

# 0016-08-034 Pavement Design Report

Bexar County

#### SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT PAVEMENT DESIGN REPORT **FOR** BEXAR COUNTY LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) FROM: Hildebrand Avenue TO: Roy Smith Street CSJ 0016-08-034



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## Draft Pavement Design Report

LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) From Hildebrand Avenue To Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas CSJ: 0016-08-034

Prepared For:



San Antonio District



PREPARED BY: UNDER THE DIRECTION OF:



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DRAFT PAVEMENT DESIGN REPORT



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#### INTRODUCTION

The results of our pavement analyses and designs are included in this draft Pavement Design Report (PDR) for the Loop 368 (Broadway Corridor) Project (Project) in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

In the absence of a TxDOT Planning and Programming Division (TPP) Traffic Analysis for Highway Design Report (TPP TAHD Report), the pavement designs included herein are based on traffic data provided by the Project team and the traffic data assumptions noted herein. We can update the pavement designs, as necessary, once a TPP TAHD Report becomes available. Alternatively, the designs can be considered as final with TxDOT's approval of the traffic data/parameters used for design.

#### SCOPE OF SERVICES

The purpose of this PDR was to prepare pavement section design options based on:

- 1. Existing pavement and subgrade conditions encountered along the Project alignment;
- 2. Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) data provided by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT); and,
- 3. Traffic data made available for this Project including the traffic assumptions noted herein. To date, a TPP TAHD Report has not been provided for this Project. If necessary, the pavement designs and recommendations included herein will be updated once a TPP TAHD Report becomes available.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

The Project will consist of the reconstruction of LP 368 (Broadway Street) from Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. We understand that LP 368 will be completely reconstructed, which will include the removal of the existing asphalt, concrete and base materials followed by the preparation of the subgrade and construction of the new pavement section.

The site is located within the TxDOT San Antonio District. The approximate limits of the Project are depicted on the Vicinity Map, which is included as Figure 1 in Appendix A. The Project will begin at Hildebrand Avenue and end at Roy Smith Street.

#### PAVEMENT DESIGN DATA, ANALYSES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand that both rigid and flexible pavement systems are being considered for this Project. If any of the information presented herein is known to be inaccurate, we should be

notified in writing to determine if modifications to our pavement analyses, designs, and recommendations are needed.

#### Subsurface Soil and Groundwater Conditions, and Existing Pavement Structure

The geotechnical boring and laboratory findings along the Project alignment are presented subsequently. The pavement design parameters, analyses and recommendations provided in this report are based in part on the findings from the pavement cores, geotechnical boring data and the results of our laboratory testing. A more comprehensive presentation of our findings is included in the boring logs provided in Appendix C.

#### Field Exploration

Eight (8) pavement cores/bores were performed within the Project alignment. Coring was performed to determine the thickness of the existing pavement section. Geotechnical borings were then performed to depths of about 10 feet below the pavement surface to sample the existing subgrade soils for laboratory testing.

The approximate exploration locations are shown on the Overall Boring Location Plan included as Figure 2 in Appendix A. The locations were identified in the field by Arias personnel using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit so that underground utility locations could be identified and marked prior to the start of coring/drilling. The GPS coordinates obtained at the completed core/bore locations are presented in Table 1 below.

	<b>Geographic Coordinates</b>		
Bore/Core No.	Latitude	Longitude	
$B-1$	29°27'54.24"N	98°27'50.97"W	
$B-2$	29°27'41.21"N	98°27'59.67"W	
$B-3$	29°27'28.85"N	98°28'7.97"W	
$B-4$	29°27'16.41"N	98°28'16.98"W	
$B-5$	29°27'2.82"N	98°28'26.48"W	
$B-6$	29°26'48.06"N	98°28'31.75"W	
$B-7$	29°26'32.46"N	98°28'36.98"W	
B-8	29°26'20.59"N	98°28'41.88"W	

Table 1: Approximate Core/Bore Locations

Select photographs of our field exploration operations are provided in Appendix A. Soil classifications and borehole logging were conducted by our Senior Engineering Technician working under the direct supervision of the Project Pavement Engineer. A core barrel was used to core through the existing HMA and concrete (where encountered). A truck-mounted drill rig equipped with continuous flight augers (ASTM D1452), coupled with the sampling procedures noted herein, was then used to secure subsurface soil samples beneath the

existing pavement structure. Samples were obtained by pushing thin-walled tube samplers, driving split-barrel samplers, and/or by obtaining grab samples from the auger cuttings.

Arias' field representative visually logged each recovered sample and placed a portion of the recovered sample into a sealed container for transport to our laboratory. After completion of drilling, the boreholes were backfilled with dry concrete mix to the bottom of the pavement, and the remainder was filled with tamped cold patch asphalt.

Soil classifications and borehole logging were conducted during the exploration as previously noted. The final soil classifications presented on the WinCore boring logs provided in Appendix C, were determined by the Project Pavement Engineer based on laboratory and field test results and applicable TxDOT and ASTM procedures. The material descriptions provided on the boring logs generally conform to the Unified Soils Classification System (USCS). A Key to the terms and symbols used on the boring logs is provided after the boring logs in Appendix C.

Remaining samples recovered from this exploration will be discarded following submittal of this report in final form.

#### Laboratory Testing

As a supplement to the field exploration, laboratory testing was conducted to determine index properties including: soil water content, Atterberg Limits, percent finer than the No. 200 sieve, and soluble sulfate content. The moisture content, Atterberg Limits and sieve tests were generally performed on the soil subgrade samples. The laboratory test results are reported on the boring logs provided in Appendix C, and are graphically presented in Appendix D.

The soil laboratory testing for this Project was done in accordance with applicable TxDOT procedures with the specifications and definitions for these tests listed subsequently in Table 2.

<b>Test Name</b>	<b>Test Method</b>	<b>Number of Tests</b>	
Determining Moisture Content in Soil Materials	<b>TEX-103-E</b>	30	
Determination of Soil Constants including: Liquid Limit,   TEX-104-E, TEX-105-E,			
Plastic Limit and Plasticity Index of Soils	TEX-106-E	17	
Determination of Percent Passing #200 Sieve	<b>TEX-111-E</b>	14	
Determination of Sulfate Content in Soils	<b>TEX-145-E</b>	8	

Table 2: Laboratory Testing Program Summary

Laboratory testing was conducted on select sample specimens to evaluate for potential adverse reactions to calcium-based treatment agents (i.e. modifiers) such as lime and cement. A high sulfate content subgrade material can chemically react with calcium-based modifiers resulting in excessive heaving of the treated layer through the growth of ettringite crystals. It should be noted that the use of lime or cement treatment is not recommended where sulfate contents are greater than 3,000 parts per million (ppm). Accordingly, testing was performed in accordance with TxDOT test method Tex-145-E "Determining Sulfate Content in Soils" to evaluate whether it is appropriate to lime or cement treat the subgrade. The results are presented subsequently in Table 3.

The soluble sulfate test results are indicative of low soil sulfate contents. Based on the results of the sulfate testing, lime or cement treatment of the soil subgrade are viable options at this Project site.

#### Existing Pavement Structure

To estimate the pavement structure along the Project alignment, Arias cored the pavement at each of the pavement locations listed subsequently in Table 3. The observed pavement thickness of each portion of the pavement section and the results of our laboratory tests on the subgrade are summarized in Table 3. Photographs of the recovered asphalt cores are presented in Appendix A.



#### Table 3: Existing Pavement Structure

#### Notes:

1. "--"indicates that sulfate testing was not performed at that boring location.

2. The results of the phenolphthalein testing indicated the presence of lime or cement modifiers in the pavement subgrade at B-3, and in the pavement base material at B-7 and B-8.

3. At Borings B-7 and B-8, cement-treated base material was encountered below the upper HMA layers.

#### **Geology**

The earth materials underlying the project site have been regionally mapped as Pliocene-age Uvalde Gravel (Q-Tu) of the Tertiary Period and Pleistocene-age Fluviatile terrace (Qt) deposits of the Quaternary Period. The Fluviatile terrace (Qt) deposits are comprised of a mixture of gravel, sand, silt, clay, and organic matter. The Uvalde Gravel (Q-Tu) consists of caliche-cemented gravel. A Geologic Map is included as Figure 4 in Appendix A.

The Qt and Q-Tu deposits are believed to underlain by the Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl (Kknm) of the Cretaceous Period. The Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl (Kknm) formation consists mainly of clay, marly clay, marl and shale. Very hard layers of marl, shale, sandstone and/or siltstone can be encountered in this formation. Within the Project limits, the formation has very high liquid limit and plasticity index values which most likely are due to the presence of significant amounts of the clay mineral montmorillonite. The clay is very highly expansive.

The strata encountered in the soil borings drilled along the Project alignment generally consisted of alluvial (clayey) soils of high to very high plasticity.

#### Generalized Subsurface Stratigraphic Conditions

Based on the subgrade conditions encountered beneath the pavement sections, the subgrade soils were fairly consistent. That is, high to very high plasticity soils were encountered in the borings drilled within the Project alignment. The high to very high plasticity soils<sup>1</sup> encountered have a high to very high potential to shrink and swell due to fluctuations in moisture content.

#### Groundwater Conditions

A dry soil sampling method was used to obtain the soil samples. Groundwater was not observed in the pavement borings to the depths drilled as part of this Project. Groundwater levels will often change significantly over time. Water levels in open boreholes may require several hours to several days to stabilize depending on the permeability of the soils.

The quantity of transient or perched groundwater seepage is dependent on antecedent rainfall conditions and can usually be accommodated with "sump and pump" techniques if encountered during construction. However, the long-term performance of the pavement section will be adversely affected if groundwater seepage is present. If groundwater seepage becomes problematic, interceptor drains will likely be required to intercept and redirect the seepage away from the pavement structure.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Peck, R., Hanson, W., Thornburn, T., *Foundation Engineering*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Wiley & Sons, New York, 1974, pg 337.

It should be noted that groundwater levels at the time of construction may differ from the observations obtained during the field exploration because perched groundwater is subject to seasonal conditions, recent rainfall, flooding, drought or temperature affects. Granular soils such as gravelly and sandy soils can readily transmit subsurface water. Groundwater levels should be verified immediately prior to construction. Should dewatering become necessary, it is considered "means and methods" and is solely the responsibility of the Contractor.

#### Subgrade Properties - Texas Triaxial Class and Subgrade Modulus

A Texas Triaxial Class (TTC) is assigned to the subgrade using one of the following methods: (1) determined from the Soil Conservation Services Series, Research Report 3-05- 71-035, (2) determined by site specific triaxial testing of subgrade samples, (3) determined by correlation with the subgrade's Plasticity Index (PI), or (4) estimated based on soil type from the County database in the FPS-21 software.

FWD data was provided by TxDOT for the Project limits. The FWD data was analyzed using the MODULUS 6.1 software developed by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). The existing pavement structures, i.e. pavement layers and thicknesses, were estimated based on the pavement core data presented previously in Table 3.

The estimated pavement structures were entered in the MODULUS 6.1 program along with the FWD data. Back-calculation of the pavement layer and subgrade moduli values were then performed. The back-calculated in-situ subgrade modulus, i.e. subgrade support, as outlined subsequently was used in our pavement designs.

The following subgrade material properties were utilized in the analysis of the pavement designs:

1. Texas Triaxial Class (TTC) - Recommended TTC values range from 3.0 for sandy/gravelly soils to 6.5 for extremely weak plastic soils.

Based on our geotechnical boring and laboratory findings for this Project, high plasticity clay subgrade soils were encountered within the Project Limits. PVR is discussed further in the Potential Vertical Rise (PVR) section of this report. The pavement subgrade conditions are presented further on Figure 3 in Appendix A.

For our pavement designs, we used a TTC value of 5.6 for "CH" soils (based on the Bexar County database) to perform the Modified Triaxial Check.

2. Subgrade Modulus (ksi) - To evaluate the subgrade conditions beneath the existing pavement, FWD data was provided to us by TxDOT.

The FWD data included test locations along the existing Northbound and Southbound Travel Lanes. Back-calculation analyses were conducted for the existing pavements. The depth-to-bedrock (DTB) and back-calculated subgrade modulus value used in design are summarized subsequently in Table 4.

<b>Pavement Location</b>	<b>Existing Total</b> <b>Pavement</b> <b>Thickness</b> [Range] / Average (inches)	<b>Subgrade</b> <b>Design</b> <b>Modulus</b> (ksi)	Depth-To- <b>Bedrock</b> (DTB) (inches)	<b>TTC</b>
Northbound and Southbound <b>Travel Lanes</b>	[14 to $23\frac{1}{2}$ ] / 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.0	163.9	5.6

Table 4: Back-calculated Subgrade Moduli Values

Notes:

1. Pavement thickness based on 8 pavement cores.

2. The MODULUS 6.1 program output files are included in Appendix E.

Based on the FWD testing, a design subgrade modulus value of 6.0 ksi was used in our pavement designs for the proposed reconstruction. The 6.0 ksi subgrade design modulus value was selected due to: (1) numerous back-calculated locations near 6.0 ksi, (2) the high plasticity clay "CH" soils encountered in the borings, and (3) the high FWD deflections (d7).

The high FWD deflections (d7) indicate very poor to poor subgrade conditions. The high plasticity clay "CH" subgrade is a contributor. However, the presence of multiple buried utilities is also believed to be a contributor. It is our opinion that poorlycompacted, utility backfill coupled with moist/weak CH soils has resulted in nonuniform subgrade support issues at this site. The presence of concrete and cementtreated base below the existing HMA is likely the result of attempting to "bridge" over non-uniform weak subgrade conditions.

Due to potential non-uniform subgrade conditions, it will be prudent to proof roll the existing subgrade prior to new pavement construction. Weak/soft areas evidenced during proof rolling should be corrected prior to pavement construction.

#### Traffic Data

A summary of the traffic data used in our pavement designs is shown subsequently in Tables 5 and 6.

The methodology used to determine the design traffic data is outlined below:

 The ADT's presented are based on the Broadway 2014 and 2040 Corridor Volumes provided in Appendix F.

A back-analysis of the traffic volume data was performed to determine an approximate growth rate of 2.66%.

- The initial ADT was assumed at Year 2020 and projected to be 40,628 vehicles per day (vpd) based on the reported 2014 ADT=34,700 vpd and a growth rate of 2.66%
- The Percent Trucks in ADT of 5.0% was based on the 2017 traffic counts data provided in Appendix F.
- A Truck Factor of 0.80 was assumed and used for our 20-Year Flexible ESAL calculation. A Truck Factor of 1.0 was assumed and used for our 30 Year Rigid ESAL calculation.
- The ATHWLD, Percent Tandem Axles in ATHWLD, and Percent Trucks in ADT were assumed at 12,200 lbs, 30%, and 5%, respectively.



#### Table 5: LP 368: 30-year Traffic Data for Rigid Pavement Design

Note:

1. The traffic data provided above will be revised, as necessary, once a TPP-generated report becomes available. Alternatively, the designs included herein can be considered as final with TxDOT's approval of the traffic data/parameters used for design.

	<b>ADT</b>		<b>Percent</b>		<b>Percent</b>	<b>Equivalent 18k</b>	
<b>Section</b> 2020		2040	<b>Trucks</b> in <b>ADT</b>	<b>ATHWLD</b>	<b>Tandem</b> <b>Axles in</b> <b>ATHWLD</b>	<b>Single Axle Load</b> <b>Applications</b> (ESALs)	
LP 368 From: Hildebrand Avenue To: Roy Smith Street	40,628	68,731	5.0	12,200	30	7,710,000	

Table 6: LP 368: 20-year Traffic Data for Flexible Pavement Design

Note:

1. The traffic data provided above will be revised, as necessary, once a TPP-generated report becomes available. Alternatively, the designs included herein can be considered as final with TxDOT's approval of the traffic data/parameters used for design.

#### Rigid Pavement Design: AASHTO (1993) and TxCRCP-ME Methods

Rigid pavement recommendations were prepared in accordance with the 1993 AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structures and the TxCRCP-ME design program. The rigid pavement designs were based on an analysis period of 30 years. Program design inputs were based on the preferences of the TxDOT San Antonio District and guidelines provided in the 2018 TxDOT Pavement Manual. Pavement design recommendations are provided subsequently for both continuously reinforced concrete pavement (CRCP) and concrete pavement contraction design (CPCD).

CPCD is feasible regarding the traffic loading ESALs, and in consideration of the high quantity of existing utilities within the right-of way (ROW) with the possibility for future utility repair. However, the TxDOT 2018 Pavement Manual recommends the use of CRCP where there is a higher risk of expansive soil heave. Highly expansive clay soils are present at this site, and Arias recommends the use of CRCP, accordingly, if feasible. The use of flexible pavement may be more practical due to the presence of utilities. In this scenario, the use of CRCP or CPCD could be limited to VIA bus pads.

The AASHTO Pavement Design Calculations are included in Appendix G.

#### Rigid Pavement Design Parameters

Rigid pavement design parameters were selected in accordance with the 1993 AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structure, and the 2018 TxDOT Pavement Manual. The rigid concrete pavement designs presented in Table 8 were based on the design parameters outlined subsequently in Table 7:

<b>Design Parameters</b>	<b>Travel Lanes</b>
Reliability Factor, %	95
<b>Overall Standard Deviation</b>	0.39
Initial Serviceability Index	4.5
<b>Terminal Serviceability Index</b>	2.5
Drainage Coefficient (DC)	1.02
Load Transfer Coefficient (J)	2.9 for CPCD
28-day Concrete Elastic Modulus, psi	5,000,000
28-day Concrete Modulus of Rupture, psi	570 to 620
Effective Modulus of Subgrade Reaction (k), pci	300 to 457
Design ESALs	16,720,000
Service Life (years)	30

Table 7: Parameters for Rigid Concrete Pavement Design

#### Proposed Rigid Pavement Sections

The pavement recommendations included in this section are based on TxDOT design procedures for rigid pavements. Importantly, removal of the existing HMA and underlying concrete pavement will require a new pavement section designed thick enough to restore grade following the lime-treatment of the soil subgrade. Based on our pavement core data - following lime-treatment of the soil subgrade - we recommend the use of a 20-inch thick pavement section. Lime-treatment is included for each pavement option due to the soil's high plasticity.



#### Table 8: Rigid Designs for Reconstruction of LP 368

Notes:

1. Pavement details are included in Appendix B.

2. The thickness of the pavement material types noted were increased to result in a minimum 20 inch total pavement section. A minimum 20-inch thick pavement section was selected (based on the project core data) to allow removal of the existing pavement structure and to restore grade.

CRCP. The longitudinal and transverse steel should be sized by the designers to meet the minimum requirements presented on the TxDOT design standards presented on CRCP (1)-17. For CRCP from 7 to 13 inches thick, TxDOT detail: CRCP (1)-17, Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement, One-Layer Steel Bar Placement, should be used.

CPCD. The longitudinal construction or contraction joints, dowel spacing, dowel bars, tie bars, and other design details should meet the requirements presented on the TxDOT design standards presented on CPCD-14. For CPCD from 6 to 12 inches thick, TxDOT detail: CPCD-14, Concrete Pavement Details Contraction Design, should be used.

Flexible to Rigid Transitions. Where flexible pavement will transition to concrete pavement, the TXDOT detail, Junction Terminals Flexible Pavement with Concrete Pavement JTFPCP- 04 (MOD), should be considered.

The referenced details are provided in Appendix I.

#### Flexible Pavement Design: FPS-21 Method

Flexible pavement recommendations were prepared in accordance with the TTI Flexible Pavement Design System, FPS-21. Program design inputs were based on the preferences of the TxDOT San Antonio District and guidelines provided in the 2018 TxDOT Pavement Manual.

#### Proposed Flexible Pavement Sections

Provided subsequently are flexible pavement options for the reconstruction of LP 368. Importantly, removal of the existing HMA and underlying concrete pavement will require a new pavement section designed thick enough to restore grade following the lime-treatment of the soil subgrade. Based on our pavement core data - following lime-treatment of the soil subgrade - we recommend the use of a 20-inch thick pavement section. Lime-treatment is included for each pavement option due to the soil's high plasticity.

- Pavement Options No. 1 and 2 include using hot mix asphalt (HMA) over flexible base material over a lime-treated subgrade. A lime-treated subgrade will aid in mitigating the high plasticity clay subgrade soils while also providing a more "allweather" working platform. A layer of Type 2 geogrid is recommended on top of the lime-treated subgrade at the bottom of the flexible base layer to aid in "bridging" over the non-uniform pavement subgrade conditions as previously discussed.
- Pavement Option No. 3 includes using full-depth HMA over a lime-treated subgrade. A lime-treated subgrade will aid in mitigating the high plasticity clay subgrade soils while also providing a more "all-weather" working platform.
- Pavement Option No. 4 includes using HMA over cement-treated base (CTB) over a lime-treated subgrade. A lime-treated subgrade will aid in mitigating the high plasticity clay subgrade soils while also providing a more "all-weather" working platform.

• Pavement Option No. 5 includes the rehabilitation option of milling (removing) a portion of the existing pavement structure and constructing a new HMA inlay on top of the underlying existing pavement structure. Importantly, this rehabilitation option is based on the pavement core data collected for this Project. The cores were generally performed near the center of the roadway due to existing utility conflicts. Thus, we recommend that Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) testing be performed to determine if the existing pavement structure (i.e. HMA, concrete, and/or CTB) meets the minimum estimated thickness presented herein.

The existing pavement has experienced a significant amount of pavement cracking along the Project corridor. The pavement cracking is believed to be related to one or a combination of the following:

- o Cracks and/or joints in the underlying concrete layer or cracks in the underlying cement-treated base layer reflecting up through the HMA;
- o Settlement of utility backfill; and/or
- $\circ$  Expansive soil (i.e. PVR) movement.

Noteworthy, numerous HMA (mill and inlay) patches were observed within the Project corridor. Based on our site reconnaissance, the patched areas appear to be performing well to date. Before selecting this option, maintenance records for the patches should be reviewed to determine the approximate depth of mill and inlay and the Year(s) the patches were constructed. The history and details of the patches will be considered before approving this rehabilitation option.

For this mill and inlay rehabilitation option, the Owner should be cognizant that reflective cracking from underlying cracked pavement layers will eventually propagate up through the new pavement surface. To help delay reflective cracking, a geosynthetic pavement interlayer is recommended for this rehabilitation option. Furthermore, mitigation of PVR movements is not considered with this option. Thus, the Owner should plan for more routine preventative maintenance (i.e. crack sealing and mill and inlays) due to reflective cracking and PVR issues when compared to the reconstruction Options 1 to 4 presented herein.

The recommended pavement thickness options presented subsequently in Table 9 may be considered to meet the design requirements. Other choices/alternatives are possible. The FPS-21 input and output files for the pavement design options included in Table 9 are included in Appendix H.



#### Table 9: FPS Designs for Reconstruction of LP 368

#### Notes:

- 1. Pavement details are included in Appendix B for the above options.
- 2. The underseal should consist of a Membrane Underseal or as an alternate a One Course Surface Treatment (OCST).
- 3. The thickness of the pavement material types noted were increased to result in a minimum 20-inch total pavement section. A minimum 20-inch thick pavement section was selected (based on the project core data) to allow removal of the existing pavement structure and to restore grade.
- 4. Rehabilitation Option 5 is based on the thickness of the existing pavement structure determined from core data. GPR testing should be performed to determine that the existing pavement structure (i.e. HMA, concrete, and/or CTB) meets the minimum estimated thickness presented herein.
- 5. Where the existing HMA is underlain by concrete pavement (e.g. B-4, B-5 and B-6), the mill depth can be stopped to the top of concrete resulting in an inlay less than 9" thick. Otherwise, the mill depth should be to a 9-inch depth.
- 6. The completed surface aggregate selection form is included in Appendix K.

#### Mechanistic and Modified Triaxial Design Checks

The pavement section options were further evaluated by the FPS-21 Mechanistic Check, and with the Modified Triaxial Check (MTC) Design Procedure. The Mechanistic Check determines the fatigue life of the hot mix asphalt (HMA) layers and full depth rutting life of the pavement section.

The MTC was performed utilizing the ATHWLD, Percentage of Tandem Axles, Subgrade TTC, Modified Cohesionmeter Value  $(C_m)$  and Design Wheel Load. The required Modified Triaxial design thicknesses are shown subsequently in Table 10 for the proposed Main Lane pavement sections. Except for the rehabilitation Option 5, the FPS-21 designs provided in Table 10 meet the thickness requirements of the Mechanistic and the MTC checks.

<b>Pavement</b> <b>Option No.</b>	C <sub>m</sub> Value, Pavement Type and Subgrade Profile	<b>Triaxial</b> <b>Thickness</b> <b>Required</b>	<b>Allowable</b> <b>Thickness</b> <b>Reduction</b>	<b>Modified</b> <b>Triaxial</b> <b>Thickness</b>		
	<b>Reconstruction of LP 368</b>					
	$C_m$ =800, HMA + Flexible Base					
Options 1 & 2	+ Geogrid + Lime-Treated					
	Subgrade + Proof Rolled					
	Subgrade					
Option 3	$C_m = 800$ , HMA + Lime-Treated					
	Subgrade + Proof Rolled					
	Subgrade	23.5"	7.7"	15.8"		
	$C_m = 800$ , HMA + Cement-					
Option 4	Treated Base + Lime-Treated					
	Subgrade + Proof Rolled					
	Subgrade					
Option 5	$C_m = 800$ , HMA (Mill and Inlay)					
	+ Existing Pavement					

Table 10: MTC Design Thickness

Note:

1. The Modified Cohesionmeter Value,  $C_m$ =800 is utilized for Hot-Mixed Bituminous Materials equal to or greater than 6 inches thick.

2. Based on our pavement core data, Pavement Option No. 5 does not meet the MTC.

#### Potential Vertical Rise (PVR)

High plasticity soils were encountered in the pavement borings along the Project alignment. The soils have the potential to shrink/swell with changes in soil moisture content. The 2018 TxDOT Pavement Manual recommends the use of maximum PVR values of 1.5 inches for the design of Main Lanes, and 2.0 inches for Frontage Roads. In accordance with the referenced manual, PVR values were determined within the Project limits using the Tex-124E method for a maximum 7-foot depth. The calculated PVR values are provided in Appendix J and summarized subsequently in Table 11.



Table 11: Range of Calculated PVR values

Note:

1. The above values are based on 8 borings drilled within the Project Limits.

The average PVR value was calculated to be about 3.3 inches.

#### PVR Mitigation

Based on our PVR calculations, we recommend that PVR mitigation be employed at this Project site.

Importantly, it is common for moisture content values to remain fairly constant in the middle of the roadway. The moisture levels in the subgrade soils located near the edge of roadway are more susceptible to changes in moisture that occur due to natural seasonal moisture fluctuations. The edges will dry and shrink during drought conditions, relative to the center of the roadway. During extremely wet climate periods, the edges will swell relative to the center of the roadway. The shrinking and swelling of subgrade soils near the edge of pavements will result in longitudinal, surface cracking that occurs parallel to the roadway. Based on our experience, the cracking typically occurs at a distance of 3 to 9 feet from the edge of the roadway. Edge cracking associated with soil shrinkage movements may occur at greater distances during extreme environmental conditions. Soil shrink-swell movements can also result in undulating pavements resulting in a reduced ride quality. Our pavement recommendations have been developed to provide an adequate structural thickness to support the anticipated traffic volumes and provide lime-treatment of the subgrade soils to help reduce/mitigate potential PVR issues.

Geogrid is also recommended for pavement Options 1 and 2 in Table 9 due to both the expansive soil subgrade and non-uniform subgrade support conditions that may be related to poorly-compacted utility backfill. Importantly, even with the recommendations included herein the resulting PVR ranges from about 1.4 inches to 3.4 inches with an average of 2.2 inches. Further PVR reduction could be accomplished by over-excavating the expansive clay soil and replacing this soil with an inert select fill. Due to the existing urban development and underground utilities within the roadway alignment, over-excavation and select fill

replacement may not be a viable option for this Project. The PVR mitigation techniques can be adjusted to result in a lower PVR if desired by TxDOT.

TxDOT should recognize that over time, pavements may develop undulations and/or cracking, and undergo some deterioration and loss of serviceability. Deterioration can occur more rapidly due to climatic extremes such as drought conditions, or periods that are wetter than normal. We recommend that project budgets include an allowance for maintenance such as routine crack sealing and patching/repair of cracks, as well as for providing periodic mill and overlays over the life of the pavement.

The effect of existing and proposed (if applicable) trees/vegetation should be considered for this Project due to the expansive soil subgrade. Soil moisture can be affected by the roots of vegetation that extend beneath pavements. Trees remove large quantities of water from the soil through their root systems, particularly during the growing season, and cause localized drier areas in the vicinity of the roots. The limits of affected areas are typically related to the lateral extent of a root system, which are a function of the tree height and the spread of its branches. It is generally accepted that a root system will influence the soil moisture levels to a distance roughly equivalent to the drip line (extent of branches). Pavements constructed over a tree root system may shrink due to changes in moisture content and result in cracking. These types of movements result in concentric and/or longitudinal crack patterns in pavements located near trees. If trees will be located next to the roadway, localized root barriers should be considered as part of the pavement construction.

If pervious storm water planters are being considered in proposed landscape areas along the roadway, significant movement could occur in overlying and nearby grade-supported structures (e.g., flatwork, curbs, and pavement) if water from the planters is allowed to infiltrate to the expansive clays. Accordingly, these planter types should be designed as water-tight with infiltrating subsurface water conveyed in non-perforated piping to storm sewers or other outlets such that the collected water is not allowed to infiltrate into the expansive clays.

#### PAVEMENT CONSTRUCTION

#### Site Preparation

Where applicable, existing pavements should be removed. Topsoil stripping should be performed, as needed, to remove organic materials, soft/very soft "mucky" soils, and vegetation. Furthermore, removal should include any debris, trash, undocumented fill, and landfill materials, and be properly disposed of offsite.

A loaded dump truck weighing at least 20 tons should make at least 15 passes to proof roll over the resulting subgrade and flexible base areas planned to receive the proposed construction. A representative of the Geotechnical Engineer should be present to observe proof rolling operations. As per the representative of the Geotechnical Engineer, areas of deflection should be removed, re-compacted and/or replaced with Embankment Select Fill, as applicable, meeting the material and compaction requirements given subsequently.

The resulting subgrade following proof rolling should then be scarified to a depth of at least 6 inches, moisture conditioned to between optimum and plus four (+4) percentage points of optimum moisture content, and compacted to at least 95 percent of the maximum density determined using TEX-114-E. Existing flexible base should be compacted to at least 100% TEX-113-E.

We recommend that one of our representatives be scheduled to observe that the site preparation operations are performed in accordance with our recommendations.

#### Embankment Select Fill

Roadway Embankment Select Fill should consist of inert (non-swelling) Type C embankment fill (TxDOT Item 132) that meets the following requirements:

- maximum liquid limit (LL) of 45;
- maximum plasticity index (PI) of 25;
- maximum particle size of 3 inches;
- sulfate contents ≤ 500 ppm;
- placed in maximum 8-inch loose lifts;
- moisture conditioned to between optimum moisture and +4 percentage points of optimum moisture; and
- compacted to between 98% and 102% of the maximum dry density (TEX-114-E).

Recycled pavement can be considered for reuse as select fill provided it meets the criteria presented herein.

Embankment Select Fill should not contain organics, deleterious debris, trash or landfill materials. Conformance testing should be performed during construction to assure that the materials used for construction meet (and are placed in accordance with) the project plans and specifications. The suitability of all fill materials should be approved by the Geotechnical Engineer.

We recommend that one of our representatives be scheduled to observe that the site preparation and fill placement and compaction operations are performed in accordance with our recommendations.

#### Lime-Treated Subgrade

Lime treatment, in accordance with TxDOT Item 260, of the final subgrade is recommended for the proposed pavements. Material and compaction requirements are given subsequently in Table 12:

<b>Treatment depth</b>	8 inches
<b>Additive type</b>	<b>Hydrated Lime</b>
<b>Hydrated Lime application rate (estimated)</b>	8% by dry weight.
Soil dry unit weight (estimated)	100 pcf but may be variable
Determination of Lime application rate	The actual stabilizer application rate should be
	determined by laboratory testing of soil samples
	taken after the pavement subgrade elevation has
	been achieved. The quantity of lime should be
	determined as outlined in Tex-121-E.
<b>Treatment procedure</b>	Meet requirements given in TxDOT Item 260 Lime
	Treatment (Road-Mixed)
<b>Treatment layer compaction and moisture</b>	Tex-117-E
criteria	$\geq$ 98 % compaction at -2 to +3 from optimum

Table 12: Lime Treatment of Pavement Subgrade

#### Geogrid

For flexible pavement, we recommend the use of a punched and drawn, Type 2 Geogrid (DMS-6240) to help reduce the severity of potential pavement cracking due to expansive soil-related movements, as well as to aid in "bridging" over non-uniform subgrade support conditions.

Geogrid should be installed on top of a subgrade that has passed a proof roll. The geogrid should be installed as per the manufacturer guidelines. A representative of the geogrid supplier should be present at the start of geogrid placement to instruct the workforce on proper installation techniques.

#### Reinforcement Grid for Asphalt

A geosynthetic pavement interlayer should be installed with Pavement Option 5 in Table 9. For the pavement interlayer, we recommend the use of a Type II Reinforcement Grid for Asphalt (Item 3057).

The grid should be installed on top of the 2-inch HMA TY D (level-up) layer. A hot applied tack coat (Item Description 300-006) is recommended between the HMA TY D and TY B layers. The grid should be installed as per the manufacturer guidelines. A representative of the grid supplier should be present during construction to instruct the workforce on proper installation techniques.

#### Flexible Base

New flexible base material should comply with TxDOT Item 247, Type A or D, Grade 1-2. The flexible base should be compacted in maximum 8-inch loose lifts to at least 100 percent of the maximum dry density as evaluated by TEX-113-E within ±2 percentage points of optimum moisture content.

In areas where unbound flexible base material will be utilized as fill or as part of the pavement base course over box culverts, a non-woven 4oz/yd2 minimum fabric, such as "Mirafi 140N", should be placed on top of the box culvert and underneath the initial lift of unbound base fill for the entire width of the roadway. This will help to reduce the potential for fines from the base material dispersing into any clean gravel backfill placed around, between and below the concrete box culverts. The fabric should not be used directly beneath black base or hot mix asphalt due to detrimental effects caused by higher installation temperatures of these materials.

#### Cement-Treated Base

For CRCP or CPCD, cement treated base should be in accordance with TxDOT Item 276, Class L. For bidding purposes, we estimate using 5% cement, by weight, to treat flexible base (Item 247, Type A or D, Grade 5). Using an estimated 140 pcf dry unit weight, the application rate would be approximately 31.5 lbs/SY for a 6-inch thick section. However, the actual application rate should be determined during construction through a mix design using TEX-120-E.

For the cement-treated flexible pavement Option 4 in Table 9, cement treatment should be in accordance with TxDOT Item 275, including but not limited to, the requirements and specifications for pulverization, application, mixing, compaction, finishing, microcracking, and curing. Import flexible base materials proposed for cement treatment should comply with TxDOT Item 247, Type D, Grade 5. For bidding purposes, we estimate using 5% cement, by weight, for CTB. Using an estimated 140 pcf dry unit weight, the application rate would be approximately 52.5 lbs/SY for a 10-inch thick section. However, the actual cement application rate should be determined by laboratory testing of soil samples taken after the pavement subgrade elevation has been achieved. The quantity of cement should be the minimum amount to result in an unconfined compressive strength (UCS) at 7 days of at least 200 psi.

For CRCP or flexible pavement, CTB layers should be compacted to at least 95 percent of the maximum dry density as evaluated by TEX-120-E within ±2 percentage points of optimum moisture content.

#### Concrete Pavement

Concrete pavement should comply with TxDOT Item 360 Concrete Pavement provided in the 2014 TxDOT Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges.

#### Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Layers

Hot mix asphalt (HMA) should comply with 2014 TxDOT Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges referring to the respective Items listed previously in Tables 8 and 9 of this report.

Compaction tests, as necessary, should be performed during construction in accordance with the project documents. The HMA materials should be tested to verify compliance with the TxDOT Item, sampling frequency, approved design and current job mix formula. The job mix formula should be submitted to the State by the supplier/manufacturer for approval.

#### Underseal

The underseal should consist of a spray-applied polymer emulsion membrane (Item 3002).

As an alternate, a OCST with Asphalt (AC-15P, AC-20-5TR, AC-20XP, or AC-10-2TR) at 0.30 GAL/SY can be considered. The OCST aggregate would consist of Type PB Grade 4 at 115 SY/CY. The OCST Item descriptions are 0316-6410 and 0316-6431.

#### Site Drainage

We recommend that areas along the roadway be properly maintained to allow for positive drainage and keep water from ponding adjacent to the pavements as the construction proceeds. This consideration should be included in the project specifications.

Positive drainage should also be maintained after construction so that ponded water does not occur near the roadway. Poor drainage can result in pavement subgrade failures, as well as in pavement distress associated with expansive soil heave.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

The recommended pavement designs for this Project are presented subsequently herein.

Due to the presence of highly expansive clay, we recommend lime-treatment of the pavement subgrade.

Due to anticipated non-uniform subgrade support conditions, and if feasible, we recommend that the CRCP Pavement Option 1 in Table 8 be selected. If the quantity of existing utilities within the right-of way (ROW) and the possibility for future utility repair preclude the use of a rigid pavement section, we recommend the lime-treated subgrade with geogrid, flexible Pavement Option 1 in Table 9 be selected.

If the Project construction schedule does not allow for the placement and cure times associated with the use of flexible base or stabilized base layers, we recommend that Pavement Option 3 in Table 9 be selected.

If costs and constructability dictate pavement rehabilitation, then the rehabilitation Pavement Option 5 in Table 9 can be selected provided that: (1) a GPR survey is performed to confirm that the required minimum existing pavement thickness exists within the Project alignment, (2) the history and details of the existing patches infer that this rehabilitation option will have acceptable performance, and (3) the Owner is cognizant that reflective cracking from underlying cracked pavement layers will eventually propagate up through the new pavement surface.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

This report was prepared as an instrument of service for this project exclusively for the use of IDCUS, TxDOT, TCI and the project design team. If the development plans change relative to layout and cross sections of the pavements, anticipated traffic loads, or if different subsurface conditions are encountered during construction, we should be informed and retained to ascertain the impact of these changes on our recommendations. We cannot be responsible for the potential impact of these changes if we are not informed. Important information about this geotechnical report is provided in the ASFE publication included in Appendix L.

#### Geotechnical Design Review

Arias should be given the opportunity to review the design and construction documents. The purpose of this review is to check to see if our geotechnical recommendations are properly interpreted into the project plans and specifications. Please note that design review was not included in the authorized scope and additional fees may apply.

#### Quality Assurance Testing

As a guideline, at least one in-place density test should be performed for every 100 linear feet of the roadway subgrade and each lift of fill material (minimum of 3 tests per lift). Any areas not meeting the required compaction should be re-compacted and retested until compliance is met.

The long-term success of the project will be affected by the quality of materials used for construction and the adherence of the construction to the project plans and specifications. As Geotechnical Engineer of Record (GER), we should be engaged by the Owner to provide Quality Assurance (QA) testing. Our services will be to evaluate the degree to which constructors are achieving the specified conditions they are contractually obligated to achieve and observe that the encountered materials during earthwork and foundation installation are consistent with those encountered during this study. If Arias is not retained to provide QA testing, we should be immediately contacted if differing subsurface conditions are encountered during construction. Differing materials may require modification to the recommendations that we provided herein. A message to the Owner with regard to the project QA is provided in the ASFE publication included in Appendix M.

Arias has an established in-house laboratory that meets the standards of the American Standard Testing Materials (ASTM) specifications of ASTM E-329 defining requirements for Inspection and Testing Agencies for soil, concrete, steel and bituminous materials as used in construction. We maintain soils, concrete, asphalt, and aggregate testing equipment to provide the testing needs required by the project specifications. Our equipment is calibrated by an independent testing agency in accordance with the National Bureau of Standards. In addition, Arias is accredited by the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and maintains AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory (AMRL) and Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory (CCRL) proficiency sampling, assessments and inspections.

Furthermore, Arias employs a technical staff certified through the following agencies: the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), the American Concrete Institute (ACI), the American Welding Society (AWS), the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), the Mine & Safety Health Administration (MSHA), the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TXAPA) and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE). Our services are conducted under the guidance and direction of a Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensed to work in the State of Texas, as required by law.

#### Subsurface Variations

Soil and groundwater conditions may vary away from the sample boring locations. Transition boundaries or contacts, noted on the boring logs to separate soil types, are approximate. Actual contacts may be gradual and vary at different locations. The Contractor should verify that similar conditions exist throughout the proposed area of excavation. If different subsurface conditions or highly variable subsurface conditions are encountered during construction, we should be contacted to evaluate the significance of the changed conditions relative to our recommendations.

#### Standard of Care

Subject to the limitations inherent in the agreed scope of services as to the degree of care and amount of time and expenses to be incurred, and subject to any other limitations contained in the agreement for this work, Arias has performed its services consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other professional engineers practicing in the same locale and under similar circumstances at the time the services were performed.

### APPENDIX A: FIGURES, SITE PHOTOS, ASPHALT CORE PHOTOS















ARIAS

**GEOPROFESSIONALS** 

Quaternary Period / Holocene Upper Cretaceous Period Upper Cretaceous Period **Upper Cretaceous Period** Quaternary Period / Pleistocene

### **GEOLOGIC MAP**

Loop 368 (Broadway Corridor) From Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. CSJ: 0016-08-034

142 Chula Vista, San Antonio, Texas 78232 Phone: (210) 308-5884 • Fax: (210) 308-5886 Date: July 6, 2018 Job No.: 2018-123 **Figure 4** Drawn By: RWL Checked By: GK<br>Approved By: CMS Scale: N.T.S. Approved By: CMS

**1 of 1**


Photo 1 – View looking towards coring/boring operations of B-3 performed at North of Broadway St and Funston Pl. Intersection.



Photo 2 – View looking towards coring/boring operations of B-4 performed at North of Broadway St and E. Mulberry Ave. Intersection



### **SITE PHOTOS**

LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) From Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas CSJ 0016-08-034



Asphalt Core from Boring B-1 North of Broadway St and Groveland Pl Intersection At Median between Northbound and Southbound Broadway St



Asphalt and Concrete Core from Boring B-2 North of Broadway St and Pershing Ave. Intersection At Southbound Left Turn Lane to Pershing Lane



Asphalt and Concrete Core from Boring B-3 North of Broadway St and Funston Pl. Intersection At Southbound Left Turn Lane to Funston Pl.



Asphalt and Concrete Core from Boring B-4 North of Broadway St and E. Mulberry Ave. Intersection At Southbound Left Turn Lane to E. Mulberry Ave.



#### 142 Chula Vista, San Antonio, Texas 78232 Phone: (210) 308-5884 • Fax: (210) 308-5886



### **PAVEMENT CORE PHOTOS**

LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) From Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas CSJ 0016-08-034

### **Appendix A**



Asphalt and Concrete Core from Boring B-5 North of Broadway St and Post Ave. Intersection At Southbound Left Lane



Asphalt and Concrete Core from Boring B-6 North of Broadway St and Appler St Intersection At Southbound Left Lane



Asphalt Core from Boring B-7 North of Broadway St and Pearl Pkwy Intersection At Northbound Left Lane



Asphalt Core from Boring B-8 North of S. PanAm Expy Over Broadway St At Southbound Right Lane



#### Phone: (210) 308-5884 • Fax: (210) 308-5886



### **PAVEMENT CORE PHOTOS**

LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) From Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas CSJ 0016-08-034

### **Appendix A**

**2 of 2**

### APPENDIX B: PAVEMENT DETAILS









3 2018



#### APPENDIX C: BORING LOGS AND KEY TO TERMS AND **SYMBOLS**



**CSJ 0016-08-034**

**Version 3.1**

**ING LOG** 1 of 1 **B-1** 

**Station Offset**















































#### **KEY TO TERMS AND SYMBOLS USED ON BORING LOGS**

#### **TABLE 1 Soil Classification Chart (ASTM D 2487-11)**



*<sup>A</sup>* Based on the material passing the 3-inch (75mm) sieve

*<sup>B</sup>* If field sample contained cobbles or boulders, or both, add "with cobbles or boulders, or both" to group name

*<sup>C</sup>* Gravels with 5% to 12% fines require dual symbols:

GW-GM well-graded gravel with silt

GW-GC well-graded gravel with clay

GP-GM poorly-graded gravel with silt

GP-GC poorly-graded gravel with clay

#### $D$  Cu = D<sub>60</sub>/D<sub>10</sub> Cc =  $(D_{30})^2$

 $D_{10}$  x  $D_{60}$ 

*<sup>E</sup>* If soil contains ≥ 15% sand, add "with sand" to group name

*<sup>F</sup>* If fines classify as CL-ML, use dual symbol GC-GM, or SC-SM

*<sup>G</sup>* If fines are organic, add "with organic fines" to group name

*<sup>H</sup>* Sand with 5% to 12% fines require dual symbols:

SW-SM well-graded sand with silt

SW-SC well-graded sand with clay

SP-SM poorly-graded sand with silt

SP-SC poorly-graded sand with clay

- *<sup>I</sup>* If soil contains ≥ 15% gravel, add "with gravel" to group name
- *<sup>J</sup>* If Atterberg limits plot in hatched area, soil is a CL-ML, silty clay
- *<sup>K</sup>* If soil contains 15% to < 30% plus No. 200, add "with sand" or "with gravel," whichever is predominant
- *<sup>L</sup>* If soil contains ≥ 30% plus No. 200, predominantly sand, add "sandy" to group name
- *M* If soil contains ≥ 30% plus No. 200, predominantly gravel, add "gravelly" to group name
- *<sup>N</sup>* PI ≥ 4 and plots on or above "A" line

**Homogeneous** Same color and appearance throughout

*<sup>O</sup>* PI < 4 or plots below "A" line

*<sup>P</sup>* PI plots on or above "A" line

*<sup>Q</sup>* PI plots below "A" line

#### **TERMINOLOGY**



#### **Arias Geoprofessionals**

### APPENDIX D: LABORATORY TEST RESULTS





Arias Geoprofessionals





#### APPENDIX E: FWD DATA AND MODULUS BACK-CALCULATION



LP 368 Northbound near B-1 to B-8







HMA Temp Base Thick.

×













HMA Temp Base Thick.



## APPENDIX F: TRAFFIC DATA

## Broadway 2014 Corridor Volumes





## Broadway 2040 Corridor Volumes





**PARSONS**<br>BRINCKERHOFF

## Broadway No Build Level of Service - 2040 (Lower)









12,389,973 ESALs



**Growth 2.66 %**


16,718,542 ESALs



**Growth 2.66 %**



ESALs 7,707,423



**Growth 2.66 %**

APPENDIX G: 1993 AASHTO DESIGN – RIGID PAVEMENT

## AASHTO Pavement Design Calculations

Spencer A. Higgs, P.E.

## Rigid Structural Design

LP 368 (Broadway Corridor) **Travel Lanes** from Hildebrand Avenue to Roy Smith Street San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas CSJ: 0016-08-034

## **Rigid Structural Design Data**



Calculated ESALs: 18,347,325

Required ESALs: 16,720,000

## INPUT DATA



## B. Design Parameters



## C. Design Traffic



## CRCP PERFORMANCE



## A. Project Identification **A.** Project Identification **D.** Concrete Layer Information



## E. Support Layers Information





## INPUT DATA



## B. Design Parameters



## C. Design Traffic



## CRCP PERFORMANCE



## A. Project Identification **A.** Project Identification **D.** Concrete Layer Information



## E. Support Layers Information





# APPENDIX H: FPS DESIGNS – FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT



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## BASIC DESIGN CRITERIA



#### PROGRAM CONTROLS AND CONSTRAINTS



### **TRAFFIC DATA**



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Texas Transportation Institute print Time: 2/26/2019 3:57:24 PM Page : 1 of 3



INPUT DATA CONTINUED

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DATA



#### DETOUR DESIGN FOR OVERLAYS



### PAVING MATERIALS INFORMATION



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Texas Transportation Institute print Time: 2/26/2019 3:57:24 PM Page : 2 of 3



THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEASIBLE DESIGNS CONSIDERED WAS  $1$ 

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### BASIC DESIGN CRITERIA



#### PROGRAM CONTROLS AND CONSTRAINTS



### **TRAFFIC DATA**



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INPUT DATA CONTINUED

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DATA



#### DETOUR DESIGN FOR OVERLAYS



### PAVING MATERIALS INFORMATION



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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEASIBLE DESIGNS CONSIDERED WAS  $1$ 

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The design is OK !



#### INPUT PARAMETERS:





#### TRIAXIAL CHECK CONCLUSION:

The Design OK !





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## BASIC DESIGN CRITERIA



#### PROGRAM CONTROLS AND CONSTRAINTS



### **TRAFFIC DATA**



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Texas Transportation Institute print Time: 2/26/2019 4:00:37 PM Page : 1 of 3



INPUT DATA CONTINUED

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DATA



### DETOUR DESIGN FOR OVERLAYS



### PAVING MATERIALS INFORMATION



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LP 368 - Option 3

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEASIBLE DESIGNS CONSIDERED WAS  $1$ 

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003 2/26/2019 BEXAR





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## BASIC DESIGN CRITERIA



#### PROGRAM CONTROLS AND CONSTRAINTS



### **TRAFFIC DATA**



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INPUT DATA CONTINUED

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DATA



### DETOUR DESIGN FOR OVERLAYS



### PAVING MATERIALS INFORMATION



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Texas Transportation Institute print Time: 2/26/2019 4:02:33 PM Page : 2 of 3



THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEASIBLE DESIGNS CONSIDERED WAS 30

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Design Type:User Defined Pavement Design





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## BASIC DESIGN CRITERIA



#### PROGRAM CONTROLS AND CONSTRAINTS



### **TRAFFIC DATA**



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INPUT DATA CONTINUED

#### CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DATA



### DETOUR DESIGN FOR OVERLAYS



### PAVING MATERIALS INFORMATION



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Texas Transportation Institute print Time: 2/26/2019 3:54:52 PM Page : 2 of 3



LP 368 - Option 5

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEASIBLE DESIGNS CONSIDERED WAS 13

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Design Type:User Defined Pavement Design

LP 368 - Option 5



# APPENDIX I: CRCP, CPCD, AND FLEXIBLE-TO-RIGID TRANSITION DETAILS



TRAVEL LANE

OR SHOULDER

TABLE NO. 1 LONGITUDINAL STEEL

TRAVEL LANE

#### GENERAL NOTES

1. DETAILS FOR PAVEMENT WIDTH, PAVEMENT THICKNESS AND THE CROWN CROSS-SLOPE SHALL BE SHOWN ELSEWHERE IN THE PLANS. PAVEMENTS WIDER THAN 100 FT, WITHOUT A FREE LONGITUDINAL JOINT ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS STANDARD.

2. USE COARSE AGGREGATES WITH A RATED COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL EXPANSION (COTE) OF NOT MORE THAN 5.5 X 10<sup>-6</sup> IN/IN/ °F AS LISTED IN THE CONCRETE RATED SOURCE QUALITY CATALOG (CRSQC).

3. ALL THE REINFORCING STEEL AND TIE BARS SHALL BE DEFORMED STEEL BARS CONFORMING TO ASTM A 615 (GRADE 60) OR ASTM A 996 (GRADE 60) OR ABOVE, STEEL BAR SIZES AND SPACINGS SHALL CONFORM TO TABLE NO. 1 AND TABLE NO. 2.

4. WHEN COARSE AGGREGATE WITH A RATED COTE OF NOT MORE THAN 4.3 X 10<sup>-6</sup> IN/IN/ °F IS USED. TABLE NO.1A MAY BE USED FOR LONGITUDINAL STEEL AS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.

5. STEEL BAR PLACEMENT TOLERANCE SHALL BE +/- 1 IN. HORIZONTALLY AND +/- 0.5 IN. VERTICALLY. CALCULATED AVERAGE BAR SPACING (CONCRETE PLACEMENT WIDTH / NUMBER OF LONGITUDINAL BARS) SHALL CONFORM TO TABLE NO. 1 OR TABLE NO. 1A.

6. PAVEMENT WIDTHS OF MORE THAN 15 FT. SHALL HAVE A LONGITUDINAL JOINT (SECTION Z-Z OR SECTION Y-Y). THESE JOINTS SHALL BE LOCATED WITHIN 6 IN. OF THE LANE LINE UNLESS THE JOINT LOCATION IS SHOWN ELSEWHERE ON THE PLANS.

7. THE SAW CUT DEPTH FOR THE LONGITUDINAL CONTRACTION JOINT (SECTION Z-Z) SHALL BE ONE THIRD OF THE SLAB THICKNESS (T/3).

8. WHEN TYING CONCRETE GUTTER AT A LONGITUDINAL JOINT, THE TIE BAR LENGTH OR POSITION MAY BE ADJUSTED. PROVIDE 3 IN. OF CONCRETE COVER FROM THE BACK OF GUTTER TO THE END OF TIE BAR.

9. REPLACE MISSING OR DAMAGED TIE BARS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BY DRILLING MIN. 10 IN. DEEP AND GROUTING TIE BARS WITH TYPE III, CLASS C EPOXY. MEET THE PULL-OUT TEST REQUIREMENTS IN ITEM 361.

10. OMIT TIE BARS LOCATED WITHIN 18-IN. OF THE TRANSVERSE CONSTRUCTION JOINTS (SECTION X-X), USE HAND-OPERATED IMMERSION VIBRATORS TO CONSOLIDATE THE CONCRETE ADJACENT TO ALL FORMED JOINTS.

SHOULDER EDGE 11. LONGITUDINAL REINFORCING STEEL SPLICES SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 25 IN. STAGGER THE LAP LOCATIONS SO THAT NO MORE THAN 1/3 OF THE LONGITUDINAL STEEL IS SPLICED IN ANY GIVEN 12-FT. WIDTH AND 2-FT. LENGTH OF THE PAVEMENT.

> 12. THE DETAIL FOR THE JOINT SEALANT AND RESERVOIR IS SHOWN ON STANDARD SHEET "CONCRETE PAVING DETAILS, JOINT SEALS."

TRAVEL LANE

OR SHOULDER

TRAVEL LANE

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

SHEET 1 OF 2

 $\blacklozenge$ Texas Department of Transportation **Design<br>Division** Standard

CONTINUOUSLY REINFORCED CONCRETE PAVEMENT ONE LAYER STEEL BAR PLACEMENT T - 7 to 13 INCHES  $CRCP(1)-17$ 










DIST

COUNTY

SHEET NO.





AVERAGE

SPACING

 $(IN_{\bullet})$ 

 $12$ 

 $12$ 

 $12$ 

BAR DIA.

AND

LENGTH

 $1" X 18"$ 

 $1 \frac{1}{4}$   $\times$  18"

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$   $\times$  18"

THICKNESS

 $(IN.)$ 

 $6$  to  $7.5$ 

8 to 10

 $>= 10.5$ 

- $1.$
- 
- $3.$
- $\overline{4}$ .
- $5.$
- -6.
- SLABTHICKNESS (T/3).
- $8.$
- 9.
- 
- 
- 



#### GENERAL NOTES

DETAILS FOR PAVEMENT WIDTH. PAVEMENT THICKNESS AND THE CROWN CROSS-SLOPE SHALL BE SHOWN ELSEWHERE IN THE PLANS. PAVEMENTS WIDER THAN 100 FT, WITHOUT A FREE LONGITUDINAL JOINT ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS STANDARD.

2. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF CONCRETE AND LOAD TRANSFER DEVICES REFER TO THE GOVERNING SPECIFICATION FOR "CONCRETE PAVEMENT".

THE SPACING BETWEEN TRANSVERSE CONTRACTION JOINTS SHALL BE 15 FT. UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN IN THE PLANS.

TRANSVERSE CONSTRUCTION JOINTS MAY BE FORMED BY USE OF METAL OR WOOD FORMS EQUAL IN DEPTH TO THE DEPTH OF PAVEMENT, OR BY METHODS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.

USE HAND-OPERATED IMMERSION VIBRATORS TO CONSOLIDATE THE CONCRETE ADJACENT TO ALL THE FORMED JOINTS.

PAVEMENT WIDTHS OF MORE THAN 15 FT. SHALL HAVE A LONGITUDINAL JOINT (SECTION Z-Z OR SECTION Y-Y). THESE JOINTS SHALL BE LOCATED WITHIN 6 IN. OF THE LANE LINE UNLESS THE JOINT LOCATION IS SHOWN ELSEWHERE ON THE PLANS.

7. THE JOINT BETWEEN OUTSIDE LANE AND SHOULDER SHALL BE A LONGITUDINAL CONTRACTION JOINT (SECTION Z-Z) UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN IN THE PLANS. THE SAW CUT DEPTH FOR THE LONGITUDIANL CONTRACTION JOINT (SECTION Z-Z) SHALL BE ONE THIRD OF THE

WHEN TYING CONCRETE GUTTER AT A LONGITUDINAL JOINT, THE TIE BAR LENGTH OR POSITION MAY BE ADJUSTED. PROVIDE 3 IN. OF CONCRETE COVER FROM THE BACK OF GUTTER TO THE END OF TIE BAR.

REPLACE MISSING OR DAMAGED TIE BARS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BY DRILLING MIN. 10 IN. DEEP AND GROUTING TIE BARS WITH TYPE III, CLASS C EPOXY, MEET THE PULL-OUT TEST REQUIREMENTS IN ITEM 361.

10. WHEN AN MONOLITHIIC CURB IS SPECIFIED, THE JOINT IN THE CURB SHALL COINCIDE WITH PAVEMENT JOINTS AND MAY BE FORMED BY ANY MEANS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.

11. DOWEL BAR PLACEMENT TOLERANCE SHALL BE +/- 1/4 IN. HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. WHERE DOWEL BAR BASKETS ARE USED. REMOVE THE SHIPPING WIRES.

12. THE DETAIL FOR JOINT SEALANT AND RESERVOIR IS SHOWN ON STANDARD SHEET "CONCRETE PAVING DETAILS, JOINT SEALS.'





TIE BARS AT 24" SPACING. 25" FOR #6 BARS  $10"$ DRILL & GROUT WITH TYPE III, CLASS C EPOXY.

- 1. BEFORE WIDENING WORK, DEMONSTRATE THAT THE BOND STRENGTH OF THE EPOXY-GROUTED TIE BARS MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PULL-OUT TEST SPECIFIED IN ITEM 361.
- SPACE TIE BARS AT 24" SPACING. USE #6 BARS FOR 8" AND 2. THICKER SLABS. USE #5 BARS FOR LESS THAN 8" THICK SLABS.
- THE TRANSVERSE JOINTS OF PROPOSED PAVEMENT SHALL COINCIDE WITH  $3.$ EXISTING PAVEMENT JOINTS UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON THE PLANS.

#### LONGITUDINAL WIDENING JOINT DETAIL







# APPENDIX J: POTENTIAL VERTICAL RISE



Refresh Workbook



#### PVR Data BH

File Version: 03/09/15 10:25:48



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.







File Version: 03/09/15 10:25:48 SAMPLE ID: B-2 TEST NUMBER: SAMPLE STATUS: COUNTY: Bexar SAMPLED BY: SAMPLE LOCATION: MATERIAL CODE: MATERIAL NAME: PRODUCER: AREA ENGINEER: COURSE\LIFT: STATION: SPEC ITEM: 0016-08-034 CONTROLLING CSJ: PROJECT MANAGER: SAMPLED DATE: LETTING DATE: SPEC YEAR: SPECIAL PROVISION: GRADE: Refresh Workbook

Boring Number: B-2 Ground Elevation (z): Longitude (x): Longitude (x): Latitude (y):

#### PVR Data BH



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.



Remarks:

Test Method: Tested By: Tested Date: TX124 Test Stamp Code: Completed Date: Completed Date: Reviewed By: Locked By: TxDOT: District: Area: Authorized By: Authorized Date:





#### PVR Data BH



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.



Remarks:

Test Method: Tested By: Tested Date: TX124 Test Stamp Code: Comit Test: Completed Date: Reviewed By: Locked By: TxDOT: District: Area: Authorized By: Authorized Date:



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#### POTENTIAL VERTICAL RISE (PVR) TEX-124-E

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#### PVR Data BH

File Version: 03/09/15 10:25:48



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.









#### PVR Data BH



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.







Refresh Workbook



#### PVR Data BH

File Version: 03/09/15 10:25:48



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.







Refresh Workbook



#### PVR Data BH

File Version: 03/09/15 10:25:48



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.









#### PVR Data BH



Note: PVR calculations are based on future pavement grade being the same as present grade. Bold numbers are interpolated and extrapolated values.





# APPENDIX K: SURFACE AGGREGATE SELECTION FORM

# **Surface Aggregate Selection Form**

Form 2088 (Rev. 05/12) Page 1 of 1



**Designer's Name:** Spencer A. Higgs, P.E.

## **Selection Guidelines for Bituminous Surface Aggregate Classification (SAC) DESIGNER'S**



**Date:** 11/20/18



\*Parameters set by the designer that affect pavement friction.

Total friction available should always exceed total frictional demand.

#### **Comments:**

Parameters Need to be Approved by TxDOT

APPENDIX L: ASFE INFORMATION – GEOTECHNICAL REPORT

# **Important Information about Your Geotechnical Engineering Report**

Subsurface problems are a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes.

While you cannot eliminate all such risks, you can manage them. The following information is provided to help.

### **Geotechnical Services Are Performed for Specific Purposes, Persons, and Projects**

Geotechnical engineers structure their services to meet the specific needs of their clients. A geotechnical engineering study conducted for a civil engineer may not fulfill the needs of a construction contractor or even another civil engineer. Because each geotechnical engineering study is unique, each geotechnical engineering report is unique, prepared solely for the client. No one except you should rely on your geotechnical engineering report without first conferring with the geotechnical engineer who prepared it. And no one *- not even you* - should apply the report for any purpose or project except the one originally contemplated.

## **Read the Full Report**

Serious problems have occurred because those relying on a geotechnical engineering report did not read it all. Do not rely on an executive summary. Do not read selected elements only.

#### A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Based on **A Unique Set of Project-Specific Factors**

Geotechnical engineers consider a number of unique, project-specific factors when establishing the scope of a study. Typical factors include: the client's goals, objectives, and risk management preferences; the general nature of the structure involved, its size, and configuration; the location of the structure on the site; and other planned or existing site improvements, such as access roads, parking lots, and underground utilities. Unless the geotechnical engineer who conducted the study specifically indicates otherwise, do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report that was:

- $\bullet$ not prepared for you,
- $\bullet$ not prepared for your project,
- not prepared for the specific site explored, or ö
- completed before important project changes were made.  $\bullet$

Typical changes that can erode the reliability of an existing geotechnical engineering report include those that affect:

the function of the proposed structure, as when it's changed from a  $\bullet$ parking garage to an office building, or from a light industrial plant to a refrigerated warehouse.

- elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure,
- composition of the design team, or
- $\bullet$ project ownership.

As a general rule, *always* inform your geotechnical engineer of project changes-even minor ones-and request an assessment of their impact. Geotechnical engineers cannot accept responsibility or liability for problems that occur because their reports do not consider developments of which they were not informed.

#### **Subsurface Conditions Can Change**

A geotechnical engineering report is based on conditions that existed at the time the study was performed. Do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report whose adequacy may have been affected by: the passage of time; by man-made events, such as construction on or adjacent to the site: or by natural events, such as floods, earthquakes, or groundwater fluctuations. Always contact the geotechnical engineer before applying the report to determine if it is still reliable. A minor amount of additional testing or analysis could prevent major problems.

#### **Most Geotechnical Findings Are Professional Opinions**

Site exploration identifies subsurface conditions only at those points where subsurface tests are conducted or samples are taken. Geotechnical engineers review field and laboratory data and then apply their professional judgment to render an opinion about subsurface conditions throughout the site. Actual subsurface conditions may differ-sometimes significantlyfrom those indicated in your report. Retaining the geotechnical engineer who developed your report to provide construction observation is the most effective method of managing the risks associated with unanticipated conditions.

## **A Report's Recommendations Are Not Final**

Do not overrely on the construction recommendations included in your report. Those recommendations are not final, because geotechnical engineers develop them principally from judgment and opinion. Geotechnical engineers can finalize their recommendations only by observing actual

subsurface conditions revealed during construction. The geotechnical engineer who developed your report cannot assume responsibility or liability for the report's recommendations if that engineer does not perform construction observation.

#### A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Subject to **Misinterpretation**

Other design learn members' misinterpretation of geotechnical engineering reports has resulted in costly problems. Lower that risk by having your geotechnical engineer confer with appropriate members of the design team after submitting the report. Also retain your geotechnical engineer to review pertinent elements of the design team's plans and specifications. Contractors can also misinterpret a geotechnical engineering report. Reduce that risk by having your geotechnical engineer participate in prebid and preconstruction conferences, and by providing construction observation.

#### **Do Not Redraw the Engineer's Logs**

Geotechnical engineers prepare final boring and testing logs based upon their interpretation of field logs and laboratory data. To prevent errors or omissions, the logs included in a geotechnical engineering report should never be redrawn for inclusion in architectural or other design drawings. Only photographic or electronic reproduction is acceptable, but recognize that separating logs from the report can elevate risk.

#### **Give Contractors a Complete Report and** Guidance

Some owners and design professionals mistakenly believe they can make contractors liable for unanticipated subsurface conditions by limiting what they provide for bid preparation. To help prevent costly problems, give contractors the complete geotechnical engineering report, but preface it with a clearly written letter of transmittal. In that letter, advise contractors that the report was not prepared for purposes of bid development and that the report's accuracy is limited; encourage them to confer with the geotechnical engineer who prepared the report (a modest fee may be required) and/or to conduct additional study to obtain the specific types of information they need or prefer. A prebid conference can also be valuable. Be sure contractors have sufficient time to perform additional study. Only then might you be in a position to give contractors the best information available to you, while requiring them to at least share some of the financial responsibilities stemming from unanticipated conditions.

#### **Read Responsibility Provisions Closely**

Some clients, design professionals, and contractors do not recognize that geotechnical engineering is far less exact than other engineering disciplines. This lack of understanding has created unrealistic expectations that

have led to disappointments, claims, and disputes. To help reduce the risk of such outcomes, geotechnical engineers commonly include a variety of explanatory provisions in their reports. Sometimes labeled "limitations" many of these provisions indicate where geotechnical engineers' responsibilities begin and end, to help others recognize their own responsibilities and risks. Read these provisions closely. Ask questions. Your geotechnical engineer should respond fully and frankly.

## **Geoenvironmental Concerns Are Not Covered**

The equipment, techniques, and personnel used to perform a *geoenviron*mental study differ significantly from those used to perform a geotechnical study. For that reason, a geotechnical engineering report does not usually relate any geoenvironmental findings, conclusions, or recommendations; e.g., about the likelihood of encountering underground storage tanks or regulated contaminants. Unanticipated environmental problems have led to numerous project failures. If you have not yet obtained your own geoenvironmental information, ask your geotechnical consultant for risk management guidance. Do not rely on an environmental report prepared for someone else.

### **Obtain Professional Assistance To Deal with Mold**

Diverse strategies can be applied during building design, construction, operation, and maintenance to prevent significant amounts of mold from growing on indoor surfaces. To be effective, all such strategies should be devised for the *express purpose* of mold prevention, integrated into a comprehensive plan, and executed with diligent oversight by a professional mold prevention consultant. Because just a small amount of water or moisture can lead to the development of severe mold infestations, a number of mold prevention strategies focus on keeping building surfaces dry. While groundwater, water infiltration, and similar issues may have been addressed as part of the geotechnical engineering study whose findings are conveyed in this report, the geotechnical engineer in charge of this project is not a mold prevention consultant; none of the services performed in connection with the geotechnical engineer's study were designed or conducted for the purpose of mold prevention. Proper implementation of the recommendations conveyed in this report will not of itself be sufficient to prevent mold from growing in or on the structure involved.

#### **Rely, on Your ASFE-Member Geotechncial Engineer for Additional Assistance**

Membership in ASFE/THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH exposes geotechnical engineers to a wide array of risk management techniques that can be of genuine benefit for everyone involved with a construction project. Confer with your ASFE-member geotechnical engineer for more information.



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# APPENDIX M: PROJECT QUALITY ASSURANCE

# A Message to Owners

Construction materials engineering and testing (CoMET) consultants perform qualityassurance (QA) services to evaluate the degree to which constructors are achieving the specified conditions they're contractually obligated to achieve. Done right, QA can save you time and money; prevent unanticipatedconditions claims, change orders, and disputes; and reduce short-term and long-term risks, especially by detecting molehills before they grow into mountains.

Done right, QA can save you time and money; prevent claims and disputes; and reduce risks. Many owners don't do QA right because they follow bad advice.

Many owners don't do QA right because they follow bad advice; e.g., "CoMET consultants are all the same. They all have accredited facilities and certified personnel. Go with the low bidder." But there's no such thing as a standard QA scope of service, meaning that – to bid low – each interested firms *must* propose the cheapest QA service it can live with, jeopardizing service quality and aggravating risk for the entire project team. Besides, the advice is based on misinformation.

Fact: *Most CoMET firms are not accredited*, and the quality of those that are varies significantly. Accreditation – which is important – nonetheless means that a facility met an accrediting body's minimum criteria. Some firms practice at a much higher level; others just barely scrape by. And what an accrediting body typically evaluates – management, staff, facilities, and equipment – can change substantially before the next review, two, three, or more years from now.

Most CoMET firms are not accredited. It's dangerous to assume CoMET personnel are certified.

Fact: *It's dangerous to assume CoMET personnel are certified.* Many have no credentials at all; some are certified by organizations of questionable merit, while others have a valid certification, but *not* for the services they're assigned.

Some CoMET firms – the "low-cost providers" – *want* you to believe that price is the only difference between QA providers. It's not, of course. Firms that sell low price typically lack the facilities, equipment, personnel, and insurance quality-oriented firms invest in to achieve the reliability concerned owners need to achieve quality in quality assurance.



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Firms that sell low price typically lack the facilities, equipment, personnel, and insurance quality-oriented firms invest in to achieve the reliability concerned owners need to achieve quality in quality assurance.



To derive maximum value from your investment in QA, require the CoMET firm's project manager to serve actively on the project team from beginning to end, a level of service that's relatively inexpensive and can pay huge dividends. During the project's planning and design stages, experienced CoMET professionals can help the design team develop uniform technical specifications and establish appropriate observation, testing, and instrumentation procedures and protocols. They can also analyze plans and specs much as constructors do, looking for the little errors, omissions, conflicts, and ambiguities that often become the basis for big extras and big claims. They can provide guidance about operations that need closer review than others, because of their criticality or potential for error or abuse. They can also relate their experience with the various constructors that have expressed interest in your project.

# To derive maximum value, require the project manager to serve actively on the project team from beginning to end.

CoMET consultants' construction-phase QA services focus on two distinct issues: those that relate to geotechnical engineering and those that relate to the other elements of construction.

The geotechnical issues are critically important because they are essential to the "observational method" geotechnical engineers use to significantly reduce the amount of sampling they'd otherwise require. They apply the observational method by developing a sampling plan for a project, and then assigning field representatives to ensure

samples are properly obtained, packaged, and transported. The engineers review the samples and, typically, have them tested in their own laboratories. They use the information they derive to characterize the site's subsurface and develop *preliminary* recommendations for the structure's foundations and for the specifications of various "geo" elements, like excavations, site grading, foundationbearing grades, and roadway and parking-lot preparation and surfacing.

Geotechnical engineers cannot finalize their recommendations until they or their field representatives are on site to observe what's excavated to verify that the subsurface conditions the engineers predicted are those that actually exist.

When unanticipated conditions are observed, recommendations and/or specifications should be modified.

Responding to client requests, many geotechnical-engineering firms have expanded their field-services mix, so they're able to perform overall construction QA, encompassing – in addition to geotechnical issues – reinforced concrete, structural steel, welds, fireproofing, and so on. Unfortunately, that's caused some confusion. Believing that all CoMET consultants are alike, some owners take bids for the overall CoMET package, including the geotechnical field observation. *Entrusting geotechnical field observation to someone other than the geotechnical engineer of record (GER) creates a significant risk.* 

Geotechnical engineers cannot finalize their recommendations until they are on site to verify that the subsurface conditions they predicted are those that actually exist. Entrusting geotechnical field observation to someone other than the geotechnical engineer of record (GER) creates a significant risk.

> GERs have developed a variety of protocols to optimize the quality of their field-observation procedures. Quality-focused GERs meet with their field representatives before they leave for a project site, to brief them on what to look for and where, when, and how to look. (*No one can duplicate this briefing*, because no one else knows as much about a project's geotechnical issues.) And once they arrive at a project site, the field representatives know to maintain timely, effective communication with the GER, because that's what the GER has trained them to do. By contrast, it's extremely rare for a different firm's field personnel to contact the GER, even when they're concerned or confused about what they observe, because they regard the GER's firm as "the competition."

Divorcing the GER from geotechnical field operations is almost always penny-wise and pound-foolish. Still, because owners are given bad advice, it's commonly done, helping to explain why *"geo" issues are the number-one source of construction-industry claims and disputes.* 

Divorcing the GER from geotechnical field operations is almost always penny-wise and pound-foolish, helping to explain why "geo" issues are the number-one source of constructionindustry claims and disputes.

> To derive the biggest bang for the QA buck, identify three or even four quality-focused CoMET consultants. (If you don't know any,

use the "Find a Geoprofessional" service available free at www.asfe.org.) Ask about the firms' ongoing and recent projects and the clients and client representatives involved; *insist upon receiving verification of all claimed accreditations, certifications, licenses, and insurance coverages.* 

# Insist upon receiving verification of all claimed accreditations, certifications, licenses, and insurance coverages.

Once you identify the two or three most qualified firms, meet with their representatives, preferably at their own facility, so you can inspect their laboratory, speak with management and technical staff, and form an opinion about the firm's capabilities and attitude.

Insist that each firm's designated project manager participate in the meeting. You will benefit when that individual is a seasoned QA professional familiar with construction's rough-and-tumble. Ask about others the firm will assign, too. There's no substitute for experienced personnel who are familiar with the codes and standards involved and know how to:

- read and interpret plans and specifications;
- perform the necessary observation, inspection, and testing;
- document their observations and findings;
- interact with constructors' personnel; and
- respond to the unexpected.

*Important:* Many of the services CoMET QA field representatives perform – like observing operations and outcomes – require the good judgment afforded by extensive training and experience, especially in situations where standard operating procedures do not apply. You need to know who will be exercising that judgment: a 15-year "veteran" or a rookie?

# Many of the services CoMET QA field representatives perform require good judgment.

Also consider the tools CoMET personnel use. Some firms are passionate about proper calibration; others, less so. Passion is a good thing! Ask to see the firm's calibration records. If the firm doesn't have any, or if they are not current, be cautious. *You cannot trust test results derived using equipment that may be out of calibration.* Also ask a firm's representatives about their reporting practices, including report distribution, how they handle notifications of nonconformance, and how they resolve complaints.

# Scope flexibility is needed to deal promptly with the unanticipated.

For financing purposes, some owners require the constructor to pay for CoMET services. *Consider an alternative approach* so you don't convert the constructor into the CoMET consultant's client. If it's essential for you to fund QA via the constructor, have the CoMET fee included as an allowance in the bid documents. This arrangement ensures that you remain the CoMET consultant's client, and it prevents the CoMET fee from becoming part of the constructor's bid-price competition. (Note that the International Building Code (IBC) *requires the owner to pay* for Special Inspection (SI) services commonly performed by the CoMET consultant as a service separate from QA, to help ensure the SI services' integrity. Because failure to comply could result in denial of an occupancy or use permit, having a contractual agreement that conforms to the IBC mandate is essential.)

If it's essential for you to fund QA via the constructor, have the CoMET fee included as an allowance in the bid documents. Note, too, that the International Building Code (IBC) requires the owner to pay for Special Inspection (SI) services.

CoMET consultants can usually quote their fees as unit fees, unit fees with estimated total (invoiced on a unit-fee basis), or lumpsum (invoiced on a percent-completion basis referenced to a schedule of values). No matter which method is used, estimated quantities need to be realistic. Some CoMET firms lower their total-fee estimates by using quantities they know are too low and then request change orders long before QA is complete.

Once you and the CoMET consultant settle on the scope of service and fee, enter into a written contract. Established CoMET firms have their own contracts; most owners sign them. Some owners prefer to use different contracts, but that can be a mistake when the contract was prepared for construction services. *Professional services are different.* Wholly avoidable problems occur when a contract includes provisions that don't apply to the services involved and fail to include those that do.

# Some owners create wholly avoidable problems by using a contract prepared for construction services.



This final note: CoMET consultants perform QA for owners, not constructors. While constructors are commonly allowed to review QA reports as a *courtesy*, you need to make it clear that constructors do *not* have a legal right to rely on those reports; i.e., if constructors want to forgo their own observation and testing and rely on results derived from a scope created to meet *only* the needs of the owner, they

*must do so at their own risk*. In all too many cases where owners have not made that clear, some constructors have alleged that they did have a legal right to rely on QA reports and, as a result, the CoMET consultant – not they – are responsible for their failure to deliver what they contractually promised to provide. The outcome can be delays and disputes that entangle you and all other principal project participants. Avoid that. Rely on a CoMET firm that possesses the resources and attitude needed to manage this and other risks as an element of a quality-focused service. Involve the firm early. Keep it engaged. And listen to what the CoMET consultant says. A good CoMET consultant can provide great value.

For more information, speak with your ASFE-Member CoMET consultant or contact ASFE directly.



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