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Methods for Sealing Vertical Cracks on Concrete Structures

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cracks in concrete structures can occur for a variety of reasons. The nature and extent of cracks also vary with types of structure, exposure condition etc. Cracks can originate in concrete when it is in its plastic state as well as when it reaches the hardened state. Some cracks are superficial and shallow, and hence, only affect the exterior surface. These cracks are generally harmless in nature. Others, however, may lead to significant structural distresses with problems threatening the durability of the structure. Regardless of the cause or extent of the crack, effective and durable repair techniques are absolutely necessary to determine the selection of appropriate repair procedures that take the root causes into account; otherwise, the repair serves as a shortterm fix that does not resolve the cause of cracks and not able to efficiently treat the cracks. The main objective of this study is to document the best practices for sealing cracks in concrete structures, especially substructures. Since the substructures cannot be routinely inspected, the existence and extent of the cracks cannot be investigated thoroughly.

FDOT had limited success in sealing vertical cracks in concrete structures, especially on large projects. The agency adopted routing of cracks and filling with epoxy or viscous materials. However, for some deep cracks with narrow widths, the epoxy or viscous sealants do not penetrate deep enough to fill the necessary volume of the crack. Other existing problems include the cracking of the sealant itself, UV aging, and debonding, that allow penetration of water to the inside of the structure and threaten its functional and structural integrity. So, it was necessary to investigate the performance of different sealant types and application methods to address the concern of proper crack sealing in the concrete substructures that cannot be routinely investigated.

In this study, an extensive literature review was conducted. In addition, a targeted evaluation of the most commonly used concrete crack sealant products was conducted based on the information gathered from a survey directed to the state highway agencies within U.S. and Canada. Based on the literature review and survey data analysis, recommendations were developed that can be used as an internal guidance document to update the FDOT Standard Specification 400-21.

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1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Cracking in concrete structures can be attributed to a range of causes. The manifestation and severity of cracks are contingent upon the type of structure, environmental conditions, and other factors. Cracks can originate in concrete when it is in its plastic state as well as when it reaches the hardened state. Some cracks are superficial and shallow and only affect the exterior surface. These cracks are generally harmless in nature. Others, however, may lead to significant structural distresses with problems threatening the durability of the structure. Regardless of the cause or extent of the crack, effective and durable repair techniques are absolutely necessary to determine the selection of appropriate repair procedures that take root causes into account; otherwise, the repair serves as a short-term fix that does not resolve the cause of cracks and not able to treat the cracks efficiently. The main objective of this study is to document the best practices for sealing cracks in concrete structures, especially substructures. Since the substructures cannot be routinely inspected, the existence and extent of the cracks cannot be investigated thoroughly.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

FDOT had limited success sealing vertical cracks in concrete structures, especially on large projects. The agency adopted routing of cracks and filling with epoxy or viscous materials. However, for some deep cracks with narrow widths, the epoxy or viscous sealants do not penetrate deep enough to fill the necessary volume of the crack. Other existing problems include the cracking of the sealant itself, ultraviolet (UV) radiance-related aging, and debonding, which allow air, water, and contaminants (e.g., chloride ions) penetration to the inside of the structure and threaten its functional and structural integrity. So, it was necessary to investigate the performance of different sealant types and application methods to address the concern of proper crack sealing in concrete structures that cannot be routinely investigated.

3 LITERATURE REVIEW

An extensive literature review was performed to study the state-of-the-practice and state-of-theart for sealing cracks in concrete structures at the local and global levels. Details on crack sealant types, application methods, type, and extent of associated cracks, as well as the necessary pretreatments for the cracked structures, were documented. The significant findings from the literature search are highlighted in this section of the report.

3.1 Causes of Cracks on Concrete

Cracks in concrete structures develop due to factors either in the pre-construction phase or during construction. Pre-construction is a critical phase of a construction project that takes place before the actual construction begins and usually involves planning and organizing the project, developing a budget and schedule, and identifying specifications and mitigating risks. Different causes of cracks in concrete are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Common Causes and Mitigation Techniques of Concrete Cracking (ACI Report

224.1R, 1998)

Stage of Construction	Causes of Cracking	Crack Mitigation Techniques
Pre-Construction	Corrosion of reinforcement	Use low-permeability concrete, stirrups, and adequate cover. Using innovative additives like carbon fiber-reinforced plastic (CFRP), basalt fiber-reinforced plastic (BFRP) and glass fiber-reinforced plastic (GFRP) in the concrete.
Pre-Construction	Construction overloads	Design for load limits during construction.
Pre-Construction	Errors in design and detailing	Conduct proper design, and place rigorous Quality Control/Quality Assurance (QC/QA plan.
Pre-Construction	Steel Reinforcement Spacing	Use small-diameter bars with minimum practical spacing.

Table 1. Common Causes and Mitigation Techniques of Concrete Cracking (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998) (Cont.)

3.2 Determination of Location and Extent of Cracks

It is important to know the location and extent of cracks as well as the general condition of the concrete in a structure before selecting a repair technique. Several methods are available for assessing a concrete structure, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Different Methodologies of Concrete Crack Determination (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998).

3.3 Commonly Used Concrete Crack Sealants

Concrete crack sealants can be broadly divided into two broad types: Silanes and Siloxanes. Silane is an inorganic compound often used in paints, inks, and coatings to improve mechanical strength; and increase adhesion, thermal stability, and crosslinking (The Chemical Company, 2023). On the other hand, siloxanes are silicone-based organic compounds generally used to form chemical compounds with good thermal stability, chemical resistance, tunable refractive index, tunable mechanical properties, and excellent photo-stability (Su et al., 2006). Silane is the most commonly used deck sealant in the United States (US) (Johnson et al., 2009). The characteristics of these two compounds are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Classification of Deck Sealants (Johnson et al., 2009)

Crack sealants can be primarily categorized into five categories (Johnson et al., 2009):

- Epoxies: Epoxies are made from cyclic ethers called oxacyclopropanes that harden during polymerization. They are organic compounds containing an oxygen atom and a threemembered ring of carbon atoms typically developed by a reaction between biphenol A and Epichlorohydrin. Epoxies are generally known for their high tensile strengths (often four times that of High Molecular Weight Methacrylates); however, many different types are developed with a wide assortment of physical properties. Due to this, epoxies are known for their versatility). Epoxies also typically are more expensive than most other types of crack sealers. Epoxies can also cause minor skin irritation and allergic reactions (Meggers 1998, Johnson et al., 2009).
- Reactive Methyl Methacrylates: Reactive Methyl Methacrylates (MMA) are twocomponent sealers that have similar characteristics as High Molecular Weight Methacrylates but are much safer to use. MMA is formed from reactive methyl methacrylate catalyzed by a 50% dibenzoyl peroxide powder.
- Methacrylates: Methacrylates (another form of High Molecular Weight Methacrylates) are occasionally used because of their low viscosity and ability to cure at low temperatures. But these sealants are weak against freeze-thaw conditions (Johnson et al., 2009). They are mostly used as deck sealers.
- High Molecular Weight Methacrylates (HMWM): HMWMs are polymers made from methacrylate monomers. During the curing process of the sealer, an initiator is added to create an oxidation/reduction reaction. The monomer then develops into a high molecular weight polymer. When mixing the three-component system (monomer, initiator, and promoter), it has the potential to become violent. For example, if the initiator and promoter are mixed together prior to the monomer resin, it has the ability to explode. Typically, the promoter is mixed with the monomer resin initially to avoid problems. Because of this, reading the mixing instructions for all HMWM sealers are extremely important. HMWM resins are known for their low viscosity and high penetration depths.
- Polyurethanes: Polyurethane resins can also be used to seal cracked bridge decks. The advantages of using a polyurethane resin are the fast-curing time, little odor, and ease of application. Researchers stated that the polyurethane resin also have some drawbacks. The sealer failed to reach a satisfactory depth of penetration at high temperatures. Also, the

sealer had trouble standing up to freeze-thaw effects. Lastly, the sealer was less than satisfactory in sealing wider cracks (Sprinkel 1991, Johnson et al., 2009).

3.4 Different Crack Repair Techniques

After a proper evaluation of the cracked structure, a suitable repair procedure can be determined. In selecting the crack repair method, special consideration should be given to the effects of cracks on the expected durability and performance of the concrete structure and design service life of the repair method itself (Lasa and Antunes, 2022).

In this section of the report, different crack repair methods and materials are presented for various types of structures and crack characteristics with a short description of each.

Localized Crack Repair Techniques

- \triangleright *Epoxy injection:* This is an effective method of concrete crack repair in buildings, bridges, dams, and other types of concrete structures. Cracks as narrow as 0.002 inches (0.05 mm) can be bonded by the injection of epoxy (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998). Best results are obtained if the crack width does not exceed 0.375 inches (9.5 mm) since the polymerization of the injected material may be affected at larger widths (Lasa and Antunes, 2022).
	- Materials: Epoxy materials used for structural repairs should conform to ASTM C 881 (Type IV).
	- Procedure: Epoxy injection procedures include cleaning the cracks with vacuuming or flushing with water, sealing the surface to keep the epoxy from leaking out before it has gelled, installing the entry and venting ports, mixing the epoxy, injection of epoxy (using hydraulic pumps, paint pressure pots, or air-actuated caulking guns), and finally removing the surface seal.
	- The success of epoxy injection depends on the absence of bond-inhibiting contaminants from the crack plane. Epoxy resins and injection procedures should also be carefully selected (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998).
- *Routing and sealing:* This is primarily for a remedial repair in case structural repair is unnecessary. This method is mostly applicable to relatively flat horizontal surfaces such as floors and pavements. However, routing and sealing can be applied to vertical surfaces (with a non-sag sealant, as for vertical applications, the sealant needs to be at a consistency that will permit application without any appreciable sagging or slumping) as well as on curved surfaces (pipes, piles, and pole). Its service period for wet or high moisture areas exceeds that of the topically applied waterproofing sealers (Lasa and Antunes, 2022).
	- Materials: Sealants used in this technique can be epoxies, urethanes, silicones, polysulfides, asphaltic materials, or polymer mortars.
	- Procedure: The procedure consists of preparing a groove at the surface ranging in depth, typically, from 1/4 to 1 inch (6 to 25 mm). The groove is then cleaned by air blasting, sandblasting, or waterblasting, and dried. A sealant is placed into the clean and dry groove and allowed to cure. Sometimes a bond breaker may be provided at the bottom of the groove to allow the sealant to change shape (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998).

- \triangleright *Stitching*: This technique is used when tensile strength must be reestablished across major cracks.
	- Materials: Grout, epoxies.
	- Procedure: The stitching procedure consists of drilling holes on both sides of the crack, cleaning the holes, and anchoring the legs of the staples in the holes, with either a nonshrink grout or an epoxy resin-based bonding system.
- *Additional reinforcement:* This is mostly suitable for cracked reinforced concrete bridge girders or when a major portion of a member must be strengthened.
	- Materials: Reinforcing bars and epoxies.
	- Procedure: This can be done with conventional reinforcement and prestressing steel. The conventional method includes sealing the crack, drilling holes that intersect the crack plane at approximately 90 degrees, filling the hole and crack with injected epoxy and placing a reinforcing bar into the drilled hole. While the post-tensioning uses prestressing strands or bars to apply a compressive force.
- *Drilling and plugging:* This method consists of drilling down the length of the crack and grouting it to form a key. This is frequently used in repairing vertical cracks in retaining walls (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998).
	- Materials: Precast concrete or mortar plugs, grout.
	- Procedure: Drilling (Figure 3) a hole [typically 2 to 3 inches (50 to 75 mm) in diameter], then the drilled hole should be cleaned, made tight, and filled with grout. The key formed due to the grout prevents transverse movements of the sections of concrete adjacent to the crack and reduces heavy leakage through the crack and loss of soil from behind a leaking wall.

Figure 3.Drilling and Plugging Method (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998)

- *Gravity Filling*: Cracks with surface widths of 0.001 to 0.08 inches (0.03 to 2 mm) can be sealed by gravity filling (Rodler et al., 1989).
	- Materials: Low viscosity monomers and resins, high-molecular- weight methacrylates, urethanes, and some low viscosity epoxies.
	- Procedure: Typical procedure includes cleaning the surface by air blasting and/or waterblasting, then the monomer or resin can be poured onto the surface and spread with brooms, rollers, or squeegees, working the material back and forth over the cracks to obtain maximum filling since the monomer or resin recedes slowly into the cracks.
- *Grouting*: This method is mostly applicable for wide cracks, particularly in gravity dams and thick concrete walls. This is mostly effective in stopping water leaks, but it will not bond the structural cracks. Grouting can be done in two ways – Portland cement grouting and chemical grouting.
	- Materials: Portland cement, urethanes, sodium silicates, and acrylamides.
	- Procedure: The procedure consists of cleaning the concrete along the crack; installing built-up seats (grout nipples) at intervals (Figure 4) aside the crack (to provide a pressure tight connection with the injection apparatus); sealing the crack between the seats with a cement paint, sealant, or grout; flushing the crack to clean it and test the seal; and then grouting the whole area.
	- Chemical grouts can be applied in moist environments and can cover very fine fractures, while cement grouts are easy to apply and offer high strength.

Figure 4. Grouting (Courtesy: Structuralguide)

- *Dry packing*: This method is suitable for repairing dormant cracks.
	- Materials: Cement slurry, dry pack mortar (one part cement, one to three parts sand and small amount of water) latex bonding compound (ASTM C 1059).
	- Procedure: The portion adjacent to the surface should be widened to a slot about 1 inch (25 mm) wide and 1 inch (25 mm) deep, cleaning and drying of the slot, applying a bond coat (cement slurry or equal quantities of cement and fine sand mixed with water), placing dry pack mortar.
- *Crack arrest*: This method is suitable for controlling cracks that formed due to a high temperature differential between the core and surface of the element during construction of

massive concrete structures. The process includes blocking the newly initiated crack and spreading the tensile stress over a larger area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1945).

- Materials: Bond-breaking membrane or grid of steel mat. A semicircular pipe placed over the crack may also be used.
- Procedure: Cleaning the area in the vicinity of the crack, placing the pipe or mat in sections to remain centered on the crack, welding the sections together, cutting holes to install grout pipes, covering the installation with hand-placed concrete so that installed grout pipe can be used for grouting the crack at a later date.
- *Polymer impregnation*: This method is not effective for repairing cracks, as polymer can be soaked if there is moisture present in the cracks. But it can offer a more durable, impermeable surface that will resist cracking (Webster et al., 1978).
	- Materials: Methyl methacrylate.
	- Procedure: Drying the fractured concrete part, temporarily encasing it in a watertight (monomer proof) band of sheet metal, soaking the fractures with monomer, and polymerizing the monomer.
- *Overlay and surface treatments*: Very fine surface cracks in structural slabs, pavements, bridge decks and parking structures can be repaired using either a bonded overlay or surface treatment.
	- Materials: Urethanes, epoxies, polyesters, and acrylics for surface treatments. polymer (styrene butadiene or acrylic latexes) modified Portland cement mortar or concrete for overlays.
	- Procedure: Applying materials in thickness of 0.04 to 2.0 inches (1 to 50 mm) for surface treatments (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998). For overlays the procedure includes cleaning the surface, a bond coat consisting of mortar, or an epoxy adhesive, should be applied immediately before placing the overlay, continuous batching and mixing of polymer-modified concretes, placing, and finishing rapidly, 24-hour moist curing.
- *Autogenous healing*: A natural process of crack repair known as "autogenous healing" can occur in concrete in the presence of moisture and the absence of tensile stress (Lauer and Slate, 1956). It aids closing dormant cracks in a moist environment. Saturation of the crack and the adjacent concrete with water during the healing process is essential for developing any substantial strength. Submerging of the cracked section is also desirable. Mostly suitable for non-structural cracks.

The above-mentioned methods are mostly effective for localized crack control. When the intensity and frequency of the cracks are high, it becomes impractical and time-consuming to address each crack separately. In such cases, more global crack sealing approaches are practiced (Lasa and Antunes, 2022). Some of these methods are briefly described below.

Global Crack Repair Techniques

 Flood sealing: The method includes flooding a large area of the cracked structure with a low viscosity material to seal the cracks. Methacrylate flood coat is most commonly used for this purpose (ACI RAP Bulletin 13, 2010). It is primarily used on new bridge decks or horizontal surfaces but cannot be used on vertical cracks.

- *Structural jacketing*: This method consists of placing a continuous reinforced overlay jacket around the cracked component. It is typically used for repairing large areas for new and older concrete structures.
- *Cathodic protection and prevention*: This method is used mostly when there is a high concern of the structure developing severe corrosion due to the cracks. Appropriate anodes are placed externally to the structure to apply a corrosion prevention current. These systems are typically designed with a minimum service life of 25 years (Lasa and Antunes, 2022).
- *Electrochemical chloride removal*: Also known as electrochemical chloride extraction (ECE). The process includes extracting chloride ions from chloride-contaminated older reinforced concrete structures by applying an electrical current between the embedded steel and an external anode (Sohanghpurwala and Scannell 2011). Once the chlorides are removed, the cracks should be sealed to prevent re-intrusion of the chlorides. Total duration of this application process varies but one study indicated that about 40% of the initial chloride is removed within 7 weeks (Orellan et al., 2007).
- Chemical encapsulation: Encapsulation strategy is widely considered as a versatile and effective strategy for self-healing of concrete (Souradeep and Kua, 2016). It is adopted for buried structure (retaining walls/footings) components when there is concern of a reduction in service life due to cracks or other mechanisms. It consists of injecting a chemical compound into the soil around the structural component that would form a membrane and prevent chlorides or other contaminants from getting close to the concrete. These materials typically include polyurethanes, bituminates, or a modified elastomeric (Lasa and Antunes, 2022).

Table 2. Materials Used in Different Crack Repair Technique

References: ACI Report 224.1R, 1998; Lasa and Antunes, 2022; Rodler et al., 1989; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1945; Webster et al., 1978; Lauer and Slate, 1956; ACI RAP Bulletin 13, 2010

3.5 Materials Characterization of Concrete Crack Sealants

Different types of concrete crack sealants have distinct characteristics that make them favorable for specific situations and unfavorable for others. Some of these characteristics include volatility, viscosity, initial shrinkage, tensile strength, and tensile elongation (Johnson et al., 2009). Some chemical characteristics of concrete crack sealants are briefly described below:

- **Deck sealants:** As stated before, most concrete deck sealants are based on silicone technology, primarily silanes, and siloxanes. These materials are derivatives of silicone with molecules small enough to penetrate and bond to the concrete, creating a hydrophobic layer in the treated surface. Since they are sealers, not membranes, they do not provide an impenetrable physical barrier. Rather, they reduce water inflow by inducing a chemical repulsion of the concrete to water (Aitken and Litvan, 1989). Silanes and siloxanes are usually supplied as a solution or as a suspension in a solvent.
- **Crack sealants:** Typical crack sealant products can bridge and seal fine cracks by creating a barrier that prevents water and water-borne contaminants from entering the concrete (Pincheira, 2005).

An ideal concrete crack sealer should have the following properties (Johnson et al., 2009):

- Viscosity less than 500 cP (or 25 cP for HMWM sealers),
- Tensile strength more than 1,160 psi (8 MPa), and
- Tensile elongation larger than 10 percent.

Viscosity ranges of typically used crack sealants are provided in Table 3:

Table 3. Viscosity Ranges of Typically Used Crack Sealants (Soltesz, 2010)

Crack Sealant	Viscosity (cP)
Epoxy	$40 - 230$
Methyl Methacrylate	$5 - 20$
High Molecular Weight Methacrylate	$15 - 35$
Urethane	$12 - 16$

Performance Testing of Concrete Crack Sealants

There are six primary performance measures for concrete crack sealants. These are listed below with their corresponding standards. (Johnson et al., 2009, Pincheira, 2005):

- Depth of penetration (NCHRP 244 series II, OHD L-40)
- Bond strength $(ASTM C 496)$
- Chloride content/resistance to corrosion (AASHTO T259/T260 and NCHRP 244 Series II). FDOT uses the Florida Method (FM 5-516).
- Seepage rate (ASTM E514)
- Rapid Chloride Penetration (ASTM C 1202)
- Durability against freeze-thaw and scaling (ASTM C 666 and ASTM C 672)

Quality Control/Quality Assurance (QC/QA) of Concrete Crack Sealants

From the review of different state highway agency (SHA) practices, it was found that many states do not conduct acceptance tests to identify acceptable crack sealing products, and products are typically chosen based on well-known research (Pincheira, 2005). However, some observations were made from different SHA practices:

- 90-day ponding (AASHTO T259) and absorption (ASTM C642) tests are commonly used as acceptance tests (Johnson et al., 2009).
- Depth of penetration and chloride content tests are the most commonly conducted QA/QC tests on bridge decks, but the results are highly variable (Johnson et al., 2009).

3.6 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Practice of Sealing Cracks in Concrete Structures

FDOT Standard Specification section 400-21 provides necessary information and guidelines for determining proper methods for sealing atmospherically exposed, nonstructural cracks on new concrete structures. Based on the inspection of an engineer, cracks are classified as nonstructural (1/2 inch or less deep from the surface of the concrete) or structural cracks (cracks that extend deeper than 1/2 inch). However, a fully or partially underwater crack at any time during its service life will be classified as a structural crack (FDOT SS-400, 2023). Based on the cracking significance and type of structures, repair strategies for cracks are selected per Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 4. FDOT Cracked Concrete Treatment Selection (Concrete Structures Other Than Bridge Decks) (Abbreviations and Footnotes are given below) (FDOT SS-400, 2023)

Table 5. FDOT Cracked Concrete Treatment Selection (Bridge Decks) (Abbreviations and Footnotes are given below) (FDOT SS-400, 2023)

Footnotes
(1) Cracking Significance Range is determined by computing the ratio of Total Cracked Surface Area (TCSA) to Total Surface Area
(TSA) per LOT in percent ((TCSA/TSA) x 100) then by identifying the Cracking Signifi

TCSA is the sum of the surface areas of the individual cracks in the LOT. The surface area of an individual crack is determined
by the grand of the crack at 3 representative locations and then computing their average whic

with previously applied materials such as curing compound or paint or remove such materials prior to application.
(5) When possible, prior to final acceptance of the project, seal cracks only after it has been determined t

will occur.

(6) Methacrylate shall be used on horizontal surfaces in lieu of penetrant sealer if the manufacturer's recommendations allow it to
be used and if it can be applied effectively as determined by the Engineer.
(7) Unless di

15.2.5 is fully complete.

Moreover, based on recent published guidelines by the FDOT State Materials Office (SMO), the following recommendations are suggested when selecting appropriate crack-sealing methods for reinforced concrete structures.

Crack Widths (inches/mm)	Crack Sealing Method	Materials and Structure Type
<0.005/<0.127	Topical Waterproofing (Figure 5)	Surface coating only. Mostly suitable for vertical fine cracks (Figure 6).
$>0.005 - 0.375 \geq 0.127 - 9.525$	Epoxy Injection	Fluid epoxy type E (Section 926). For horizontal and vertical applications.
>0.005/>0.127	Polyurethane and Rubberized Polymers	Hydrophilic polyurethane, rubberized polymers. Mostly for horizontal surfaces.
>0.005/>0.127	Overlays	Polymer or Portland cement based. For horizontal bridge decks.
>0.002/>0.05	Gravity Seal	Methacrylate: For horizontal bridge decks.
$0.002 - 0.250/0.05 - 6.35$	Routing & Sealing	Fluid epoxy type F (Section 926): Mostly used on vertical surfaces.
>0.002/>0.05	Cathodic Protection/Prevention	Mainly for corrosion prevention. For horizontal and vertical applications.

Table 6. Recommended Crack Remediation Practices by FDOT (Lasa and Antunes, 2022)

Figure 5. Waterproofing of Concrete Surface (Courtesy: ANDERSAL)

Figure 6. Waterproofing of a cracked basement wall (Absolutely Dry Basement Waterproofing, Inc,

2023)

3.7 Overview of Practices by State Highway Agencies in the U.S.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Caltrans outlines and follows a methodical procedure for structural concrete repair and rehabilitation. A summary of the procedural steps is listed below (Caltrans Concrete Technology Manual, 2013):

- Assess the defect and determine its cause,
- Determine the limits of cracks or defective concrete,
- Determine if repairs are required,
- Determine which repair method will be used,
- Remove defective concrete if needed for the repair,
- Place the repair, and
- Cure the repair.

Caltrans treats the critical cracks in concrete structures either as structural cracks or cracks that are indicative of internal stress development. Structural cracks are repaired by filling the crack with a pressure-injected epoxy adhesive. Other repair options are doing nothing, partial replacement with dry-packed mortar, conventional concrete, shotcrete, an overlay, surface treatment with a sealant and total replacement (Caltrans concrete technology manual, 2013). The materials used for these methods are listed in Table 7. Figure 7 represents the various repair techniques used by CalTrans for concrete deterioration including voids and cracks.

Table 7. Different Materials Used by Caltrans for Concrete Crack Repair (Caltrans

Concrete Technology Manual, 2013

Figure 7. Different Concrete Crack Repair Techniques (CalTrans Concrete Technology Manual, 2013)

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

According to GDOT Standard Specifications for Construction of Transportation Systems, standard Type V epoxy adhesive is used for sealing cracks at the concrete surface (GDOT, 2021). The process includes cleaning and preparing the concrete surfaces, coring holes that are 1/2 inch (13 mm) in diameter and 3/4 inch (19 mm) to 1 inch (25 mm) in depth, inserting full-depth copper or plastic tubes into cored holes, sealing the circumference of the ports at the surface, and injecting the epoxy at a constant pressure not to exceed 250 psi (GDOT, 2021). For bridge deck repairs, GDOT use patching and overlays.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

IDOT treats cracks in concrete structures in two ways:

- Crack openings less than or equal to 1/2 inch: Inject an epoxy crack-sealing material into the crack. Cracks located in a vertical wall with voided areas behind the wall cannot be effectively sealed by injecting material into the cracks unless the voided area has been filled with material which will prevent the injected crack sealing material from being forced into the voided area (IDOT Structural Services Manual, 2017).
- Cracks with openings greater than $1/2$ inch: Should be sealed by removing all loose material along the edges of the crack and then using an expansive cement grout to fill the crack. The presence of large vertical cracks in an unreinforced concrete pier may require the installation of a steel collar (IDOT Structural Services Manual, 2017).

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

The current practice of MnDOT is crack sealing using epoxy injection. The procedure includes surface preparation by air blowing, chasing/detecting cracks using a bottle or pump, or in some cases, a flood seal. Paulco TE-2501 epoxy is the most commonly used product in Minnesota. MnDOT also performed an extensive field study on twelve crack sealant products to evaluate the performance of these sealants through field permeability testing, visual observations, and petrographic examination. The work included the examination of various crack sealant materials (deck sealants were not included) on an in-service bridge over a period of three winters (Oman, 2014). After extensive visual observation, testing, and coring through three winters, the recommended epoxy products which demonstrated the best performance are presented in Table 8.

*Service life is reported in (Oman, 2014)

Recommended methyl methacrylates (MMA) products are:

Table 9. Recommended MMA Products by MnDOT

*Service life is reported in (Oman, 2014)

Figure 9. Typical Operations During Concrete Crack Sealing – a) blowing surface with air

b) sand blasting c) shot blasting d) bottle application e) caulk gun application f) pump

application g) flood application h) sand casting on surface (Oman, 2014)

New York Department of Transportation (NYDOT)

NYDOT uses epoxy injection technique for both crack sealing (prevention) and crack repair (restoration).

- Preventive crack sealing: use in contaminated, cracked concrete areas to prevent movement and protect reinforcement.
- Restoration crack sealing: use in uncontaminated cracked concrete areas to restore structural integrity (NYDOT, 1999).

The procedure includes installing injection ports, sealing the crack opening, injecting the crack with epoxy (full depth for restoration work, or as deep as conditions allow for prevention work), and restore the sealed surface to a flush condition in areas visible to the public (NYDOT, 1999).

North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT)

NDDOT evaluated five types of sealers based on eight sets of laboratory tests. These sealers were evaluated for three groups of concrete mixes: normal concrete mix, fly ash concrete mix, and old concrete. The test data was used to determine which sealer/concrete mix combination was the most adequate in improving resistance to the deterioration of concrete properties (Mamaghani et al., 2007). Table 10 describes these different types of sealant names, their properties, and their effectiveness against deterioration.

From the study, it was evident that D335 was the best-performing concrete sealer, as it showed less water absorption (ASTM C642-97), better resistance against deicing chemicals (ASTM C672/C 672M-03) and chloride ion penetration (AASHTO T259-02). It can also fill cracks up to 0.008 inches (0.2 mm) in width. Another conclusion was that the fly-ash concrete mix performed best among the concrete mixes.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT seals each crack separately if cracks are 10 feet (3 m) apart or more. If the cracks are numerous or are less than 10 feet (3 m) apart, they seal the entire area. The agency uses three types of concrete crack sealers (ODOT Standard Specifications, 2021):

- Low modulus concrete crack sealer: Mostly used in deck sealing and resurfacing. These crack sealers are more flexible and thus perform much better in conditions where mechanical or thermal movement is likely. Because a majority of treated cracks are on concrete bridges and parking decks, a low modulus of elasticity resin is optimal. This type of resin will seal and heal the crack, bind the crack back together, and yet allow a certain amount of movement so as to prevent re-cracking (Euclid Chemical, 2018).
- High modulus concrete crack sealer: These are mostly used to seal routed crack surfaces on non-moving cracks (Crown Polymers, 2016).

 Water repellent concrete sealer: These are usually silane, siloxane, or a silane/siloxane blend. They soak into the crack and coat the sides to provide a water-repellent barrier, but they do not heal the concrete (Euclid Chemical, 2018).

Based on the nature of the repair work and extent of the crack, ODOT select one of these three techniques.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

For crack repairing of concrete structures, TxDOT uses three methodologies:

- Pressure-Injected Epoxy: TxDOT uses pressure-injected ASTM C 881 Type IX lowviscosity epoxy resin into concrete cracks to restore the structural integrity of damaged members or to prevent water and chloride infiltration. Although it depends on the epoxy resin material, cracks as narrow as 0.002 inches (0.05 mm) can be injected with epoxy resin. However, it is often difficult to effectively fill cracks that are narrower than 0.005 inches (0.127 mm). The agency guideline is to use a crack gauge to get accurate readings on crack widths.
	- Materials: The epoxy resin should conform to ASTM C 881 Type IV, Grade 1 standard. This epoxy has two liquid components that are combined automatically during the pressure injection process (TxDOT Concrete Repair Manual, 2021).
	- Procedure: The procedure includes preparation and cleaning of the surface, mixing the epoxy resin, inserting injection ports, pressure-injecting the epoxy resin into the crack through the ports, maintaining adequate pressure until resin emerges from the adjacent port; once the resin appears in an adjacent port, remove the injection nozzle, seal the port, and begin injecting in the adjacent port.
- Gravity-Fed Sealant: TxDOT uses Type IV low-viscosity, gravity-fed sealant to fill cracks to help prevent water and chloride infiltration into concrete. Cracks with widths as narrow as 0.004 inches (0.1 mm) can be filled using gravity-fed material.
	- Materials: TxDOT Type IV low-viscosity, gravity-fed sealant.
	- Procedure: The procedure includes surface preparation and cleaning, mixing each component according to the manufacturer's requirements, using a low-speed electric drill, and pouring sealant directly on cracks within the treatment area.
- Surface Sealing: TxDOT seals cracks to prevent infiltration of water, chlorides, and other contaminants. This method is only effective for sealing the cracks at the outer surface of the concrete. There are two ways:
	- Rout-and-Seal Cracks: Effective against water infiltration in cracks. The method includes creating a V-shaped groove about 3/8 inch (9.65 mm) deep, cleaning, and filling the groove using a preapproved Class 4 low-modulus silicone or Type V adhesive.
	- Surface Sealing: This method simply involves applying an adhesive directly over the crack to prevent infiltration of water, chlorides, and other contaminants. The material typically used is a preapproved ASTM Type VIII or Type X epoxy.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT usually follows eight basic steps for repair and preservation of hydraulic cement concrete structure (HCC):

- Defining the repair problem,
- Locating deteriorated concrete,
- Removing deteriorated concrete,
- Preparing concrete surfaces,
- Patching,
- Crack repairs,
- Hydraulic cement concrete overlays, and
- Epoxy overlays, membranes, and sealers.

The agency uses three methods for concrete crack repair (VDOT, 2022):

- Gravity Fill Polymer: This is the most economical way to seal pattern cracks. Cracks must be at least 0.008 inches (0.2 mm) in width for the sealer to penetrate and fill the crack. Mostly suitable for bridge decks, but very low viscosity polymers can deeply penetrate the concrete cracks and is suitable for sealing vertical cracks.
	- Materials: High molecular weight methacrylate (HWWM), epoxy and urethane.
- Route and Seal: This method is used for sealing individual cracks. The process includes routing cracks with a crack-chasing device and filling with epoxy. It is time-consuming and more expensive than gravity fill but faster and lower cost than pressure injection. This procedure works the best for flat horizontal surfaces but can also be used on vertical and curved surfaces when a non-sag sealant is employed (ACI Report 224.1R, 1998).
- Pressure Injection of Epoxy: This is the most expensive crack-sealing method among the three. The process includes applying a paste of epoxy to seal the top and bottom of the crack, installing injection ports at a spacing equal to the depth of injection, injecting lowviscosity epoxy in the crack at the port with lowest elevation, keep injecting until epoxy comes out of the adjacent port and all the ports are filled. This is the most effective method for sealing critical cracks and restoring the strength of cracked concrete.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

WisDOT evaluated thirteen deck and ten crack sealants under laboratory conditions that simulated the exposure to deicing salts and freeze-thaw cycles encountered in practice. The study found that the performance of crack sealants depended on the crack width considered. The tests performed on deck sealants were resistance to chloride ion intrusion and against freeze-thaw cycles (AASHTO T 259 and AASHTO T 260). For the crack sealants, the tests performed were the ability of the sealants to penetrate and fill cracks and the bond strength test. Of the thirteen deck sealants studied, two products, Sonneborn Penetrating Sealer 40 VOC and Hydrozo Silane 40 VOC, performed best. Of the ten crack sealants tested in this study, Sikadur 55 SLV showed excellent performance in sealing hairline, narrow, and medium cracks (Pincheira and Dorshorst, 2005).

It was discovered from the literature review that most of the SHAs do not follow any specific criteria for repairing cracks, especially vertical cracks in concrete structures. All the repair works are warranted and performed as a part of routine maintenance works of concrete structures. It has also been found that except in California, North Dakota, and South Dakota, no other SHAs perform any quality control/quality assurance (QC/QA) test to check the quality of concrete crack sealing work. Crack sealing practices of different state highway agencies (SHA) are summarized in Appendix A of this white paper.

3.8 Crack Sealing Best Practices by International Highway Agencies

This section describes innovative crack sealing practices from various countries.

European Practice

European countries repair concrete cracks according to European Standard UNI EN 1504. Cracks are filled with sealant to protect against penetration risk or to ensure structural strengthening. European agencies use two products- Epojet and Epojet LV for concrete crack sealing, and these are formulated with a reactive polymer binder. The following considerations are made while selecting sealants for crack filling:

- Thickness of cracks,
- Moisture level of the crack,
- Minimum and maximum application temperature, and
- Movement of the cracks.

Based on the above-mentioned considerations, a crack sealant method and product are selected so that the following objectives can be achieved from the repair work:

- Protection against ingress
- Moisture control
- Increase in physical resistance
- Resistance to chemicals
- Increasing resistivity

European standard also has provisions for several performance tests to quantify the performance of a particular crack sealant. These are listed in Table 11.
Table 11. Characteristics and Performance Requirements of Injected Sealant Products for Filling of Cracks (European Standard, 2005)

Canadian Concrete Crack Sealing Experiment with Shotcrete

A study in Canada had extensive success with concrete repair using site-batched latex-modified dry-mix shotcrete. Shotcrete is commonly used for vertical and overhead repairs. Including latex admixtures provided improved tensile and bond strength properties, reduced permeability, and improved durability, especially against corrosion. Around 5% (by volume) of latex solids were used in the mix design. The process included manual removal of deteriorated concrete, heavy sandblasting to remove rust, replacement of all heavily corroded reinforcing bars, placement of

galvanized wire mesh where removal depth is more than 1.6 inches (40 mm), forming, shotcreting in two layers, troweling and float finishing, wet-burlap curing, light sandblasting of wet-cured shotcrete surfaces, and finally the application of two coats of acrylic curing or sealing compound. The repair was found to be very effective, and the bridges were in good condition even after 23 years of service. Data from the study suggested that this repair method can provide a service life of up to 35 years (Carter and Wong, 2006).

Brazilian Metakaolin-based geopolymer cement as a Concrete Crack Filler

Brazilian researchers used geopolymer cement to repair cracks in concrete specimens (Frasson et al., 2020). Cubic concrete test specimens were produced, and mechanical performance and fracture mode were observed. The results were compared with the common practice of applying the epoxy. The geopolymer cement paste used to repair cracks consisted of metakaolin from kaolin calcination at 1,472ºF (800ºC) and a solution activator produced by dissolving sodium hydroxide (NaOH) in sodium silicate Na2SiO3 with 63% water. The repair method consisted of drying, cleaning, and gravity-filling the cracks until the materials overflowed and the excess was removed. The results showed that it is possible to use geopolymer cement as a filler material for both horizontal and vertical cracks with improved experimental compressive strength in cracked specimens. The study presented a new potential for applying geopolymer cements, considering their satisfactory cohesion properties and adhesion, and they are competitive with the recovery materials available on the market (Frasson et al., 2020).

Indian invention of sealant using waste material

A study in India used aquaculture waste-derived material as a renewable feedstock for producing a sealant for healing micro-cracks in concrete (Kannan et al., 2022). The material is a composite of graphene-oxide and chitosan, and it was named Eco-Nanoseal. This nanofibrous film-forming composite can quickly solidify in the concrete environment without any external polymerizing agent. It can quickly form a solid plug and strong bonding with the concrete surface. It is also proven to be hydraulically stable and has an excellent ability to plug microcracks in concrete. It is non-toxic, affordable, and can chemically bind with the concrete surface under ambient conditions. This waste-derived sealant, with less embodied energy and enhanced properties, is believed to significantly reduce the structure's cost and environmental impact during its life cycle.

Malaysian practice of waterproofing concrete

Nawi and Munaaim (2017) explored different causes of waterproofing failures in concrete buildings and structures and proposed remedial waterproofing solutions. They identified different types of cracks in buildings that can lead to water penetration (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Types of Cracks in Concrete Structure Which Will Lead to Water Penetration (Mydin et al., 2017)

According to this study, cracks are to be filled by epoxy injection to seal and restore the cracks and restore substrates to a safe condition before the waterproofing application can be used. Waterproofing can be done in different ways, such as cementitious waterproofing, liquid-applied membranes, and sheet-based waterproofing membrane. The study concluded that the sheet membrane is the most durable and flexible waterproofing system. Sheet membrane waterproofing includes thermoset and thermoplastic materials. Thermoset membranes may be vulcanized or nonvulcanized materials and preformed rubberized sheets. A sheet waterproofing membrane is usually applied by heat or attached with an adhesive. A fully adhered system prevents water intrusion under the membrane and is less vulnerable to leaks caused by seam failures than other systems. It often comes in a roll where the asphaltic product is modified and bonded to a high-strength fabric of polyester or fiberglass. Sheet membrane has the advantage of allowing protection board placement and backfilling operations to begin immediately after application. Additionally, sheet membranes have elongation properties which make them suitable to protect a structure against any type of stress caused by the weather and normal structural expansion and contraction of a structure.

4 METHODOLOGIES

The whole study was comprised of two main tasks- a detailed literature review that investigated the state of the practice and state of the art on the subject of sealing cracks in concrete structures at the local and global levels; and a targeted evaluation of selected crack sealant products through market evaluation and questionnaire survey. The research team reviewed academic journal publications and conference proceedings, research reports, case studies, articles from professional journals, webinars and posted videos, and specifications of other state DOTs, local highway agencies, and international highway agencies to gather information and data on the various types of crack sealants, application methods, and necessary pretreatments of the cracked structures. Section 4 of this white paper presents findings from this literature search.

Task 2 of this study was targeted evaluation of crack sealant products which was initially planned to be conducted through three surveys, each targeting one of the three major stakeholders: suppliers, contractors, and DOTs. Different survey questions were prepared for DOTs, material suppliers, and contractors. The DOT survey was sent by an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) liaison on behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The other two surveys were sent by ARA research team via e-mail or by contacting the company/supplier through their messaging system on their website. However, no responses were received from the material suppliers and contractors. Several attempts were made to contact contractors and material suppliers via phone and e-mails, but no conclusive information could be obtained. So, the targeted evaluation of crack sealant products was performed based on the information and data obtained from the survey results obtained from the state highway agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

Based on the information gathered from the Task 1 report and Task 2 survey, a database of commonly used crack sealant products and a matrix that relates a product and its application method to the type of cracks and associated structures was created and presented in Appendix B and C of this white paper.

In this white paper, a summary of the research finding will be presented in the form of recommendations, which will help FDOT to update their Standard Specification 400 (concrete structures) and will also serve as a guidance document stipulating the best practice in the procedures for sealing vertical cracks in concrete structures.

5 FINDINGS FROM THE TARGETED EVALUATION OF CRACK SEALANTS

As a part of the targeted evaluation of the crack sealant products, eight questions were included in the survey for the U.S. state highway agencies and provincial transportation ministries of Canada. The information obtained from this survey is presented in this section. Appendixes D and E of this report include the survey form and the collected responses (in a tabular format).

5.1 Number of Respondents

The survey was sent to 50 U.S. state highway agencies and 10 Canadian provincial transportation ministries. Figure 12 shows the breakdown of the number of responses received. As shown in the figure, a total of 13 responses were received from State DOTs, and another response was received from a Canadian province. The low response rate is also an indication that many SHAs in the US do not have specific specifications for sealing cracks in concrete structures, especially on vertical or sloped structures.

Figure 12. Response Rate form the Survey Conducted on Highway Agencies

5.2 Current Agency Practice of Crack Sealing

One of the primary focuses of the agency survey was to investigate if the routine monitoring and sealing cracks on vertical/sloped concrete structures were part of their current practice. Figure 13 summarizes the received responses. As seen from the figure, the majority of the respondents (i.e., 86 percent) indicated that they have provisions for monitoring and sealing cracks on concrete structures in their specifications.

Figure 13. Crack Sealing Practice of Participating Agencies

5.3 Commonly Used Materials for Crack Sealing

Participants of the survey were also asked about the materials they commonly used for concrete crack sealing. The results are shown in Figure 14, indicating that most highway agencies (86 percent) use epoxy as the primary crack-sealing material. Other commonly used materials include High Molecular Weight Methacrylate (HMWM) (43 percent), Polyurethane/Rubberized Polymers (29 percent), and Penetrant Sealers (29 percent). As FDOT adopts routing of cracks and filling with epoxy or viscous materials, epoxy crack sealants can be a reliable material of sealing cracks in vertical/sloped structure.

Figure 14. Commonly Used Materials for Crack Sealing

5.4 Commonly Used Crack Sealing Techniques

Participant DOTs was also asked about the most commonly used crack-sealing techniques they practice. Epoxy injection (79 percent) is the most common technique of concrete crack sealing used by highway agencies. Gravity seal and overlays (both 50 percent) are the other two techniques mostly used by highway agencies (Figure 15). Routing $\&$ sealing is also used by some highway agencies (36 percent). This also indicates that epoxy injection can be an effective technique for sealing cracks in vertical structures.

Figure 15. Commonly Used Crack Sealing Techniques

5.5 Service Life of Crack Sealants

The highway agencies were also asked about the service life of different crack sealant treatments they apply on concrete structures. Most of the agencies stated that they do not have any specific way of measuring the performance of the crack sealant with time after the repair job. Due to the lack of historical data, the survey respondents provided the expected (or anticipated) service life of crack sealant products based on their experience. According to the information derived from this survey, epoxy injection is the most reliable concrete crack sealing technique, with an expected service life of 10 to 20 years. Some DOTs believe the service life could be extended up to 40 years. HMWM is believed to be effective for 5 to 10 years after application. Penetrant sealers are anticipated to have a service life of 2 to 5 years. However, the survey respondents also emphasized that the expected service life of a particular treatment depends significantly on the type of treatment, workmanship, and exposure condition.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The agencies participating in the survey were also asked to provide a list of approved concrete crack-sealing products. In total, the research team collected 63 crack sealant products from the data and brochures provided by the respondents. Furthermore, the research team gathered the technical and safety data sheets from the respective product websites. The gathered information was used to develop an extensive product database, including the product type and application methods, besides the chemical and physical properties of the sealant materials.

From this extensive crack sealant product database, the ones that can be used in repairing cracks in vertical/sloped structures and can be included in the FDOT standard specifications 400-21 are sorted in the Table 12. The six crack sealants are also ranked based on their physical properties in Table 13.

Table 12. Recommended Crack Sealant Products and Techniques for Repairing Vertical Cracks

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Table 13 lists important physical properties, including viscosity, gel time, pot life, tensile and compressive strengths, bond strength, and tensile elongation. FDOT may consider these properties while selecting crack sealant products for sealing vertical cracks.

QC/QA tests can be a good indicator of how selected crack sealant products will perform in the service life of the repair. Some recommended performance testing for FDOT to consider are shown in Table 14.

Since the researchers explored that most of the SHAs do not have any specific criteria of selecting crack sealing technique or product based on crack width and material suppliers or producers do not typically outline these in their guideline, it is recommended that FDOT use the following guidelines in Table 15 as a general guidance for updating the standard specification 400, which was generated from a previous study conducted by the agency. The table is modified to include the crack sealing treatment which are only applicable for vertical cracks.

In the current crack sealing practice of FDOT (Standard Specifications 400-21, 2023), there are provisions for cracking significance (Isolated, Occasional, Moderate, and Severe) and environmental exposure conditions (Extremely Aggressive, Moderately Aggressive, and Slightly Aggressive) while selecting a particular treatment. Since the research team did not find much evidence of how these two criteria will change depending on the change of orientation of cracks from horizontal to vertical, it is recommended that the agency should stick to current specification while selecting treatment based on cracking significance and environmental exposure condition.

Service life of the crack sealant depends on the types of material, extent of the cracks and exposure condition. The amount of contamination inside the cracks is critical to determine how to extend the service life of a crack sealing method. For older structures, the maximum time to seal cracks can be estimated by comparing the level of contamination in relation to the time of exposure which is typically the age of the structure since most non-structural cracks develop during or shortly after construction. When cracks are addressed on older structures, if the maximum time to seal the cracks has been exceeded, corrosion control methods should be used to reach the expected remaining service life of the structure. For cracks in new structures, the maximum allowable time to seal the cracks is more difficult to predict since the rate of contamination depends on the depth of the crack in relation to the reinforcement cover, the width of the crack, the internal physical properties of the crack, and the contaminant (chloride) intrusion mechanism (Lasa and Antunes, 2022). Based on the findings from this study, estimated service life of different crack sealing techniques and time limit to seal cracks is provided in the table below:

Table 16. Estimated Service Life and Allowable Time Limit to Seal Cracks (Lasa and

Based on the criteria of crack widths, environmental exposure, and allowable time limit to seal; Table 16 can be used as a general guideline for selecting crack sealing method. FDOT can update their standard specification 400 based on these guidelines.

Based on the findings of this study and the above discussions, the recommendations to update FDOT Standard Specification Section 400-21 so that it incorporates guidelines and procedures for sealing vertical cracks in concrete structures are summarized below:

- 1) Epoxy injection is the most widely used technique for sealing vertical cracks. However, the viscosity of the crack sealant will be an important parameter as low viscosity crack sealant material will ensure penetration of sealant deep enough to fill the necessary volume of the crack.
- 2) The research team generated an extensive database of crack sealant materials from the survey data and literature review conducted on 24 state highway agencies. From this database, six crack sealant products are initially recommended and presented in Tables 2 and 3 of this white paper. This can be a very good starting point of updating Standard Specifications 400-21. Laboratory and field verification are recommended down the road.
- 3) Performance tests can be a very reliable way of measuring quality of crack sealing work. The research team recommended some performance measuring tests in Table 4 that can be a valuable addition as QC/QA of Standard Specifications 400-21.
- 4) FDOT's State Materials Office developed an internal guideline of selecting crack sealant based on the width of crack. The research team modified it to make it applicable to vertical cracks (Table 5).
- 5) Since there is lack of data, current cracking significance and environmental exposure condition parameters in Standard Specifications 400-21 can be used while updating the specification to incorporate vertical cracks on concrete structures.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Current crack sealing practice by FDOT includes only horizontal and slightly sloped surfaces. In this white paper, recommendations are made to update FDOT Standard Specifications 400-21 to incorporate vertical cracks in concrete structures. An extensive literature review and a targeted evaluation of the most commonly used concrete crack sealant products was conducted based on the information gathered from a survey. Crack sealing products and techniques that can be effective in mitigating cracks in vertical and sloped structures are suggested along with some internal guidelines to update the Standard Specifications 400-21. Focused study on the recommended crack sealant technique and products along with laboratory and field verifications is also recommended.

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- **9 APPENDICES**
- **9.1 Appendix A. State Practice of Concrete Crack Sealing (Pincheira and Dorshorst, 2005; Johnson et al., 2009, Mamaghani et al., 2007)**

9.2 Appendix B. Sealant Product Database Based on Product Type, Application Method, Type of Crack and Associated Structures

and saltwater.

9.3 Appendix C. Sealant Product Database Based on Physical Properties

9.4 Appendix D. Survey Questionnaire

Materials and Methods for Sealing Vertical Cracks on Concrete Structures

A brief survey on crack sealing repair jobs on vertical/sloped surfaces of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) infrastructure elements

* Required

- 1. State Highway Agency: *
- 2. Indicate your job title, contact information, and role within the Agency. *

3. Is it within the Agency's common practice to use sealants for cracks on vertical/sloped PCC infrastructure elements (retaining walls, piles, foundations, bridge piers, etc.)?

Check only one box.

☐Yes ☐No

4. Which of the material type(s) below do you commonly use for crack sealing? Check all that apply.

 \square Epoxy

☐Methyl Methacrylate

☐High Molecular Weight Methacrylate (HMWM)

☐Urethane

☐Polyurethane/Rubberized Polymers

☐Penetrant Sealer

Other:

5. What techniques do you commonly use in the application of crack sealants? Check all that apply.

☐Epoxy Injection

 \Box Routing & Sealing

□Gravity Seal

☐Overlays/Surface Coating

☐Cathodic Protection/Prevention

☐Chemical encapsulation

Other:

- 6. List some of the most commonly used products and suppliers for your crack sealing repair jobs
- 7. From your experience, what is the expected service life of an applied sealant?
- 8. Provide a link to the standards and specifications that can be of benefit to this topic
9.5 Appendix E Summary of Survey Responses

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