

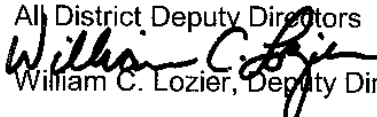
# Inter-Office Communication

## Division of Highway Operations

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Date: December 6, 2000

To: All District Deputy Directors

From:   
William C. Lozier, Deputy Director of Highway Operations

Subject: Superpave Implementation



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As a result of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP), ODOT has been working toward full implementation of the Superpave (Superior Performing Asphalt Pavements) technology. This effort has been underway since about 1995 at a cautious pace in order to keep any problems to a minimum and to ascertain the benefits of this technology.

Ohio Superpave implementation can be divided into two categories: 1) asphalt cement binder specification, also known as Performance Graded Binders (PG binders) and 2) volumetric asphalt concrete mixture design. Superpave binder implementation was completed in 1997 and is providing better control of the properties responsible for durability and longevity of the binder. Implementation of Superpave volumetric design was started in 1995 with the first of more than 45 trial projects. The volumetric design is expected to decrease our potential for rutting as well as provide additional tools to insure proper mixture properties are achieved and allow district choices in usage of their local materials.

**Based on the results of the trial projects and after many discussions with industry, ODOT will fully implement the volumetric mixture design portion of Superpave for all plans sold on or after July 1, 2001.** Mix design is currently the responsibility of the contractor and must be approved by ODOT. Superpave changes the method of mix design the contractor must use but still requires ODOT's approval. Care has been taken to insure all involved are up to speed and in support of this strategy. From a plan production standpoint, the only change is the pay item numbers and descriptions. Superpave mixes, Item 858, are for use on heavy traffic pavements only, defined as greater than 1500 trucks in the opening day traffic. Section 404 of the Pavement Design & Rehabilitation Manual shows the Superpave equivalent of 446 and 448 items and guidelines for their use. Five and seven year warranty projects will continue to specify Item 880 with no change for Superpave. Plans currently underway can be changed with a simple plan note or by modifying the typical sections and general summaries.

Questions regarding Superpave application should be directed to Aric Morse at 614-995-5994. David Powers should be contacted at 614-275-1387 for questions concerning Superpave specifications.

WCL  
DJH:AAM   


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