LTPP DATA ANALYSIS

Phase I:

Validation of Guidelines for

k-Value Selection and

Concrete Pavement

Performance Prediction

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FOREWORD

This report documents the application of Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) data to evaluate and verify improved guidelines for k-value selection and performance prediction in the design of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavements. The guidelines were originally developed under National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project No. 1-30, but lacked broad-based field verification prior to the completion of this project.

The positive outcome of this work is expected to result in a recommendation by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Joint Task Force on Pavements that the NCHRP 1-30 guidelines be formally adopted by AASHTO as a supplement to the 1993 AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structures. In comparison to the current AASHTO guidelines, the improved guidelines provide expanded capabilities for considering site-specific conditions in PCC pavement design. Their adoption in routine pavement engineering practice will reduce the occurrence of premature failure and minimize life-cycle costs.

This report is critically important to everyone who is designing and building PCC pavements.

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Director

Office of Engineering

Research and Development

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16. Abstract

Several important issues concerning the effect of slab support on concrete pavement performance were studied in a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP 1-30), "Support Under Concrete Pavements." The results were promising, however, the data that were available for analysis were limited. This study was conducted to further field-verify and develop the improved support guidelines proposed in NCHRP 1-30, using the Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) database, in order to establish their practicality and appropriateness for use in concrete pavement design nationwide. This study was also conducted to further field-verify the proposed revised American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) performance model to the fullest extent possible using the design, materials, climate, traffic, and performance data available in the LTPP database for General Pavement Section 3 (GPS-3) (jointed plain concrete pavement), GPS-4 (jointed reinforced concrete pavement), and GPS-5 (continuously reinforced concrete pavement).

Guidelines, revised on the basis of the results of this field verification study, are presented in the appendix in the form of a proposed addendum to the AASHTO Design Guide. The documentation of these field verification efforts using the LTPP database is provided in this report.

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