



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

## PRODUCT BRIEF

# Long-Term Pavement Performance Program (LTPP) Materials Reference Library (MRL)

### FHWA Contact:

Jack Springer, 202-493-3144,  
jack.springer@fhwa.dot.gov

The purpose of this document is to provide information to individuals interested in obtaining materials from the Federal Highway Administration's Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Materials Reference Library (MRL).

### What is the MRL?

The MRL is a storage facility used to collect loose and core forms of highway materials consisting of asphalt cement, portland cement, natural aggregates, or a combination of materials. The MRL also includes a film storage facility and houses LTPP seasonal and weather equipment. The LTPP program currently maintains the MRL to store materials collected at LTPP General Pavement Study (GPS) and Specific Pavement Study (SPS) sites throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, the facility contains asphalt and aggregate specimens from the

Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) and material samples from the WesTrack project. All of these materials are available to researchers; however, FHWA must approve requests submitted to the MRL for use of the materials.

### Background

The LTPP program established the original MRL facility in Austin, TX, in the late 1980s as part of the original SHRP. The purpose of the MRL was to create a storage or warehouse

facility for many of the pavement and subsurface materials that were being sampled during the GPS and SPS experiments of the LTPP study. The MRL also was intended to help address some of the problems associated with the original American Association of State Highway Officials Road Test, where there was a shortage of materials available for subsequent research.



Figure 1. Photograph of the MRL storage facility.

In 1993, the LTPP program moved the MRL facility from Austin to Reno, NV. Over time, and with FHWA's request and approval, the LTPP program began storing materials from FHWA's Crumb Rubber Modifier Project and the WesTrack project at the MRL. In addition, the LTPP program added a climate-controlled room to the MRL facility to house the 35-millimeter films that contain images of the LTPP test sections. Rounds 9 and 10 of these images have been digitized and are available through the LTPP Customer Support Service Center (e-mail: [ltppinfo@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:ltppinfo@fhwa.dot.gov)). Since 2003, Sierra Transportation Engineers, Inc. (STE) has had a contract to manage the MRL.

### MRL Inventory

The MRL makes a wide variety and large quantity of highway materials available to researchers, including the following:

- Asphalt inventory.
- Aggregate inventory.
- SPS inventory.
- Cores inventory.
- Miscellaneous asphalt materials inventory.
- Miscellaneous materials inventory.
- Film inventory.
- Crumb rubber inventory.
- Other materials inventory.

These materials can be obtained by completing the MRL Inventory Request Form. To download this form and view detailed listings of the materials available at the MRL, visit the MRL Web site at [www.ste-group.com/mrl.htm](http://www.ste-group.com/mrl.htm).

### General Information

Hours of Operation:  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST

Contact:  
Dr. Sirous Alavi, P.E.  
Sierra Transportation  
Engineers, Inc.  
[sirous@ste-group.com](mailto:sirous@ste-group.com)  
Telephone: 775-827-4400  
Fax: 775-324-4407

Shipping Address:  
1625 Crane Way  
Sparks, NV 89431

**Research, Development, and Technology**  
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center  
6300 Georgetown Pike • McLean, VA 22101  
*Visit us on the Web at [www.tfhrc.gov](http://www.tfhrc.gov)*