FACT SHEET
for
Innovative Thin Polymerized HMA/WMA Overlays

The addition of high levels of polymer to a thin overlay binder is expected to greatly improve its crack resistance, rut resistance, and durability. Research in this area is being undertaken with the following objectives:

• **Determine the crack resistance of high modulus HMA/WMA overlays.** In the current NCAT test cycle, highly modified, high modulus sections are performing as well as, or better than other sections even though being 20 percent thinner.

• **Validate improved performance in high stress environments.** Currently, the Georgia Department of Transportation is testing a standard 1½” overlay with highly modified binder to ascertain whether there is a substantial increase in pavement service life at an intersection with heavy stop-and-go truck traffic.

• **Produce thin overlays (¾” to 1”) with good performance characteristics.** Provide enough toughness to resist raveling and moisture damage.

• **Demonstrate reduced life cycle cost.** Measure the life cycle cost of thin HMA/WMA overlays assuming a combination of reduced initial construction costs (thinner pavements) and improved long-term performance (better endurance, reduced maintenance, and greater pavement life extension).

*** Results from test sections will be reported on the TSP•2 website ***