

# Roller Compacted Concrete in South Carolina

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## Definition

“Roller-Compacted Concrete (RCC) is a no-slump concrete that is compacted by vibratory rollers.”

- Zero slump (consistency of dense graded aggr.)
- No forms
- No reinforcing steel
- No finishing
- Consolidated with vibratory rollers

Concrete pavement placed in a different way!

# Benefits of RCC Pavements

- Economical (both initial and life-cycle costs)
- High load carrying ability
- Eliminates rutting
- Excellent overall durability
- Simple, fast construction
- No forms or finishing



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## Surface Appearance

- Not as smooth as conventional concrete
- Important to recognize difference
- Similar appearance to asphalt only light grey instead of black



# Surface Texture



# Applications

# Saluda Dam - Columbia, South Carolina



# Military Facilities



Fort Lewis, WA  
1986



Fort Drum, NY  
1990

Fort Carson, CO  
2008



## Intermodal Facilities



Central Station  
Detroit, MI



Burlington Northern  
Denver, CO

# CN Intermodal Yard, Calgary



RCC decreased  
truck wait time from  
8 to 2 hours

Unsurfaced aggregate  
is difficult to maneuver  
and presents safety  
hazard



# Port Terminals



Norfolk International Terminal  
2006



Port of Houston  
2007



# Distribution Centers



18 acre distribution center in Austin, TX



10 years after construction

# GM Saturn Plant

## Spring Hill, Tennessee



# Honda Plant

Lincoln, Alabama



# Mercedes-Benz Plant

Vance, Alabama



# Streets & Interchanges



Residential street  
Columbus, OH

Intersection replacement  
Calgary, AB



# Columbus, Ohio Area



# Highway Shoulders



I-285 Highway  
Atlanta, GA



# Selected SCDOT Projects

- Powell Pond Rd, Aiken County (Demo. Project)
- SC 5, York County
- US 78, Charleston County
- New State Road, Lexington County
- Greystone Boulevard, Richland County
- South Beltline Boulevard, Richland County
- Richland Street (US78), Aiken County
- SC 9, Horry County
- S-11-171, Cherokee County
- I-385 Shoulders, Laurens County
- I-385 Shoulders, Greenville County
- J A Cochran BP, Chester County
- SC 9 and SC 151 Intersection, Chester County
- SC 21 , Albright Rd, York County



# Why are we using RCC?

(Andy Johnson, SCDOT State Pavement Engineer)

- Most or all of pavement structure can be placed in one lift.
- Does not require the curing time or adjacent lane encroachment of traditional PCC.
- Can handle heavy loads and high traffic volumes.
- Should be able to bridge poor subgrades effectively, if you can get it installed.
- Overall structure cost is very competitive with other pavement types.

# SC Route 5, Rock Hill, Chester County

- 10" RCC:
  - Bid quantity 25,650 sy - \$33/sy  
(\$117.86 cy or \$63.26/ton)
  - Placed Quantity 22,160 sy



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ELECTRIC REPAIR  
SERVICES

# US Route 78, Charleston County

- 5-lane section
- Original pavement built 1920's, widened in 1980's.
- ADT is 41,700 with 10% trucks.
- Asphalt Pavement condition was very poor.

# US Route 78, Charleston County

- Alternate pavement design:
  - 200 psy HMA Surface
  - 10 inches RCC



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# US Route 78, Charleston County









# Greystone Blvd. - 2009



Greystone Blvd. - 2009

# Greystone Blvd - 2009.





# Greystone Blvd. - 2010



# Greystone Blvd. - 2013





Greystone Blvd.

2010



2013



# Greystone Blvd. -2013





**Richland Avenue (US 78), Aiken, SC**



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0001

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GreenBuilding Solutions

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ABG

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**Explo** South Carolina  
Discovery Center  
24 Miles Ahead  
Hwy 17 & 17B  
Wrightsville Beach

**FIREWORKS**

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CLEAN FILTER DAILY

106







A wide-angle photograph of a multi-lane asphalt road, Richland Ave., taken in 2013. The road is flanked by green grass and trees on the right side. In the background, there are several commercial buildings, including one with solar panels and a sign that says 'SOLAR POWERED'. A utility pole with power lines is visible on the left side of the road. The sky is overcast.

Richland Ave. - 2013



I-385 RCC Shoulder

# SC Route 72 BP, Chester SC





# SC Route 72 BP, Chester SC



# SC Route 72 BP, Chester SC





# SC Route 151 and 9 Intersection, Chesterfield County



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# SC Route 151 and 9 Intersection, Chesterfield County



# Mixture Design

# Engineering Properties

- Compressive strength ( $f'_c$ )
  - 4,000 to 10,000 psi
- Flexural strength (MR)
  - 500 to 1,000 psi
  - $MR = C(f'_c)^{1/2}$  where  $C = 9$  (up to 11)
- Modulus of elasticity
  - 3,000,000 to 5,500,000 psi
  - $E = C_E(f'_c)^{1/2}$  where  $C_E = 57,000$  (up to 67,000)

## Mixture Design

- Dry enough to support vibratory roller
- Wet enough to permit adequate distribution of paste



# Aggregate Selection

- Aggregate selection very important
- Responsible for mix workability, segregation, ease of consolidation
- Pre-blended or stored separately



# Aggregate Selection

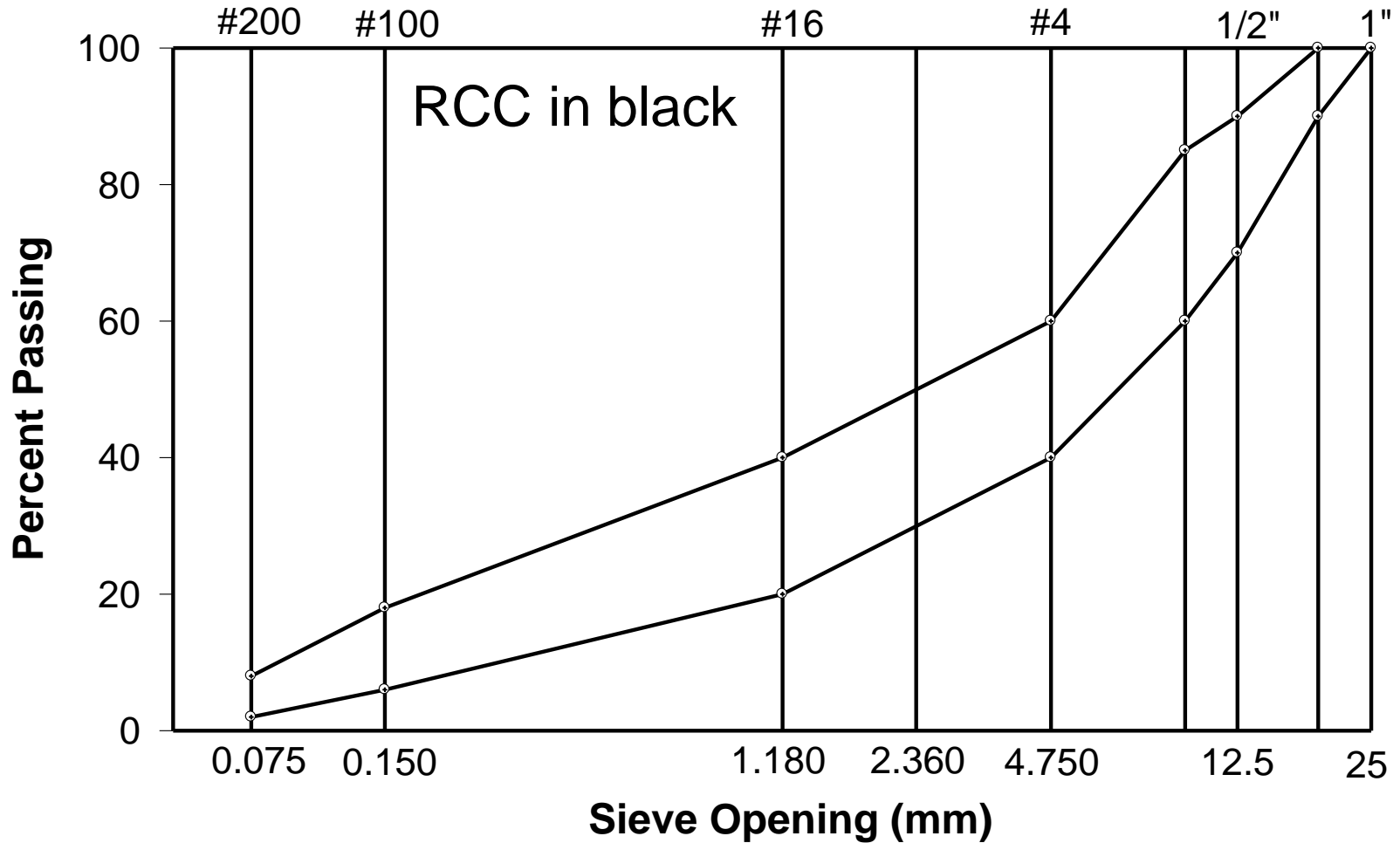
- Highway base course, asphalt or concrete aggregates can be used
- 5/8 in. Nominal Maximum Size
  - Provides smooth surface, reduces segregation
- Higher fine aggregate content than conventional
  - Economic advantage using non-washed and pit-run aggregates including dense graded aggregate base
  - Provide adequate stability under vibratory roller
- 2%-8% passing #200 sieve
  - Supplements paste to fill voids and maintain tight surface

# SCDOT GRADATION SPECIFICATION

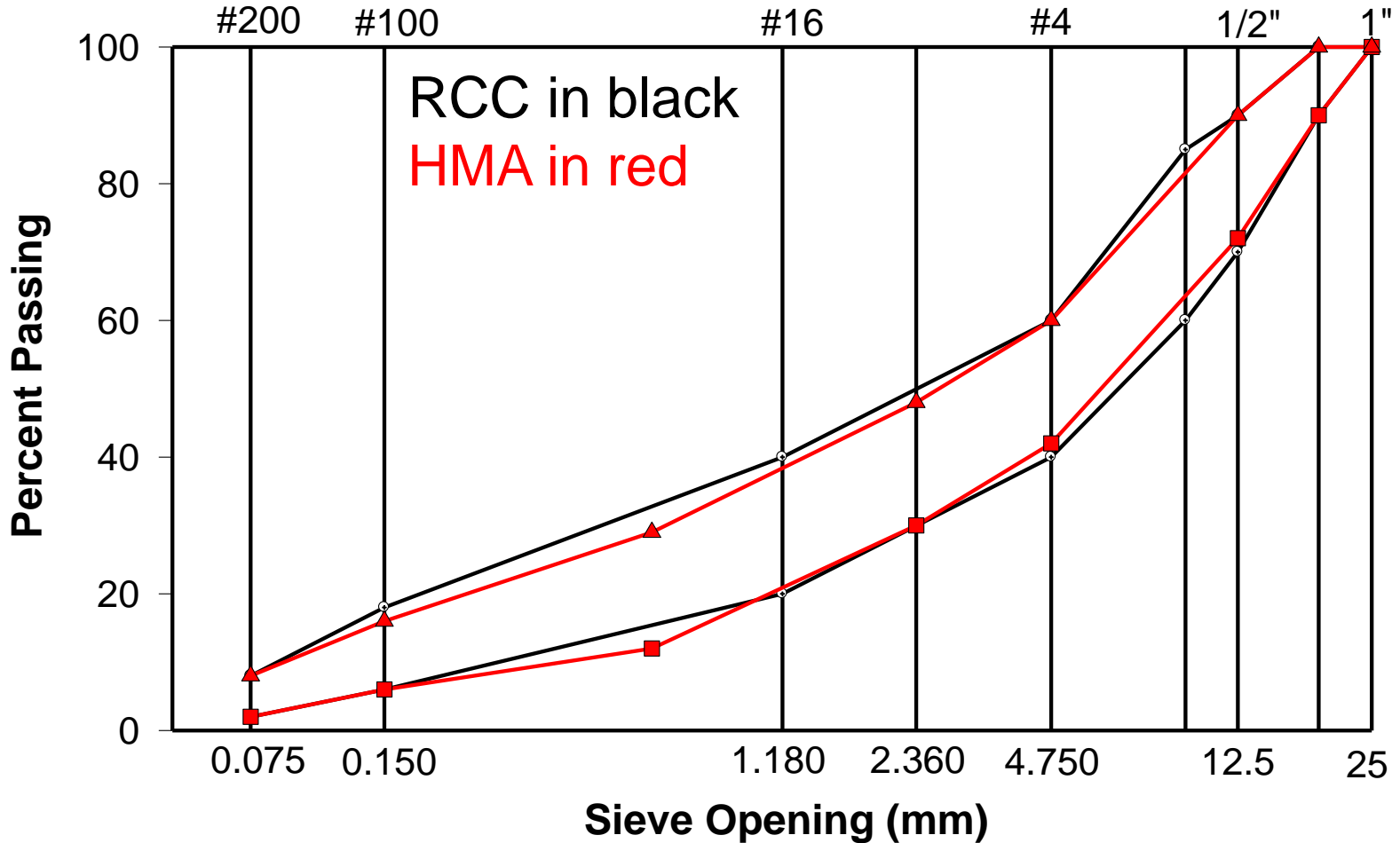
<u>Sieve Size</u>	<u>Percent Passing by Weight</u>
1 inch	100
¾ inch	90-100
½ inch	70-100
3/8 inch	60-85
#4	40-60
#16	20-40
#100	6-18
#200	2-8



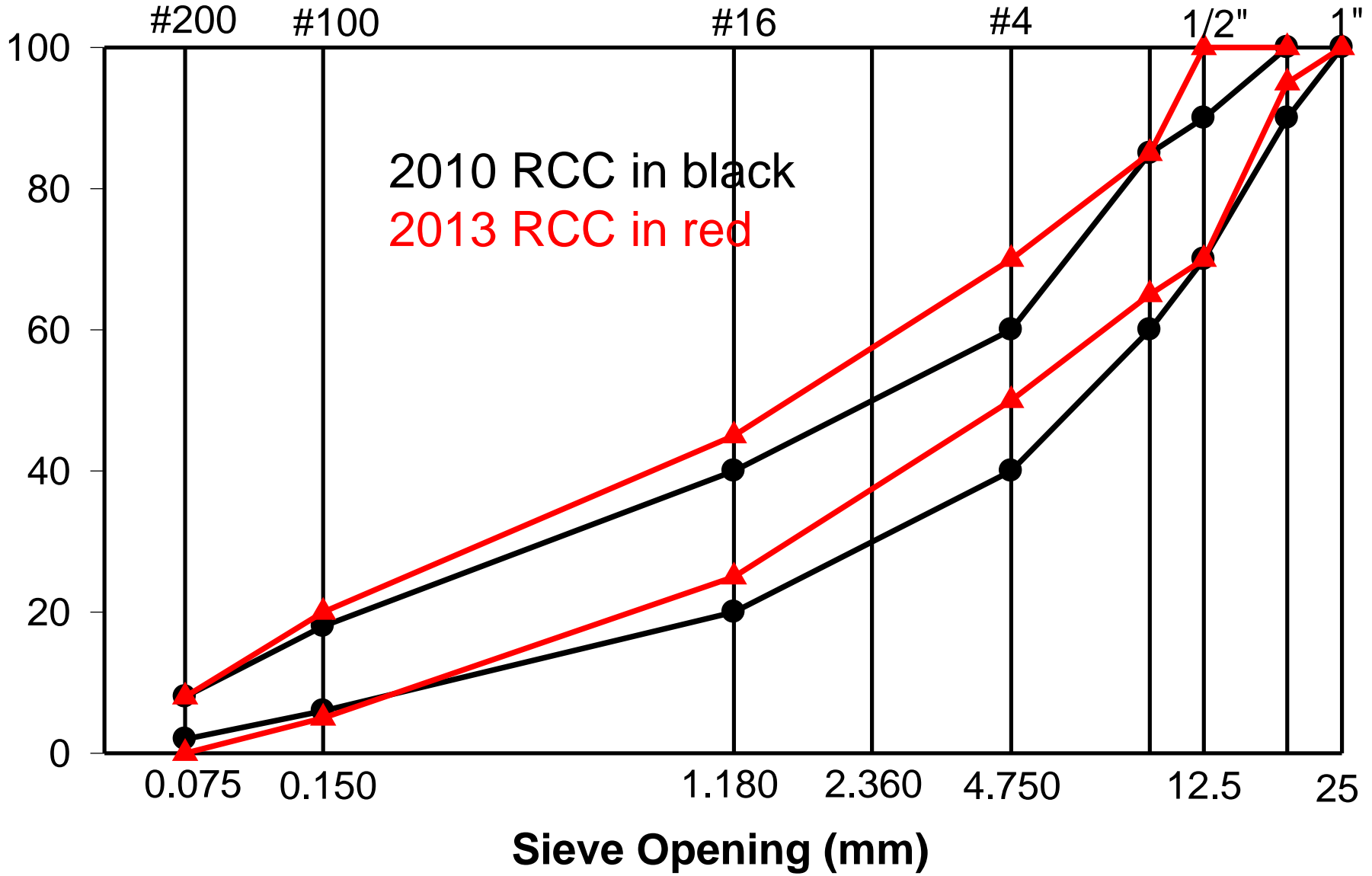
# RCC vs. HMA Intermediate Course



# RCC vs. HMA Intermediate Course



# Evolving Gradation Specs



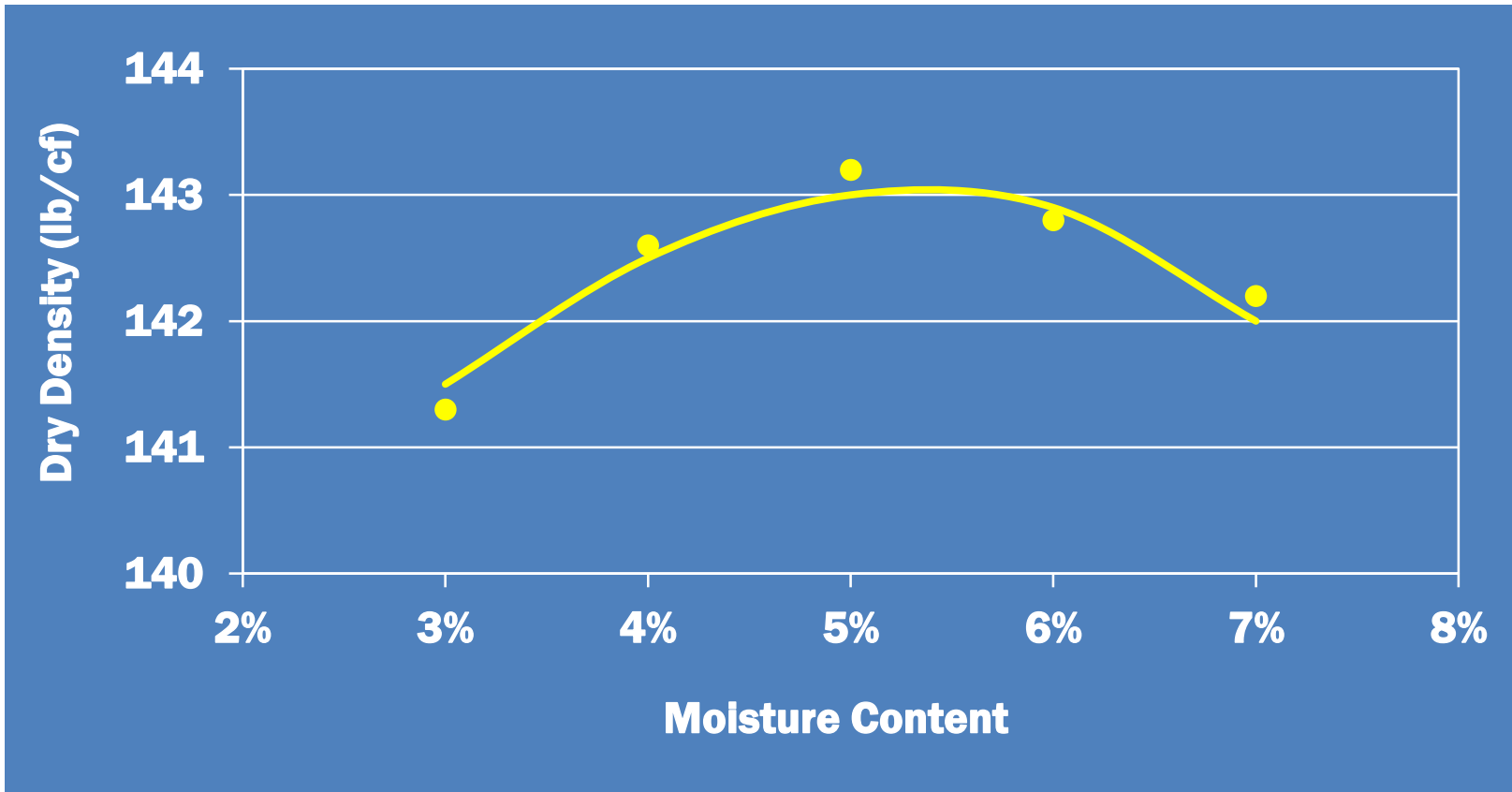
# Proportioning Methods

- Several methods available:
  - Concrete consistency tests
  - Soil compaction methods
  - Optimal paste volume method
  - Solid suspensions model
- Always allow time and money for field trial

## Soil Compaction Method

- Determine moisture content
  - Construct moisture/density curve
  - Modified Proctor ASTM D1557
  - Assume a median cement content (e.g. 500 pcy)

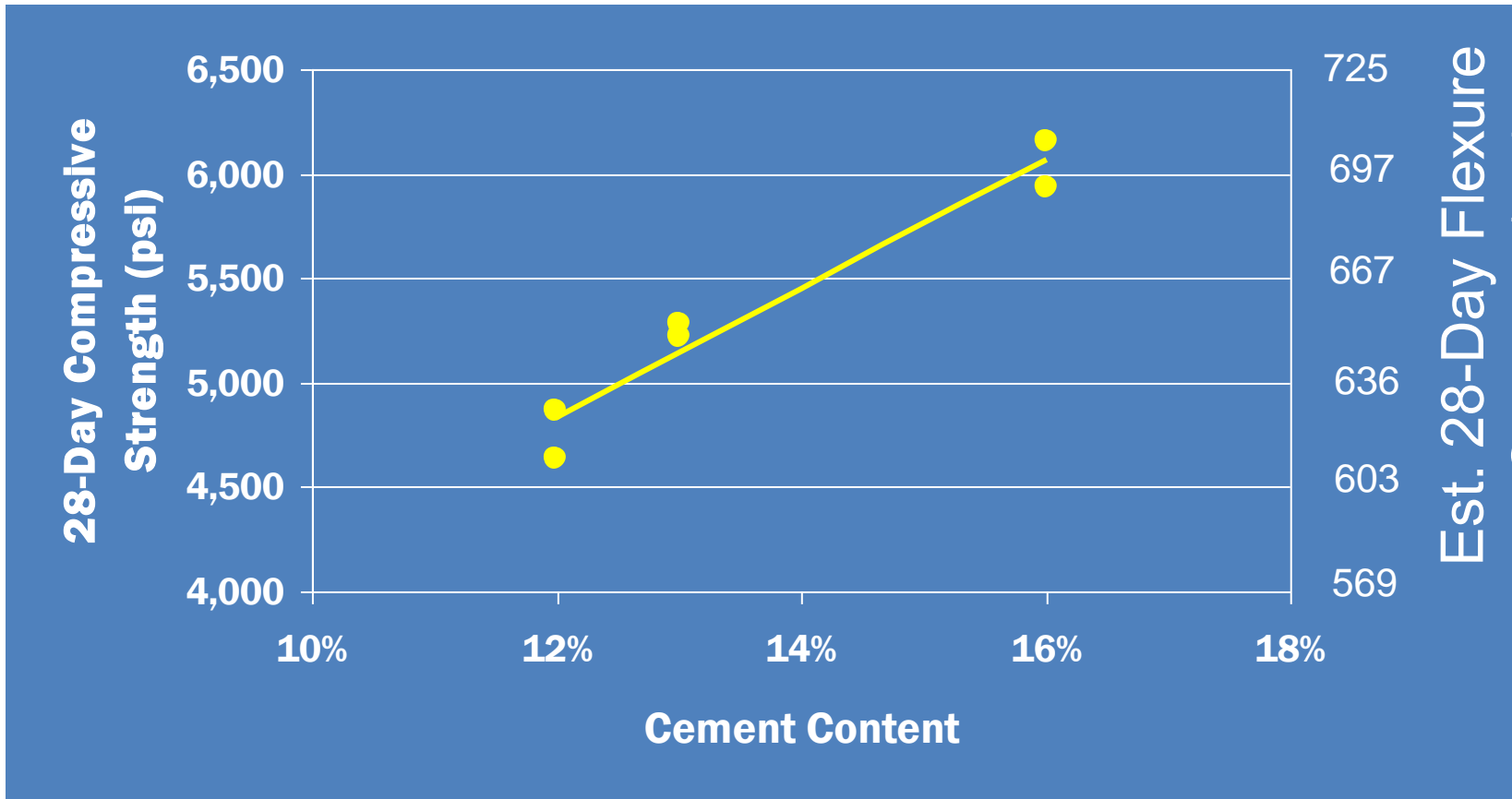
# Moisture-Density Relationship



## Soil Compaction Method

- Determine cementitious materials content
  - Use optimum moisture content
  - Run cement series
    - e.g., 11%, 13%, 15%, 17%
  - Select cement content which yields appropriate strength.

# Strength vs. Cement Content





# Aggregates And Cementitious (Cement & Fly Ash) Materials



# Casting First Lift Of Cylinder Specimen Using Hilti TE905 for ASTM C 1435



# Placement Of Second Lift



Note The Round Head For Compaction

# Completed Test Cylinders



# Sample RCC Mix Designs

	Units	Port of Tacoma Intermodal Yard	CTL Mix	Canada Mix
<b>Coarse Aggregate</b>	lb/cy	1,700	2,106	2,210
<b>Fine Aggregate</b>	lb/cy	1,700	1,378	1,338
<b>MSA</b>	in	5/8	3/4	1/2
<b>% Finer Than #200</b>	%	3 - 7	2	1
<b>Cement</b>	lb/cy	450	504	470
<b>Fly Ash</b>	lb/cy	100	0	36 (silica fume)
<b>Water</b>	lb/cy	257	211	172
<b>Admixture</b>	oz/cwt	none	none	5 (WR)
<b>w/c ratio</b>	-	0.47	0.42	0.34
<b>Unit Weight</b>	lb/cy	154.3	152.0	153.1
<b>Compressive: 3 day</b>	psi	1,810	5,460	-
<b>Compressive: 28 day</b>	psi	6,050	7,900	-
<b>Flexural: 3 day</b>	psi	525	690	1,205
<b>Flexural: 28 day</b>	psi	770	900	1,640

# Admixtures

- Fly ash, slag, silica fume have been used
- Retarders can be used to increase working time
- Water reducers used to increase workability
- Air entrainment very difficult in the field, but
  - Experience has shown RCC can be made F/T resistant
- Fibers seldom used
  - Increased difficulty with mixing & compaction



# Construction

# Subbase/Subgrade Preparation

- Same requirements as conventional concrete.
- Must be stiff to provide full compaction.
- Stable subgrade.
- Non-pumping subbase.
- Moisten subbase prior to RCC placement.





# Mixing Plants

Generally three types of available mixing operations:

1. Dry Batch Plant
2. Rotary Drum Mixing Plant
3. Continuous Flow Pugmill



# Rotary Drum Mix Plants

- Available at some locations.
- Mobilization issues.
- Capacity reduced due to low water content of mixture.



# Continuous Mix Pug Mill

- High-volume applications
- Excellent mixing efficiency for dry materials
- 250 to 900+ tons/hr
- Mobile, erected on site
- Mobilization costs



# Transporting and Placement



# Placing

- Layer Thickness
  - 4 in. Minimum Thickness.
  - 9 – 10 in. Maximum Thickness in a single lift.
- Timing Sequence
  - Adjacent lanes placed within 60 minutes for “fresh joint”
  - Multiple lifts placed within 60 minutes for “fresh joint”
- Production should match paver capacity
  - Continuous forward motion for best smoothness

# Placing Equipment

- High density pavers
  - Vibrating screed
  - Dual tamping bars and or pressure bars
  - High initial density, 90-95%
  - Reduces subsequent compaction
  - High-volume placement (1,000 to 2,000 cubic yards per shift)
  - Designed for harsh mixes
  - Smoothest RCC surface





Roller Compaction  
(rubber-coated drum)

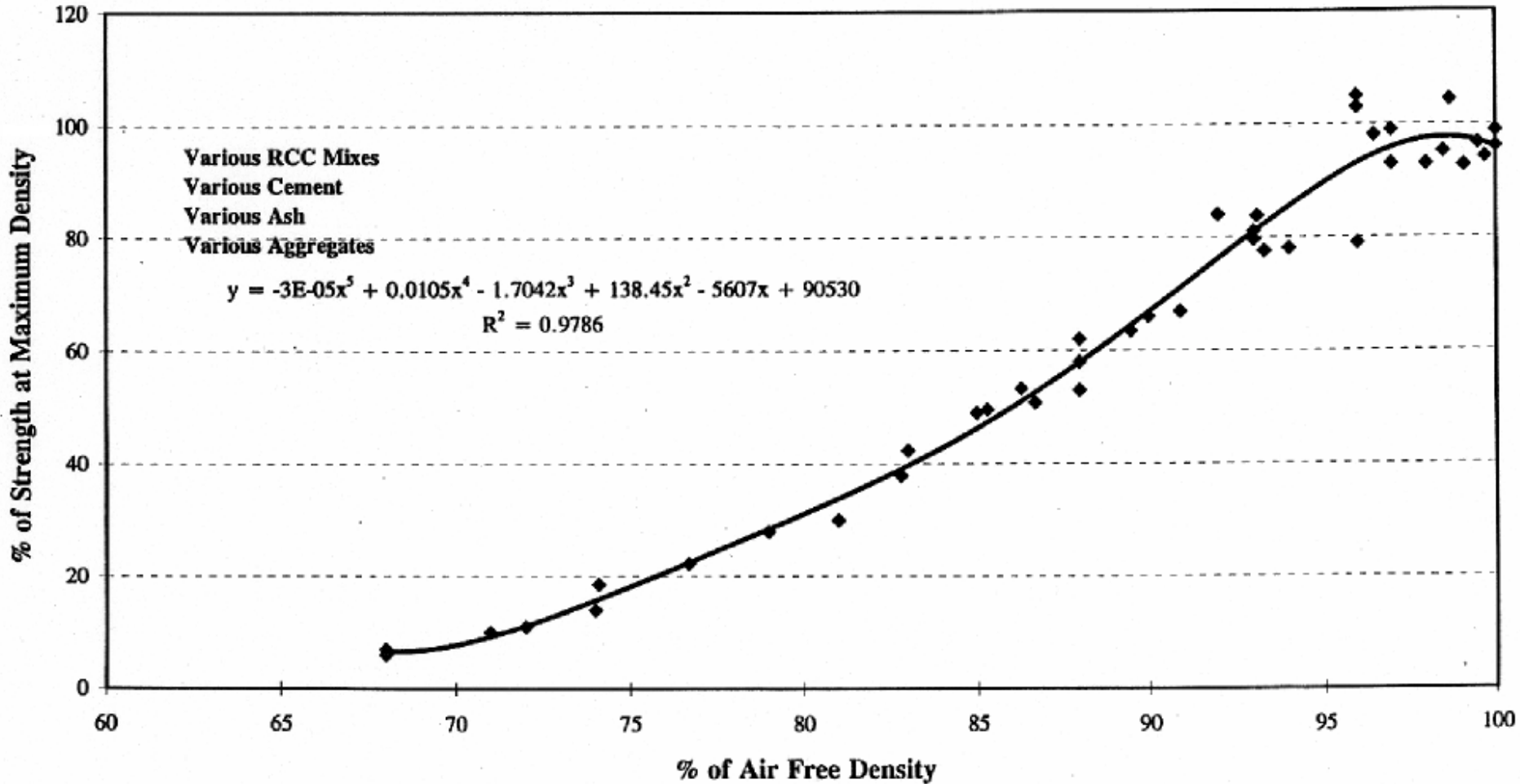
# Compaction-Final Density

- Final density is critical for strength and durability
- Compacted to 98% modified Proctor (typical)
- Dual steel drum roller
- Combination roller
- Rubber coated steel drum roller

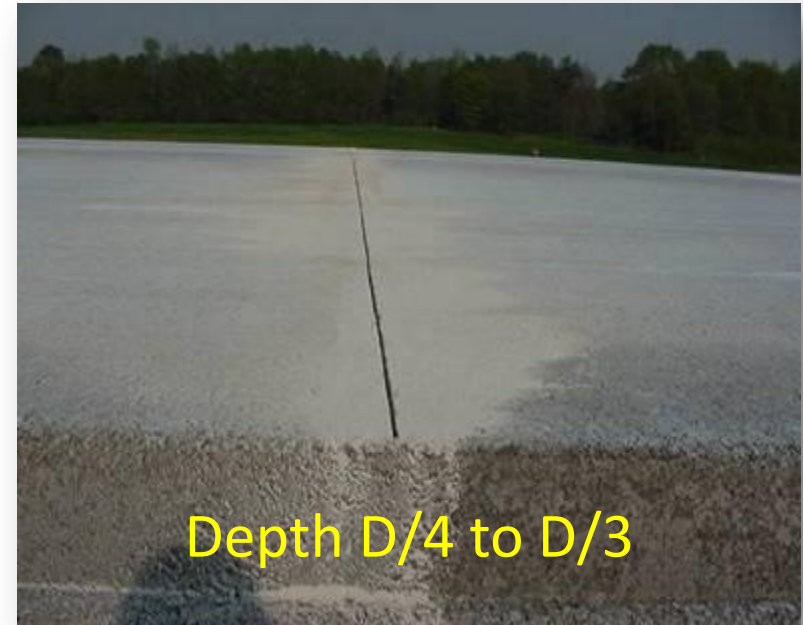




# Compaction is critical



# Transverse Joints



# Curing

- Extremely important; Ensures surface durability
- Low moisture content in RCC dictates moisture retention.
- Three methods:
  - Moist Cure
  - Concrete Curing Compound
  - Asphalt Emulsion

# Concrete Curing Compound

- White-pigmented concrete curing compounds
- Apply 1 to 1.5 times the normal application rate



# Bituminous Curing Compound

- Excellent moisture barrier
- Common compounds: SS-1, RC-250, MC-250
- Clean surface if needed
- Moisten surface
- Apply at 0.15 to 0.30 gal/sy
- Good for asphalt cap











# OPENING TO TRAFFIC

## Access to apartment complex had to be maintained



## Access was provided directly behind the high-density paver, even prior to roller compaction



## SCDOT Specifications

### Traffic:

*Protect the RCC from vehicular traffic during the curing period. Completed portions of the RCC pavement may be opened to automotive and light truck traffic as soon as the strength is sufficient to prevent damage to the RCC. The pavement may be opened to unrestricted traffic after 4 days.*

# Roller Compacted Concrete

## Questions ???

- Dams
- Intermodal Facilities
- Military Bases
- Port Terminals
- Interstate Shoulders
- Auto Industry Plants
- Streets and Local Rds
- State Highway System
- Nuclear Power Plants
- Logging Yards