

Problem:

Rutting and
cracking

Success Story: Cape Seal

Solution:

Cape seal

Louisiana's US Route 84 was suffering from extensive pavement wheel path rutting and shoving. To correct the problem, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) provided a budget of \$2.25 million to execute repairs for the 17.5-mile length of road.

Pavement engineers determined that the best course of action was to use a combination of micro surfacing, a cape seal and hot mix asphalt to repair the road. Micro surfacing would have been sufficient to address the ruts, but the road was also suffering from cracking that required a chip seal treatment. To rectify this, a cape seal was applied, which is a combination of chip seals and micro-surfacing treatments. Other areas on the road were suffering from shoving due to heavy truck traffic and constant braking; these areas required a treatment of hot mix asphalt.

A combination of all of these treatments was executed and is believed to have extended the lifetime of the roadway for an additional 10 years.

A LADOTD design engineer described the final state of the road by saying, "It gives us a smoother surface, improves skid resistance and makes our road maintenance dollars go further. We're very happy with it."

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