Geotechnical Reports
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- SSI Section 5.3 Reports of Findings and Recommendations - very comprehensive regarding content
- FHWA Review (2001): All Districts agree that “Consultant designs tend to be conservative and are frequently modified based on Central Office review.”
- SSI provides much investigation guidance but little or no design guidance
- More Geotechnical Bulletins planned to provide design guidance and improve consistency
Geotechnical Reports - Do

- Do give specific “plan ready” recommendations
- Do identify limits of problems (vertical and horizontal) and methods of remediation, including the preferred method
- Do present calculations in a logical format and diagram(s) of sections analyzed
- Do consider construction sequence and procedure for methods of remediation - refer to Construction Inspection Manual of Procedures
- Do address instrumentation recommendations - what, where, how long, how often, etc.
- Do use the checklist and include a completed copy in the report
- Do explain deviations between parameters used in analysis and parameters developed in laboratory tests
- Do present actual and proposed quantities and explain non-performed tests
Geotechnical Reports - Don’t

• Don’t regurgitate the CMS
• Don’t design the pavement unless specifically scoped
• Don’t include gradation curves from particle size analyses
• Don’t provide “Elmer Fudd” recommendations - “Be very very very careful...”