

Strategic Highway Research Program II R-26 Preservation Approaches for High Traffic Volume Roadways



STRATEGIC HIGHWAY
RESEARCH PROGRAM

In 2008, Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. (APTech) began conducting research to improve pavement preservation practice on high-volume roads as part of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) II Renewal focus area, which addresses the need to complete long-lasting highway projects with minimal disruption to the traveling public. The SHRP II Renewal Research has a focus of “applying new methods and materials for preserving, rehabilitating, and reconstructing roadways.”

Many state highway agencies have developed, or are developing, formal guidelines for preservation, pavement preservation centers, and regional partnerships to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices regarding pavement preservation. The practice of preservation on high-traffic volume roadways is not as well-documented as it is on lower volume roadways, but it is important to make the best use of limited funding, personnel, and equipment in managing pavements. In the long run, pavement preservation saves money and provides benefits to the traveling public, including safer, smoother roads.

Despite the challenges to the use of preservation strategies on high-traffic volume roadways, the benefits of practicing preservation make it worthwhile to take steps to increase or improve the practice of pavement preservation on these roadways. The ultimate outcome of this study was to develop recommendations that lead to higher volume roadways being maintained in serviceable condition for longer periods of time before rehabilitation is needed, at a lower cost, in a safer manner, and with less disruption to the traveling public. The findings from a nationwide questionnaire were used to develop pavement preservation guidelines for high-traffic volume roadways.