

Pavement ME Design

September, 2013 – The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) has long held the position that fair competition between the pavement industries in surface transportation infrastructure construction and rehabilitation provides the highest returned value to the American taxpayer. Fair competition is affected at many points in the process of roadway design, bidding, and construction, and may affect the implementation of any solution (new construction, resurfacing, rehabilitation or preservation).

One of the keys to achieving fair competition between the pavement industries is through the use of state-of-the-art technology in pavement thickness design.

In April 2011, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) formally released DARWin M-E[®] as their latest technological advancement in pavement thickness design. Subsequently, they renamed the software “AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®]”.

In response to the formal release of this AASHTO-supported software ACPA affirms the following:

- Mechanistic-empirical design is the most comprehensive, scientific approach to developing comparable pavement designs available at this time;
- The concrete pavement industry supports the adoption of AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®] by state highway agencies for design of both concrete and asphalt pavements, provided that its implementation is based on locally derived calibration factors and its application is based on judicious and fair selection of input variables;
- AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®]—when calibrated and used with properly selected design inputs—will produce more accurate pavement performance predictions and reduced occurrences of over- or under-design than AASHTO’s previous thickness design guides.
- The concrete pavement industry will provide assistance to any industry personnel—including ACPA members and ACPA-affiliated Chapter/States—as well as to agencies interested in using AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®]. ACPA holds a site license for the software, providing its use to affiliated Chapter/States.
- ACPA will continue to support other thickness design procedures, including StreetPave and WinPAS particularly for city, county, state and private facilities where properly implementing AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®] is deemed infeasible due to complexity and expense, where implementation is deemed to have been inadequate, or where other procedures allow for technology not addressed in AASHTOWare Pavement ME Design[®].

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