



Asphalt Quality Task Force

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Task Force Team

Industry

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***Co-Chairman**

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***David Shiells, NoVa District Materials Engineer**

Bill Bailey, Assistant State Materials Engineer

Jon Dowell, Maintenance Contract Manager

Rick Kibler, Construction Manager

David Lee, Salem District Materials Engineer

Kevin McGhee, Associate Principal Research Scientist

Purpose of Task Force

“The purpose of the Task Force is to discuss and suggest possible improvements to enhance asphalt quality by reviewing the VDOT rideability program and proposing other simple measures and positive contract language that would increase the quality of our projects and provide for a level playing field for our contractors. In other words, a simple workable contracting mechanism that would help encourage quality.”

Mission

To develop recommendations that will promote high quality asphalt construction on all VDOT roadways.

Task Force Recommendations

- 1. Make the “incentive only” rideability specification a default on all maintenance and construction contracts with speed limits greater than, or equal to, 45 mph. Complete a pilot project with “before” and “after” ride testing to evaluate the effectiveness of the incentive only specification.*
- 2. Evaluate the cost effectiveness of making the “incentive only” rideability specification a default specification as well as the effect on ride quality. Review the rideability test data to determine if there is a true benefit to adding the incentive only specification and/or make adjustments to the specification if bonuses are being paid for pavements that do not meet a minimum smoothness standard.*
- 3. Review the rideability test data as well as incentive/disincentive payments to determine if incentives/disincentives are set at the appropriate levels to encourage quality asphalt construction.*
- 4. Make joint density measurement, recording and reporting mandatory in 2013 and review the data at the end of the year to determine if incentives/disincentives are appropriate for longitudinal joint density.*

Task Force Recommendations

- 5. Revise the current specifications to clarify that performance milled surfaces can be left open to traffic over weekends up to 14 days total.*
- 6. Evaluate the pavement characteristics (i.e. in-place density, smoothness and bonding) that could potentially be used to measure the effectiveness of performance milling.*
- 7. Develop a research needs statement to study available technologies to measure surface uniformity and develop a specification for uniformity.*
- 8. Perform an independent quality assurance review of all paving schedules by experienced personnel (to include a field review) prior to advertisement.*
- 9. Develop a corridor/subdivision paving strategy to encourage repaving of corridors and subdivisions at one time.*

Task Force Recommendations

- 10. Develop policies/guidelines for the use/application of high performance mixes and guidelines for pavement marking types consistent with those mixes.*
- 11. Review alternative non-intrusive technologies for vehicle detection.*
- 12. Re-establish the Asphalt Field Engineer position in the Materials Division assigned on a regional basis to the appropriate District Materials Engineer based upon workload to provide advice, training and quality assurance to VDOT, consultant and local jurisdiction inspectors as well as contractor personnel; suggested district assignments are Salem, Northern Virginia and Richmond.*
- 13. Continue the Asphalt Quality Task Force to promote asphalt quality and review new technologies as well as application of existing technologies related to asphalt quality.*