

VARIOUS LOCATIONS - GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation . Automated High Friction Surfacing Treatment

PROJECT OVERVIEW



This work consists of over 1,200,000 square yards of HFST projects let by GDOT at multiple locations in three maintenance districts and across 16 counties. It represents the largest series of installations ever undertaken in North America.

GDOT was an early adopter of the HFST process dating back to its first installation on "dead mans" curve, north of Atlanta in 2004. The success of this installation propelled GDOT to institute a statewide HFST program.

The earlier projects let were installed manually with questionable results due to the inability of the installers to control the resin binder mil thickness and aggregate coverage rates. In the early stages of the HFST program and project specification development, there were concerns that specifying a particular type of installation process might preclude competitive bidding.

An extensive five year selection of crash locations and a funded program to treat sites with off-road skidding incidents took place, followed by an exhaustive 24-month review of the statewide specification. This involved meetings with material component vendors, state materials engineers and industry installers.

All parties were in agreement for a specification that encompassed strict material testing parameters and only permitted installers capable of a fully-automated application. The Agency no longer permits any manual applications and also requires electronic reporting capabilities to verify the material application volumes, including the pavement and ambient temperatures.

Project Highlights

Due to locations being spread across a wide range of terrains including many on mountainous two-lane highways, the automated continuous application ensured a constant installation standard as specified by GDOT.

With heavily trafficked roadways that serve as commercial routes to the local industrial and shopping areas, the requirement for limited traffic closures was also an important component of the project, as the safety of both the traveling public and the installation contractor are paramount.

Relevant Experience Gained

- Application consistency at every location and verification with electronic reporting directly from the automated application equipment.
- Partnering with the Agency to eliminate unsuitable site locations due to inferior pavement conditions.
- Coordination with the Agency to reduce the inconvenience to the traveling public by having the ability to install large volumes in short time frames.

Value to Customer

- HFST is classified by the Federal Highway Administration as a low-cost safety countermeasure.
- Fully-automated, specification-compliant application trucks.
- Safe, predictable, fast and continuous application.



High Friction Surfacing Treatments are eligible for federal and state funding through HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Programs)

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