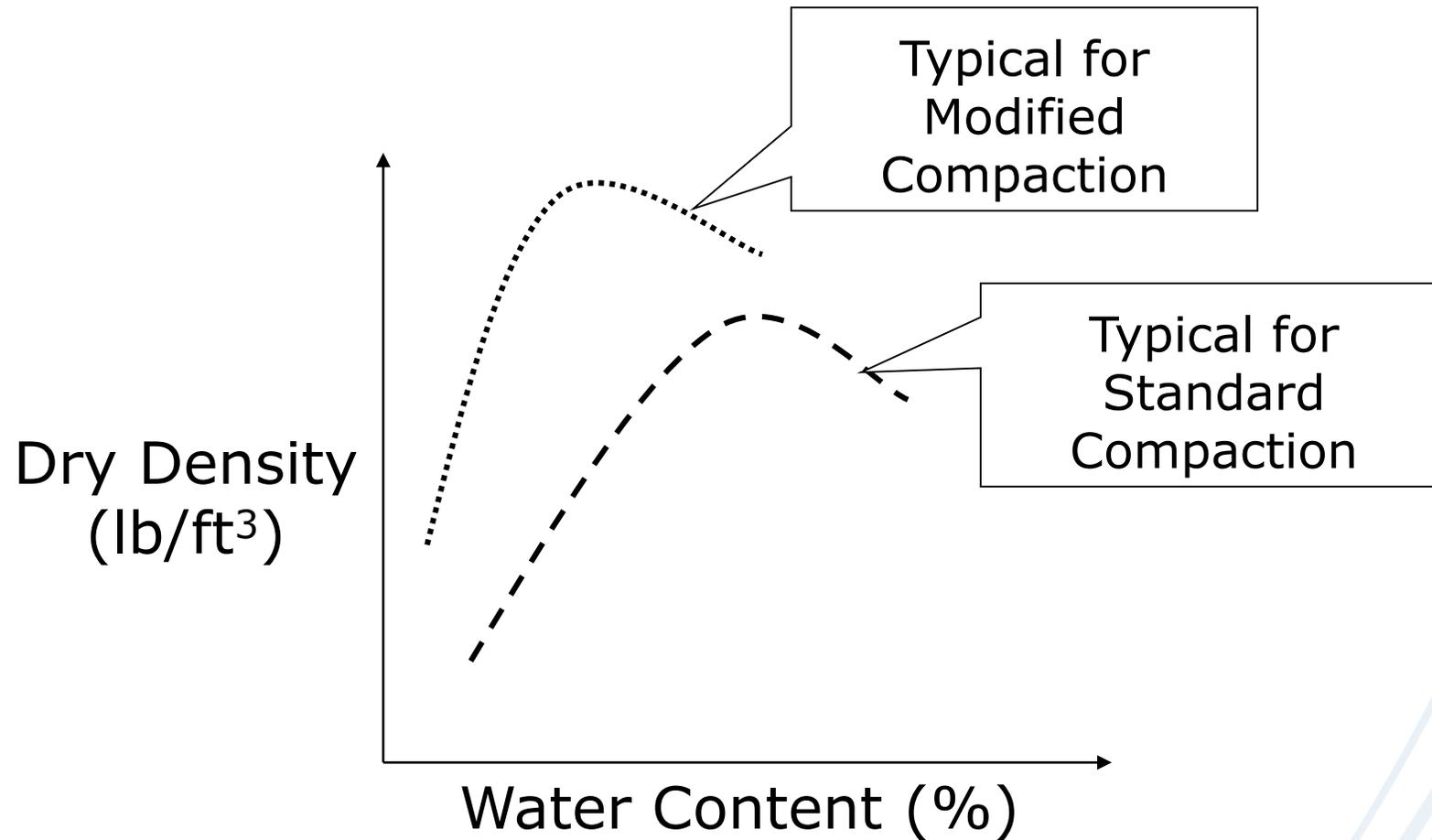
- Soil compaction is the process of “artificially” increasing the density (unit weight) of a soil by compaction (by application of rolling, tamping, or vibration).
- Moisture-density testing as practiced today was started by R.R. Proctor in 1933. His method became known as the “standard Proctor” test.

## Why Compact Soils & Bases?



Soil Strength is usually greatest at its maximum dry density.

# Typical Compaction Curves



Total Compaction Energy Affects Maximum Dry Density and Optimum Moisture

# Why is Soil Compaction Important?

- Compaction Increases Soil Strength
- Adding Water\* Can “Pre-Swell” Expansive Soil
- Compaction Achieves Soil Support Uniformity
- Provides Stable Platform for Pavement Layers

\*To Optimum or Just Above the Optimum Moisture Content

# Soil/Base Strength Characterization

- Not All Design Methods Require the Same Strength Parameter.
- Determining Some Strength Parameters Require Complex & Expensive Machines/Devices
- Some Strength Parameters Cannot Be Easily Determined in the Laboratory.

## Soil/Base Strength Characterization

- Soil Support Value (SSV)
  - Resistance Value (R-Value)
- 

Limited Use in U.S.

- California Bearing Ratio (CBR)
- Resilient Modulus ( $M_r$ )
- Modulus of Subgrade Reaction (k-value)

More Prevalent Use in U.S.

## Materials Testing for Subgrade Strength

Source: FHWA

- California Bearing Ratio (CBR)
  - Measures shearing resistance
  - Units: percent
  - Typical values: 0 to 20
  
- Resilient Modulus ( $M_R$ )
  - Measures stress-strain relationship
  - Units: psi or MPa
  - Typical values: 3,000 to 40,000 psi
  
- *K-value (k)*
  - *Measures resistance to deflection*
  - *Units: psi/in*
  - *Typical Values: 75- 200 psi/in*

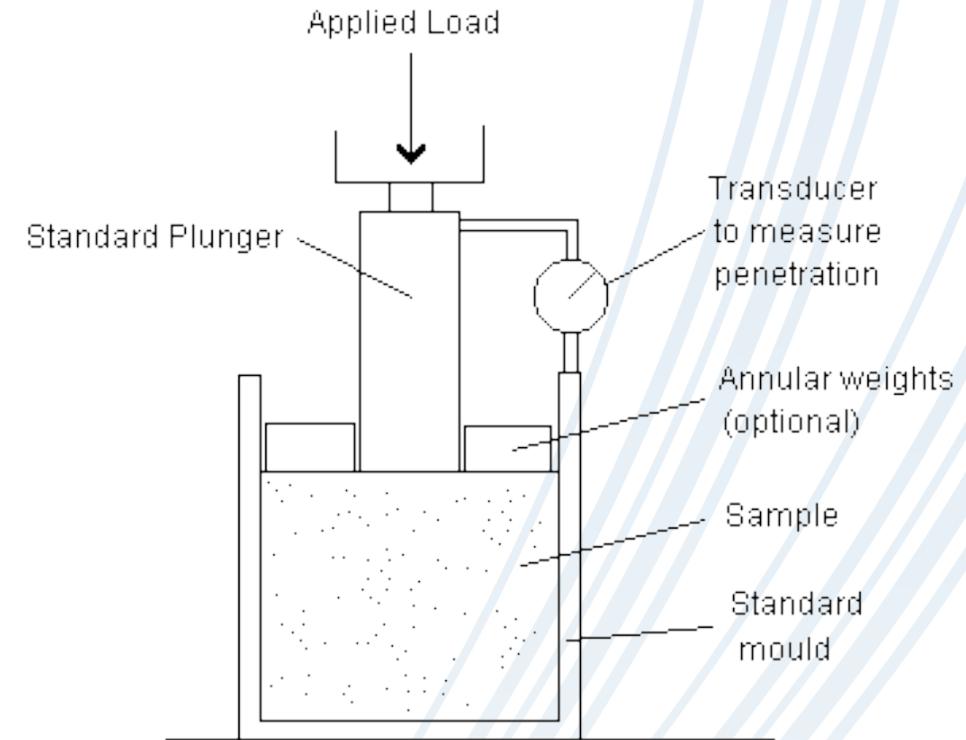


# Laboratory California Bearing Ratio (CBR)

ASTM D1883-Standard Test Method for CBR (California Bearing Ratio) of Laboratory-Compacted Soils



Source: [www.matest.com](http://www.matest.com)

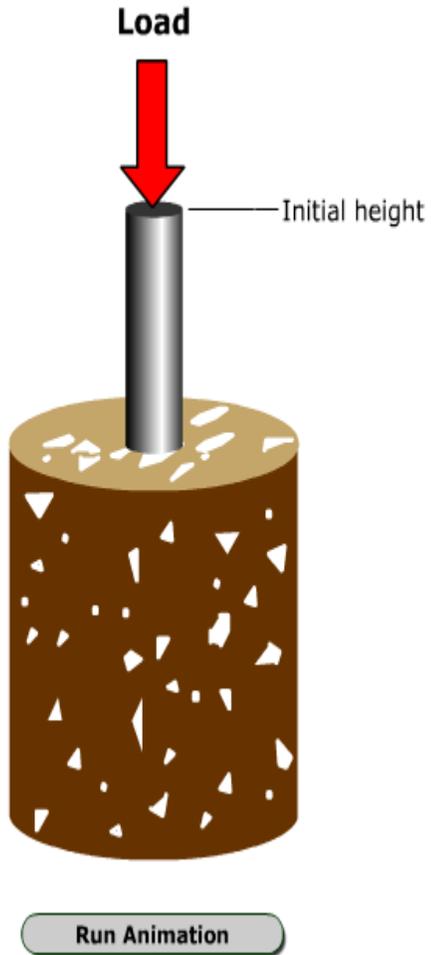


Source: [www.dur.ac.uk/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/)

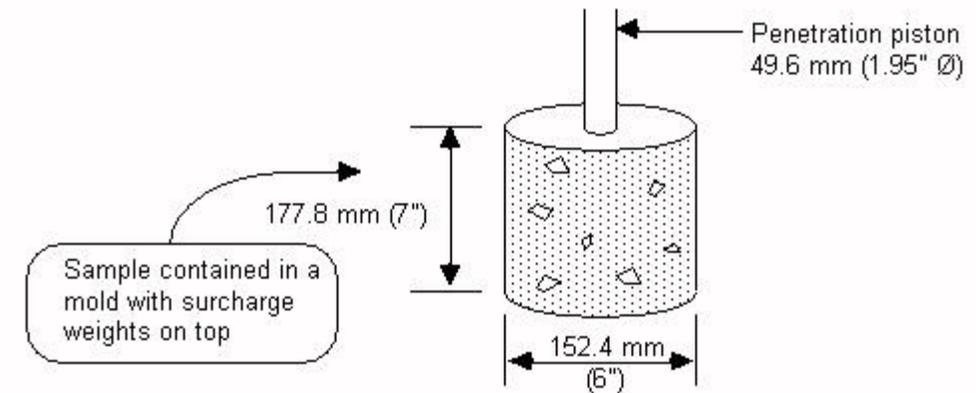
# California Bearing Ratio (CBR)

- Developed by The California State Highways Department in 1930.
- Resistance of the material to uniaxial penetration.
- Measure of soil shear strength relative to standard crushed stone material.
- Field and laboratory test.

# California Bearing Ratio (CBR)



- Load a piston (area = 3 in<sup>2</sup>) at a constant rate (0.05 in/min)
- Record Load every 0.1 in penetration
- Total penetration not to exceed 0.5 in.
- Draw Load-Penetration Curve.



# CBR Test Equipment



Typical Testing Machine

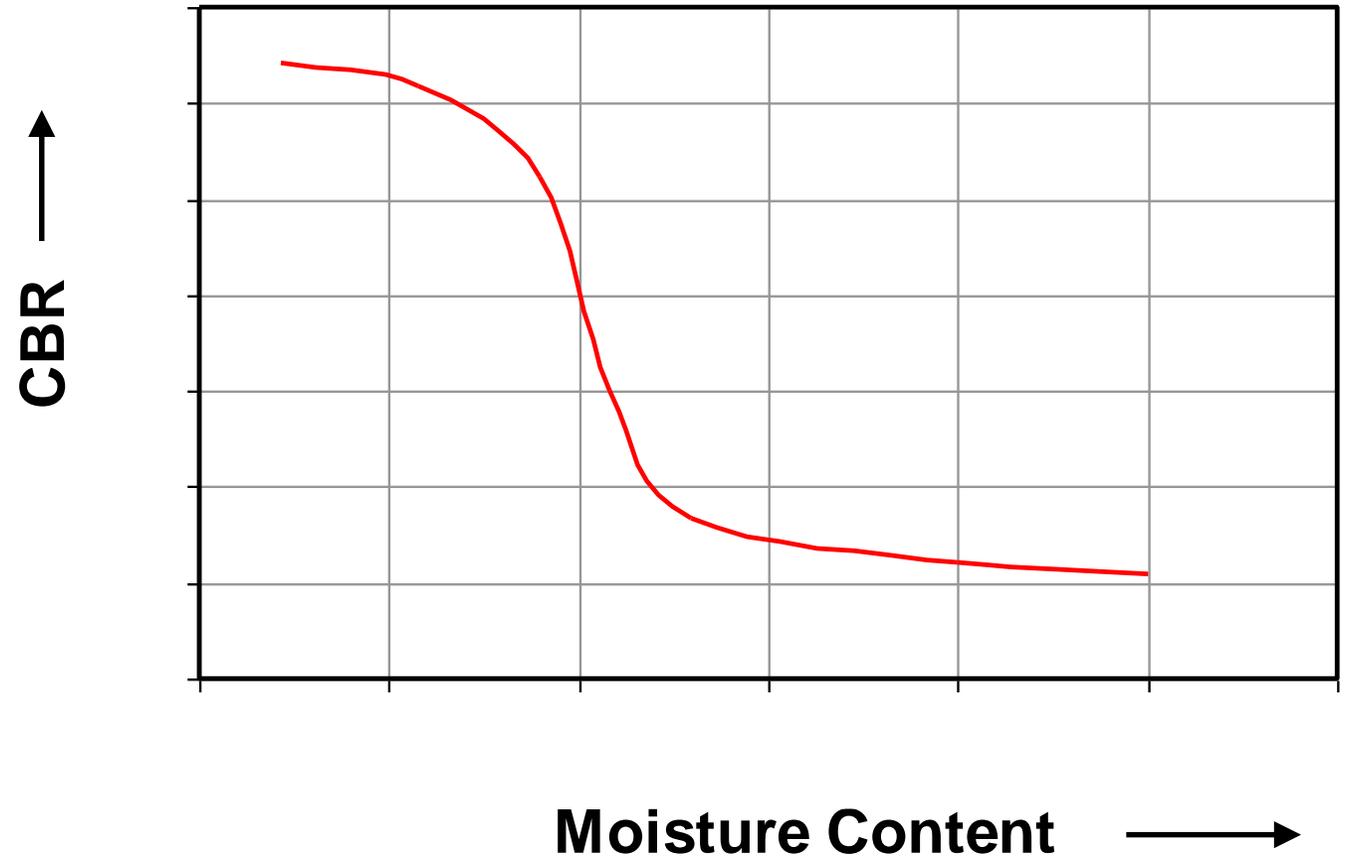
- Surcharge weights are added during testing and soaking to:
  - Simulate the weight of pavement.
  - Prevent heaving up around the piston.



Surcharge  
Weights

Soaking Samples for 4 days  
measure swelling and CBR

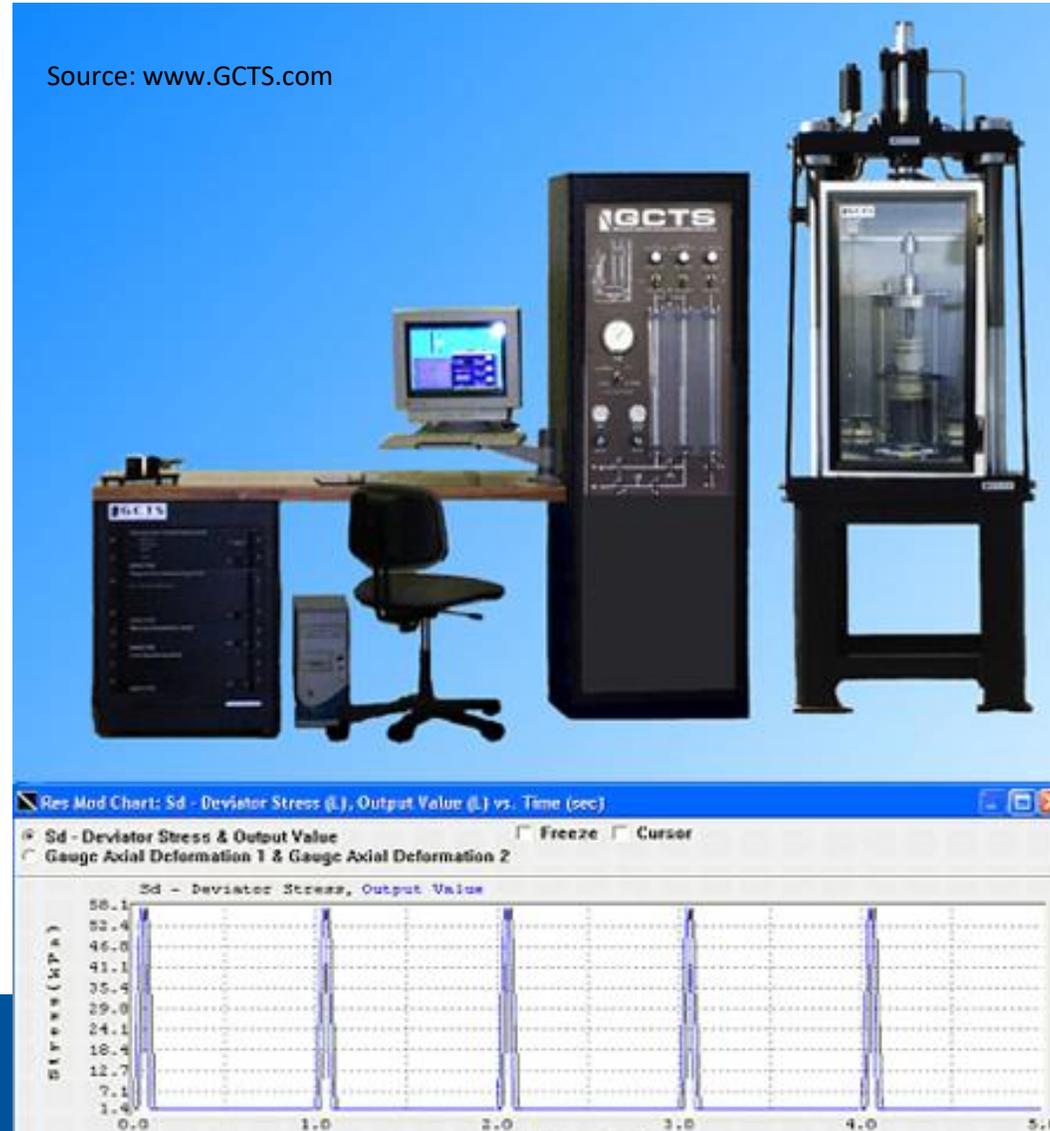
# Influence Of Moisture On CBR



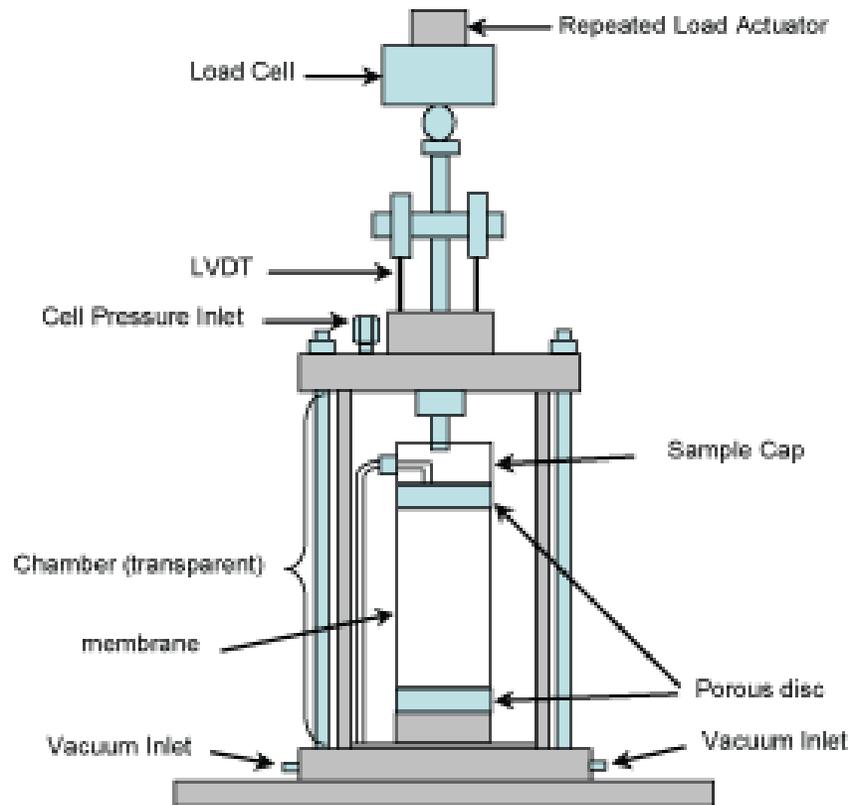
Use relevant value of moisture content when assessing soils under laboratory conditions.

AASHTO T307-Standard Method of Test for Determining the Resilient Modulus of Soils and Aggregate Materials

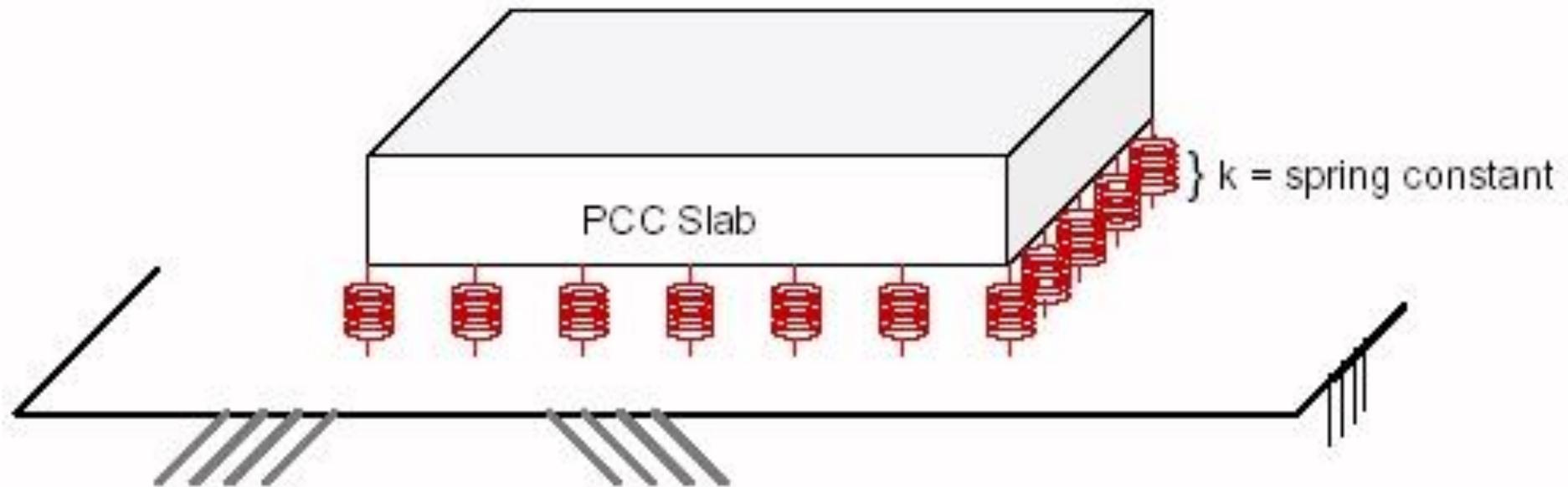
Source: [www.GCTS.com](http://www.GCTS.com)



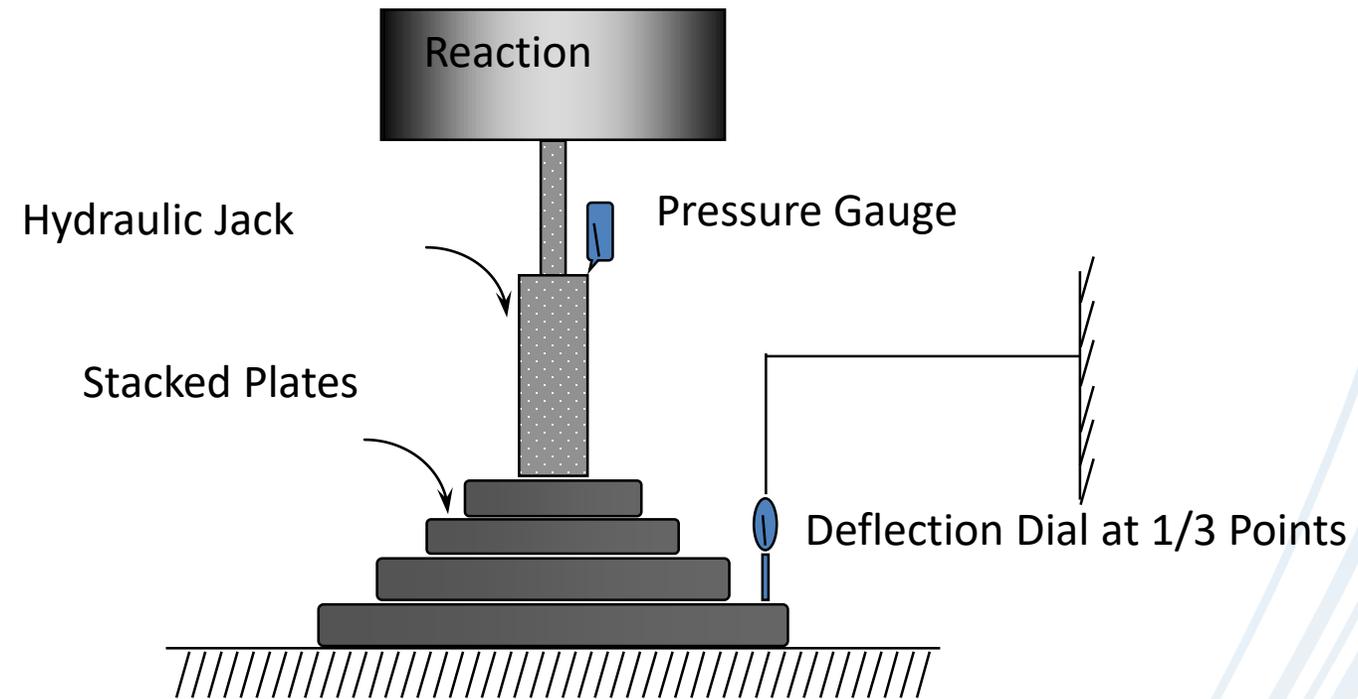
- More Confinement = More Strength
- Higher the Vertical Load = Less Strength



# Modulus of Subgrade Reaction (k-value)



# Plate Load Bearing Test (k-value)



$$k \text{ (psi/in)} = \text{unit load on plate} / \text{plate deflection}$$

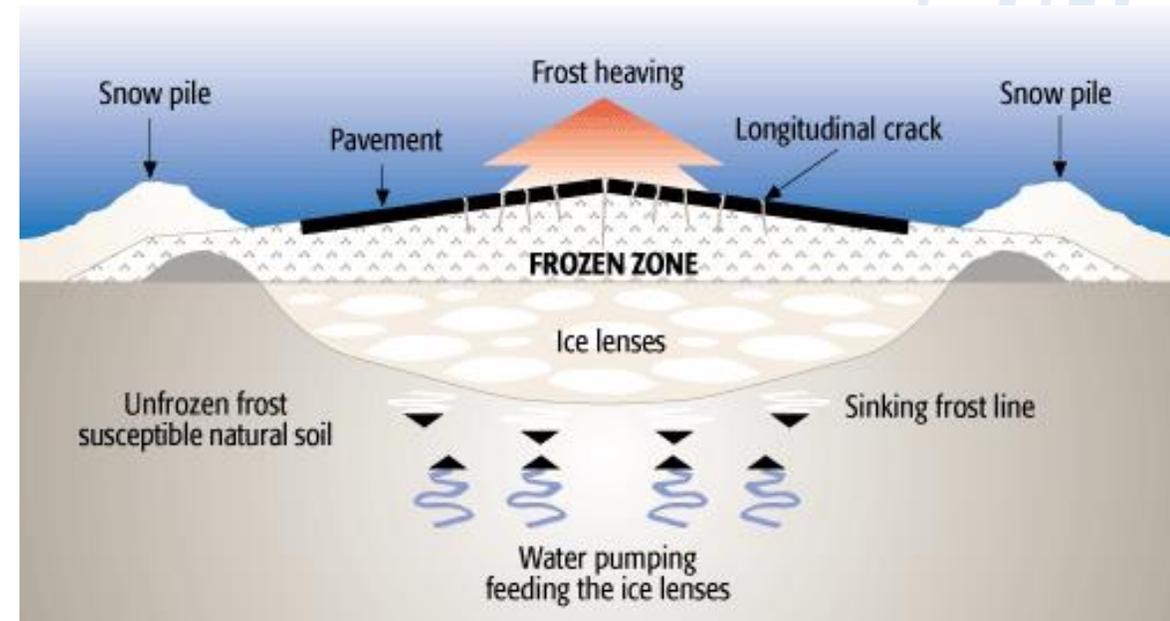


## Soil/Base Strength Summary

Soil Strength	Units	Practical Range
CBR	%	2 - 80
Resilient Modulus	psi	1,500 – 45,000
k-Value	psi/in	50 - 300

# Encountering Special Circumstances...

- Expansive Soils:
  - Frost Heave
  - High Plasticity Soils



# Pavements On Expansive Soils – Mitigation Techniques

- Soil Treatment with Cement, Lime, or Fly Ash
- Geosynthetics: Geotextiles or Geogrids
- Removal and Replacement of High PI Soils
- Drains or Barriers to Collect or Inhibit Moisture Infiltration
- Chemical Injection of Soil
- Moisture Treatment
- Soil Mixing



## Selecting the *Right* Treatment

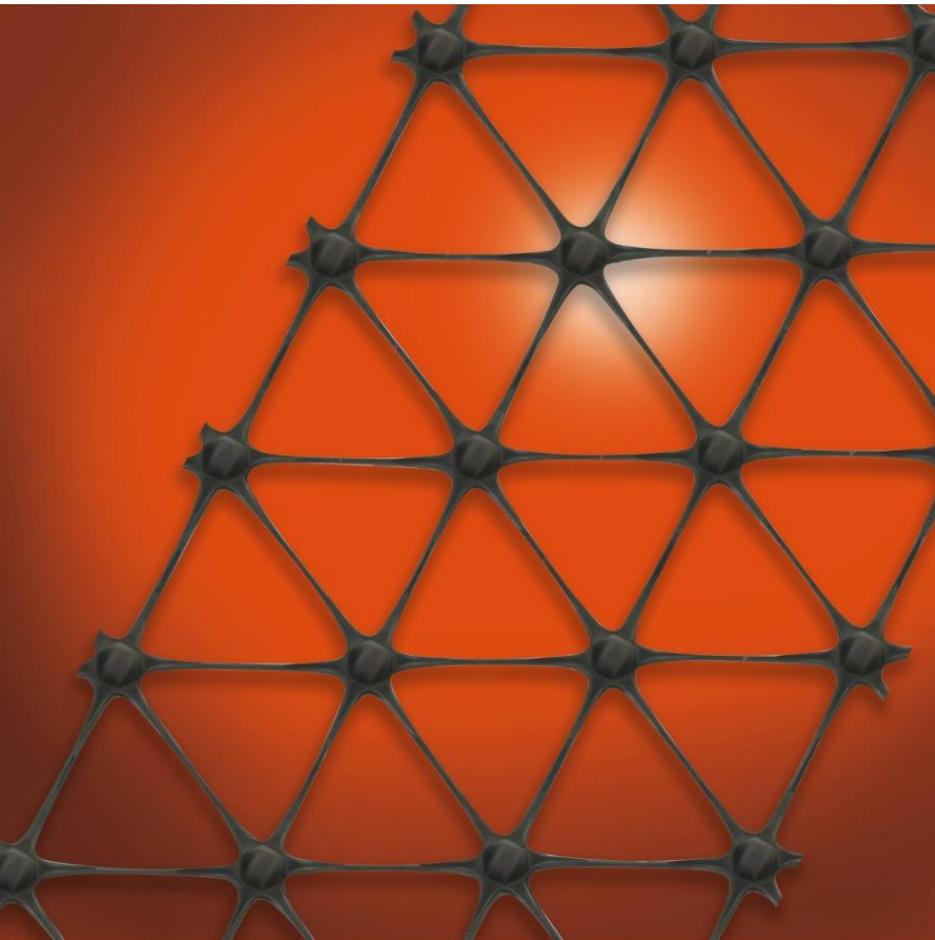
- Soils and Environment Dependent
- Presence of Sulfates
- Material Availability and Cost
- Local Contractor Experience
- Project Schedule and Complexity
- Meet Owner Guidelines



# Deep Soil Stabilization



# Triaxial Geogrid



Source: [www.tensar.com](http://www.tensar.com)



# Geogrids or Geosynthetics



## Soil Mixing (Low PI Added to High PI)





# Full Depth Reclamation





**Thank You!**