

Problem:

Surface cracking

# Success Story: Thin Lift Overlay

Solution:

Thin lift overlay

In Claiborne County, TN, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) determined that a stretch of S.R. 63 had become severely distressed. As a means of standardizing repairs, TDOT employs the Pavement Quality Index (PQI) to determine road quality. The scale runs from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest “stage” of road quality. A length of 4.4 miles had fallen below 3.7 on the PQI, their threshold, indicating a need for repair.

The road was affected by light to moderate surface cracking. Contractors were instructed to choose an application from the TDOT Pavement Preservation toolbox that would provide the desired life extension for the least amount of money. Two methods, micro surfacing and thin lift overlay, matched TDOT parameters, and the TDOT and contractors decided to move forward with a thin lift overlay.

The treatment would only cost about \$241,277, or about \$2.26/sq. yd., which TDOT found to be well within their budget. The thin lift overlay was applied to the 4.4-mile stretch of road and sealed the surface cracks. The treatment extended the lifespan of the roadway by six to eight years.

Five years after the application, the roadway is still in good condition, and TDOT is very satisfied with the results.

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