

# Update: AMPT Specification and Test Standards

FHWA Mixture and Construction Expert Task Group  
September 21, 2017  
Bozeman, Montana



# Agenda

- Equipment specification (draft)
- Small specimen standards (draft)
- Stress sweep rutting (draft)
- Cyclic fatigue (AASHTO TP 107)



# AMPT

- Temperature range from about 4° to 70°C
- Computer-controlled device
  - Software built-in for various test procedures
- Fundamental tests
  - Stress and strain modeling
  - “Bulk testing”
  - Pavement ME or FlexPAVE™
- Kits available for other tests



# AMPT Implementation

- Transportation Pooled Fund Study (TPF(5)-178)
  - Purchase, installation of 29 AMPTs
  - NHI Course (over 80 trainees) – need to update
  - Interlaboratory study on effect of air voids
  - National workshop
- Test standard development, improvement, and revision
- Instructional videos, TechBriefs
- PRS shadow implementation (TFHRC-led)
- Mobile Asphalt Testing Trailer (MATT) projects/training
- User Groups at TRB and regional meetings



# Current AMPT Equipment Specification

- Current specification – Appendix E of NCHRP Report 629

**NCHRP**  
REPORT 629

Regretless Testing of  
the Dynamic Modulus and  
Flow Number Tests with  
the Simple Performance Tester

www.nchrp.org



---

## NCHRP Project 9-29

Simple Performance Tester for Superpave  
Mix Design

Equipment Specification  
For The  
Simple Performance Test System

LIMITED USE DOCUMENT

The information contained in this Document is regarded as fully privileged. Dissemination of information included herein must be approved by the NCHRP.

October 16, 2007



# Development of New Specification

- Update for additional test procedures
  - AASHTO T 378 (dynamic modulus ( $|E^*|$ ), flow number)
  - AASHTO TP 107 (cyclic fatigue)
  - AASHTO TP 116 (incremental repeated load permanent deformation)
  - These tests require additional data analysis for fundamental properties
- Collaborative group effort (55 reviewers)



# AMPT Equipment Specification

- Specify tension-compression loading machine
- Reference to specific tests
- Range for temperature sensor increased
- Calibration of machine in tension recommended for TP 107 users
- Calibration and compliance checks included as Annexes
- Electrical requirements changed to 208 VAC



# AMPT Equipment Specification

Specify tension-compression loading

- Re... specific tests requiring additional analysis
- Range for temp... sensor increased
- Calibration of machine... recommended for TP 107...
- Reference manual extended to include tests

**ETG REVIEW UPCOMING!**





# Small Specimen Standard Update



# FHWA PRS Initiative

- Use of fundamental tests to capture variance between as-designed and as-built AQC's
- Asphalt Mixture Performance Tester (AMPT) used in performance-engineered mixture design (PEMD)
- Structural response model (stresses and strains)
- Performance volumetric relationships used in construction



# FHWA PRS Initiative

of fundamental tests to capture  
between as-designed and as-built

Performance Tester  
engineered

- As-Designed (AMPT), mixture design
- Structural response (strains)
- Performance volumetric relation in construction

**PERFORMANCE TESTING ONLY IN DESIGN PHASE!!!**



# Standardization of Test Methods

## FULL SIZE SPECIMEN

Specimen Prep  
AASHTO R 83

Dynamic Modulus  
AASHTO T 378

Cyclic Fatigue  
AASHTO TP 107

Stress Sweep Rutting  
AASHTO TP XXX

## SMALL SIZE SPECIMEN

Specimen Prep  
AASHTO PP XXX

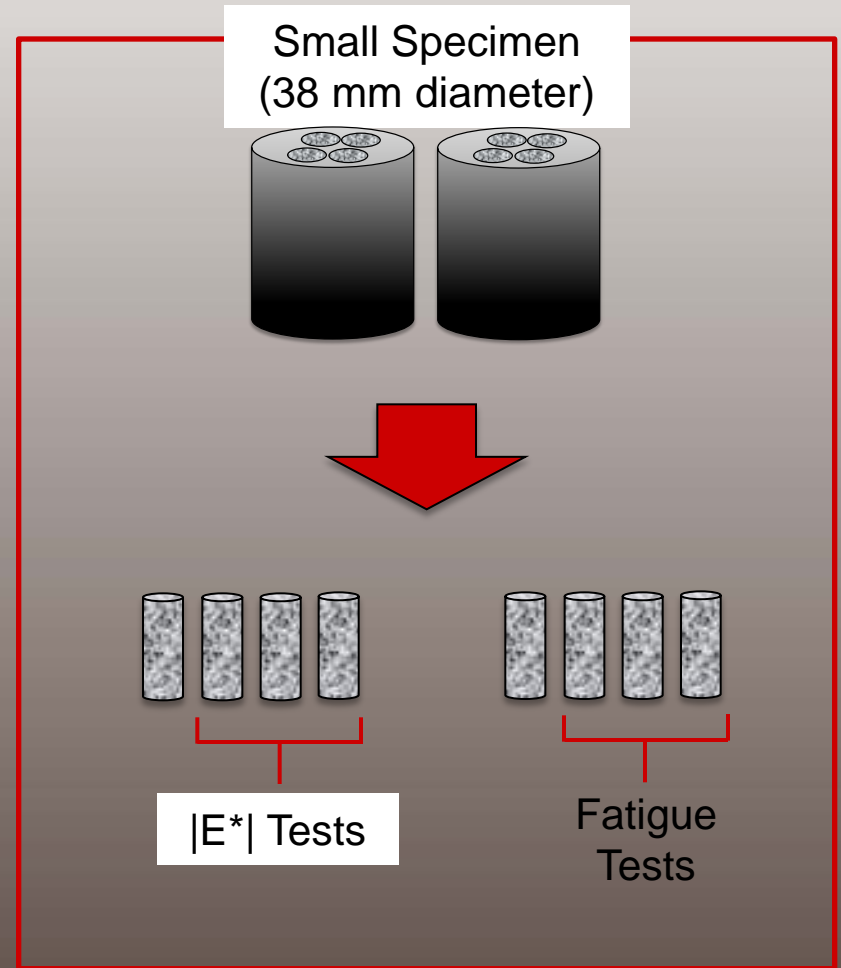
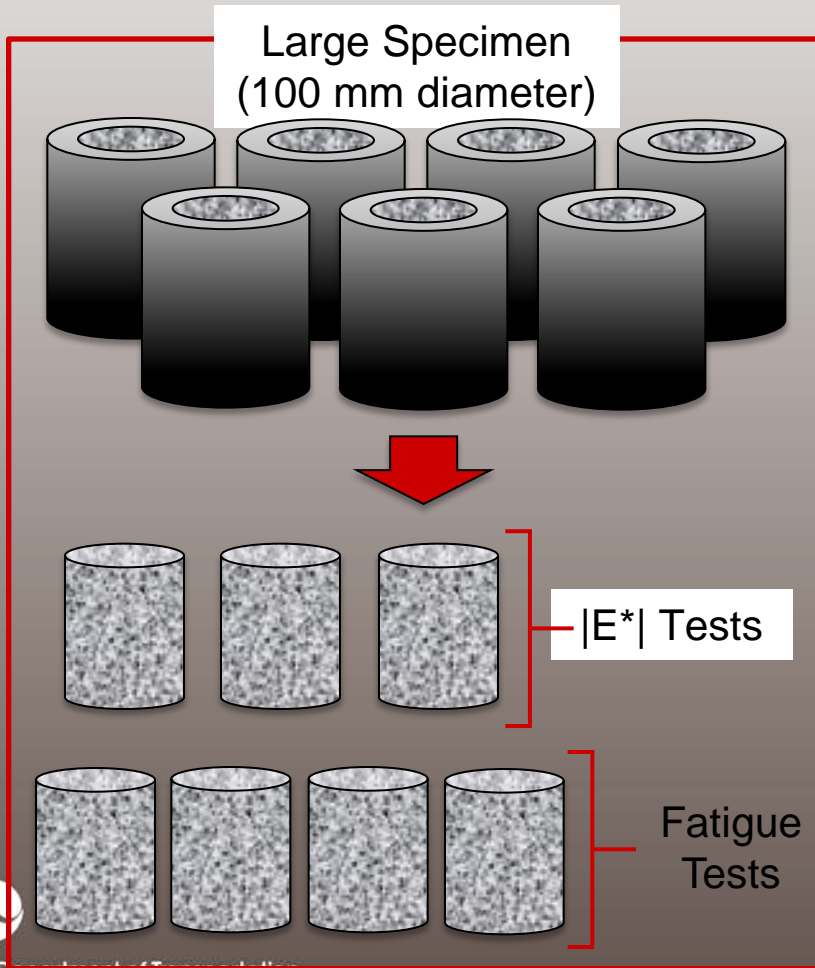
Dynamic Modulus  
AASHTO TP XXX

Cyclic Fatigue  
AASHTO TP XXX

**Performance-Related  
Specification  
PASSFlex™**

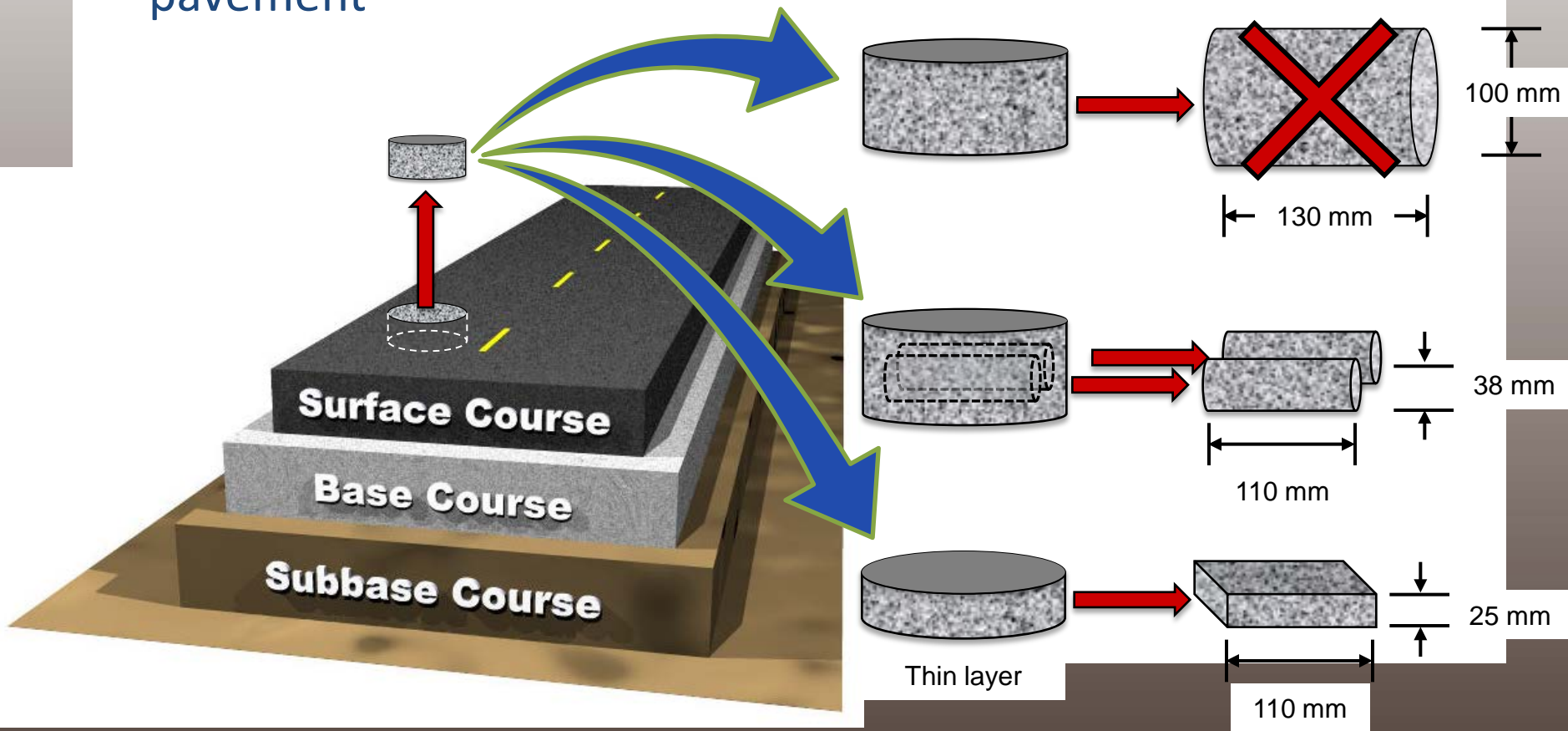


# Small Specimen – Crash Course



# Testing Specimen from Field Cores

- Asphalt concrete layers are generally thinner than 100 mm
- Allow for performance testing individual layers of as-built pavement



# Draft Standard - Preparation

- Core 4 test specimens from one gyratory
  - Taken from 100 mm diameter area to minimize unfavorable air void distribution
- Based off AASHTO R 83 (formerly PP 60)
- Includes method to core 2 test specimens from one field core
- Use full size specimen to target mass for desired air voids



# Draft Standard – Dynamic Modulus

- Target 50-75 microstrain
- Data quality indicators the same
- Appendix for 50 mm and prismatic test specimens
- Generally recommended at temperatures of 45°C and below





# Draft Standard – Cyclic Fatigue

- Decreased seating load
  - 0.01 kN compared to 0.09 kN
- 5-minute epoxy recommended
  - compared to 16 h for full-size
- Used for mixtures up to 25 mm NMAS
- Ruggedness testing to begin
  - ILS afterwards



# Draft Standard – Stress Sweep Rutting

- 2 temperatures
  - Low temp – 0.4 s load, 1.6 s rest
  - High temp – 0.4 s load, 3.6 s rest
- 10 psi confinement
- 3 loading blocks of 200 cycles each at varying deviatoric stress levels
- Data used in shift model for permanent deformation



# Draft Standard – Stress Sweep Rutting

temperatures

mp – 0.4 s load, 1.6 s rest

– High – 4 s load, 3.6 s rest

- 10 psi comp.
- 3 loading blocks on each at varying deviatoric stress
- Data used in shift model for permanent deformation

**ETG REVIEW UPCOMING!**



# Testing Efficiency and Simplicity

## AASHTO TP 107 Revisions

- Submitted to AASHTO COMP TS 2d
- Add failure criterion
- Simplification of language
- AMPT-specific
- Removal of spreadsheet derivation
- New strain selection guidance
- Instructional videos
- Output template provided for FlexMAT™
- Ruggedness and ILS



# Testing Efficiency and Simplicity

## AASHTO TP 107 Revisions

Submitted to AASHTO COMP TS 2d

Failure criterion

- Simplification of language
- AMPT-31
- Removal of special derivation
- New strain selection
- Instructional videos
- Output template provided for F
- Ruggedness and ILS

**OUT FOR FULL BALLOT THIS FALL!**



# AMPT Users Group

- National/International
  - Biannual meetings
    - Summer meeting: FHWA update, FlexPAVE™ demo, maintenance and tuning issues
  - Discussion of issues, best practices, future efforts
  - 164 members, 28 DOTs



# Asphalt Technology Guidance Program (ATGP)



*Long-Life Asphalt Pavement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

# Solutions to Agency Needs

- Project-Specific Workplans
  - Material Characterization
    - High RAP/RAS, GTR, SMA, PRS...
  - Mix Design Replication and Testing
  - Mix Production Testing
  - Performance Prediction
  - Training and Demonstration





# Thank you!

- Questions?
- Contact information
  - David Mensching
  - 202.366.1286
  - [david.mensching@dot.gov](mailto:david.mensching@dot.gov)



# Testing Efficiency and Simplicity (2)

## Small-Specimen Geometry

	Large Specimen	Small Specimen
Steel Putty	Devcon 10110	Devcon 10240
Working Time	10 – 20 min.	5 min.
Functional Cure	16 hours	1 hour
Amount of Putty (per specimen)	100 g	3 g



# Small Specimen History

- Witczak et al. (2000) AAPT
  - Minimum height-to-diameter ratio of 1.5
  - 70, 100, and 150 mm diameter tested
  - $|E^*|$ , permanent deformation considered
- Kutay et al. (2009) TRR
  - 38 mm diameter, 100 mm height specimens
  - Field core testing by horizontally coring
  - Cyclic fatigue results statistically equal (C vs. S curve)
- Li and Gibson (2013) AAPT
  - 38 mm diameter, 110 mm height
  - Cyclic fatigue results statistically equal (modulus reduction)
  - Small specimen slightly softer  $|E^*|$  at high temperatures
  - 5 test specimens per gyratory specimen



# Small Specimen History

- Bowers et al. (2015) AAPT
  - 50 mm diameter, cored horizontally
  - Modulus differs most at 54.4°C and with 19.0 and 25.0 mixtures
- Castorena et al. (2017) NCHRP IDEA N-181
  - Test procedures developed
  - Recommend 4 test specimens per gyratory specimen
  - Cyclic fatigue results statistically equal

