

CHAPTER 4 — CONCLUSIONS

The goal of roadway surfacing selection is to choose a roadway surfacing that lasts, is cost-effective, and fits the project setting. This Guide is intended to aid in accomplishing this goal by 1) providing a surfacing selection process that is straightforward, logical, transparent, defensible, and understandable by the general public; 2) fully integrating the surface selection process within the existing PDP process; 3) ensuring ample opportunities for discussion and debate among stakeholders regarding project objectives and how to balance these often conflicting objectives; and 4) providing the broadest possible list of surfacing product alternatives to consider in the surface selection process. A further hoped for benefit of this Guide is to bring a greater awareness to the diversity of road surfacing products currently available, to encourage their appropriate use, and to achieve greater recognition for the importance of context compatibility in the selection of roadway surfacings.

The Guide offers a step-by-step approach while keeping the design process flexible and still allowing for engineering judgment in the final selection process. To properly achieve the intended goals and spirit of context-sensitive design, a certain minimum level of effort and consideration must be put into the selection process. Before beginning the selection process, the project team should review all available project-specific information related to the project setting and objectives. The surfacing selection should be fully integrated into the PDP process as described in Chapter 2 of the Guide. Stakeholder input should be considered to ensure that project objectives and the selection process adequately address, to the extent possible, stakeholders' needs and concerns. The CD-ROM Photo Album, included as Appendix D, should be used to convey how the various surfacing options will appear in service.

The selection process itself is intended to facilitate discussion and understanding of critical project issues and their relative importance to the overall project. Discussion and debate among team members are beneficial to obtaining weighting factors that adequately balance competing project needs and that are not improperly skewed toward one particular outcome. Completing this process is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the selection process as a tool for identifying the most suitable roadway surfacings for a particular project.

