

# OptiPave™



TCPavements™

## OptiPave Overview – MCA Annual Conference

Sherry Sullivan, MASC, P.Eng., LEED AP

February 22, 2023

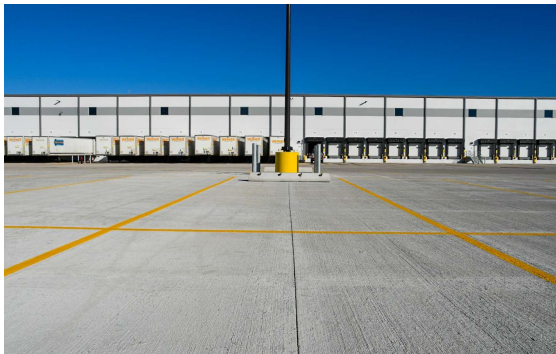
# OptiPave<sup>®</sup> Value Proposition?

*(also known as Short-Slab Design, or Pavement Panels with optimized geometry)*

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Optimized Concrete Pavement System that provides:

- Concrete pavement that can **compete with asphalt on first cost**.
- Lower Risk (advanced engineering, **20+ years of proven performance**).
- **Sustainable pavement alternate**, opportunity for reduction in GHGs.



Cost



Performance



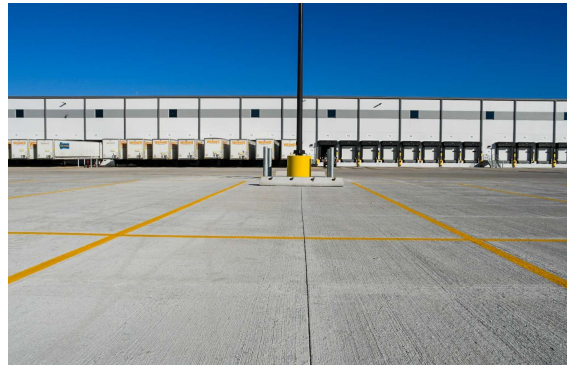
Sustainability



# OptiPave® Project Savings

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- **\$2.4 Million Savings** on a 2.7M sq.ft industrial pavement, compared to heavily reinforced concrete pavement - TX
- **\$1.0 Million Savings** on a 1.6M sq.ft industrial pavement, compared to asphalt pavement design - IL



# OptiPave® Clients

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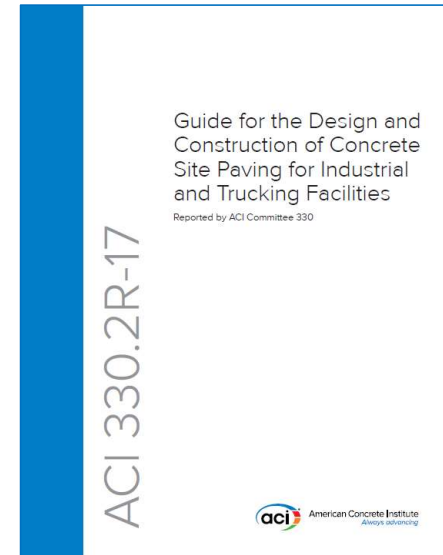


# Theory behind OptiPave

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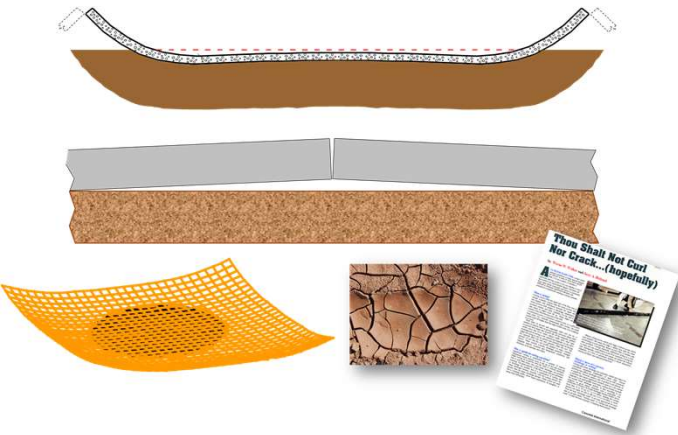
# Chapter 4 – Pavement Design

- “It is imperative that the designer consider all factors that influence the performance of a concrete pavement. Such factors include **truck traffic** or other **vehicular loads**, patterns and frequencies, subgrade/subbase support, concrete strength, pavement panel thickness, joint spacing, joint stability (load transfer), the use of curbs and widened lanes, **humidity and ambient effects** (humidity and temperature).”
- Thickness is directly related to joint spacing, curling/ warping and load transfer...and **CANNOT** be designed independently!



- ▶ B.1.1 ACPA StreetPave™
- ▶ B.1.2 AASHTOWare Pavement ME
- ▶ **B.1.3 TCPavements® OptiPave™**
- ▶ B.1.4 ACPA AIRPave™

“All slabs [and pavements] curl”  
Jerry Holland, *Structural Services, Inc.*



Let's take a closer look  
at the impact of  
curling & slab  
geometry

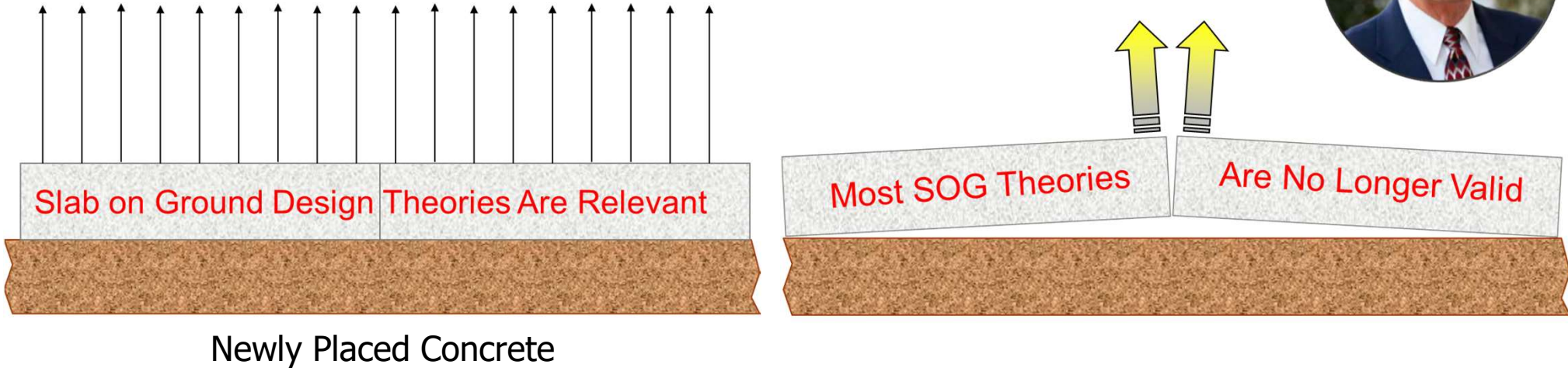
# Curling of Concrete Pavements

**During & After Drying:**

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Evaporation of Water



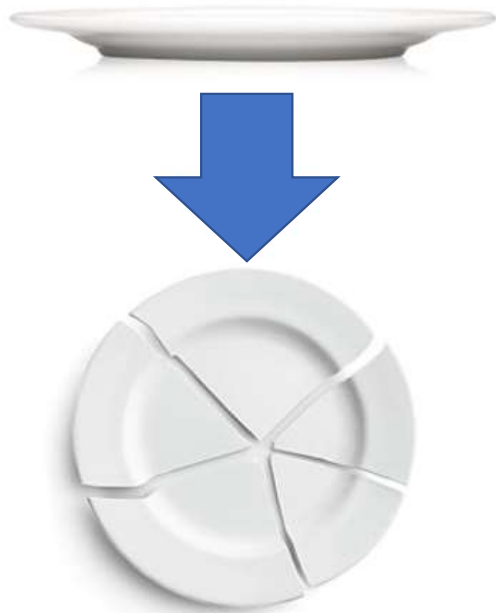
(Slide courtesy of Jerry Holland, P.E. Structural Services, Inc.)



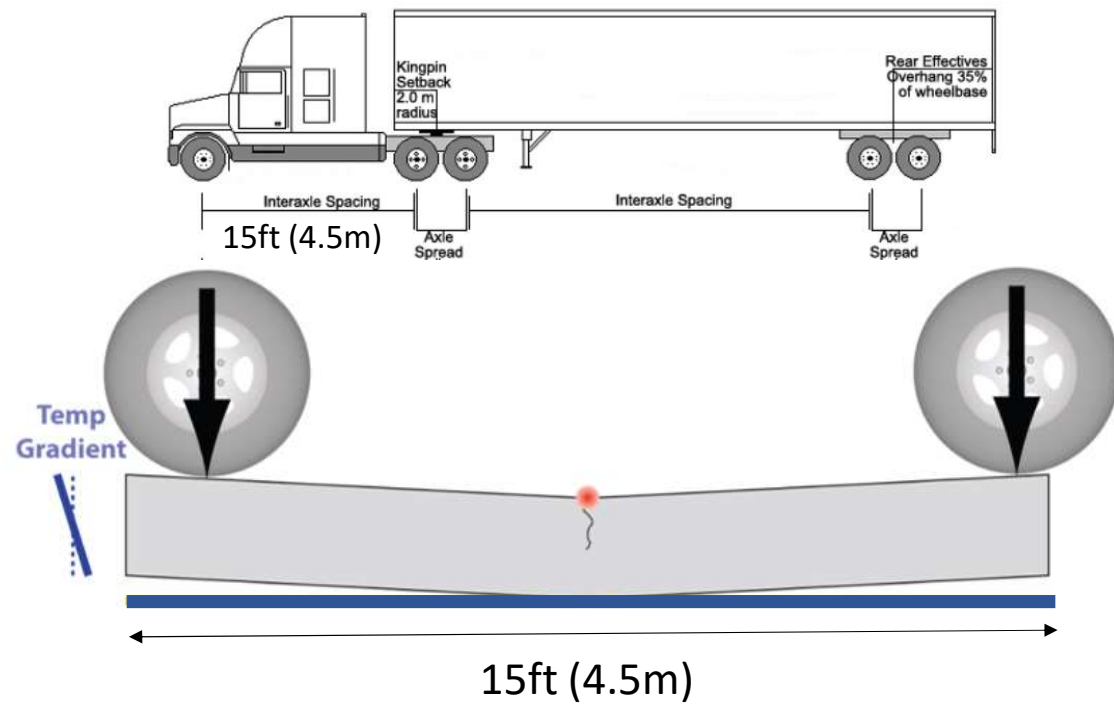
# Curling Induces Cracking Under Loading

JRTA

Concrete slabs are curved like a plate



Cracks form when truck axles load opposite edges of the slab simultaneously.



# Optimized Slab Geometry

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## Conventional Design



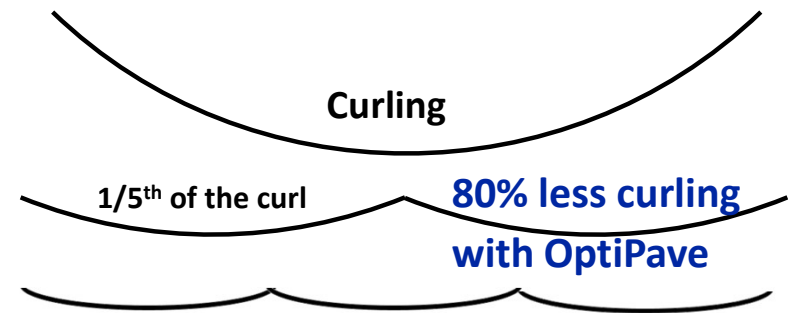
Thickness = 8" (200mm)  
Slab Size = 15' x 15' (4.5m)

## OptiPave Design



Thickness = 5.5" (140mm)  
Slab Size = 6' x 6' (1.8m)

Graphic illustrates axle spacing of a standard 80kip U.S. legal limit 18-wheeler



OptiPave reduces joint spacing to minimize curl and prevent both sides of the slab from being loaded at the same time.

This reduces stress, allowing slab thickness to be reduced for cost savings while maintaining reliable performance.

# FORTA-FERRO® IN THE OPTIPAVE SYSTEM

In the OptiPave System, FORTA-FERRO provides the residual strength required to restrain bottom-up cracks. The fibers act in tandem with the subgrade support, which provides confinement and friction while the fibers restrict the crack opening to redistribute forces. This heavy-duty macrosynthetic fiber can reduce pavement thickness, offers improved impact, abrasion resistance and provides maximum long-term durability; extending beyond the pavements design life.

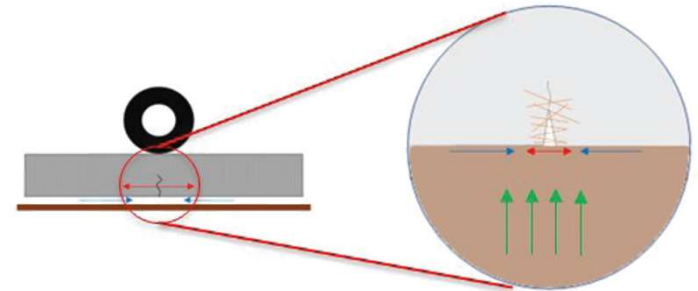
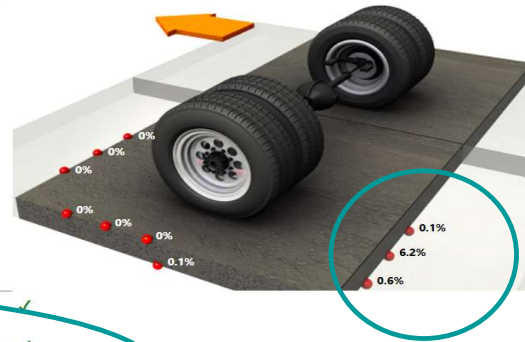


Calculate...  Generate Report PCC Thickness 5.9 (in)

Data Cracking Faulting IRI Load Transfer Efficiency

**Input Summary**

|  |            |          |
|--|------------|----------|
| Total ESALS in Design Lane               | 15,675,766 |          |
| MOR at 90 days                           | 746.14     | (psi)    |
| Residual Strength                        | 145.00     | (psi)    |
| Built-in Equivalent Temperature Gradient | -18        | (Δ°F)    |
| Edge Type                                | Curb       |          |
| Widened Slab                             | No         |          |
| Combined K Value Winter                  | 132.13     | (psi/in) |
| Combined K Value Summer                  | 151.06     | (psi/in) |
| Total Cracked Slabs                      | 13.43      | (%)      |
| Terminal Mean Joint Faulting             | 0.01       | (in)     |
| Terminal IRI                             | 137.63     | (in/mi)  |



# FORTA-FERRO® in OptiPave

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- **Macro Synthetic Fiber:**
  - Blend of Heavy-Duty Monofilament & Fibrillated Fiber
  - Copolymer & Polypropylene
- **Typical Dosage: 4.0 lb./yd<sup>3</sup> (2.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)**
  - 145psi (1MPa) residual strength
- **Fiber Length: 2 ¼" (54mm)**



The screenshot shows the 'Concrete Properties' tab in the OptiPave software. A blue oval highlights the 'Fiber Reinforcement' section, which includes a dropdown menu set to 'Yes' and a text input field for 'Residual Strength' set to '145 (psi)'. Other visible fields include 'Fiber Reinforcement Test' set to 'ASTM 1609', 'Strength Test' set to 'Flexural Strength', 'Age of Test' set to '28 Days', 'Flexural Strength' set to '600 (psi)', 'Reliability' set to '80 (%)', 'Std. Deviation Concrete Strength' set to '58 (psi)', '28-90 Days Strength Gain' set to '1.15', and 'MOR at 90 days' set to '746.14 (psi)'. The OptiPave 2 logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the interface.



# Testing at University of Illinois



# Significance of Fiber Reinforcement

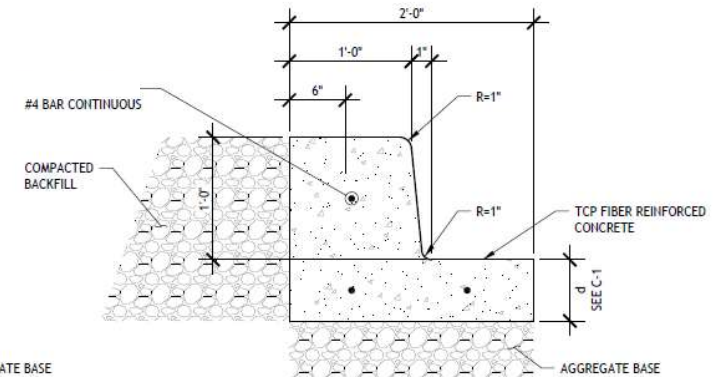
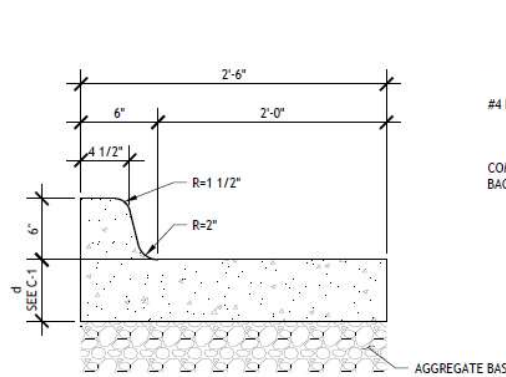
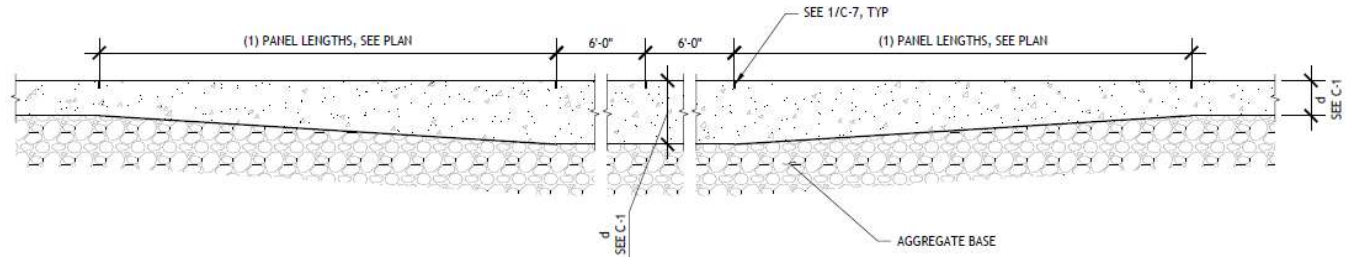
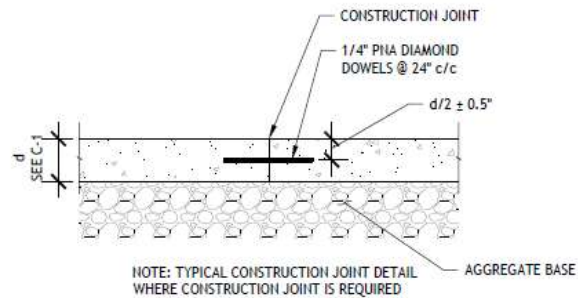
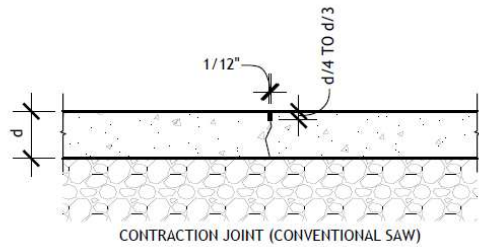
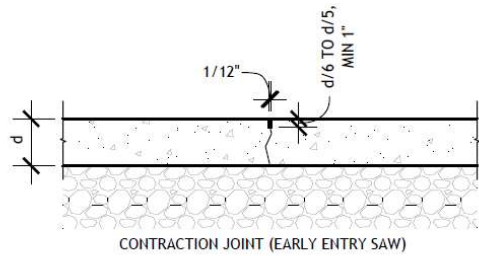
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# Joint Layout and Detail Examples

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# Joint Treatment Options

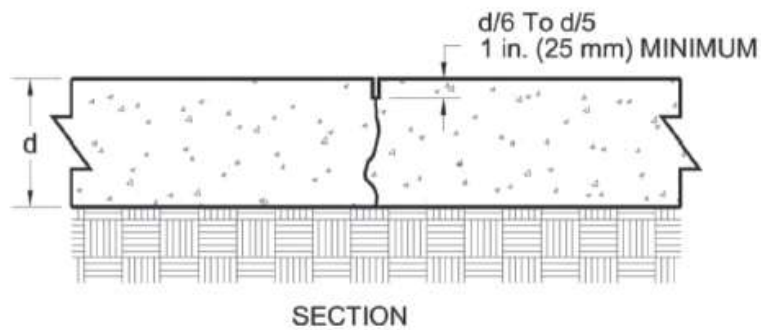


Fig. 4.4.2.3a—Contraction joint (early-entry saw).

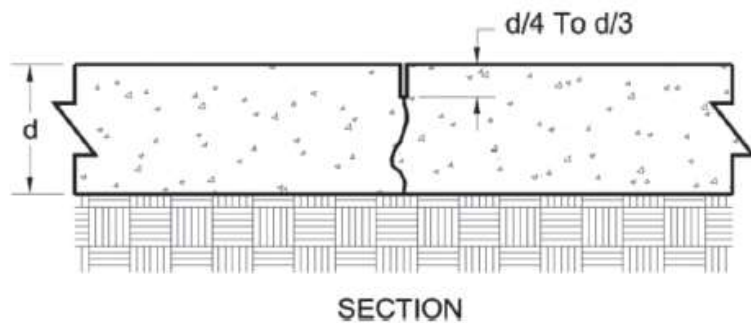
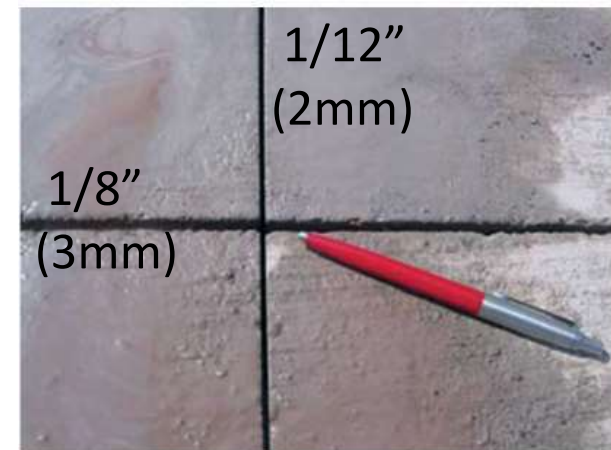
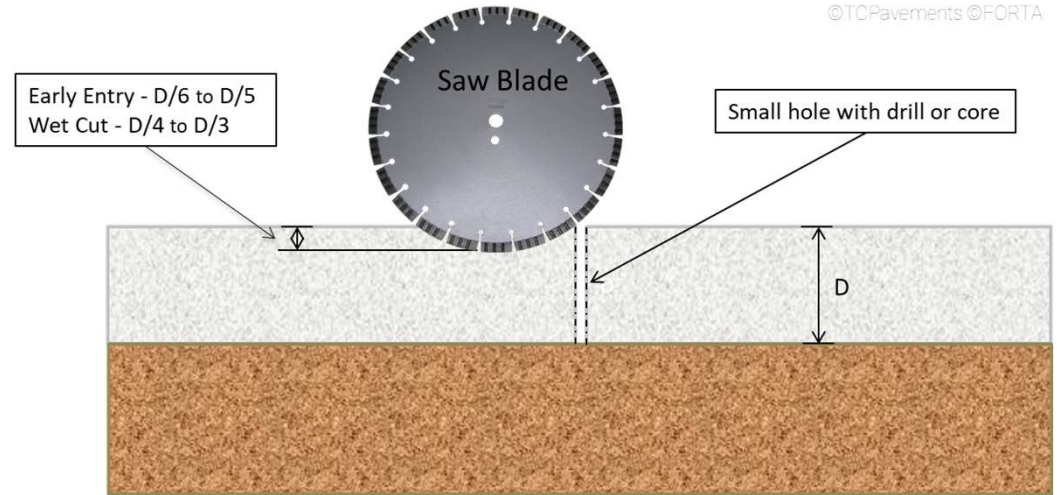


Fig. 4.4.2.3b—Contraction joint (conventional saw).



# Dog-Leg Joints and T-Joints

©TCPavements ©FORTA



# OptiPave<sup>2</sup> Example

TC Pavements<sup>®</sup>

©TCPavements ©FORTA

Project Name  
Sample Project

Location  
California

Section

North 8/26/2019

Description





Design Life  (years)

Joint Spacing  (ft)

PCC Thickness  (in)

Compute Thickness

Edge Type

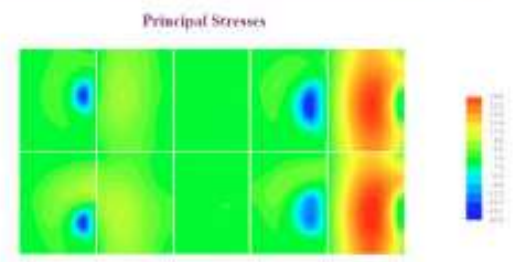
Widened Slab

Doweled Joints

Lateral Drain

Pavement-Base Interface Model

Initial IRI  (in/mi)



Percentage of Cracked Slabs  (%)

Terminal IRI  (in/mi)

Mean Joint Faulting  (in)

---

Design Reliability  (%)



**Traffic Input**

Truck Traffic Classification  ?

Truck Traffic Group

Annual Traffic Growth  (%)

Analysis Method

Advanced Options

**Lateral Traffic Wander**

Mean Wheel Location (From the Lane Marking)  (in)

Traffic Wander Standard Deviation  (in)

**Load Spectra**

Two-way Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic

Percentage of Trucks in Design Direction  (%)

Percentage of Trucks in Design Lane  (%)

Percentage of Traffic During Summer  (%)

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Category A | Car parking areas and access lanes  |
| Category B | Shopping center entrance and service lanes; city and school buses parking areas and interior lanes; Truck parking areas |
| Category C | Entrance and exterior lanes; Truck parking areas  |
| Category D | Truck parking areas   |





Fiber Reinforcement    
 Residual Strength  (psi)

Fiber Reinforcement Test

Strength Test

Std. Deviation Concrete Strength  (psi)

Age of Test

28-90 Days Strength Gain

Flexural Strength  (psi)

MOR at 90 days  (psi)

Reliability  (%)

| Type of Aggregate | Coefficient of Thermal Expansion (10 <sup>-6</sup> /°F) |
|-------------------|---|
| Granite           | 4.0-5.0   |
| Basalt            | 3.3-4.4   |
| Limestone         | 3.3   |
| Dolomite          | 4-5.5   |
| Sandstone         | 6.1-6.7   |
| Quartzite         | 6.1-7.2   |
| Marble            | 2.2-4   |

Advanced Options

Coefficient of Thermal Expansion (10<sup>6</sup>)  (1/°F) ?

Modulus of Elasticity  (psi)

Ultimate Shrinkage (365 days)  (microstrain)

Concrete Unit Weight  (pcf)

Air Content  (%)



Poisson Ratio

Water-Cement Ratio

Advanced Options

Number of Layers 2 - +

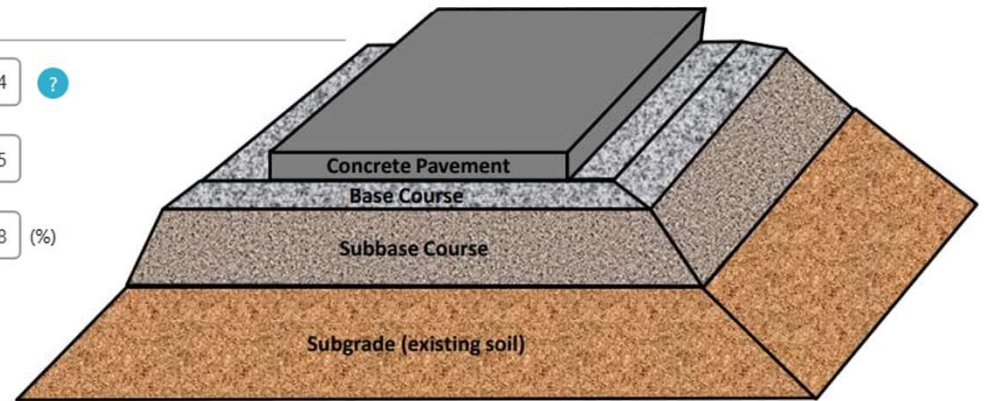
|           | Type of Soil | Rm Winter (psi) | Rm Summer (psi) | Poisson Ratio | Thickness (in) |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Base      | A-1-a        | 28000           | 28000           | 0.35          | 4              |
| 2nd Layer | CTB          | 21000           | 21000           | 0.35          | 12             |
| Subgrade  | A-1-a        | 5000            | 6000            | 0.35          |                |

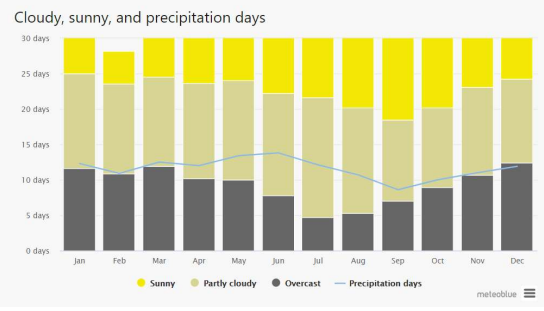
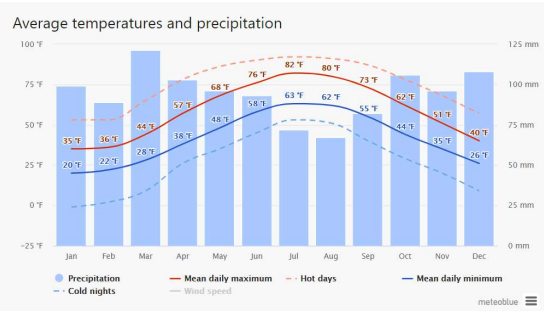
Base Properties

Erodibility index:  ?

Base/slab friction coefficient

Passing #200 sieve (%) Base Material  (%)





Country

Zone

Built-in Equivalent Temperature Gradient  (Δ°F) ?

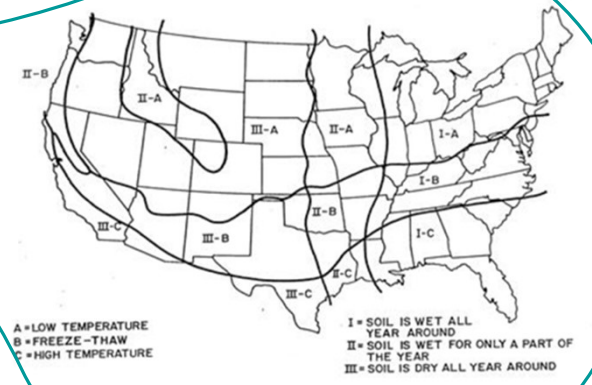
Mean Air Winter Temperature  (°F)

Mean Air Summer Temperature  (°F)

Concrete Setting Temperature  (°F)

Average Annual Number of Rainy Days

Base Freezing Index  (%)



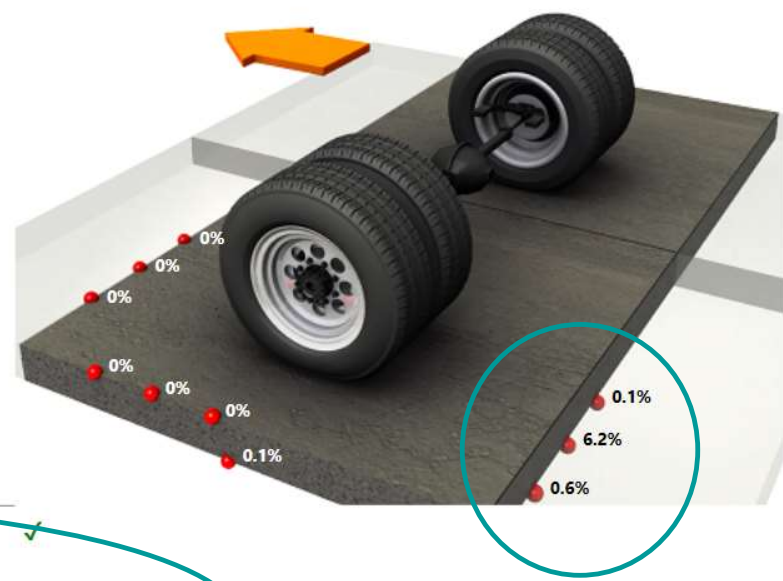


Calculate... Generate Report  PCC Thickness 5.9 (in)

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| Residual Strength                        | 145.00     | (psi)    |
| Built-in Equivalent Temperature Gradient | -18        | (Δ°F)    |
| Edge Type                                | Curb       |          |
| Widened Slab                             | No         |          |
| Combined K Value Winter                  | 132.13     | (psi/in) |
| Combined K Value Summer                  | 151.06     | (psi/in) |
| Total Cracked Slabs                      | 13.43      | (%)      |
| Terminal Mean Joint Faulting             | 0.01       | (in)     |
| Terminal IRI                             | 137.63     | (in/mi)  |



# OptiPave™ Case Studies

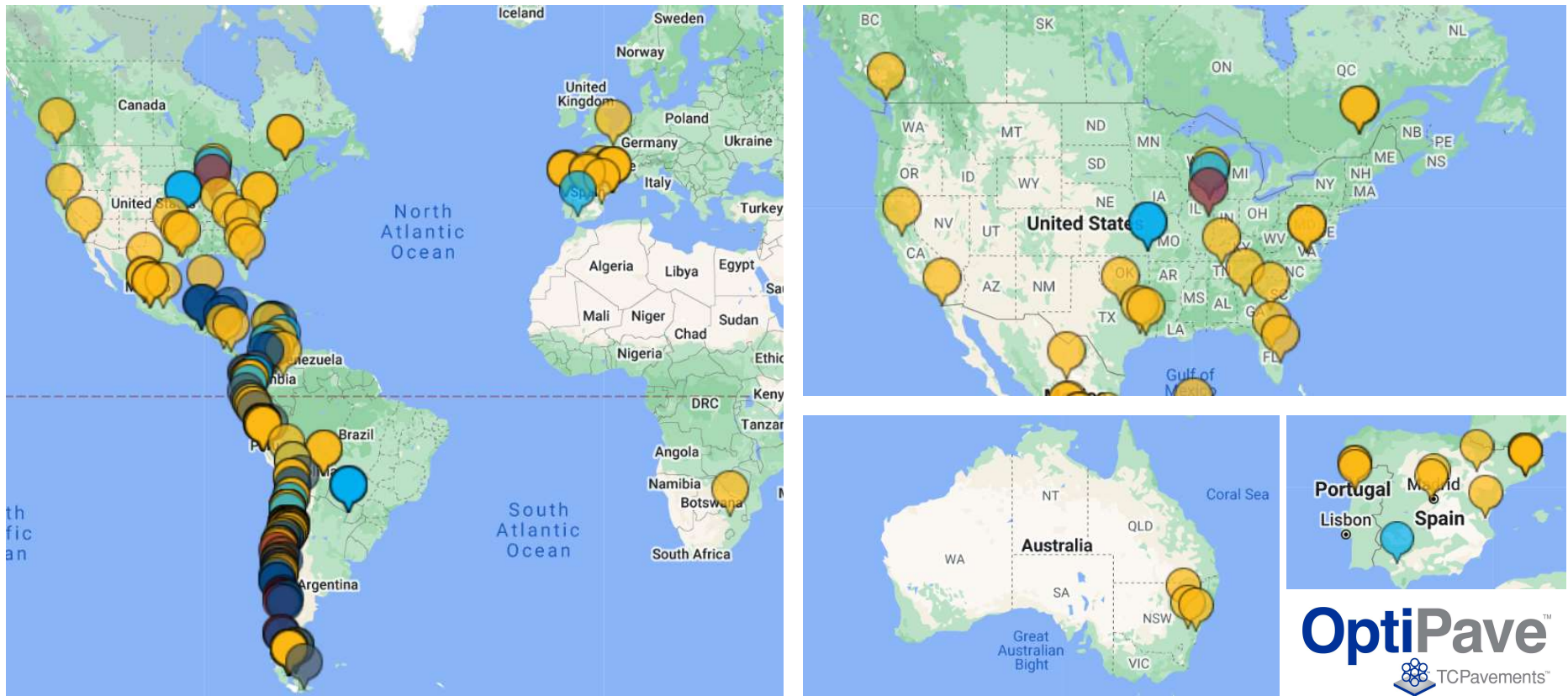


TCPavements™

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# <http://www.tcpavements.cl/eng/proyectos>

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**OptiPave™**  
TCPavements™

# CASE STUDIES

Walmart, Lo Aguirre

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# Walmart , Lo Aquirre

- **Thickness = 6"**
  - with 6ft joint spacing
  - with 6" granular base
- **Traffic = 10M ESALs**
  - (Approximately 500 trucks/day, single/double/triple axle)
- **Constructed in 2011**
- **Santiago, Chile**
- **600,000 ft<sup>2</sup>**





# Walmart - Main Entrance and Access Road

OptiPave cut Walmart's costs by 12% on this project.



10 years later

# Walmart - Adopts TCP

In 2018, Walmart built another distribution center in Santiago, choosing TCP as its pavement solution – 1.5M ft<sup>2</sup> of pavement.



# Case Studies

Ruta 60 Ch Camino

La Pólvara, Chile

©TCPavements ©FORTA





# Ruta 60 Ch Camino La Pólvara, Chile

- Thickness = 9”  
with 6ft joint spacing  
with macrosynthetic fibers
- Traffic = 189M ESALs
- Constructed in 2016

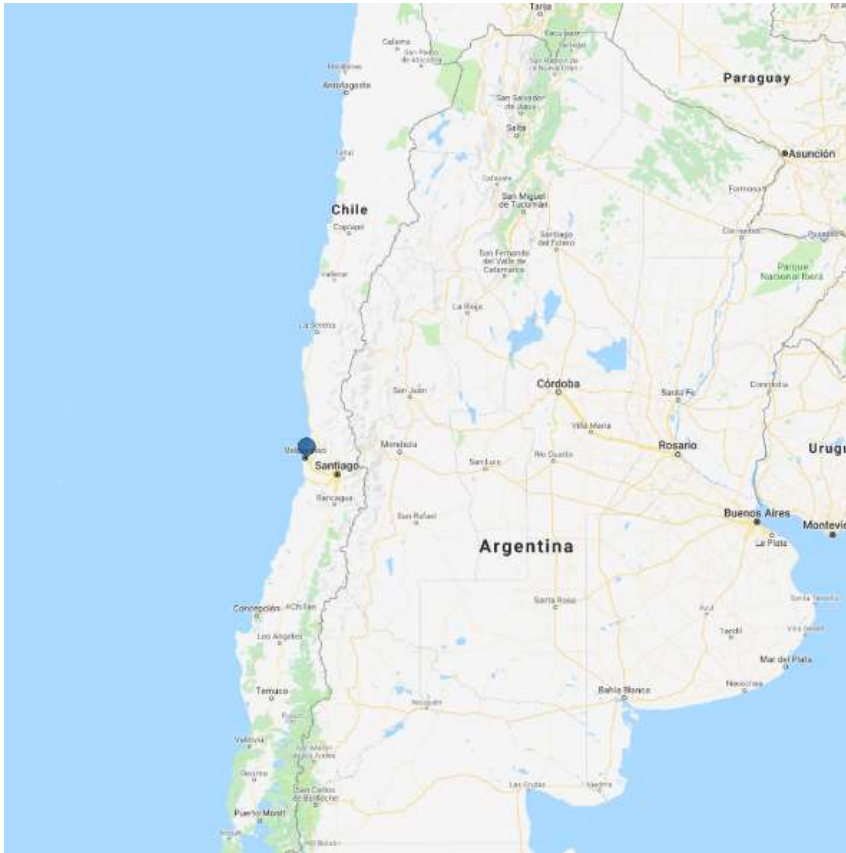




Ministerio de  
Transportes y  
Telecomunicaciones

# Ruta 60 Ch Camino La Pólvara, Chile

©TCPavements ©FORTA







# Ruta 60 Ch Camino La Pólvara, Chile

Length (Km) 30  
Width (m) 14  
420,000 m<sup>2</sup>

|                               | Unidad         | Asphalt |               | Traditional Concrete |                | OptiPave |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
|                               |                | Espesor | TOTAL         | Espesor              | TOTAL          | Espesor  | TOTAL          |
| HCV con Fibra                 | m3             |         | USD -         |                      | USD -          | 0.21     | USD 11,459,418 |
| HCV                           | m3             |         | USD -         | 0.33                 | USD 15,928,657 |          | USD 0          |
| Asfalto Carpeta de rodado     | m <sup>3</sup> | 0.07    | USD 4,704,000 |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Asfalto 2 Categoría (2 capas) | m <sup>3</sup> | 0.14    | USD 8,232,000 |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Remoción material             | m <sup>3</sup> | 0.81    | USD 3,300,448 | 0.15                 | USD 611,194    |          | USD 0          |
| Sub-Base estabilizada CBR 40% | m <sup>3</sup> | 0.45    | USD 3,969,000 |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Base estabilizada CBR 60%     | m <sup>3</sup> |         | USD -         | 0.15                 | USD 1,638,000  |          | USD 0          |
| Base estabilizada CBR 80%     | m <sup>3</sup> | 0.15    | USD 1,827,000 |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Imprimacion                   | m <sup>2</sup> | 1       | USD 420,000   |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Riego Liga                    | m <sup>2</sup> | 2       | USD 840,000   |                      | USD -          |          | USD 0          |
| Colocacion H°                 | m2             |         | USD -         | 1                    | USD 3,360,000  | 1        | USD 3,360,000  |
| Membrana de curado            | m <sup>2</sup> |         | USD -         | 1                    | USD 336,000    | 1        | USD 336,000    |
| Geotextil                     | m <sup>2</sup> |         | USD -         | 1                    | USD 336,000    | 1        | USD 336,000    |
| Corte Hormigon                | m              |         | USD -         | 0.28                 | USD 70,560     | 0.85     | USD 214,200    |
| Royalty TCP Patente           | m <sup>2</sup> |         | USD -         |                      | USD -          | 1        | USD 756,000    |

Total solucion en Asfalto USD 23,292,448

Total Hormigón Tradicional USD 22,280,411

Total OptiPave USD 16,461,618

|   | Costs                | Savings    |
|---|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Savings (compared with Asphalt)</b>                | <b>USD 6.830.830</b> | <b>41%</b> |
| Savings (compared with traditional concrete pavement) | USD 5.818.793        | 35%        |

# North American Projects

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# Dinwiddie County, VA (2017)

**Traffic: 3M ESALs**  
(Approximately 80 trucks/day, over 20-years)

**Thickness: 5.5"**

- 600psi flexural strength
- Forta-Ferro® macrosynthetic fibers
- 6ft joint spacing
- 6" granular base



Photo taken October 2018

Photo taken June 2019





# Atlanta, GA (2019)

**Atlanta, GA – 2019**

**Size: 270,000 ft<sup>2</sup>**

**Traffic: 23M ESALs**

(Approximately 250 trucks/day, over 50-years)

**Thickness: 5.5"**

- 650psi flexural strength
- Forta-Ferro<sup>®</sup> macrosynthetic fibers
- 5ft joint spacing
- 4" granular base



# PROLOGIS® Lockport, IL (2020)



**Traffic: 6M ESALs**  
(Approximately 150 trucks/day, 20-years)  
**Thickness: 6.0"**

- 580psi flexural strength
- Forta-Ferro® macro fibers
- 6ft joint spacing
- 6" granular base

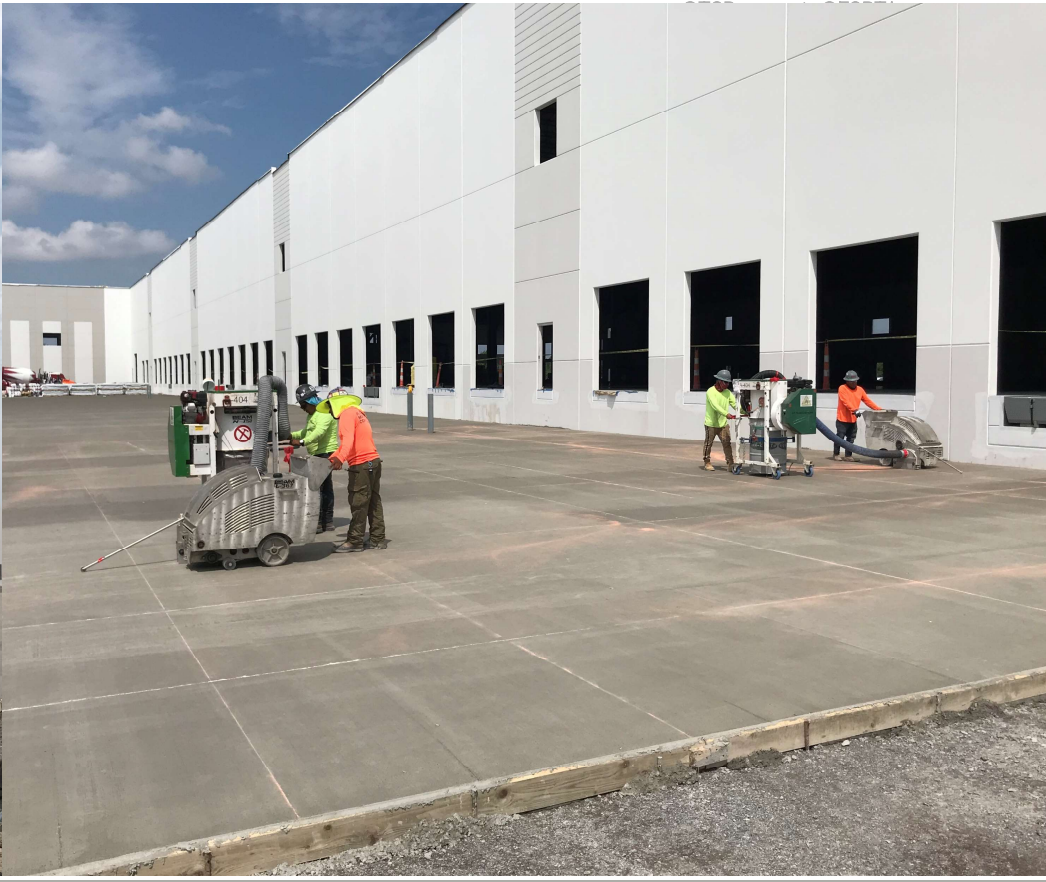


# PROLOGIS® Nashville, TN (2021)

**Traffic: 3.7M ESALs**  
(Approximately 150 trucks/day, over 20-years)

**Thickness: 5.5"**

- 580psi flexural strength
- Forta-Ferro® macrosynthetic fibers
- 6ft joint spacing
- 6" granular base







# Houston, TX (2021)

Traffic: ~4.0M ESALs  
Size: 2.7M sq.ft.  
Thickness: 5.5" (14cm)

- 580psi (4.0MPa) flexural strength
- with macrosynthetic fibers
- 6ft (1.8m) joint spacing
- 8" (20cm) cement treated base

**\$2.76M savings by using OptiPave**







# Military Roadway, OK (2021)

**Thickness: 7.0" (18cm)**

- 580psi (4.0MPa) flexural strength
- with macrosynthetic fibers
- 6ft (1.8m) joint spacing
- 9" (23cm) granular base

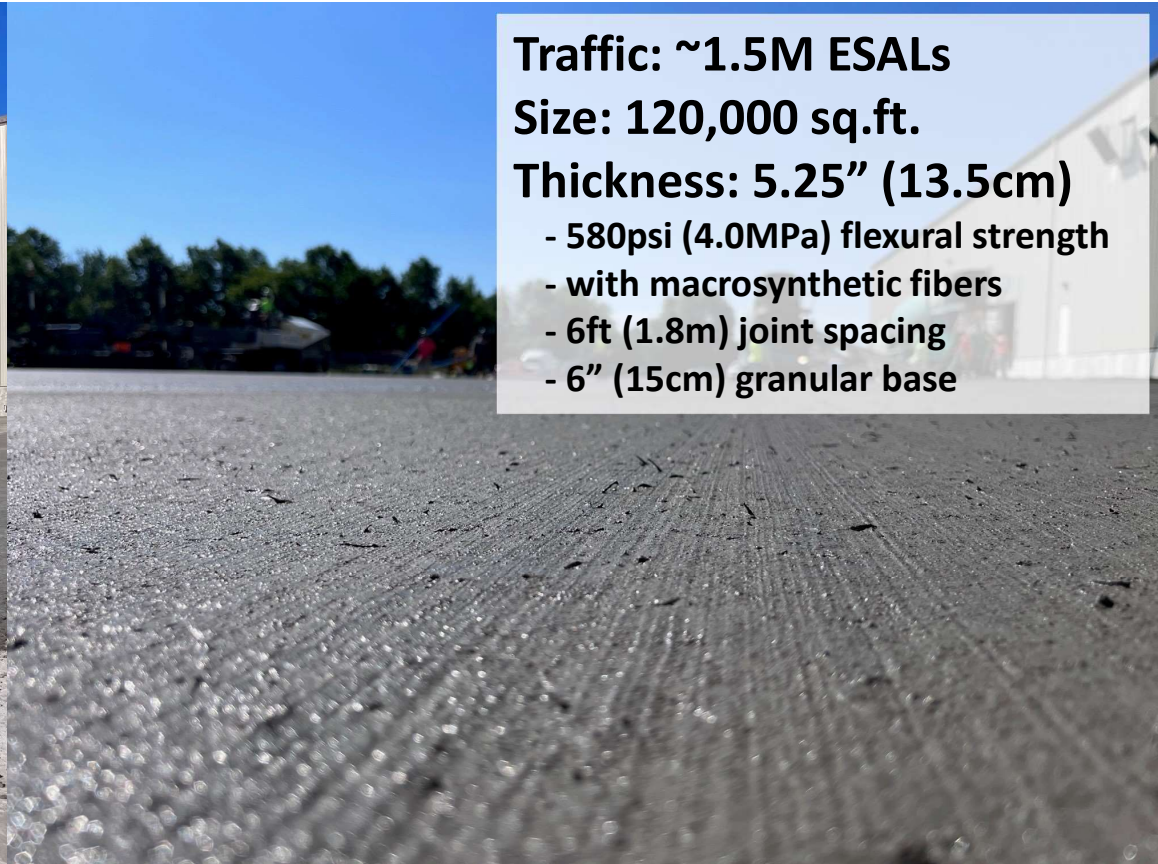






# Presidential Container - Middletown, NY (2021)

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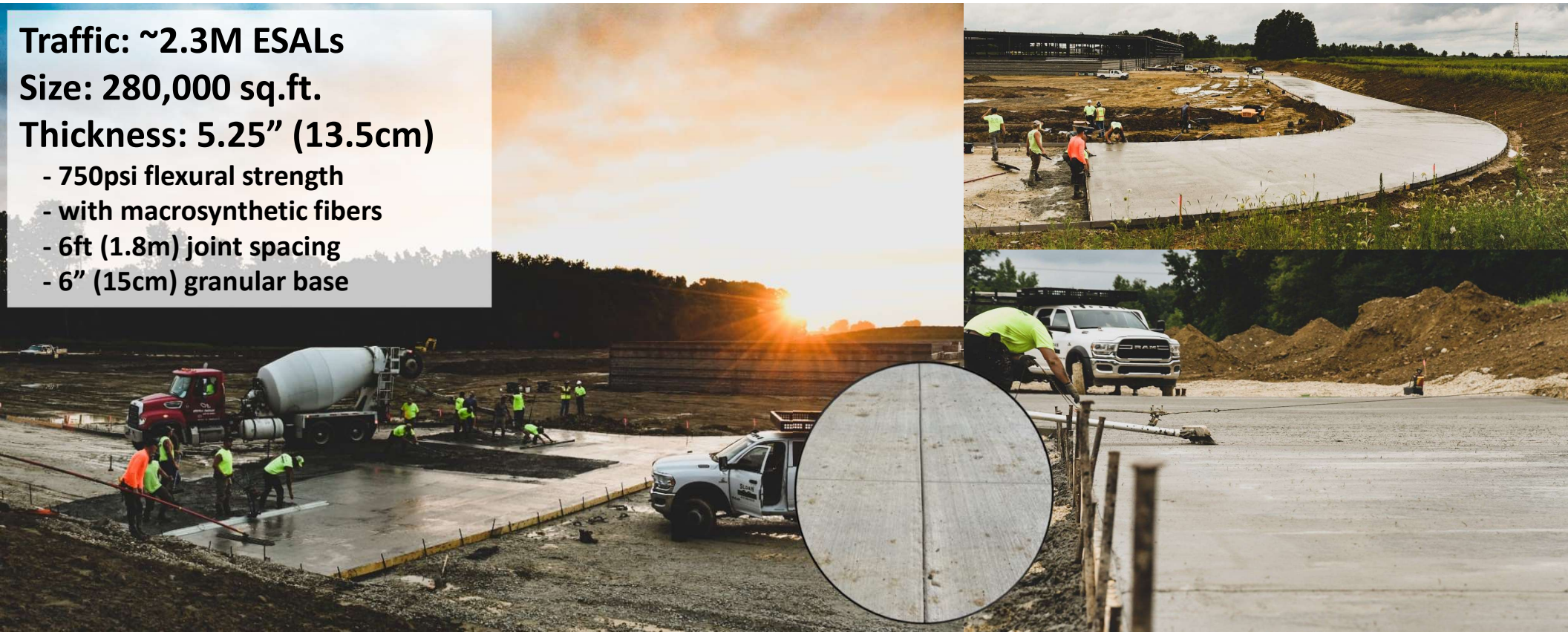
- Traffic: ~1.5M ESALs**
- Size: 120,000 sq.ft.**
- Thickness: 5.25" (13.5cm)**
  - 580psi (4.0MPa) flexural strength
  - with macrosynthetic fibers
  - 6ft (1.8m) joint spacing
  - 6" (15cm) granular base



# Wooster, OH (2022)

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- Traffic: ~2.3M ESALs**  
**Size: 280,000 sq.ft.**  
**Thickness: 5.25" (13.5cm)**
- 750psi flexural strength
  - with macrosynthetic fibers
  - 6ft (1.8m) joint spacing
  - 6" (15cm) granular base







# URBAN ROADWAY EXAMPLES

# Punta Arenas, Chile



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**Thickness**

4"

**Traffic**

200,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2008

Image taken Nov'18

# Valdivia, Chile



©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

3.5"

**Traffic**

50,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2012

Size: 172,000 ft<sup>2</sup>



# Santiago, Chile



©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

4.5 "

**Traffic**

200,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2013

U-TCP Project.

Placed without base.

# Condominium Alto Bulnes



©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

3.5"

**Traffic**

50,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2016



# Av. Los Álamos, Perú

©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

5"

**Traffic**

200,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2013

Located in Villa Salvador

# Huancayo, Perú

©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

4"

**Traffic**

200,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2015

Size: 226,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

# Road Exchange – Trujillo, Perú

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**Thickness**

4.7"

**Traffic**

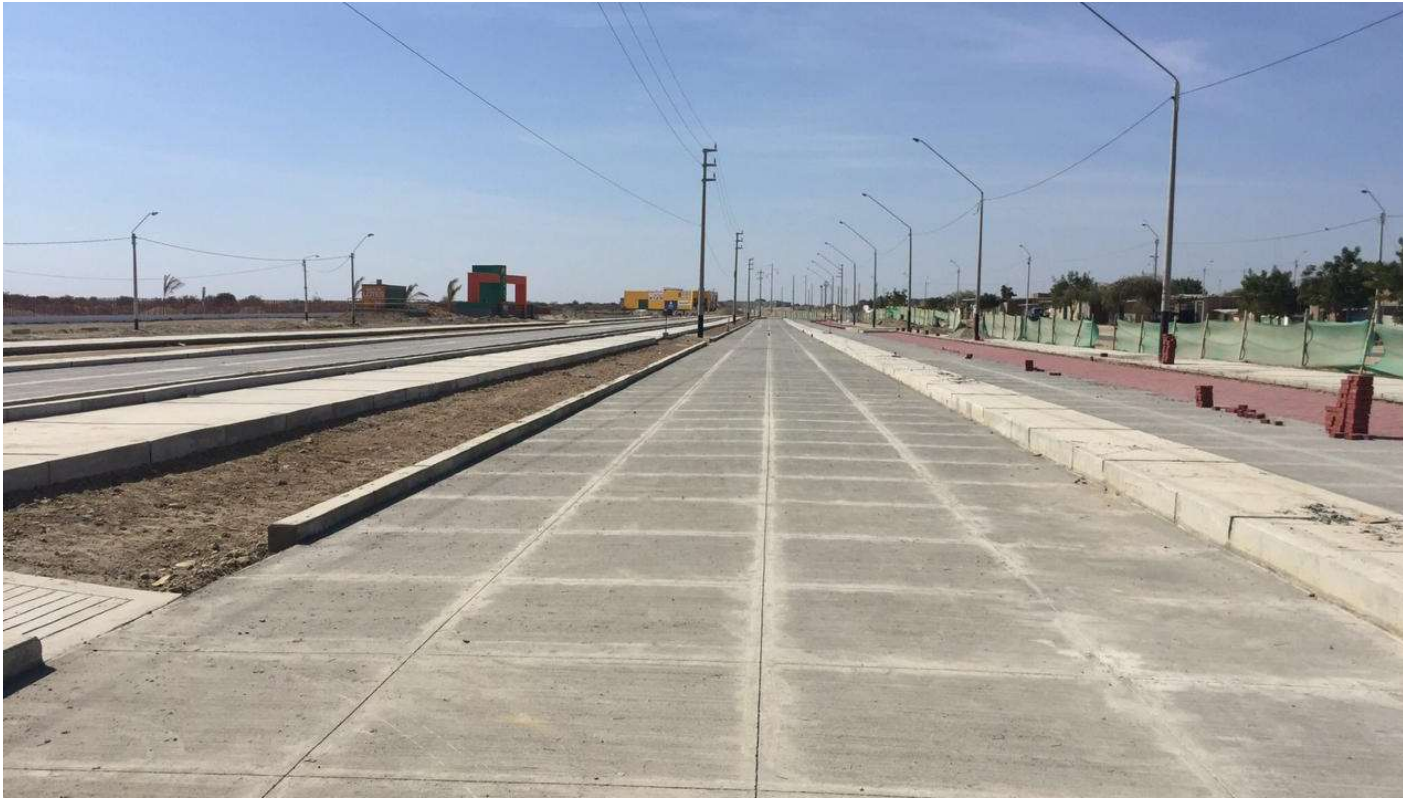
1,000,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2015

# Aguilar Santisteban, Piura

©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

5.5"

**Traffic**

15,000,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2018

Size: 900,000 ft<sup>2</sup>



# Sanchez Cerro Street, Piura

©TCPavements ©FORTA



**Thickness**

5.5"

**Traffic**

14,000,000 ESALs

**Year built**

2018

Size: 323,000 ft<sup>2</sup>



Credit: Guillaume Lemieux – CQI, CANADA



# Stanstead, Québec CANADA

Ciment Quebec Terminal – Stanstead, QC  
Constructed in 2018


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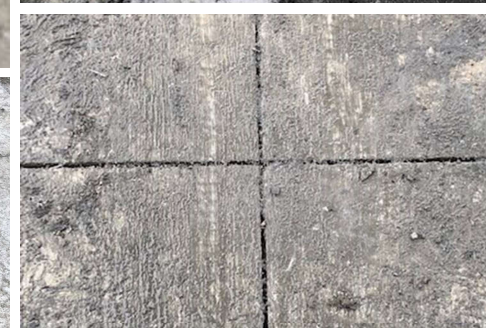
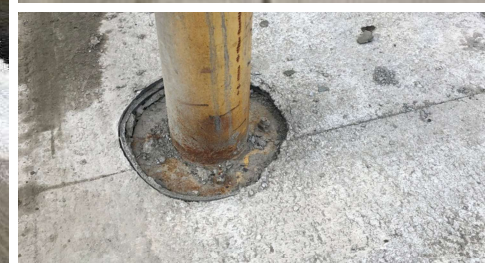
**CONSTRUCTION**  
Oct. 26, 2018

**OPEN to TRAFFIC**  
Oct. 31, 2018

Apr. 4, 2019

 **Ciment Québec**  
Nov. 20, 2019

©TCPavements ©FORTA



# Lessons Learned

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- Good looking skid resistant surface
- Quick turnover vs traditional approach
- **46% cost reduction**
  - OptiPave Design (\$23,900)
  - Original Design (\$35,000)
- **52% GHG reduction**

| Project Name                    | Impacts                  | Unit      |                       |           |        | % of Reduction |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|
|                                 |                          |           | Materials & Equipment | Transport | Total  |                |
| Stanstead - Optipave            | Global Warming Potential | kg CO2 eq | 11 249                | 3 770     | 15 019 | 52.3%          |
| Stanstead – Traditionnal Design | Global Warming Potential | kg CO2 eq | 19 976                | 2 894     | 22 870 |                |

\*Simulations made using PavementLCA developed by the Athena Institute



# Sustainable Pavements: What Role Can Design Play?

# Sustainable Pavements need to demonstrate:

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- Economic value
- Reduced environmental impact
- Reduced social impact



# Things to Think About with OptiPave

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- **When Optimizing our Concrete Pavement Designs, we can...**
  - reduce cost, GHG emissions and increase productivity
  - eliminate the need for steel reinforcement & dowels (in most cases)
  - allow for more flexible maintenance
    - smaller slabs allow for simple & effective utility repairs
- **Improved long-term performance will provide additional sustainability benefits throughout the life of the pavement.**
- **With improved end-of-life options, including concrete overlays, additional long-term benefits are possible.**

# Concrete Pavement Life Cycle Environmental Assessment & Economic Analysis: A Manitoba Case Study

M. Alauddin Ahammed, Ph.D., P.Eng.

*Manitoba Infrastructure, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*

S. Sullivan, M.A.Sc, P.Eng., LEED AP

*Cement Association of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

G. Finlayson, C. Goemans, P.Eng., J. Meil

*Athena Sustainable Materials Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*

Mehdi Akbarian, Ph.D.

*Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA*



# Manitoba Infrastructure Case Study

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1. 11.02 km project with 2-lanes and shoulders
2. 10 different concrete pavement alternatives evaluated
  - Economic LCCA (MIT CSHub without uncertainty)
  - Environmental LCA (Athena Pavement LCA Tool)
3. Looked at different concrete mixtures, designs, and M&R strategies
4. Compared to current “business as usual” base case over 50-year period

# The Ten Alternatives

| Case # | Case description   | Analysis rationale   |                    |
|--------|--|--|--------------------|
| Base   | 355 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 0% slag, 276 t steel, regular M&R    | Impacts of past practice   | 250 mm JPCP (10")  |
| 1      | 355 kg cementitious, 20% fly ash, 0% slag, 276 t steel, regular M&R    | Effect of additional fly ash   |                    |
| 2      | 355 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 25% slag, 276 t steel, regular M&R   | Effect of slag/ternary mix, if used  |                    |
| 3      | 307 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 0% slag, 276 t steel, regular M&R    | Effect of reduced cementitious material (tarantula optimization)                     |                    |
| 4      | 355 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 0% slag, 126 t steel, regular M&R    | Effect of reduced steel  |                    |
| 5      | 307 kg cementitious, 20% fly ash, 0% slag, 276 t steel, regular M&R    | Combined effect of reduced cementitious and increased fly ash                        |                    |
| 6      | 307 kg cementitious, 20% fly ash, 0% slag, 126 t steel, regular M&R    | Combined effect of reduced cementitious and steel, and increased fly ash (new spec.) |                    |
| 7      | 307 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 25% slag, 126 t steel, regular M&R   | Combined effect of new spec. and slag/ternary mix, if used                           |                    |
| 8      | 307 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 25% slag, 126 t steel, extended M&R  | Effect of extended M&R   |                    |
| 9      | 355 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 0% slag, 0 steel, TCP, regular M&R   | Effect of short concrete panel (TCP)   | 200 mm JPCP (7.5") |
| 10     | 307 kg cementitious, 15% fly ash, 25% slag, 0 steel, TCP, extended M&R | Effect of reduced cementitious, TCP, ternary mix and extended M&R                    |                    |

# Analysis Results

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- This study demonstrates that the transportation sector can have a significant impact on the reduction of environmental impacts by adopting sustainable material, design, construction and maintenance practices.
- **5% reduction in GHG emissions**, and 3% reduction in total life cycle cost with the adoption of the new concrete mix design and dowel/tie bar configurations.
- **6% reduction in GHG emissions**, and **11% reduction in total life cycle cost** with the adoption of a short slab (**OptiPave**) design.
- **16% reduction in GHG emissions**, and **18% reduction in total life cycle cost** with the use of ternary concrete mix, using a short slab (**OptiPave**) design and extending the pavement service life by five years.

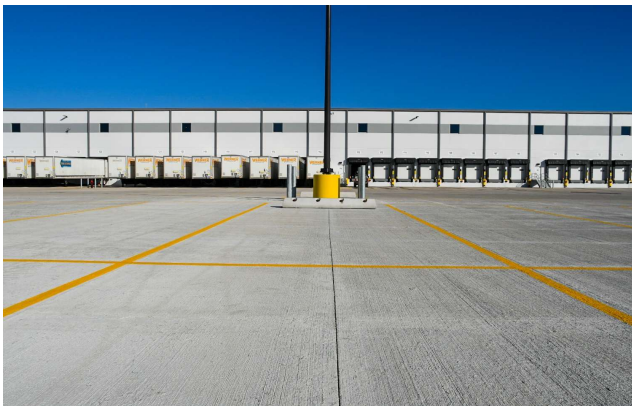
# Final Remarks

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# OptiPave Summary

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- Short Panel Joint spacing: 5' (1.5m) - 8' (2.4m)
- No Rebar; No Dowels (*only at construction joints*)
- Min & Max Saw Cut Depth
  - Using 1/12" (2mm) saw blades
  - Joints are left Unsealed
- Potential for significant reduction in GHGs
- Smooth Surface with 80% less curling
- Mechanistic + Empirical design method with 20+ years of proving performance



Thickness = 6.5" (160mm)

Slab Size = 6' x 6' (1.8 x 1.8m)

