

# Tech Topic

## Importance of Pavement Integrity

Smooth, comfortable, and well-maintained roadways are not only expected by a community's residents, but are important for safety reasons and the local economics. Most residents of a community think primarily in terms of aesthetics or ride comfort when they think of the road system in area. Understandably, they look to see public dollars result in smooth rides and attractive roadside areas.

Public officials look to balance those aesthetic desires with a need to stretch public funds (including many areas outside of transportation). Construction of roadways requires a large capital expense that should be reflected by a responsible long term maintenance program. Pavement distresses that area



remedied before they allow a systemic reduction in pavement integrity will avoid costly rehabilitation when distresses area allowed to compound. It has been shown time and again that the life cycle cost of operating a roadway are increased dramatically when the surface condition is allowed to deteriorate beyond a maintainable point.

But pavement integrity is perhaps most important from a safety perspective. A well maintained pavement surface will reduce the likelihood of skidding crashes, braking issues, and vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.

Hence, there are many reasons to construct good roads and then maintain good pavement surface conditions. Long term costs are minimized. The community finds the roadway comfortable and attractive. Safety of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists is increased.



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