

**Investigation of Low Temperature  
Cracking in Asphalt Pavements  
Phase II  
Project Meeting**

**Maplewood, MN  
November 18, 2009**

# LTC - Phase II

- Continue phase I research effort and
  - Expand set of field materials tested, with focus on newly reconstructed MnRoad cells
  - Propose test method to determine fracture properties
  - Propose low temperature criteria for mix specification
  - Investigate thermal cycling of mixtures and binder physical hardening effects
  - Improve TCModel



## ➤ **Task 1 - Update on low temperature cracking research**

- Document new research in the area of low temperature cracking

## ➤ **Update:**

- Final revision in progress (90%)
- Re-revised version delivered by end of November

- **Task 2 - Expand Phase I test matrix with additional field samples**
  - New asphalt mixtures used in field studies will be tested and analyzed with respect to their low temperature cracking resistance
  - Tests will consists of IDT creep and strength tests as well as SCB and DC(T) fracture tests
  
- **Update:**
  - All cylinders compacted except NYS 7%
  - All IDT testing completed except NYS
  - SCB testing in progress (20%)
  - DCT: UIUC team picks up cylinders and starts testing

Location	Construction Date	Description
MnROAD 33	September 2007	58-34 Acid only no RAP
MnROAD 34		58-34 SBS + Acid no RAP
MnROAD 35		58-34 SBS only no RAP
MnROAD 77		58-34 Elvaloy + Acid no RAP
MnROAD 20	August 2008	58-28, 30% non-fractionated RAP, level 4 SP, wear & non-wear
MnROAD 21		58-28, 30% fractionated RAP, level 4 SP, wear & non-wear
MnROAD 22		58-34, 30% fractionated RAP, level 4 SP, wear & non-wear
Wisconsin 9.5 mm SMA	2008	
New York State "Typical Mix"	2008	with PG 64-22 binder and an aggregate other than limestone and granite.

➤ Note change in test matrix: original table

Test Device	Temp	Mix Conditioning	MN/Road Test Section				SMA WI		Mixture NYS	
			33, 34, 35, 37		20, 21, 22		4	7	4	7
			Air Voids, %							
			4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7
SCB	PG	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG+10°C	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	
	PG+10°C	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	
DC(T)	PG	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG+10°C	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	
	PG+10°C	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	
IDT	PG	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG+10°C	4Hours@135°C	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
	PG	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	
	PG+10°C	None	xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx	

# ➤ New table with field cores and long term aging

Test Device	Temp	Mix Conditioning	MN/Road Test Section				SMA WI		Mixture NYS			
			33, 34, 35, 37		20, 21, 22							
			Air Voids, %									
			4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7		
SCB	PG	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG+10°C	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG	5 days@85°C		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		
	PG	cores		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		
DC(T)	PG	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG+10°C	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG	5 days@85°C		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		
	PG	cores		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		
IDT	PG	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG+10°C	None	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx		
	PG	5 days@85°C		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		
	PG	cores		xxx		xxx		xxx		xxx		



## ➤ Task 2 - Subtask on physical hardening

- Develop protocol to simplify the measurements of physical hardening (reduce conditioning time) and include a numerical approach to adjust  $S$  and  $m$  values
- Collect physical hardening for variety of binders and verify model that will be developed in task 5
- Use glass transition measuring technique to quantify effect of isothermal storage on dimensional stability of asphalt mixtures

## ➤ Update:

- Binders were delivered to Wisconsin
- Wisconsin team will detail progress of research

## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

### ▪ Subtask 1 - develop test method

- Refine and possibly simplify the SCB and DC(T) fracture tests used in phase I
- Update: minimal progress
- Propose a standard fracture test method based on SCB configuration for asphalt mixtures. Note that the DC(T) has been already approved as an ASTM D7313-06 standard
- Update: a draft ASTM specification for SCB, similar to DCT, is almost complete (90%). It will be presented at mix ETG meeting in 02/10 for comments before being submitted
  - Need champion to take it to ASTM

## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

### - Subtask 1 - develop test method

- Develop standard fracture method. At the end of this task the research team *will recommend only one fracture test* but provide correlations between the results from the two methods
- Update: minimal progress. Discussions have started between UIUC, UMN and mix ETG members to propose round robin for the two methods using at least 2-3 mix designs and 5 or more labs.

## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

### - Subtask 2 - develop specification

- Revisit field and experimental data that used to develop the current PG system; similar approach, based on criteria providing limiting temperature values, will be used for the mixture specification
- Update: a review of the data and the assumptions used in developing PG was performed and is 90% completed

## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

### - Subtask 2 - develop specification

- Based on the experimental work performed in phase I and the work performed in task 2 and data available in previous research projects, develop limiting criteria for selecting asphalt mixtures resistant to low temperature cracking
- Update: no progress

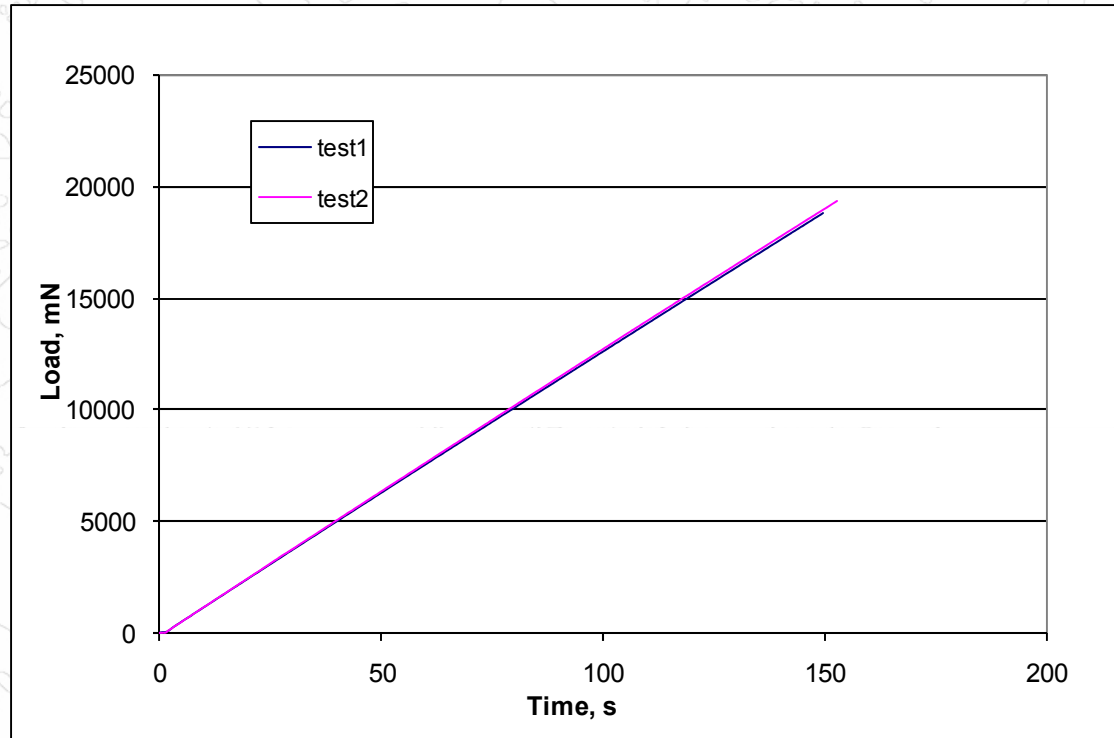
## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

- Subtask 3 - propose simplified method to obtain mixture creep compliance
  - Directly from SCB and DC(T) configuration
  - Update: no progress
  - BBR testing of thin asphalt mixture beams
  - Update: NCHRP Idea work finalized; results indicate that BBR can be used to obtain creep compliance of asphalt mixtures at temperatures around the PG limit of the binders

## ➤ Task 3 - Develop low temperature specification for asphalt mixtures

- Subtask 3 - propose simplified method to obtain mixture creep compliance
  - Investigate if strength can be obtained from BBR testing of thin asphalt mixture beams to failure
  - Update:
    - Preliminary work at UMN showed that beams can be broken using modified BBR, see next slides
    - Wisconsin will provide update for ARC work performed by University of Wisconsin

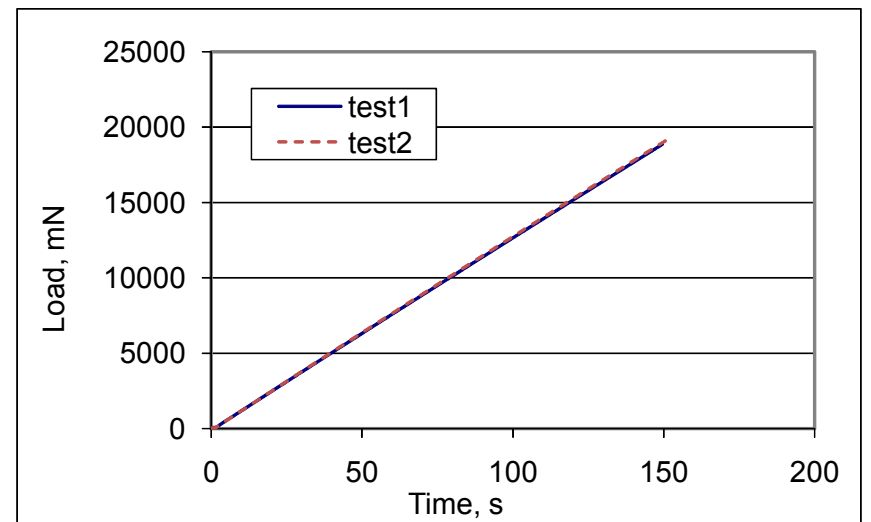
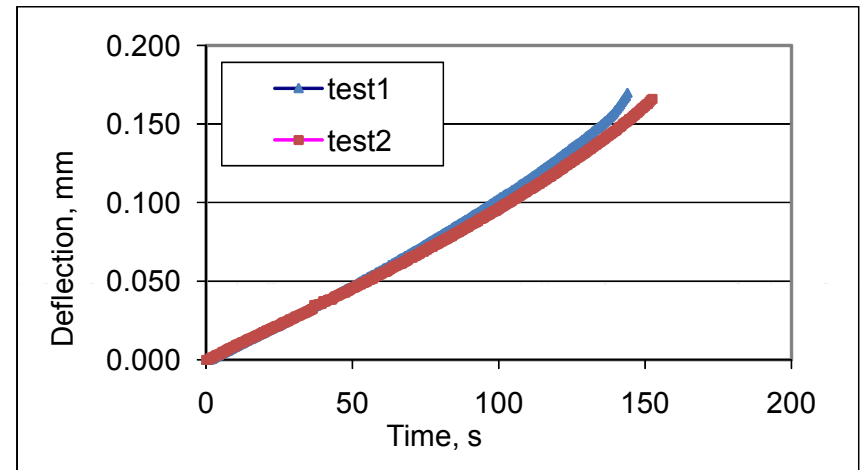
# BBR Fracture Testing - Preliminary Results



- Heavier load frame received from Cannon
  - Capable of applying 10kgf (compared to 1kgf)
- Improvised device using water flow at constant rate allowed preliminary fracture testing of thin mixture beams with reasonable results



# BBR Fracture Testing - Preliminary Results



# BBR Fracture Testing

- Cannon Instruments has recently delivered proportional valve control
  - Allows loading at constant loading rate
- New system will be capable of performing both creep and strength tests on mixture and binder beams

## ➤ **Task 4 - Develop Improved TCMODEL**

- Similar to *MEPDG*, although it will use mixture fracture tests instead of tensile strength and will have an improved fracture model (cohesive zone fracture model instead of the Paris law model)

## ➤ Update:

- UIUC team will detail progress of research

## ➤ **Task 5 - Modeling of Asphalt Mixtures Contraction & Expansion Due to Thermal Cycling**

- Expand data base for thermo-volumetric properties of asphalt binders and mixtures
- Develop micromechanics model
- Conduct sensitivity analysis to determine parameters statistically important for cracking
- Task will be coordinated with ARC project

### ➤ Update:

- Wisconsin team will detail progress of research

## ➤ **Task 6 - Validation of new specification**

- Based upon the outcomes of the testing of the preliminary validation experimental plan, the best test device and method of conditioning mixes for long-term aging will be selected for the final validation
- Validation will be based upon testing of the 11 Olmstead County, Minnesota mixes placed in the 2006 construction season

## ➤ Update:

- No activity to report

Location	Constr. Date	Description
Olmsted Co Rd 104	Jul-07	Reinke's Warm Mix (58-28 w/ RAP & antistrip)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Citgo, 58-28, 12.5 mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Citgo, 58-28, 19mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Marathon, 58-28, 12.5 mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Marathon, 58-28, 19mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (MIF, 58-34 RAP, 12.5 mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (MIF, 58-34 Virgin, 12.5 mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (MIF, 58-34, 19mm RAP)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (MIF, 58-34, 19mm virgin)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Valero, 58-28, 12.5 mm)
Rd 112	Aug-06	WRI-Mathy Study (Valero, 58-28, 19mm)

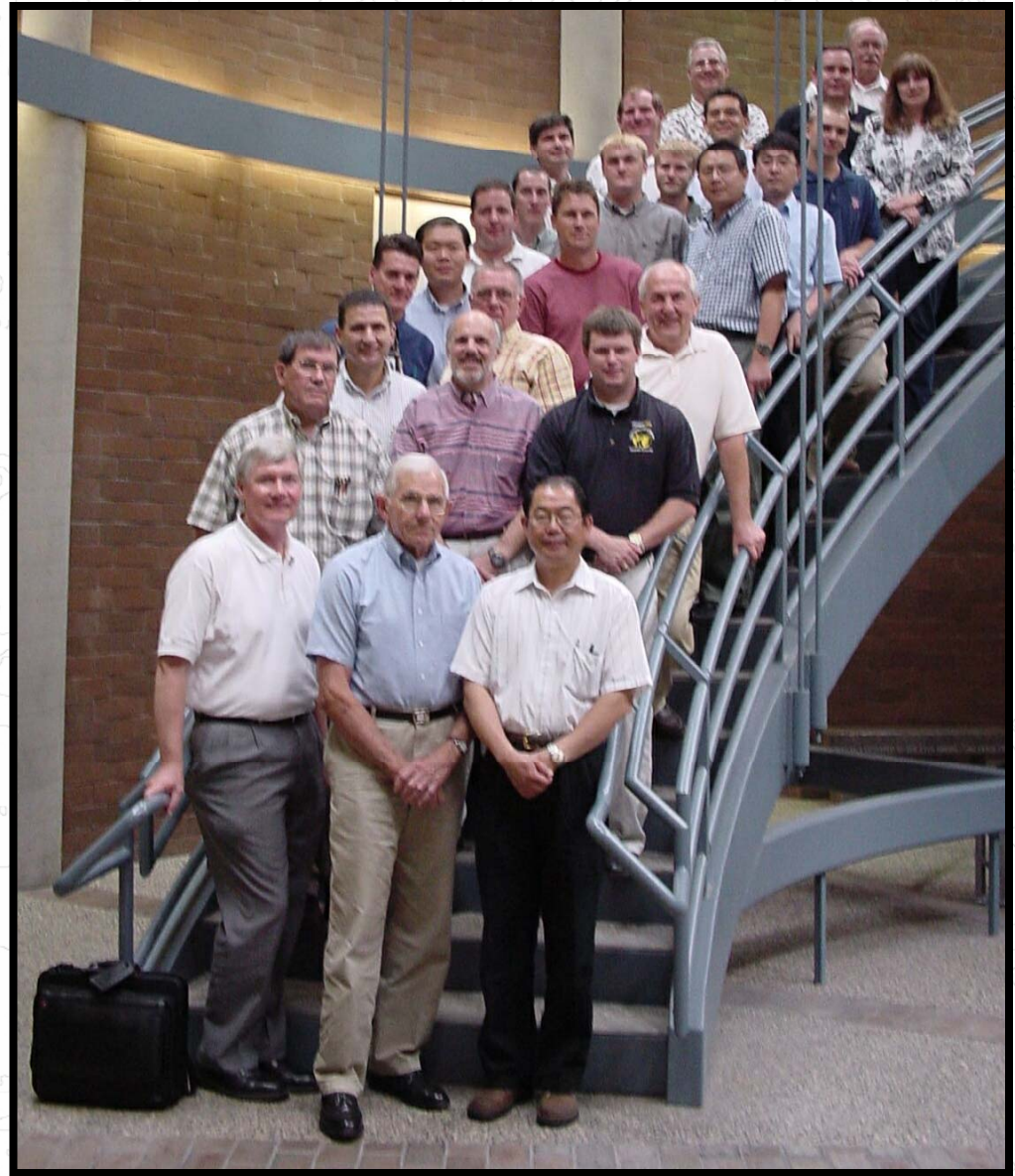
## ➤ Task 7 - Development of Draft AASHTO Standards and Final Report

- Final report containing updated reports from task 1 to 6 will be delivered plus
  - Access database of experimental results
  - Proposed test protocols
  - Software and documentation for improved TCMODEL). Stand alone program and user manual will be provided

## ➤ Update:

- No activity to report

**Thank You!**



**August 2003 Initial Meeting  
University of Minnesota**