

Interaction between Specifications and **Pilots for New** Concrete Technologies/NRRA



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

mndot.gov

Can MnDOT make concrete more sustainable?

- 25+ year history of building high-quality concrete pavements
- Reduce Total Cementitious in the Mix
- Reuse Materials
 - Allow non-traditional SCMs
 - Recycled Aggregate
- What is the global warming potential (GWP) of this concrete paving mix design?
 - Ask for EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations)
 - MnDOT has several active research projects for gathering EPD's



How Do DOTs Accept Non-traditional Materials?

- Balance Risk vs. Benefit
 - Long-term performance
 - National Standards for Acceptance
 - Demonstration Projects
 - Research Projects on materials
 - Constructable
 - Material Availability and Supply
 - Cost
 - Engineering Judgment



MnROAD- Minnesota Road Research Facility



National Road Research Alliance (NRRA) – Rigid Team Installation of Low Carbon Concrete Test Sections at MnROAD

- To address climate change mitigation goals, alternative concrete paving mixtures are being investigated that are claimed to have a lower global warming potential (GWP) at time of construction with <u>equal or better long-term</u>
 <u>performance</u> compared to conventional concrete paving mixtures currently in use by MnDOT.
- 16 unique test sections -7.5" thick concrete pavement
- Allows non-traditional materials to be placed into a roadway section with interstate traffic with minimal risk to DOTs



Concrete Mixture Requirements

• Designed per MnDOT low w/c ratio paving specifications

- Portland cement mixes will use an ASTM C595 Type IL(10) blended cement
- Coal Combustion Products (30% of total cementitious)
- Optimized Gradation per MnDOT Specifications (Tarantula Curve)
- Air Content from 5 to 8 percent
- Minimum flexural strength of 500 psi at 28 days
- Meet performance requirements based on AASHTO PP-84 Performance Engineered Concrete Pavement Mixtures

Logistics for MnROAD Project

Material availability

• Some suppliers didn't have enough material to build a full length test cell

• Handling

- Additives delivered by supersacks or smaller sacks (similar to fibers sacks)
- Dedicated silo for various additives
 - Many ready-mix plants are not equipped to alternate unique materials



Constructability Requirements

• GOAL:

- Batched and mixed at a central plant
- Optimum workability to facilitate placement using conventional slipform paving equipment
- Concrete maintains a plastic state for at least 45 minutes to allow for haul time and placement

• REALITY:

- Many mixes needed all of the water and admixtures to be workable
- Some mixes needed do-overs
- Texturing was difficult in some cells



PCC Construction Testing

- Materials and Mix Properties (field and lab)
- Plastic Concrete Properties (field)
- Hardened Concrete Properties (field and lab)
- Carbon Capture (carbon uptake, thermal gravimetric analysis)

Over 600 samples fabricated during construction!





Mobile Concrete Technology Center (MCTC)

Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

National Institute of Standards and Technology

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MnROAD Testing – Pavement Performance

- MnROAD Construction Report
- Environmental and Vehicle Load Response Sensors
- Pavement Smoothness
- FWD Testing
- Distress Surveys
- MIRA Mappings
- Faulting
- Pavement Surface Characteristics
- Albedo Testing
- Much more



SAFER, SMARTER, SUSTAINABLE PAVEMENTS THROUGH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Unique Materials Installed

- Injected Industrialized Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
- Processed Fly Ash with sequestered CO2
- Calcined Clay
- Alkali Activated Cement
- Manufactured Fly Ash
- High Replacement Portland Limestone Cement
- Metakaolin
- Natural Pozzolan
- Ground Glass





Research Project Goals



Constructability Evaluation

Evaluate performance of in-place concrete pavement over 3 years Sustainability and Resiliency Comparison of Materials - Environmental Impacts Measure the carbon uptake from all unique material combinations

Check out the NRRA – Rigid Team Webpage - http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnroad/nrra/structure-teams/rigid/index.html

Closing

- Strong support from FHWA, DOTs, and Industry for this research
- Allows non-traditional materials to be placed into a roadway section with interstate traffic with minimal risk to DOTs
- "Important project to begin the transition to new materials in road construction" – Tom Van Dam



Thank you again!

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