OHIO ASPHALT PAVING CONFERENCE

41st Annual Conference



Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Fawcett Center

Campus of The Ohio State University 2400 Olentangy River Road Columbus. Ohio 43210

Sponsored by:

American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio

Asphalt Institute

City of Columbus

County Engineers Association of Ohio

Federal Highway Administration

Flexible Pavements of Ohio

Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio State University

Ohio University

Correcting Low Asphalt Pavement Friction

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Overview

- ► AC Pavement Surface Features which give us Friction
- Ideas about Friction Demand (How much friction do I need where?)
- ► How we figure out what's wrong when we have insufficient friction
- Information needed to pick a good corrective action (questions we need to answer)
- Corrective action options
- Questions

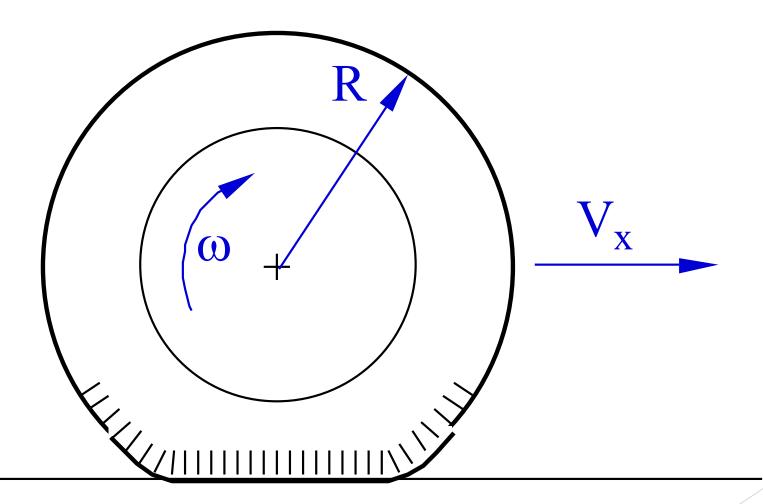
Features of Asphalt Concrete which contribute to Tire/Pavement Friction

Assuming no impediments to drainage and surface water run-off & only looking at the pavement surface contribution:

Tire/Pavement Friction and Grip (both wet & dry) is exclusively a function of the micro and macro texture of the pavement surface

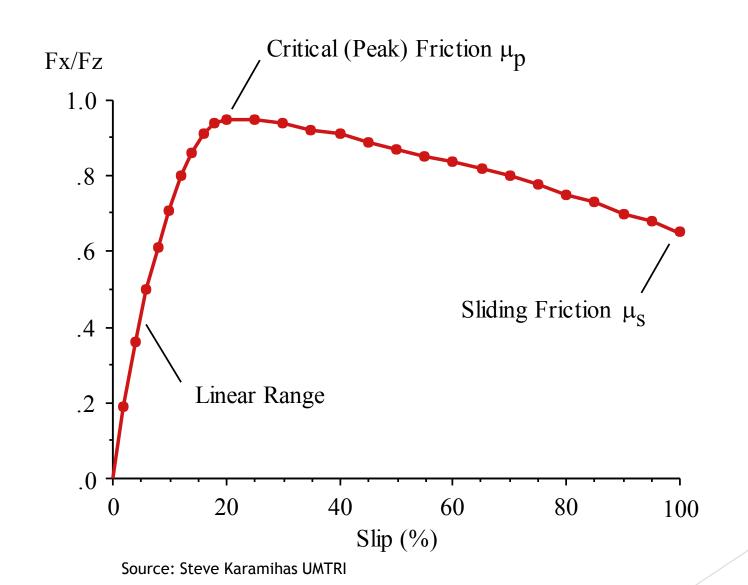
- Microtexture friction by "adhesion" or adhering to the tire
 - ► More easily felt than seen
 - ▶ Comes from the microtexture of the aggregate particles in the surface
- Macrotexture friction by "hysteresis" or deforming the rubber in the tire; also works with tire tread pattern to evacuate water and deter hydroplaning
 - Visible voids in the surface of the asphalt concrete mat
 - Degree of how tight vs. open the mix is

Tire in Contact with Pavement



Source: Steve Karamihas UMTRI

Tire/Pavement Friction



Friction Demand is Site Specific It's not one size fits all!

Highway Concerns

- Traffic Speeds
- Traffic Volumes
- Truck Volumes
- Congestion
- Geometry Curves vs. Flat/Straight
- Vertical Curves
- Sight Distances
- Propensity to Change Lanes
- Mainline vs. Ramps
- Intersections
- ► Ingress & Egress Opportunities

Operator/Vehicle Concerns

- Operator Alertness & Awareness
- Operator Reaction Time
- Vehicle Weight
- Design and Condition of Brakes
- Vehicle Suspension System
- Tire Age
- Tire Wear
- Tire Tread Pattern
- Tire Inflation Pressure
- ► Tire Design
- ► Tire Tread Rubber Compounds

Friction Demand

► Can Friction Demand change through time?

▶ If so, how or why?

I have insufficient available wet friction on a particular AC Pavement

How might we have determined that?

- Frequently Replaced/Repaired Barrier or perhaps Chevron Signs
- Maintenance Supervisor/Engineer or Highway Worker has told us
- J. Q. Public has told us
- ► Law Enforcement Officers have told us
- ► ITS cameras gave visual footage
- Crash Analysis: Crash Rate; Wet vs. Total Crash Rate; Fixed Object Crashes
- Suspicion: bleeding, flushing, lots of crack sealer, spill/contaminent, etc.
- Friction Evaluation Performed

Friction & Texture Evaluation

Evaluation Continuum

- Proven
- Standardized
- Formal
- Repeatable
- Expensive
- Objective
- Scientific
- At speed (no MOT)
- Very few service providers
- Scheduling hurdles

- Subjective
 - Informal
- Imprecise
- Very Inexpensive
- Requires some skill/experience
 - Quickly and Easily Learned
- Requires MOT (dodging traffic)
 - Spend some time at a given location
- Easily scheduled and performed

Friction/Texture Evaluation Higher End Example: ASTM E-274 Locked Wheel Friction Tester



ASTM E 274 Locked Wheel Friction Testing Units

$$SN = (Fh/Fv)*100$$

- SN skid number or friction number
- Fh horizontal force to drag locked wheel
- Fv vertical or load force on locked wheel
 - r subscript for ribbed test tire
 - s subscript for smooth test tire

standard test speed = 40 mph

ASTM E-501 (Ribbed) Test Tire



ASTM E-524 (Smooth) Test Tire



Friction/Texture Evaluation Higher End Example: ASTM E-274 Locked Wheel Friction Tester

E-501 Ribbed Tire

More Sensitive to Microtexture as Ribs evacuate Water

E-524 Smooth Tire

Sensitive to both Micro and Macrotexture - Relies on Pavement to evacuate Water

Response from both test tires yields an indication that the friction problem is insufficient microtexture, or insufficient macrotexture or both



Friction/Texture Evaluation Lower End Example: Yukon Cornelius Method

Based on Optical and Contact Sensors

- Eyeballs
- Fingertips
- Foot and Shoe Sole

Examine and compare the Wheel Tracks, Outside the Wheel Tracks, and the Shoulder

- > Close careful visual inspection & comparison
 - > Shiny vs. dull; variation in "tightness" or "openness"
- How do the three areas feel to the fingertips?
- How do the three areas feel to the sole of the shoe (preferably when wet) note: some shoe soles are rubber





OK, I have a problem, How do I determine what to do about it?

- From evaluation, what's the problem: micro, macrotexture, or both?
- What aggregates do I have in the mix?
- ► How is my binder? Bleeding, flushing, tighter in the wheeltracks?
- Is the surface contaminated? Crack sealer, tar, or perhaps a spill?
- ▶ What is my traffic like? Speeds, vehicle mix, congestion?
- ► How much life do I want or need to get out of the fix? When is it programmed for a surface treatment? Can I bump it ahead in the que?
- How old is the surface?
- Will weather prevent or delay an immediate fix?
- How much \$ do I have to correct the problem?
- ► How severe is my problem? Do I need to do a cheap/short term fix now to get by until \$ and/or weather allows for a long term fix?

What are my treatment options? Like Friction Demand, It's not one size fits all!

Mechanically Change the Surface (scuff it up)

- Carbide Milling
 - Micro Milling
 - ► Fine Milling
 - Conventional Coarse Milling
- Diamond Grinding
- Diamond Grooving
- Shot Blasting

Cover Up the Surface

- Micro Surfacing
- HMA Overlay
 - Traditional Mill & Fill or Straight Overlay
 - Fine Graded Polymer Overlay (424B aka "smoothseal")
 - Open Graded Friction Course
- Chip Seal
- High Friction Surface Treatment (Epoxy Binder with Calcined Bauxite Chips)



Photo courtesy of Aidan McDonnell BOCA Construction Inc.



Photo courtesy of John Roberts of the IGGA









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- If mix is too rich then this is not a good option.
- If the coarse aggregate is soft or prone to polish, then the improvement could be short lived.
- Can be a long term fix if you have a stable mix with polish resistant aggregates.

Cover Up the Surface

- Weather/time of year can limit or prevent your choices.
- Don't use the same surface mix or you will get the same result.
 - Look at mix design, aggregates and binder.
 - What do I change to get more micro and/or macrotexture?
- ► Emulsion, HMA, or HFST?

Review

- ► For the Pavement side of Friction, it's all about the micro and macro texture of the surface (if surface water runs off)
- Friction Demand (what's needed) varies and is site specific
- ► Some kind of evaluation is necessary to tell us if the problem is with micro, macro texture or both
- ► You need to gather lots of different information in order to pick a good solution; fix is not one size fits all
- Corrective action options: scuff it up or cover it up

Questions

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