

# Ohio Asphalt Paving Conference

Fawcett Center, The Ohio State University  
February 1, 2012

# Porous Asphalt – An Owner's Perspective

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## Metro Parks, Serving Summit County



Metro Parks, Serving Summit County  
11,000 acres, 14 developed parks +  
several conservation areas

Governed by independent, unpaid board

Approx. 5m visits per year





15 lane miles of  
roads

Parking for 5,000 cars







33 miles of paved  
Bike and Hike Trail





# Why porous pavement where there is so much room?





## Why porous pavement?



## Why porous pavement?







LIBERTY PARK 2011



TALLMADGE MEADOWS 2010



SAND RUN 2007



SPRINGFIELD BOG 2010

BRANDYWINE 2011

OWS 2010

2010

S



# WHAT ON EARTH HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THIS??

- If it's a good site for development, it's probably a good site for porous
- If you're designing to meet other standards, you're designing for porous
- Don't go it alone – use FPO specs
- Porous asphalt works, but be smart
- Be prepared for different maintenance
- Water doesn't hurt porous asphalt

# WHAT ON EARTH HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THIS??

- Site selection
- Design
- Construction
- Performance
- Maintenance
- Durability

# Site Selection

- Resource protection – space, receiving waters, wetlands



# Site Selection

- Traffic volume, loads, turning movements





# Site Selection

- Sources of sediment, dirt – “run-on”, trees



# Site Selection

- Soil – strength and permeability testing



Springfield Bog:  
sand

Tallmadge,  
Liberty Park,  
Brandywine:  
silty clays

# Site Selection

- Surface and subgrade slopes





# Site Selection

- Commitment to maintenance





# Design

- Hydrologic design criteria per local regulations
- Regulations refer to “predevelopment” and “postdevelopment” discharge rates and volumes, and water quality practices.
- Need to measure (dye-test) rainfall vs. discharge from porous pavement & underdrain systems.
- Many variables, as with any other drainage design.

**Our opinion: areas of porous pavement should be modeled similarly to dense meadow over the same soil when calculating time of concentration and runoff coefficients.**

# Design redundancies

- **Soil infiltration rate – assume zero infiltration during storm duration**
- **Store design storm volume either in pavement base for infiltration or collect in underdrains and pipe to basin – *OR BOTH***

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- **Soil infiltration rate – assume zero infiltration during storm duration**
- **Store design storm volume either in pavement base for infiltration or collect in underdrains and pipe to basin – *OR BOTH***
- **DRAINAGE, DRAINAGE, DRAINAGE**

# Design

- Design as if it won't be porous someday – institutional decision, lack of maintenance funds, ignorance



(Brand X)



# Design

- Redundancies in stormwater infrastructure



WATER QUANTITY

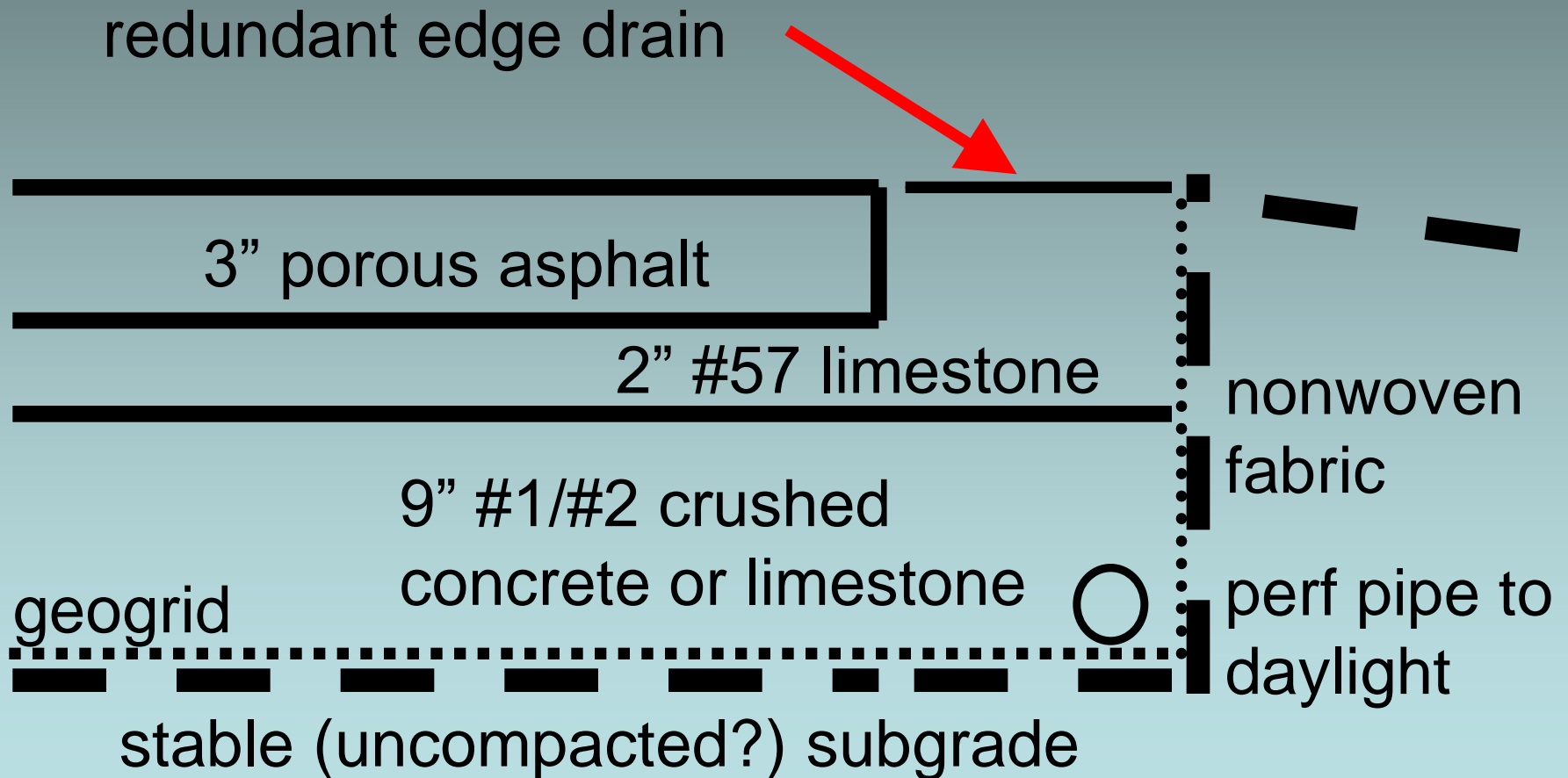


WATER QUALITY

# Design

- **Base and pavement thickness - water storage volume vs. pavement structure**
- **Minimum thicknesses recommended for porous provide more than adequate pavement support**

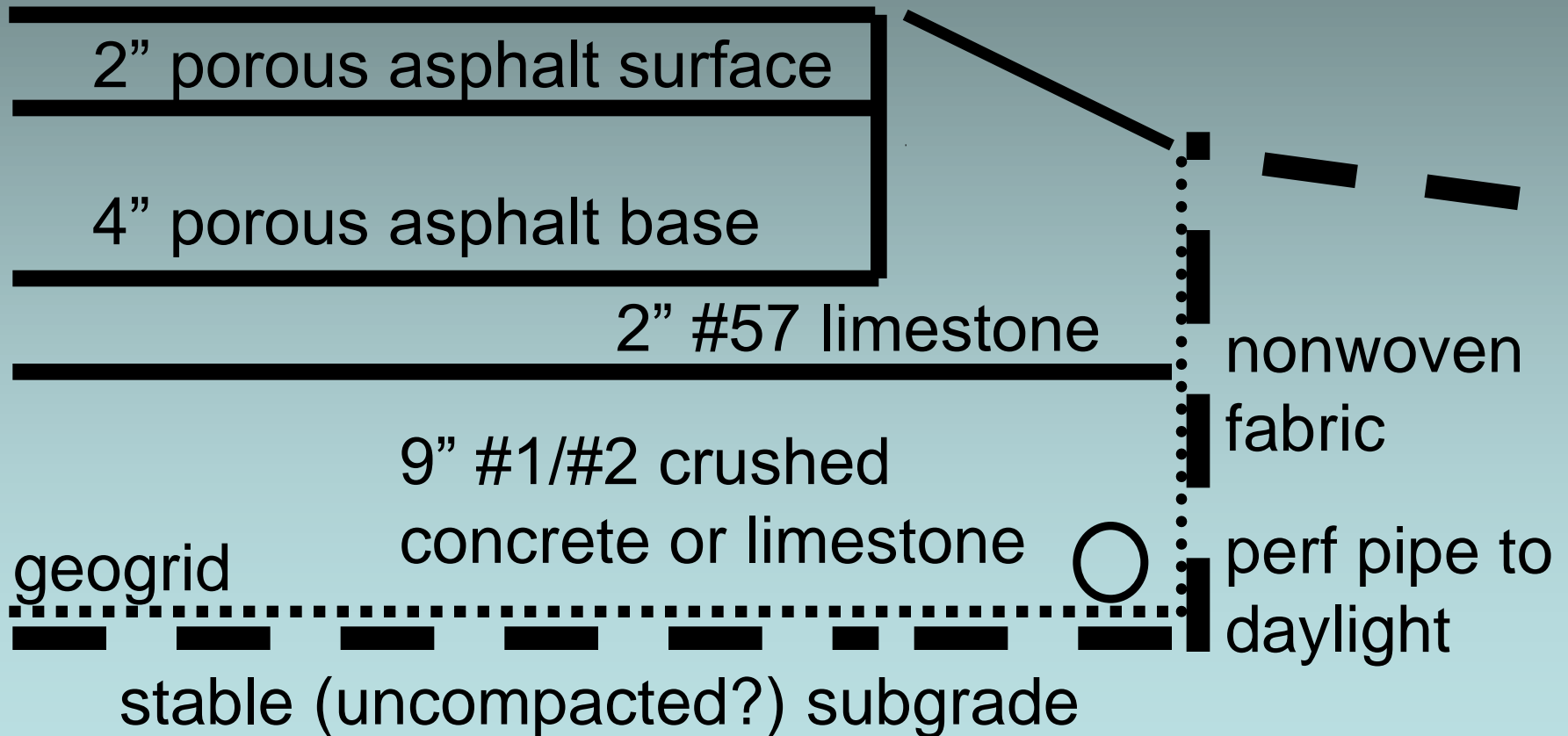
# Porous Asphalt Section







# Porous Asphalt Section



# Design

What do we do when we encounter weak or wet subgrade for “regular” asphalt?

What do we do when we need to reduce energy and stop erosion at pipe outlet?

D,D,D



IF YOU ARE DESIGNING TO MEET OTHER STANDARDS,  
YOU ARE PRACTICALLY DESIGNING FOR POROUS

# Design

- Surface and subgrade slopes and ADA

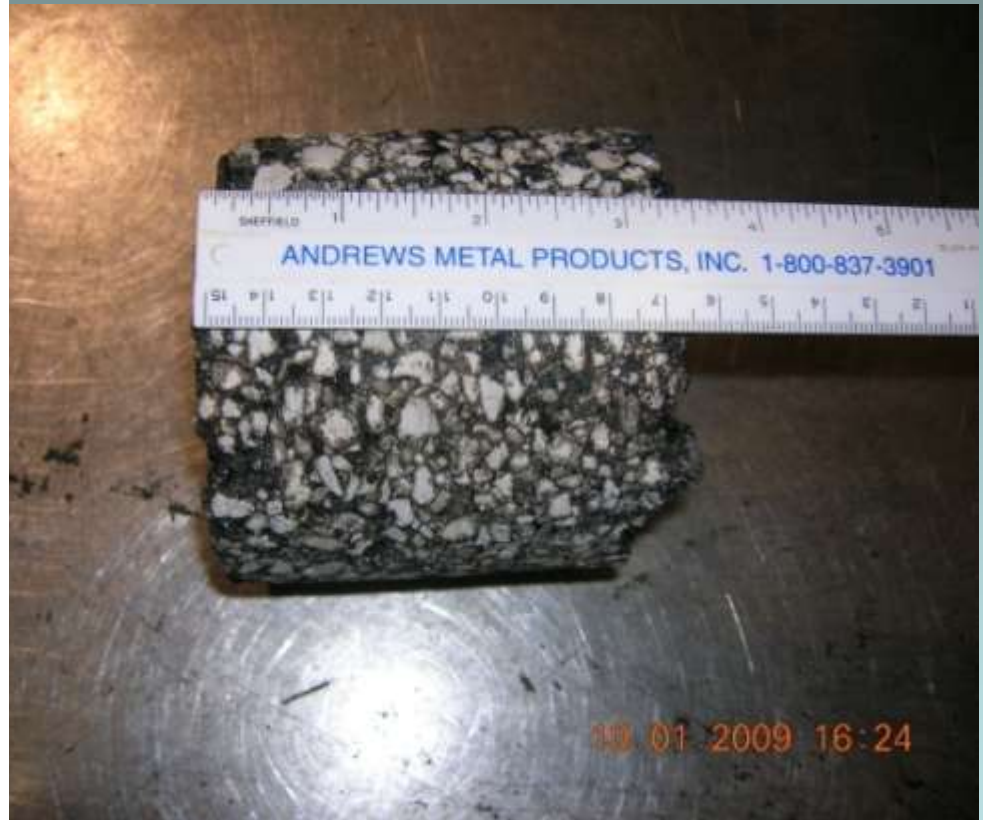
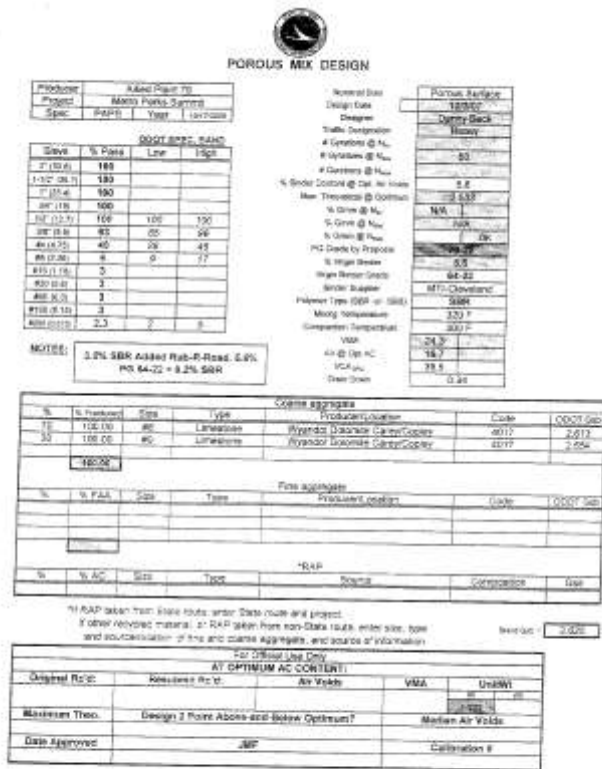


0% to 4% for  
porous pavement

5% max for ADA  
2% max in loading  
areas

IF YOU ARE DESIGNING TO MEET OTHER STANDARDS,  
YOU ARE PRACTICALLY DESIGNING FOR POROUS

- **Mix design/spec**
- **Don't reinvent the wheel!**
- **We use single 3" lift, considering two lifts.**





# Construction

- Experience counts!
- Work with FPO and others in the industry
- Communication with contractor and inspector
- Construction sequence
- Observe mix, temperature, compaction timing,  
compaction effort
- Cold joints
- Costs

# Construction Sequence

Prevent wash from adjacent areas

Project sequence to build porous parking last



# Construction Sequence



09/08/2011 13:15



# Construction Sequence

Prevent wash from adjacent areas

Project sequence to build porous parking last (not often practical)





# Placement & Compaction

Compact the mixture using a minimum of four (4) passes of a static tandem steel wheel roller having a minimum weight of 8 tons. Complete rolling before the mix temperature has dropped below 180 °F. (FPO spec)

**Keep trucks off!**



# Cold joints



# Cost

Standard duty asphalt drive

4,316 sy                      8 bids

\$25.44/sy - \$29.50/sy

1.5" 448

4.5" 301

6" 304

Porous asphalt parking

3,346 sy                      8 bids

\$27.24/sy - \$33.50/sy

3" porous asphalt

2" #57

9" #1/#2

geogrid



LIBERTY PARK 2011

# Cost

## Porous asphalt trail

1,500 sy                      6 bids

\$26.00/sy - \$35.00/sy

2" porous asphalt

8" #57      (6" #4 + 2" #57)

geogrid

## Porous asphalt parking

5,175 sy                      6 bids

\$28.70/sy - \$36.48/sy

3" porous asphalt

2" #57

9" #1/#2

geogrid



BRANDYWINE 2011



# Cost

Porous asphalt as bid  
5,175 sy  
\$31.00/sy

3" porous asphalt  
2" #57  
9" #1/#2  
geogrid

Improved section  
1,553 sy  
\$50.00/sy

(Not a large quantity,  
double mobilization,  
change order)

2" porous asphalt surface  
4" porous asphalt base  
2"+ #57  
9" #1/#2  
geogrid



BRANDYWINE 2011

# Performance



SAND RUN 2007



# Performance



# Performance





# Performance



# Performance





# Performance

Overflow pipe in  
heavy rain



# Maintenance

Sand Run –  
blow pine needles

KEEP IT CLEAN!

Nature Realm –  
(BRAND X)  
pollen is pasty

Springfield Bog –  
Tallmadge –  
Liberty Park –  
Brandywine -  
SO FAR SO GOOD!

Strong vacuum  
sweeper might be  
in our future





# Maintenance

Careful plowing

Use only salt for  
de-icing

**NO SEAL COAT!**



Clogging  
anyone???



# Clogging anyone???

Portland, OR study

100-yr storm:	2.5 in/hr
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New porous asphalt:	43 in/hr
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# Clogging anyone???



(BRAND X)



# Durability



SPRINGFIELD BOG 2010

# Durability

NO alligatoring (base failure, load)

NO rutting/shoving (mix)

NO pot-holing (base, tack)

NO frost-heaving (soil)

NO cracking at all! (base, load)

# Durability

NO alligatoring (base failure, load)

NO rutting/shoving (mix)

NO pot-holing (base, tack)

NO frost-heaving (soil)

NO cracking at all! (base, load)

***NO FAILURE BY WATER***

# LESSONS LEARNED

- Know the site and test soil – know infiltration rate & expectations for project
- If you're designing for stormwater compliance, ADA compliance, pavement structure, and LEED points, you are practically designing for porous
- Plan for overflow from base, even if small: D,D,D
- Consider using porous for drive lanes only
- Consider two-lift porous system



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Don't go it alone
- Good, experienced contractor is critical
- In context of a bigger project, cost difference for porous is small
- Keep it clean

# Sand Run – 2007

**Broke all the rules and it still works!**



# Sand Run – 2007

**Broke all the rules and it still works!**





**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**