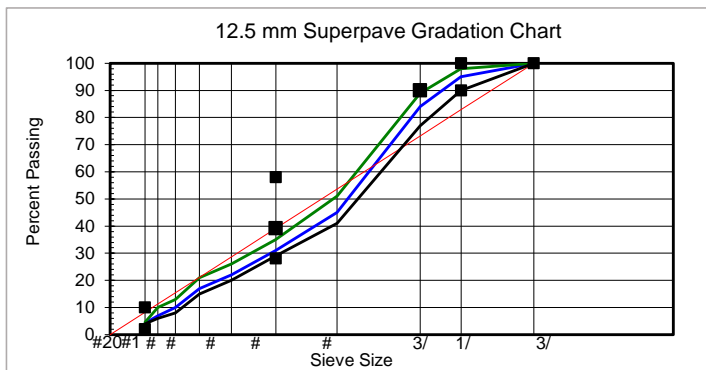


# Asphalt 101

**Jim Musselman**  
**State Asphalt Materials Engineer**  
**2026**

# Asphalt 101



Florida Department of Transportation

# Roadway System in Florida

- Total roadway network:
  - Over 275,000 lane miles of roads in Florida
    - ~78,000 centerline miles
  - Includes State Highway System, County Road System, and Local Roads
- State Highway System – Over 46,000 lane miles
  - Roads under the jurisdiction & maintained by FDOT
  - Includes: Interstate Highways, US Highways, State Roads and Toll Roads/Expressways



## State Highway System



Standard route markers in Florida



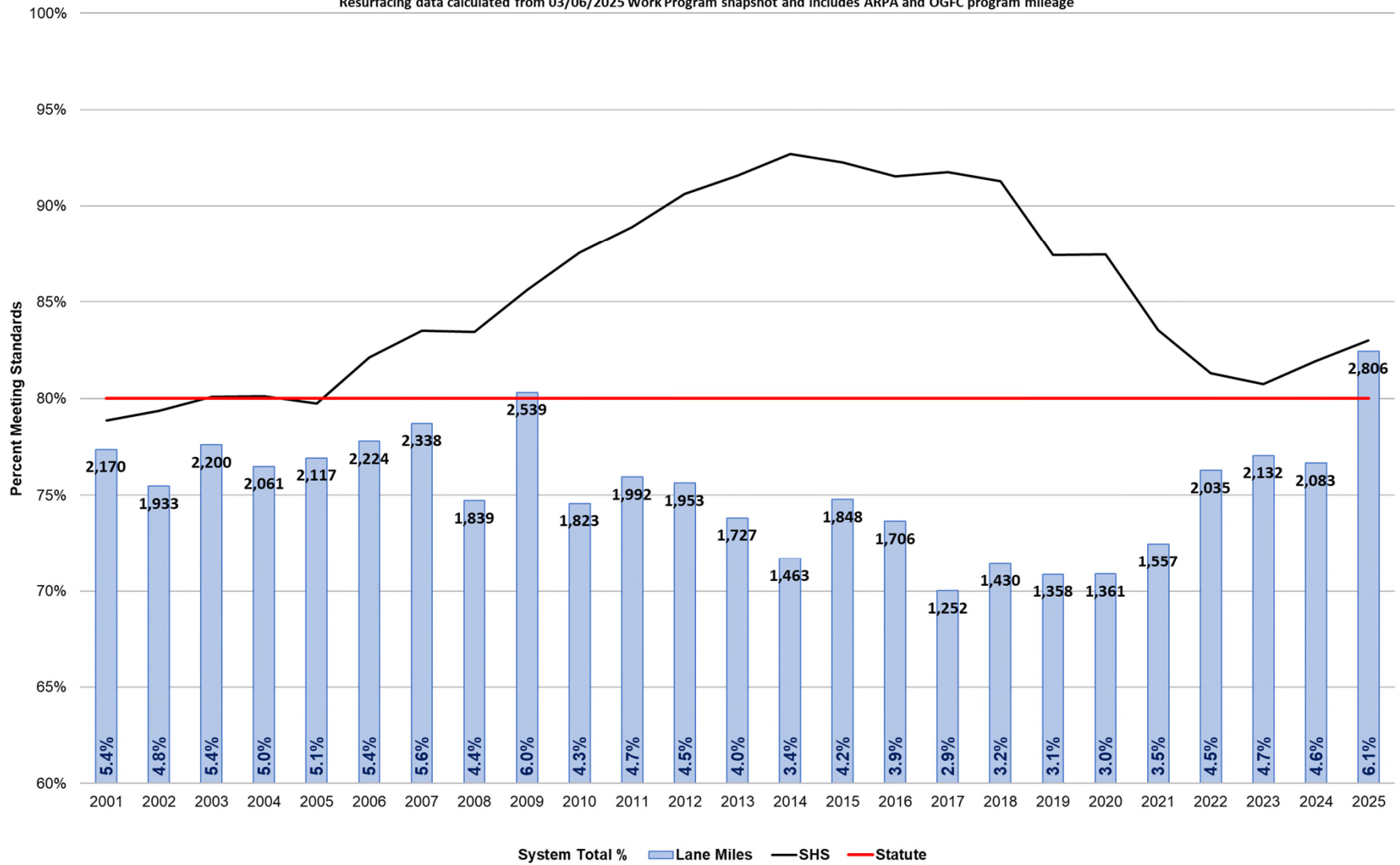
# State Highway System

- 46,031 lane miles
  - 8,861 Interstate lane miles (19.3%)
  - 34,588 Arterial lane miles (75.1%)
  - 2,582 Turnpike lane miles (5.5%)
- 43,888 lane miles of asphalt
  - 97.5% of pavements
- 2,143 lane miles of concrete
  - 2.5% of pavements



# State Highway System Lane Miles Resurfaced and Percent Meeting Standards

Resurfacing data calculated from 03/06/2025 Work Program snapshot and includes ARPA and OGFC program mileage



# What is in an Asphalt Mixture?

---

## Asphalt Binder

- Binds the aggregate together
- Provides...
  - the “glue”
  - lubrication for compaction
  - durability (resistance to cracking)
- The most expensive part of an asphalt mix
  - ~\$600 – \$800/ton

## Aggregate

- Provides the majority of the load carrying ability of the pavement.
- Needs to be strong, durable, consistent, clean, and available
- Cost ~\$25 – \$50/ton


## Other things:

- Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP), Stabilizing fibers, Hydrated lime, liquid anti-strip additives, warm mix additives



A close-up photograph showing a hand holding a glass bottle and pouring a thick, dark, viscous liquid (asphalt binder) into a shallow glass dish. The liquid is captured mid-pour, forming a thick stream that is about to hit the surface of the dish. The background is a dark, gradient blue.

# Asphalt Binder

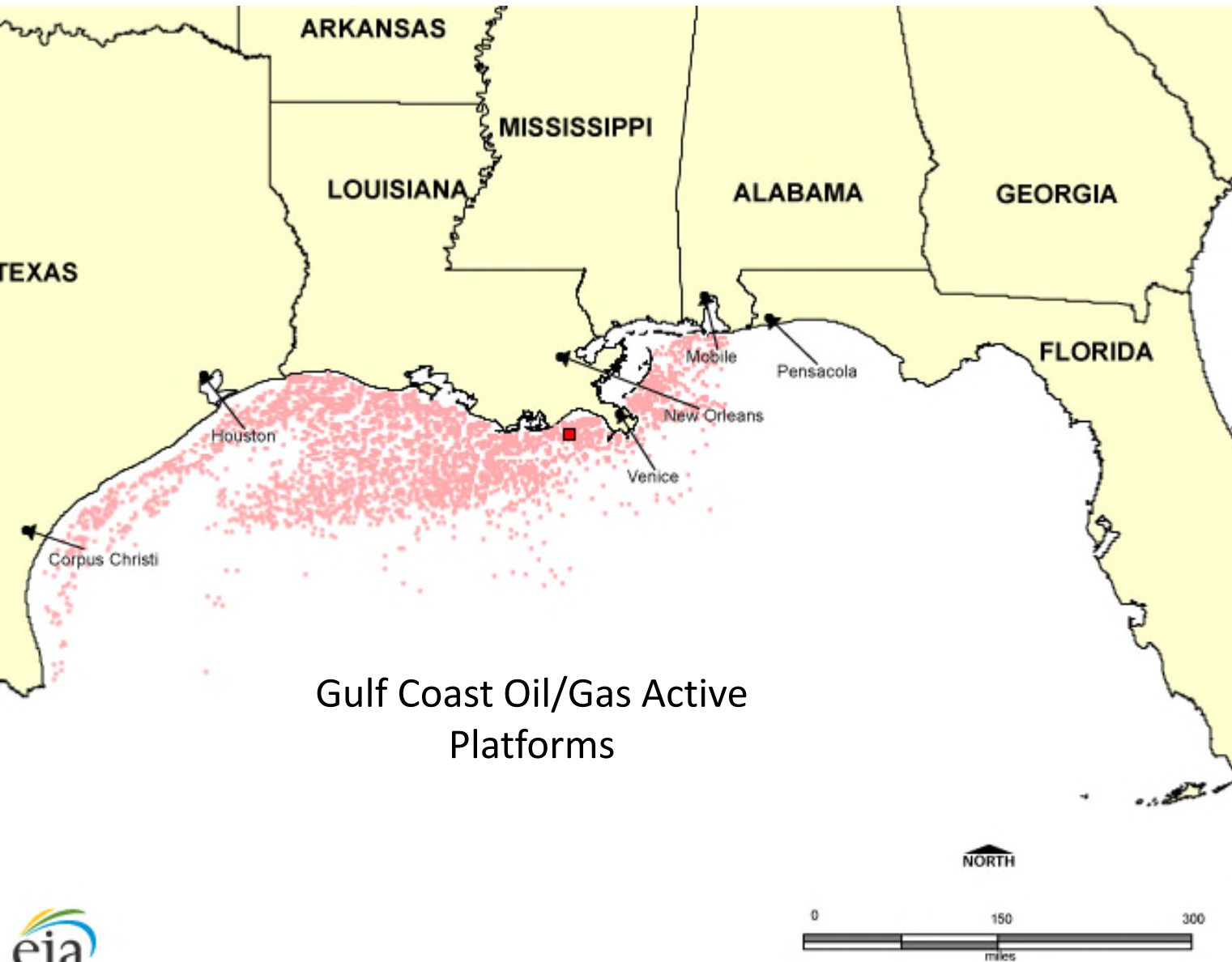


# Where does asphalt come from?

---

Crude Oil





## Gulf Coast Oil/Gas Active Platforms

Uncheck or check an item to hide or show it in the map.

- Electric Power Plants ( $\geq 100$  MW)
- Coal ▲
- Hydroelectric ◆
- Natural Gas ▼
- Nuclear ⬢
- Petroleum ●
- Wood 🌲
- Wind ⚡
- Other ●
- Electricity Transmission Lines ( $\geq 345$ kV) ———
- Electricity Transmission Lines ( $< 345$ kV) ———
- LNG terminals ✂
- Natural Gas Market Centers (Hubs) ✨
- Natural Gas Processing Plants ◆
- Natural Gas Interstate, Intrastate, and Gathering Pipelines ———
- Oil Import Site & Oil Seaports ✨
- Petroleum Refineries ■
- Propane Hub ✂
- Louisiana Offshore Oil Port ■
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves ●
- Oil/Gas Active Platforms ■

Show All Hide All

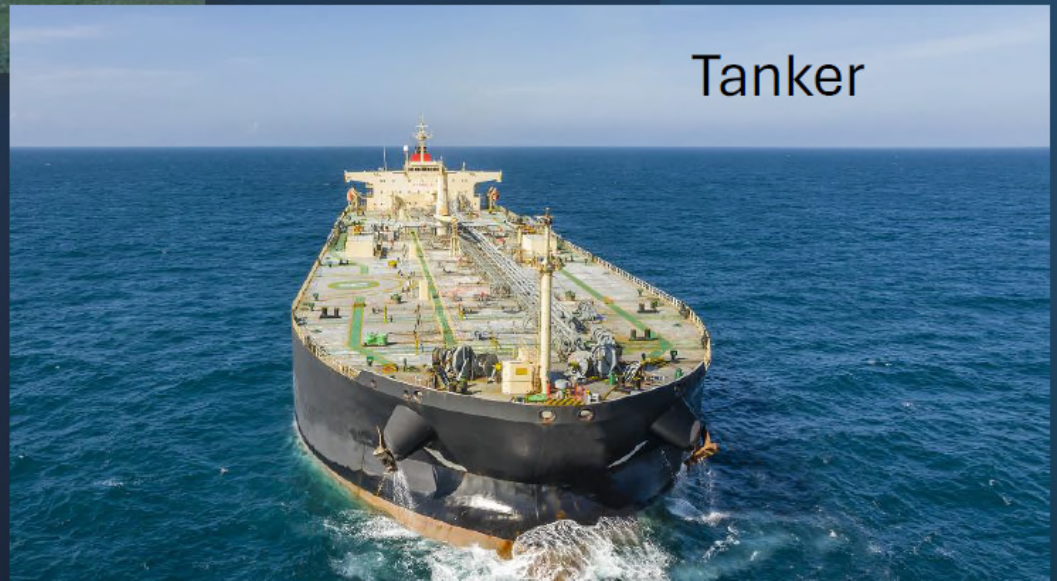


Pipeline



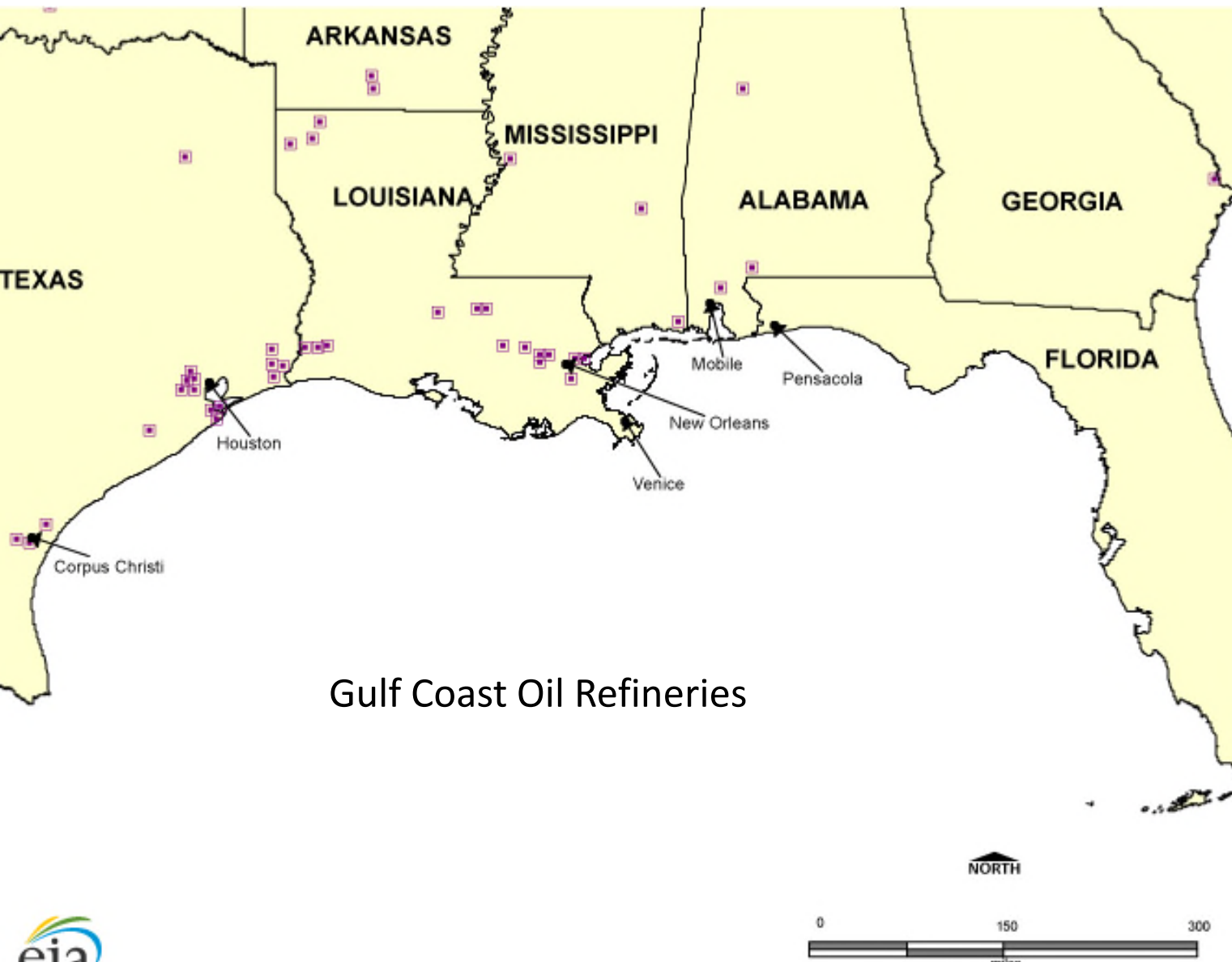
## Crude Oil Transportation

Tanker





Oil Refinery



## Gulf Coast Oil Refineries

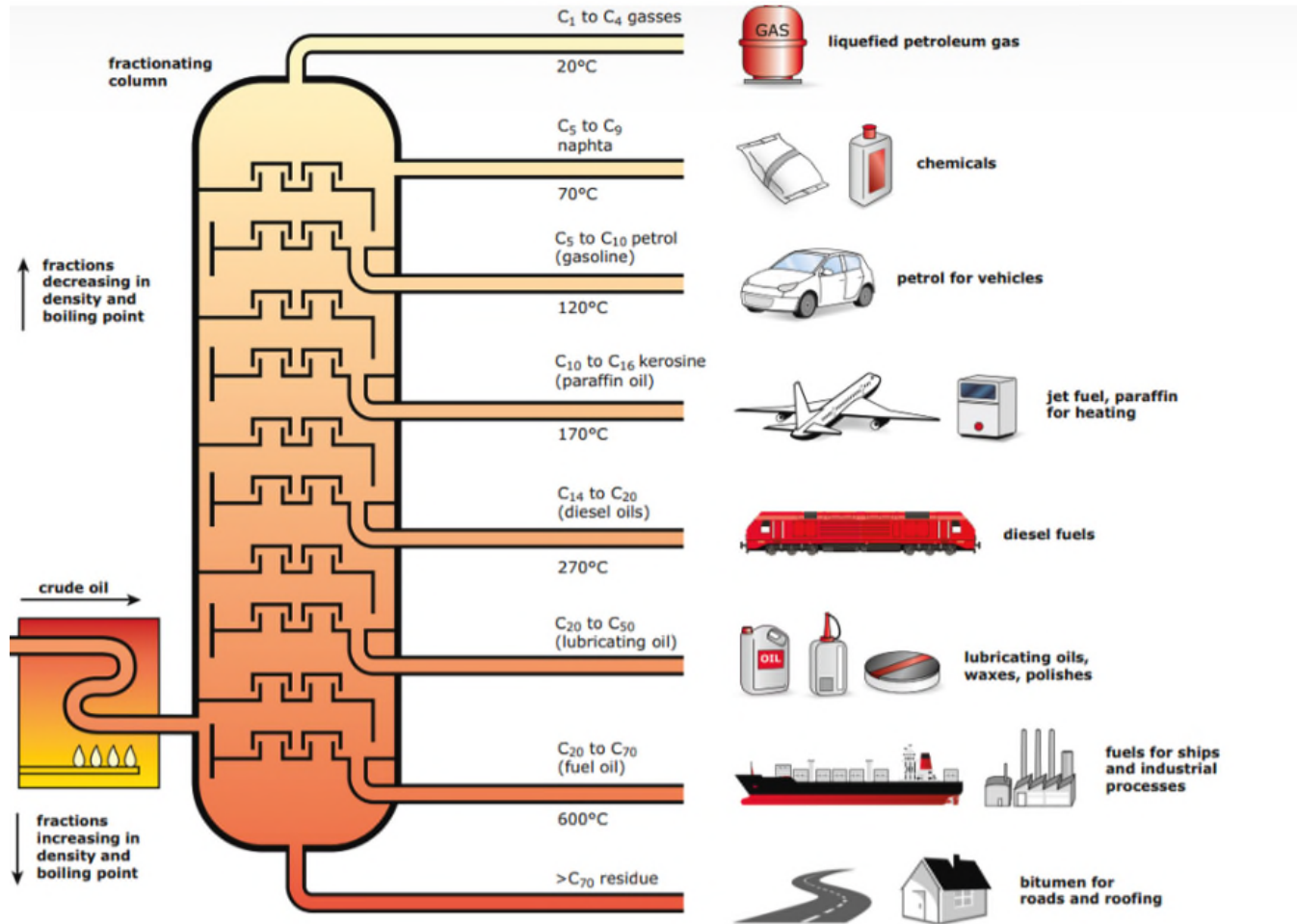
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- Electric Power Plants ( $\geq 100$  MW)
- Coal ▲ Petroleum ◆
- Hydroelectric ◆ Wood 🌲
- Natural Gas ▼ Wind ⚡
- Nuclear ☢ Other ●
- Electricity Transmission Lines ( $\geq 345$ kV) ———
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- Natural Gas Market Centers (Hubs) ★
- Natural Gas Processing Plants ◆
- Natural Gas Interstate, Intrastate, and Gathering Pipelines ———
- Oil Import Site & Oil Seaports ✦ 🚢
- Petroleum Refineries 🏭
- Propane Hub ✂
- Louisiana Offshore Oil Port ■
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves ●
- Oil/Gas Active Platforms ■

Show All Hide All



# Crude Oil Distillation Process



# Material Barged from Refinery to Terminal



# Rail Transportation



Florida Department of Transportation

# Asphalt Binder Terminal



# Asphalt Binder Terminal





Binder Terminal

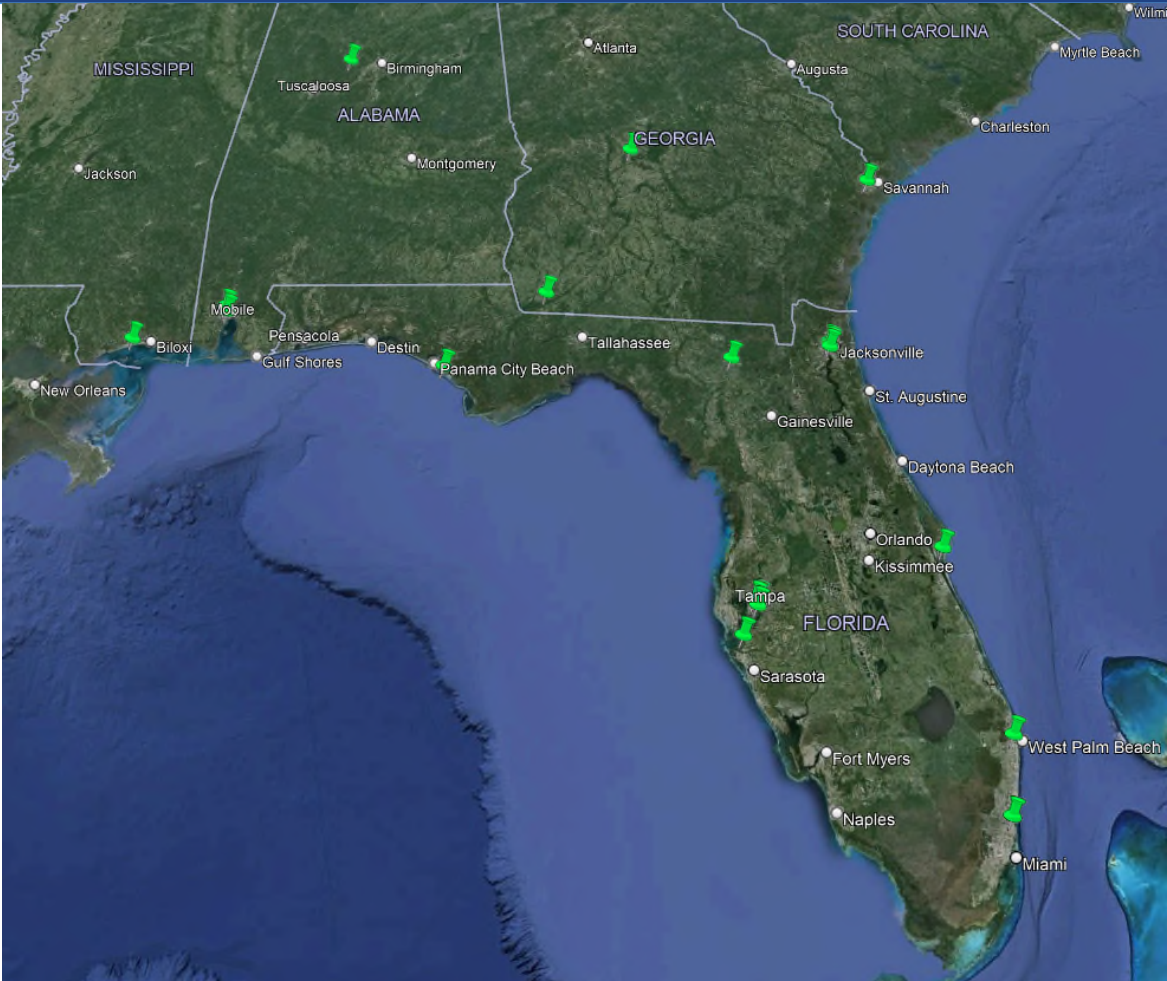


Binder Delivered to Asphalt Plant



Florida Department of Transportation

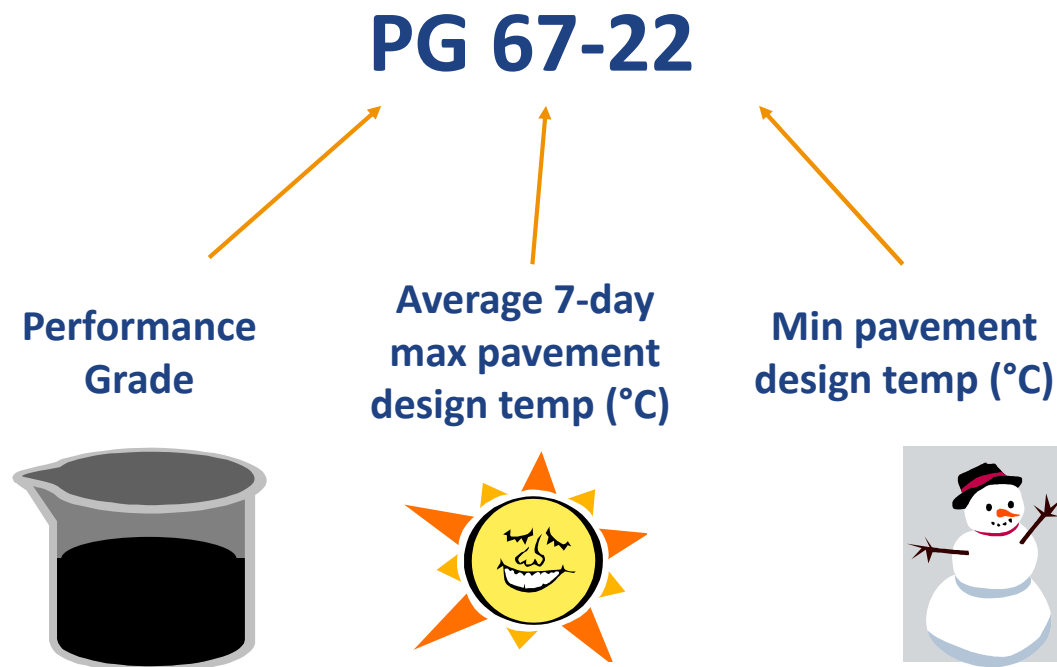
# Asphalt Binder Terminals in Florida



Florida Department of Transportation

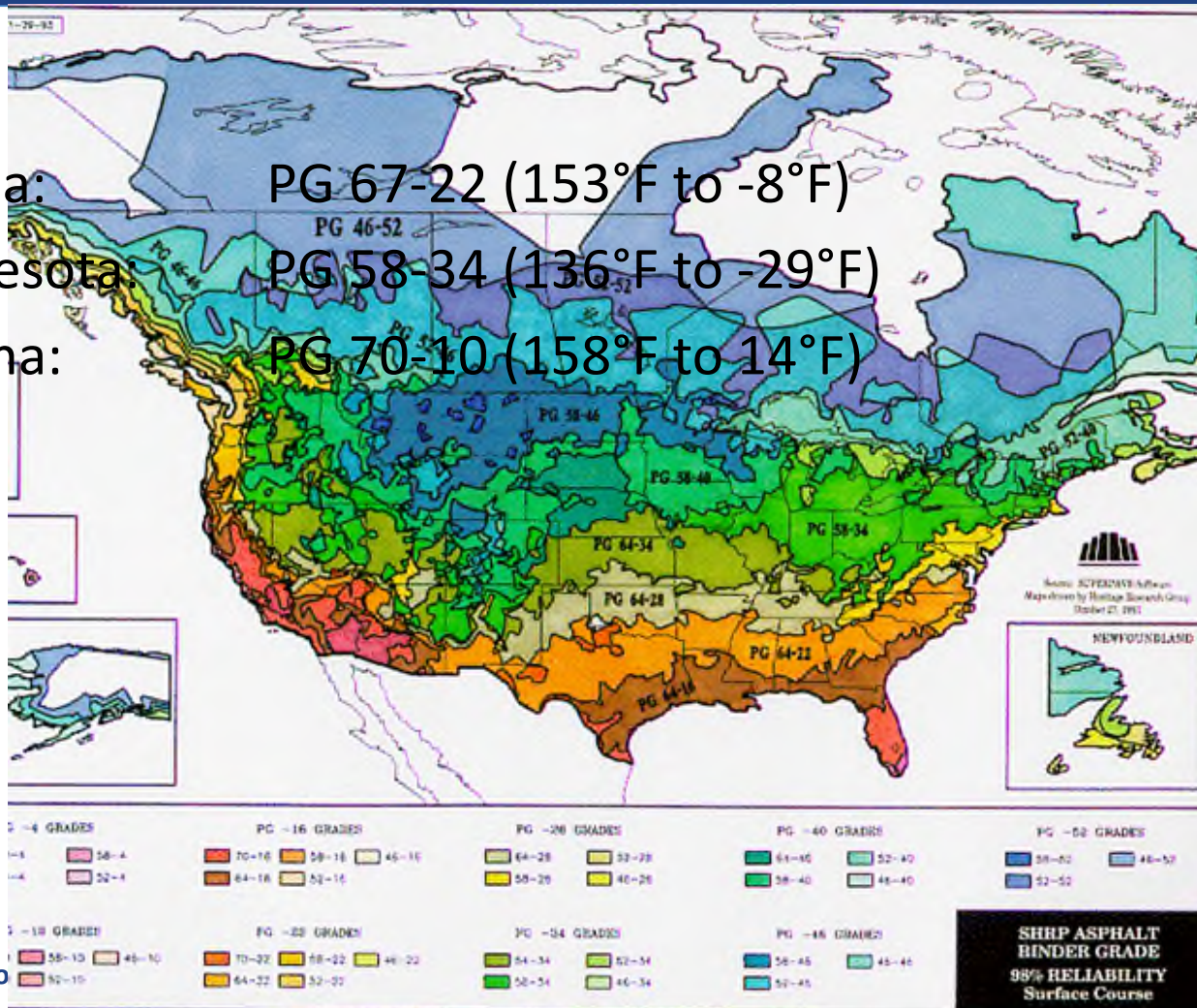
# Superpave Asphalt Binders

Grading system based on climate



# EXAMPLES OF PG GRADING SYSTEM

- Florida: PG 67-22 (153°F to -8°F)
- Minnesota: PG 58-34 (136°F to -29°F)
- Arizona: PG 70-10 (158°F to 14°F)



# FDOT Unmodified Asphalt Binders (Section 916)

---

- PG 67-22:
  - Used with 0 – 15% Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP)
- PG 58-22:
  - Used with 16 – 30% RAP
- PG 52-28
  - Used with > 30% RAP

Softer binders are used to offset the stiffness from the oxidized RAP binder



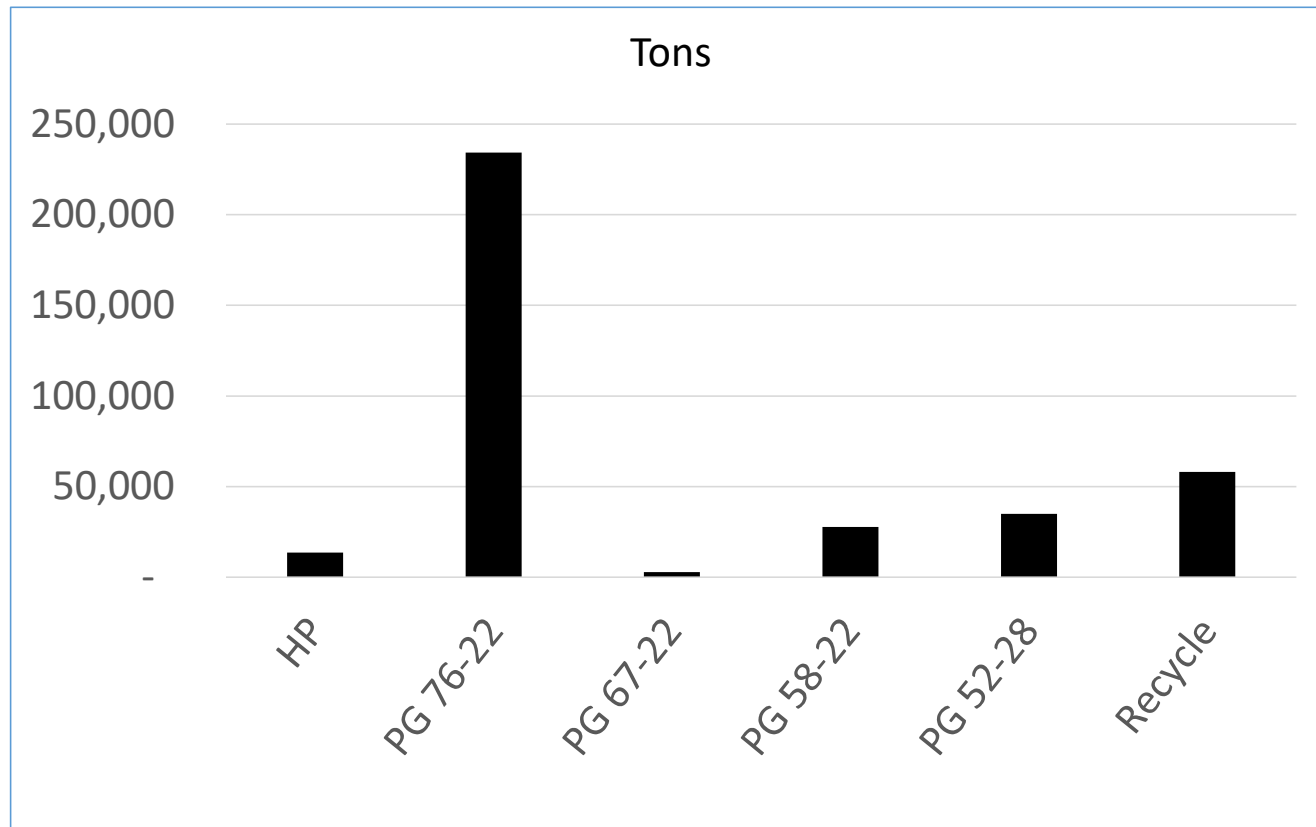
# Modified Asphalt Binders (Section 916)

---

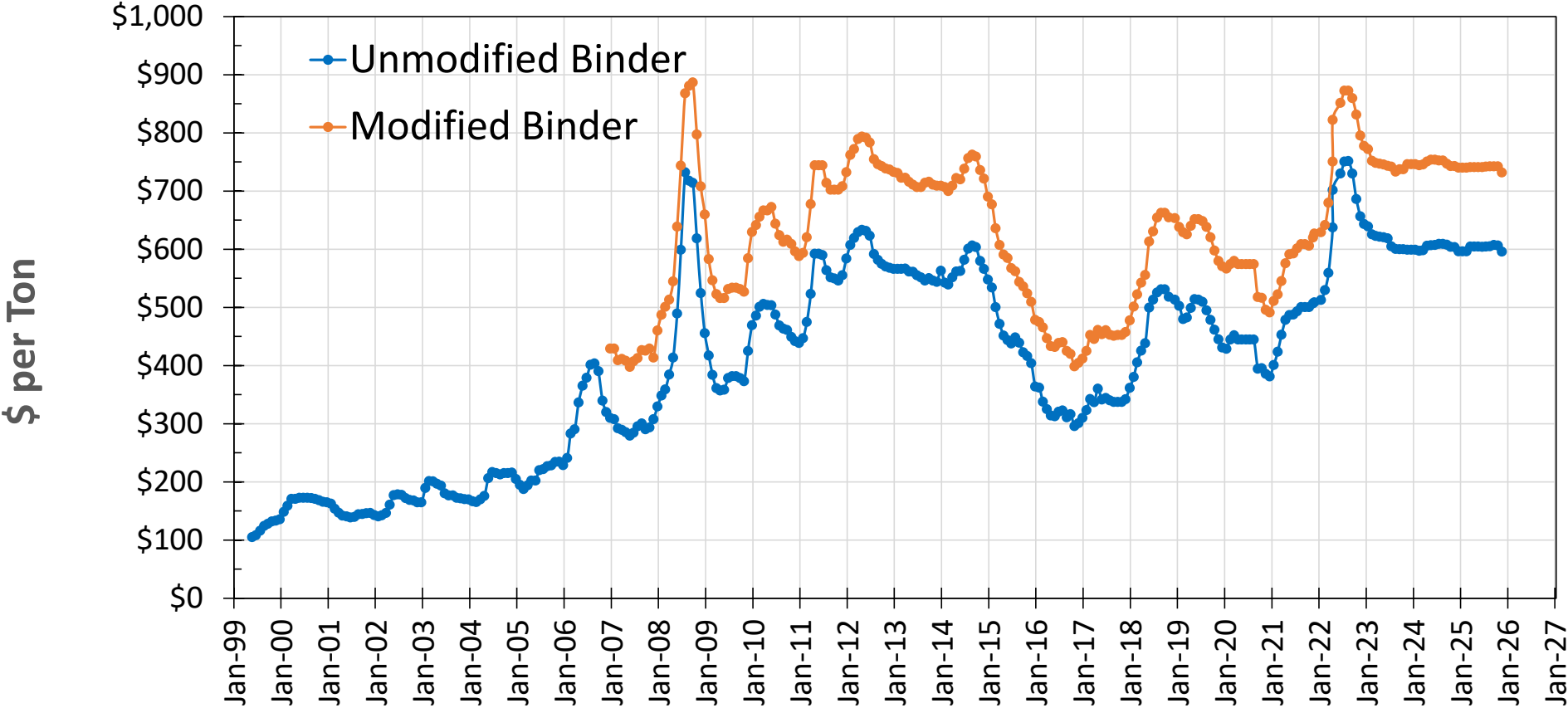
- PG 76-22 (PMA)
  - PG 67-22 base asphalt
  - Polymer Modified Asphalt
    - Styrene-Butadiene-Styrene (SBS) Polymer (~2-3%)
- PG 76-22 (ARB) – Not used
  - PG 67-22 base asphalt
  - Minimum 7% ground tire rubber (GTR)
  - Polymer modification optional
- High Polymer (PMA)
  - PG 58-22 base asphalt
  - Polymer Modified Asphalt ~ 7% SBS Polymer



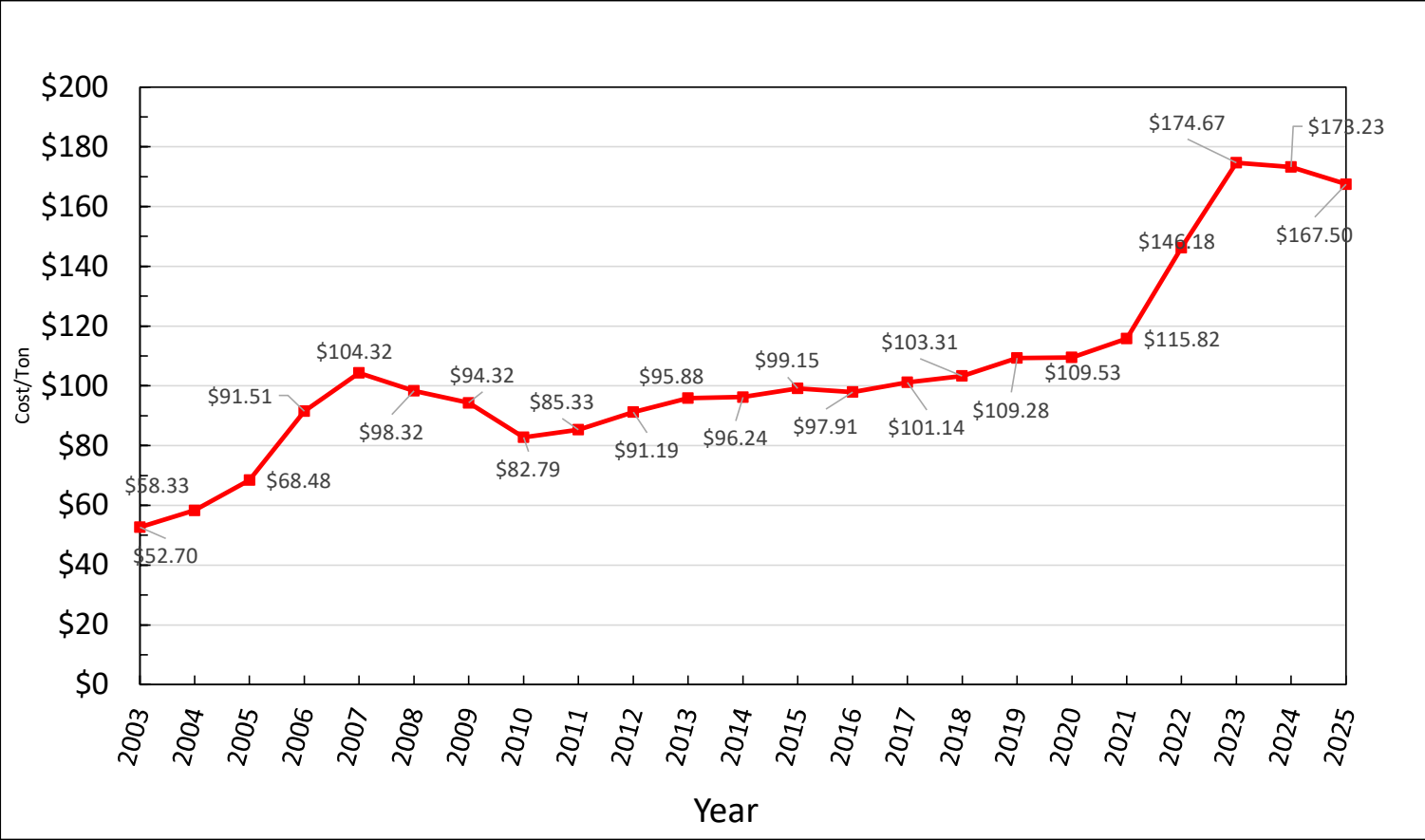
# Binder Tonnage (FY 24/25)



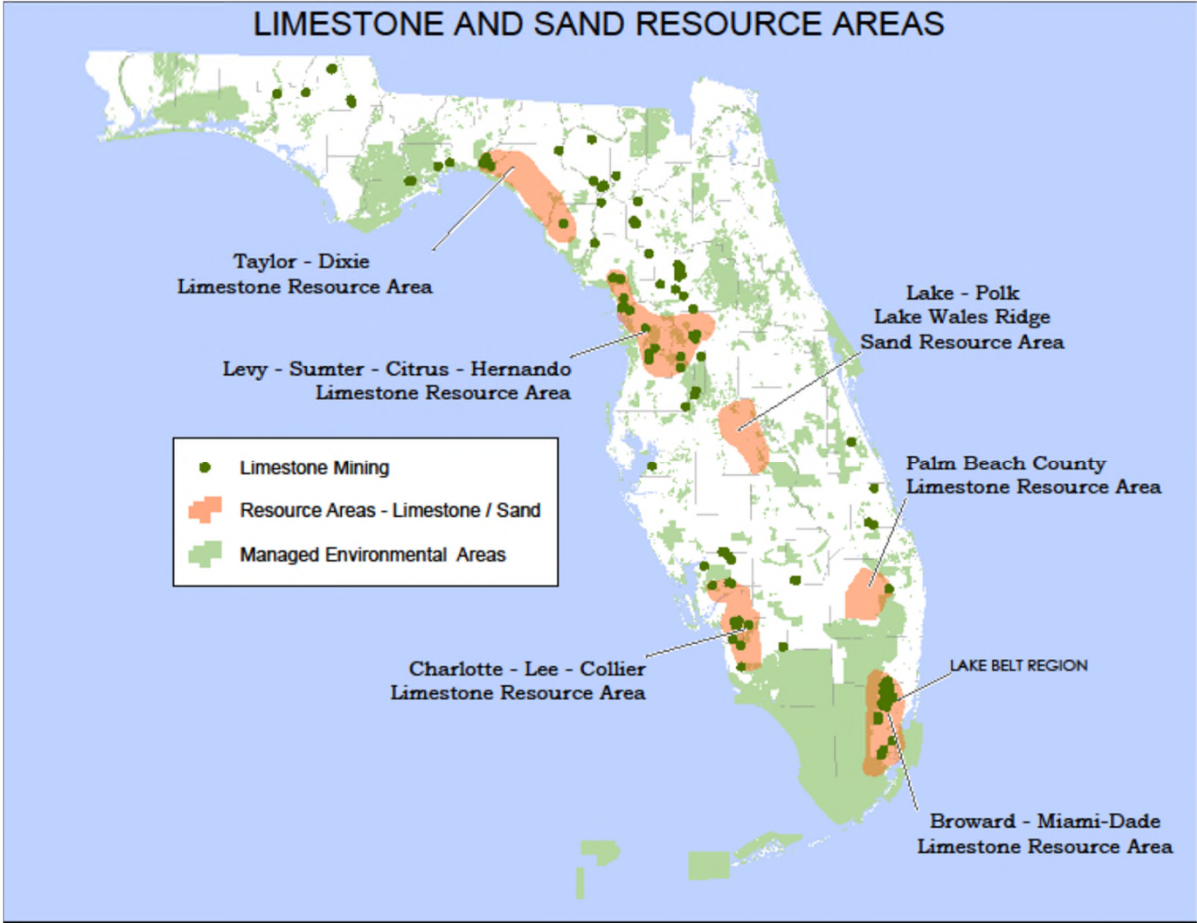
# Asphalt Binder Price Index (\$/Ton)



# Asphalt Mixture Average Cost (\$/ton)



# Aggregate



A large pile of light-colored, irregularly shaped limestone aggregate, likely used for construction or landscaping. The stones are densely packed and vary in size and shape, with some showing signs of weathering or crushing. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the top center of the image, containing the text "Limestone (Miami)".

Limestone (Miami)

# Granite (Georgia)

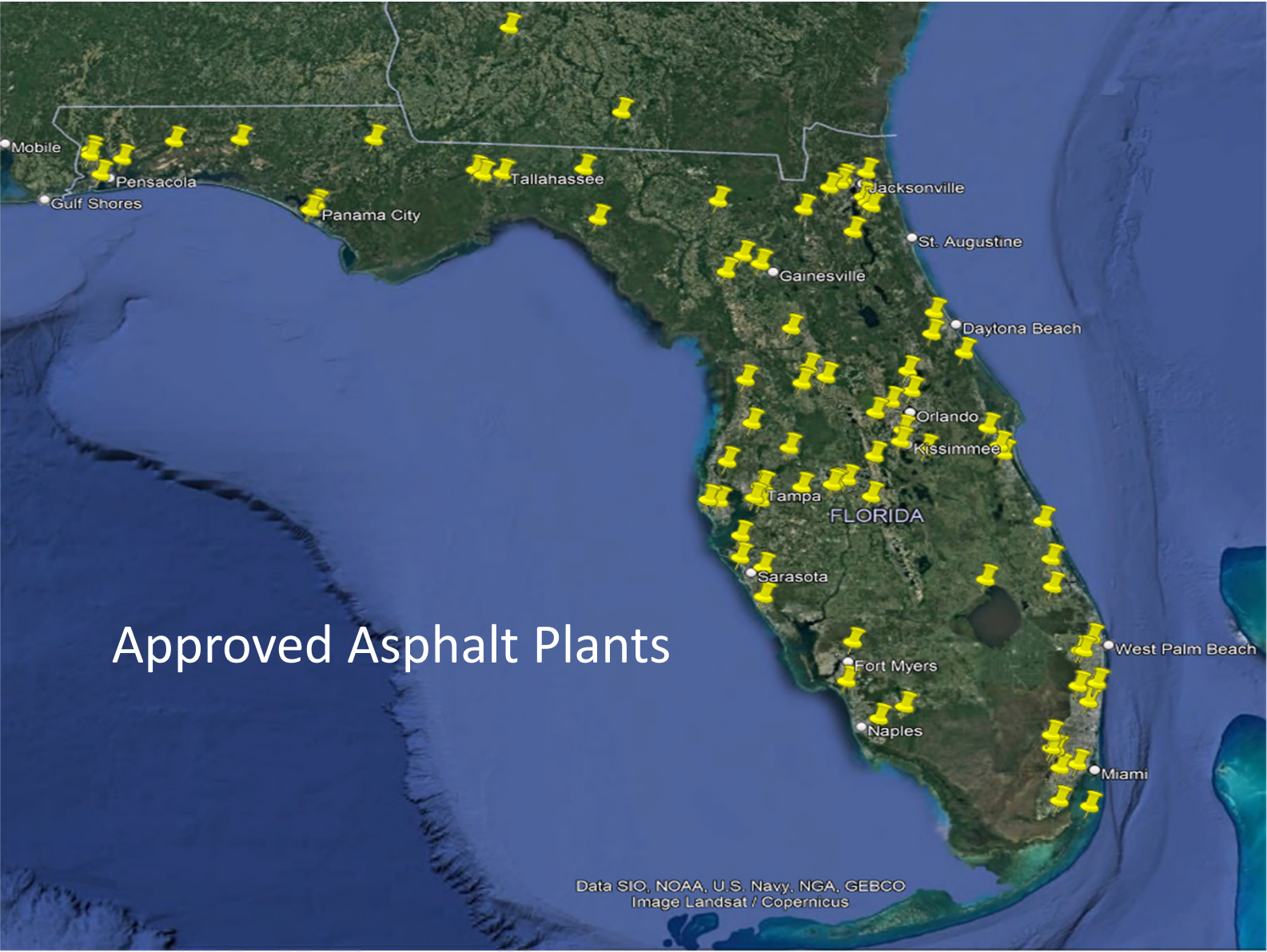




# Aggregate Mines and Terminals

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

The Bahamas



# Approved Asphalt Plants

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

# Asphalt Mixtures

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- Superpave Asphalt Concrete (Section 334)
  - Structural asphalt mixtures
  - SP-9.5, SP-12.5, SP-19.0
- Asphalt Concrete Friction Courses (337)
  - FC-9.5, FC-12.5
  - FC-5 & FC-7 (Open Graded Friction Course)
- Superpave Asphalt Base (234)
  - B-12.5

SP = Structural Course  
FC = Friction Course  
B = Base Course  
9.5, 12.5, 19.0 = Largest Aggregate size



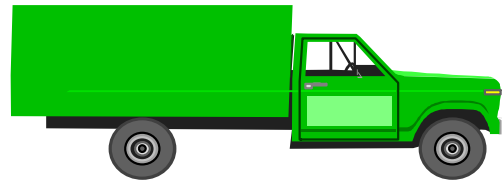
# Type SP Mixtures - Structural (Section 334)

---

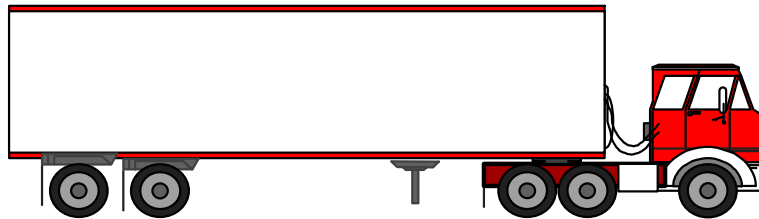
- Purpose: Load carrying portion of pavement
  - Superpave Mix Design
- Three mixes based on maximum aggregate sizes
  - 9.5 mm (SP-9.5)
  - 12.5 mm (SP-12.5)
  - 19.0 mm (SP-19.0)
- Three Traffic Levels (B, C, E)
  - Based on 18,000 lb. Equivalent Single Axle Loads (ESAL's)
  - Low traffic = B, High traffic = E



# ESAL Examples



$$\begin{array}{r} 15,000 \text{ lb} \\ 0.48 \text{ ESAL} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} 6,000 \text{ lb} \\ 0.01 \text{ ESAL} \end{array} = 0.49 \text{ ESALs}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 34,000 \text{ lb} \\ 1.10 \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} 34,000 \text{ lb} \\ 1.10 \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} 12,000 \text{ lb} \\ 0.20 \end{array} = 2.40 \text{ ESALs}$$

# Mix Design Traffic Levels

Traffic Level	ESAL's
B	0 to < 3 million ESAL's
C	3 million < 10 million ESAL's
E	≥ 10 million ESAL's

ESAL predictions are based on the design life of the pavement – typically 20 years.



**TL-B**  
0 to < 3 million ESAL's



## Traffic Levels

**TL-C**  
3 to 10 million ESALs



**TL-E**  
≥10 million ESAL's

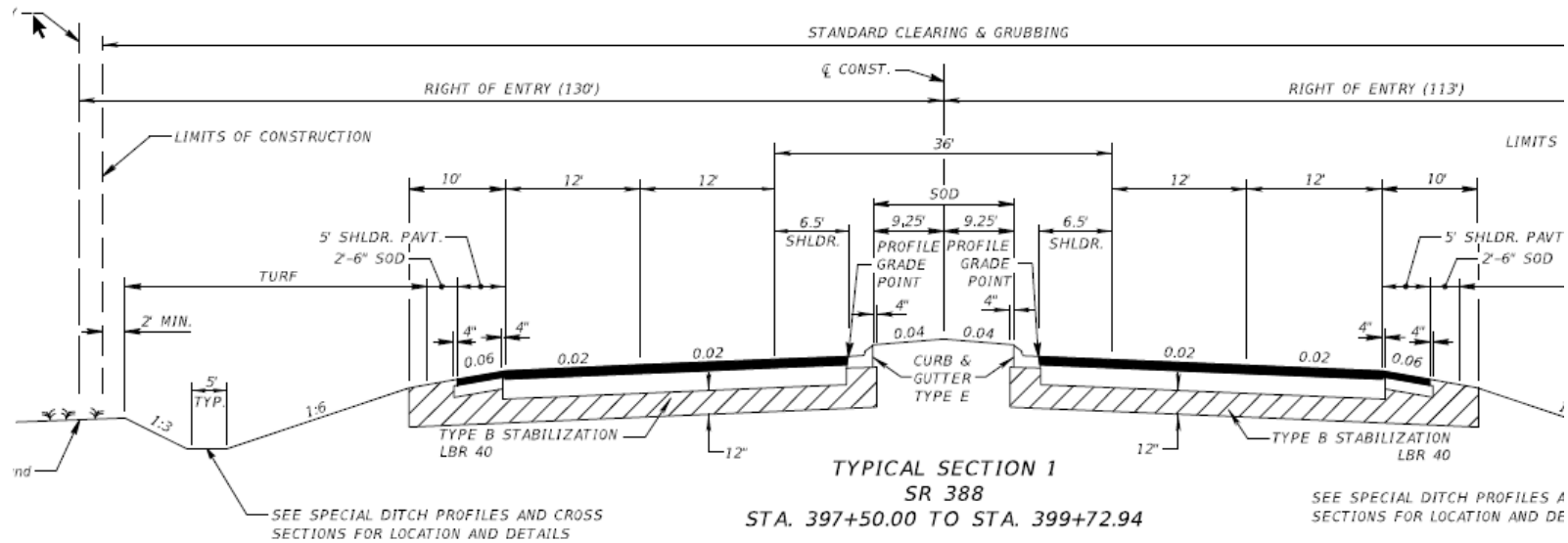


## Traffic Levels

**TL-E**  
≥ 10 million ESAL's



# Typical Section



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
 OPTIONAL BASE GROUP 9 WITH  
 TYPE SP STRUCTURAL COURSE (TRAFFIC C) (3 1/2") (PG 76-22)  
 AND FRICTION COURSE FC-5 (3/4") (PG 76-22)

**SHOULDER PAVEMENT**  
 OPTIONAL BASE GROUP 1 WITH  
 TYPE SP, STRUCTURAL COURSE (TRAFFIC C) (1 1/2") (PG 76-22)  
 AND FRICTION COURSE FC-5 (3/4") (PG 76-22)

**TRAFFIC DATA**  
 CURRENT YEAR = 2014 AADT = 4,500  
 ESTIMATED OPENING YEAR = 2020 AADT = 10,500  
 ESTIMATED DESIGN YEAR = 2040 AADT = 20,600  
 K = 9.0% D = 55.8% T = 11.7% (24 HOUR)  
 DESIGN HOUR T = 5.85%

CLEAR ZONE = 24' (50 MPH)  
 NOTE: DESIGN CLEAR ZONE DOES NOT APPLY  
 TO CLEAR ZONE WIDTHS FOR WORK ZONES.

# Traffic Level and Binder Type Shown on Plans

---

## *NEW CONSTRUCTION*

---

*OPTIONAL BASE GROUP 9 WITH  
TYPE SP STRUCTURAL COURSE (TRAFFIC C) (3½") (PG 76-22)  
AND FRICTION COURSE FC-5 (¾") (PG 76-22)*

## *SHOULDER PAVEMENT*

---

*OPTIONAL BASE GROUP 1 WITH  
TYPE SP, STRUCTURAL COURSE (TRAFFIC C) (1½") (PG 76-22)  
AND FRICTION COURSE FC-5 (¾") (PG 76-22)*



# Asphalt Mix Design

Mix design is the “recipe” that the contractor will use to produce their mixture

Contains some of the targets that are used for payment

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 ASPHALT MIX DESIGN - SPM 16-14835A (TL-C)

Owning Company Coastal Bridge LLC  
 Type Mix SP-9.5 Intended Use Of Mix Structural  
 Design Traffic Level C Gyration @ Ndes 75

Product	Description	Name	Production Facility	Plant/Mine	Terminal
334-CRUSHED	Crushed RAP Stockpile	1-16	Coastal Bridge LLC	AD139	
C54	51B Stone		Martin Marietta Aggregates	NS315	
F22	Screenings	Screenings	Martin Marietta Aggregates	NS315	
Sand	Sand				

PERCENTAGE BY WEIGHT TOTAL AGGREGATE PASSING SIEVES

Blend Product	20% 334-CRUSHED RAP	20% C54	45% F22	15% Sand	JOB MIX FORMULA	CONTROL POINTS	PRIMARY CONTROL SIEVE
3/4" 19.0mm	100	100	100	100	100		
1/2" 12.5mm	99	100	100	100	100	100 -	
3/8" 9.5mm	97	92	100	100	99	90 - 100	
No. 4 4.75mm	81	39	100	100	84	- 89	
No. 8 2.36mm	64	8	74	100	63	32 - 67	47
No. 16 1.18mm	53	4	47	100	48		
No. 30 600µm	46	2	30	95	37		
No. 50 300µm	34	2	17	80	27		
No. 100 150µm	18	1	10	35	14		
No. 200 75µm	8.3	1.0	5.0	2.0	5.9	2 - 10	
$\rho_{sp}$	2.614	2.625	2.580	2.644	2.605		

The mix properties of the Job Mix Formula have been conditionally verified, pending successful final verification during production at the assigned plant, the mix design is approved subject to F.D.O.T. specifications. JMF reflects aggregate charges expected during production.

Total Binder Content	5.7 %	Gmb @ Ndes	2.345	Effective Date	8/16/2016
Capilow Oven Corr. Factor	0.00	Gmm	2.442	Expiration Date	8/16/2019
(* To Be Accessed From Subcontract)					
Gmm Corr. Factor	-0.002	Va	4.0		
Mixing Temp. (Plant)	320 °F	VMA	15.1		
Compaction Temp. (Roadway)	320 °F	VFA	7.4		
Spread Rate @ 1"	106 lb/yd <sup>2</sup>	P-200/Poe	1.2		



Florida Department of Transportation

# Dense-Graded Friction Courses (Sections 337 / 334)

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- Good microtexture
  - Function of the aggregate
- Superpave mixes:
  - FC-9.5
  - FC-12.5
- Aggregate Types: Miami limestone, granite, basalt, gabbro, granitic gneiss, quartzite, shell rock
  - Polish resistant
- PG 76-22 (PMA) binder
- High Polymer binder when specified in the plans



# Open-Graded Friction Courses, FC-5 (Section 337)

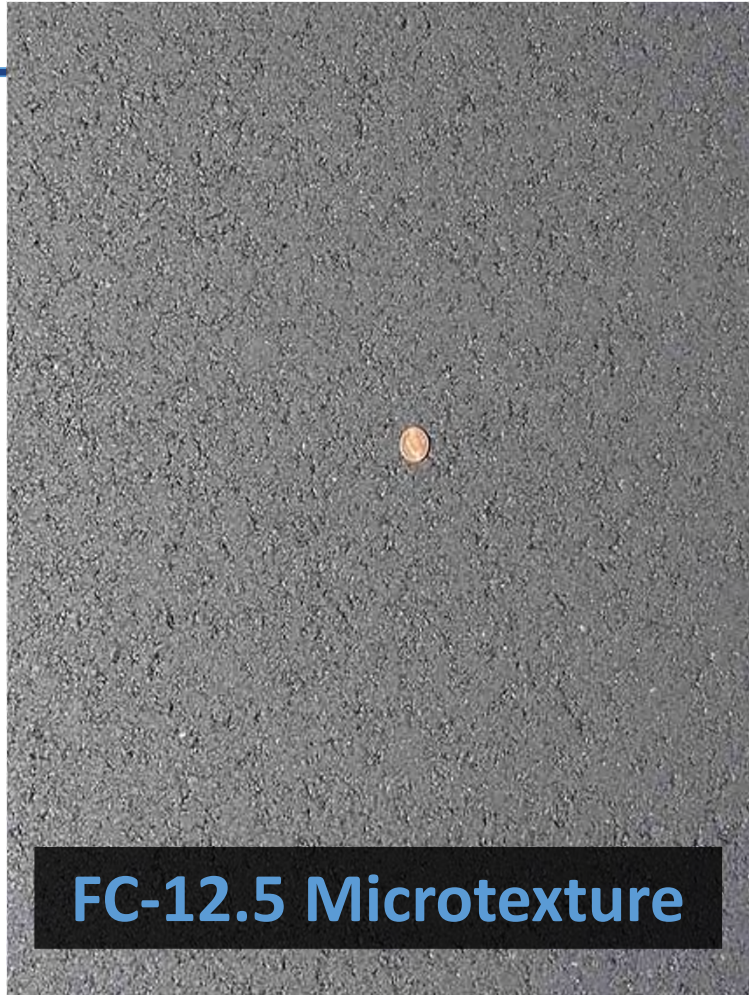
---

- Required on high-speed multi-lane facilities
  - Design Speed  $\geq$  55 mph
- Good macrotexture
  - Minimize hydroplaning
- 100% friction approved aggregate (No RAP)
- PG 76-22 (PMA)
- High Polymer binder when specified in the plans
- Stabilizing fibers (more asphalt, less draindown)
- Granite aggregate requires hydrated lime



## FC-5 Nassau County





**FC-12.5 Microtexture**



**FC-5 Macrotexture**

# Asphalt Surfaces

- 50.3% of asphalt surfaces are dense graded (by lane mile)
- 49.7% of asphalt surfaces are open graded



# Other Asphalt Mixtures

---

- Superpave Asphalt Base (234)
  - B-12.5
  - Traffic Level B
  - May substitute an SP-12.5 or SP-19.0
  - Paid by the square yard (285 – Optional Base)



# Questions/Comments?



Florida Department of Transportation