



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

# **Intelligent Compaction for Pavement Foundation**

By

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The Transtec Group



# Project Overview

- FHWA Contract No. HIF190100PR
- Title: **Feasibility of Utilizing Intelligent Compaction Equipment to Ensure Uniformity and Quality of Pavement Foundation**
- Project Period: Oct. 2019 to June. 2024
- FHWA COTR: Dr. Tom Yu
- Objectives

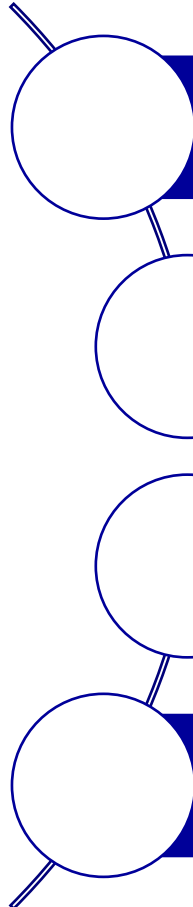
Develop a procedure for ensuring uniformity and adequacy of pavement foundation using IC and demonstrating feasibility.

<https://www.intelligentconstruction.com/projects/fhwa-ic-for-foundation-project/>

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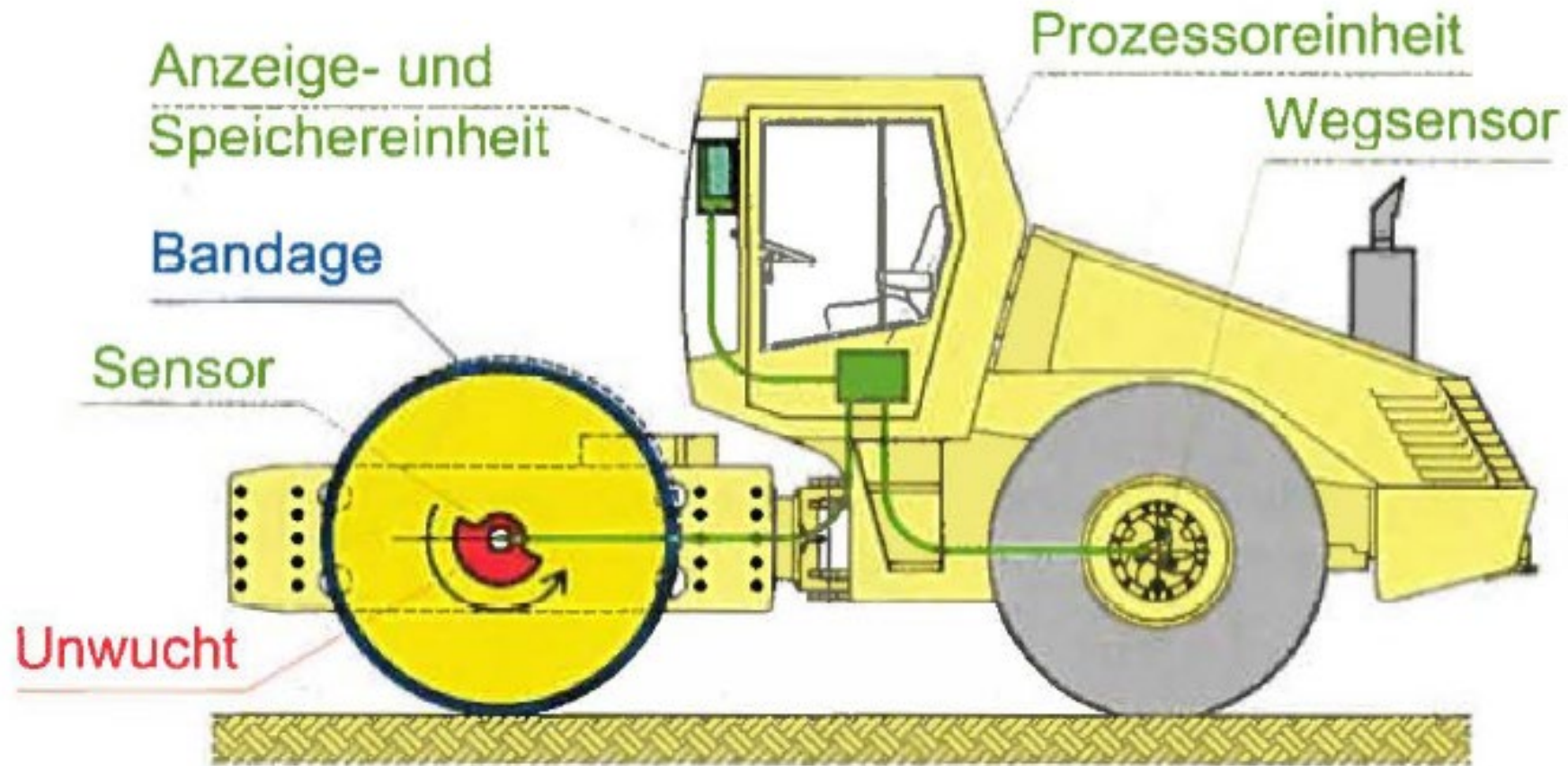
# Outlines

- 
- IC for Foundation
  - Benefits and Challenges
  - FHWA IC Field Demo
  - Summary of Findings

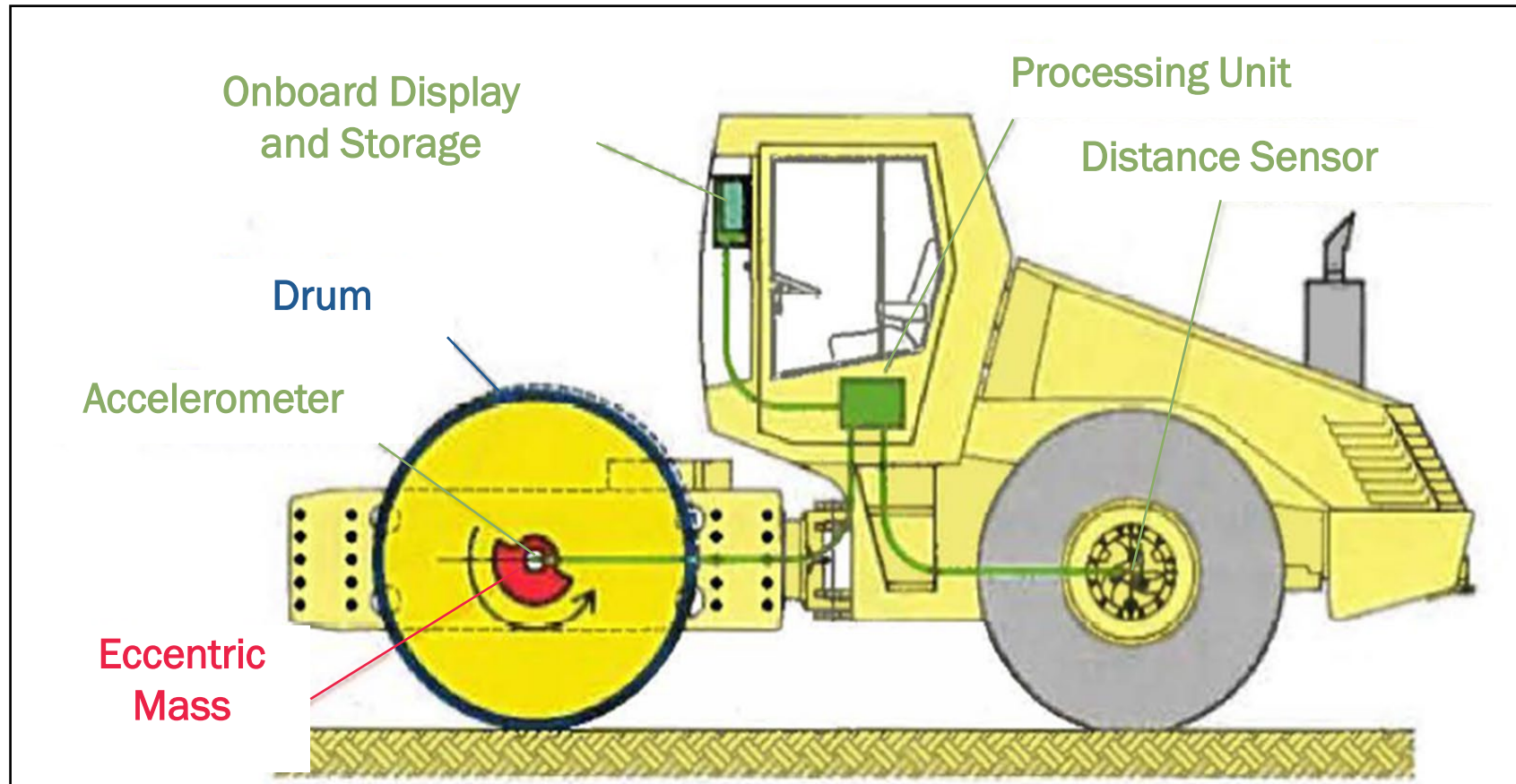


**IC for Foundation**

# First Generation of CCC



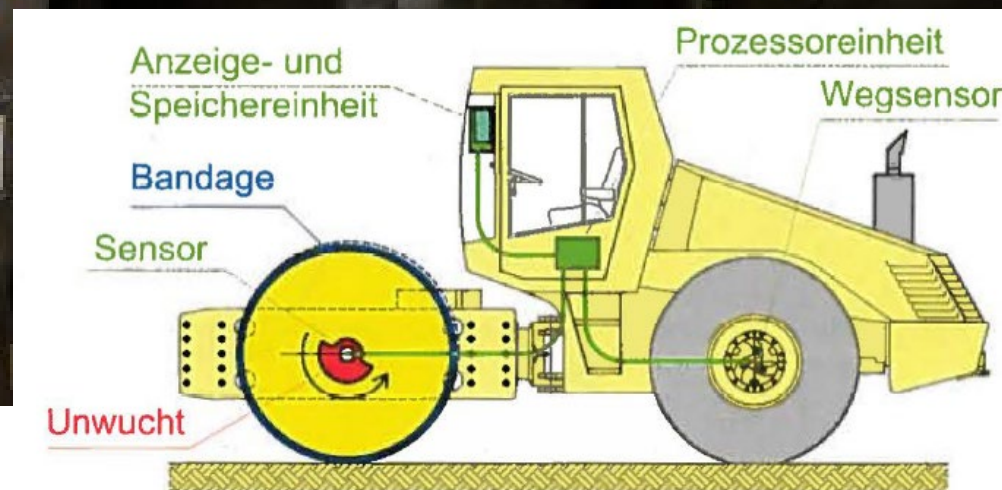
# First Generation of CCC



Source: Geodynamic (Modified)



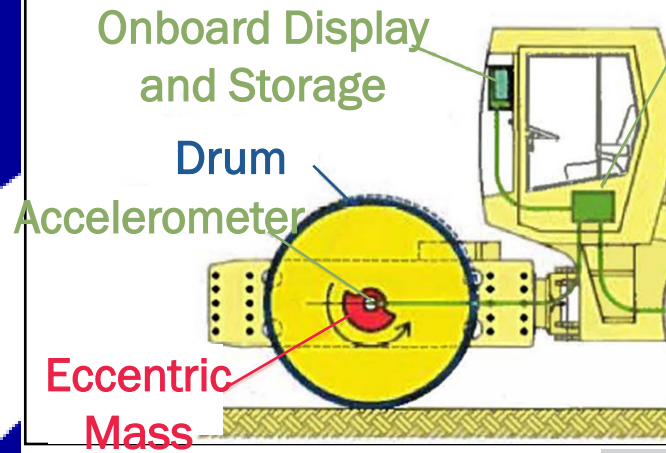
Å. Sandström



Source: 40 years of CCC (2018)

# CCC to IC

CCC



S

## FHWA INTELLIGENT COMPACTION STRATEGIC PLAN

April, 2005

Prepared by:

Bob Horan, Ted Ferragut  
Salut, Inc.

Prepared for:

Tom Harman, John D'Angelo  
Federal Highway Administration

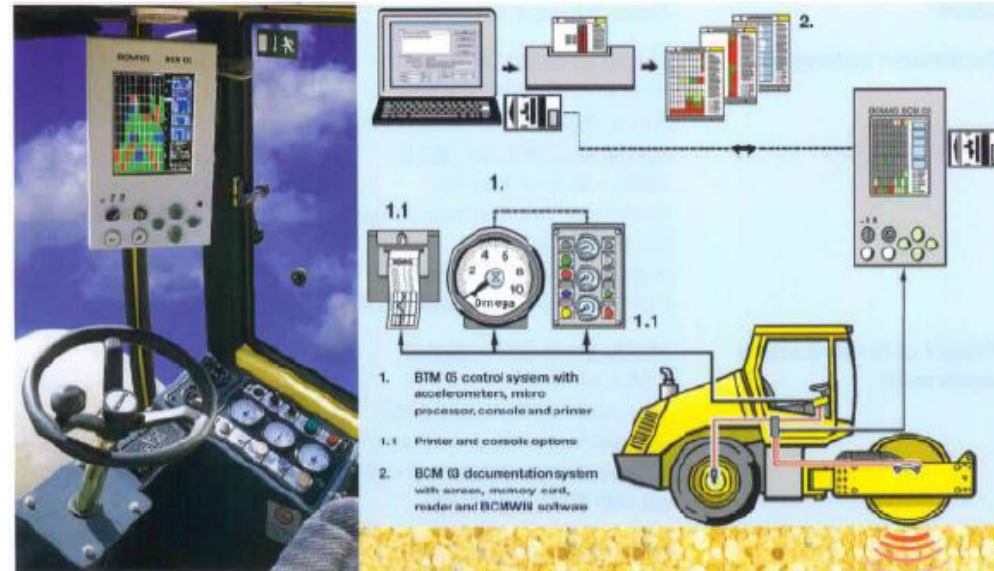
IC



Source: HAMM



**Continuous Compaction Control Demonstration  
MnROAD Research Facility  
September 27, 28, and 29, 2004  
10 am to noon each day**



Compaction equipment is becoming available that can measure the stiffness of grading materials during compaction at the construction site. Some of these compactors also adjust their compactive energy on the fly during compaction. This optimizes resources by allowing the specified stiffness to be achieved without over compaction. This equipment is available in Europe, but only a few compactors are believed to be present in the United States. The FHWA and several DOTs are currently working to organize demonstrations of this equipment.

A demonstration of continuous compaction control (CCC), also referred to as intelligent compaction, will occur on a road embankment at the MnROAD facility during the week of September 27-29, and will also be included as part of the MnROAD tour during the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Accelerated Pavement Testing Conference. Bomag equipment will be used for compaction, field testing will be completed during the demonstration, and an engineering report will be produced. In situ testing devices will include the nuclear density gauge and sand cone. In addition, alternative measures of compaction will include the following devices: Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP), Light weight deflectometer (LWD), and GeoGauge. The State will facilitate all arrangements required to accommodate those attending the demonstration, which is open to anyone interested in continuous compaction control and intelligent compaction. All contractors and public/private sector engineers and technicians are welcome. For directions and a map to the MnROAD facility please see:

[http://mnroad.dot.state.mn.us/research/mnroad\\_project/directionstomnroad.pdf](http://mnroad.dot.state.mn.us/research/mnroad_project/directionstomnroad.pdf)

Please contact John Siekmeier, at [john.siekmeier@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:john.siekmeier@dot.state.mn.us) for further details or if you plan to attend. Thanks for your interest.

# Modern OEM Soils IC Systems

Ammann-Case



Caterpillar



HAMM-Wirtgen



BOMAG



Dynapac



Sakai



# Modern Soils IC Retrofit System





# Modern IC Retrofit System

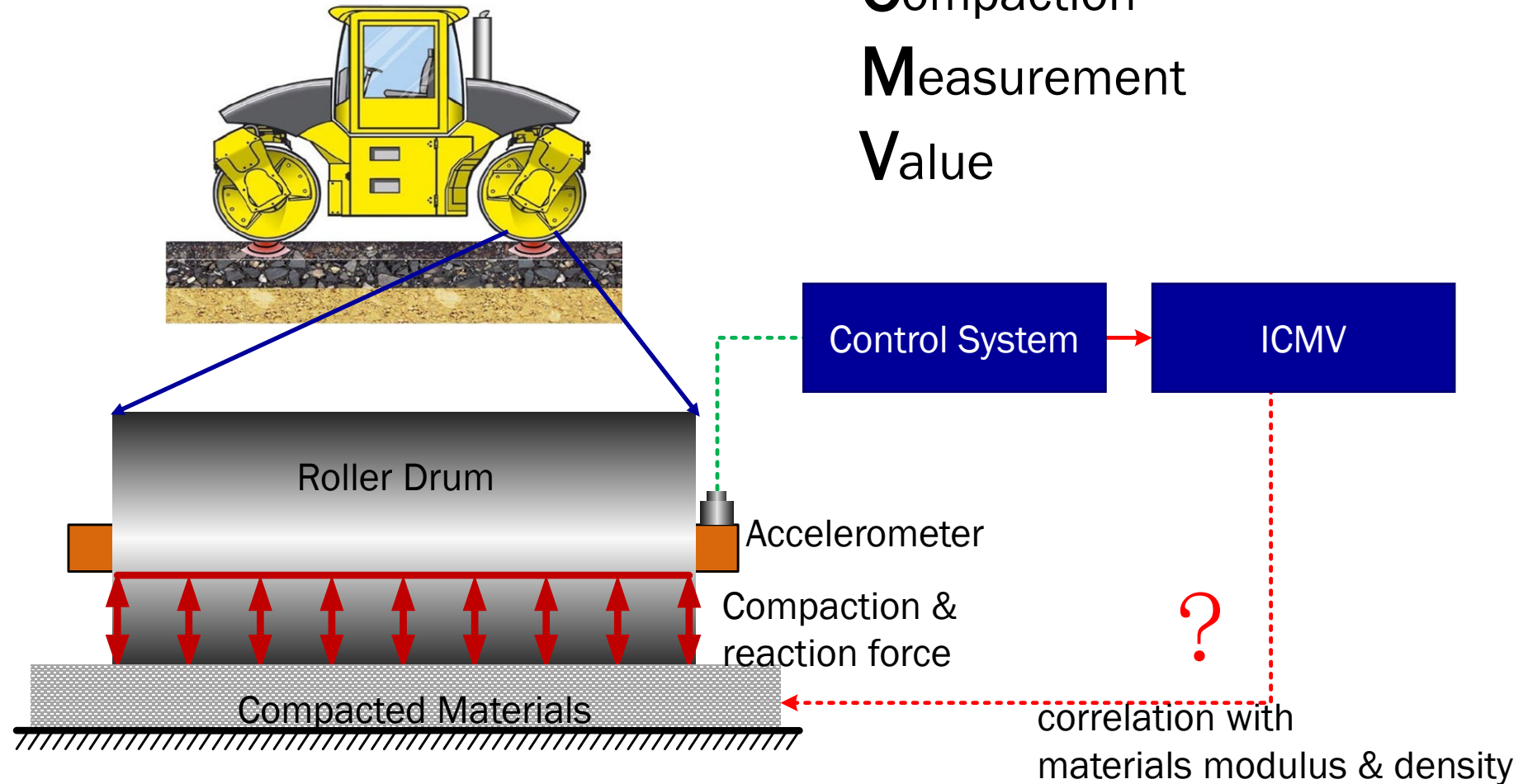


# IC Application for Pavement Foundation



# ICMV Mechanism

Intelligent  
Compaction  
Measurement  
Value





# Tech Brief - ICMV Road Map

FHWA-HIF-17-046

## TECHNICAL BRIEF



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

### WHAT IS ICMV?

Intelligent Compaction Measurement Value (ICMV) is a generic term for accelerometer-based measurement system instrumented on vibratory rollers as a key component of intelligent compaction systems. ICMV is based on the acceleration signals that represent the rebound force from the compacted materials to the roller drums. ICMV are in different forms of metrics with various levels of correlation to compacted material's mechanical and physical properties, such as stiffness, modulus, and density.

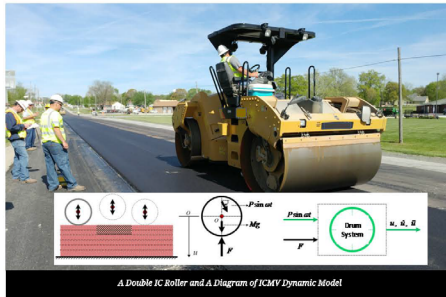
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## INTELLIGENT COMPACTION MEASUREMENT VALUES (ICMV)

### A ROAD MAP TECHNICAL BRIEF

SUMMER 2017



### BACKGROUND


Intelligent compaction (IC) is an equipment-based technology to improve quality control of compaction. IC vibratory rollers are equipped with a high precision global positioning system (GPS), infrared temperature sensors, an accelerometer-based measurement system, and an onboard color-coded display. IC is used to improve compaction control for various pavement materials including granular and clayey soils, subbase materials, and asphalt materials. The accelerometer-based measurement system is a core IC technology that was invented in the early 80's and is still evolving today.

Intelligent Compaction Measurement Value (ICMV) is a generic term for an accelerometer-based measurement system instrumented on vibratory rollers as a key part of IC systems. ICMV are in different forms of metrics with various levels of correlation to compacted material's mechanical and physical properties. The purpose of this document is to demystify ICMV by providing a comprehensive description on the mechanisms of ICMV and various levels of solutions as the road map for using ICMV towards compaction monitoring, control, and acceptance.

## ICMV Road Map

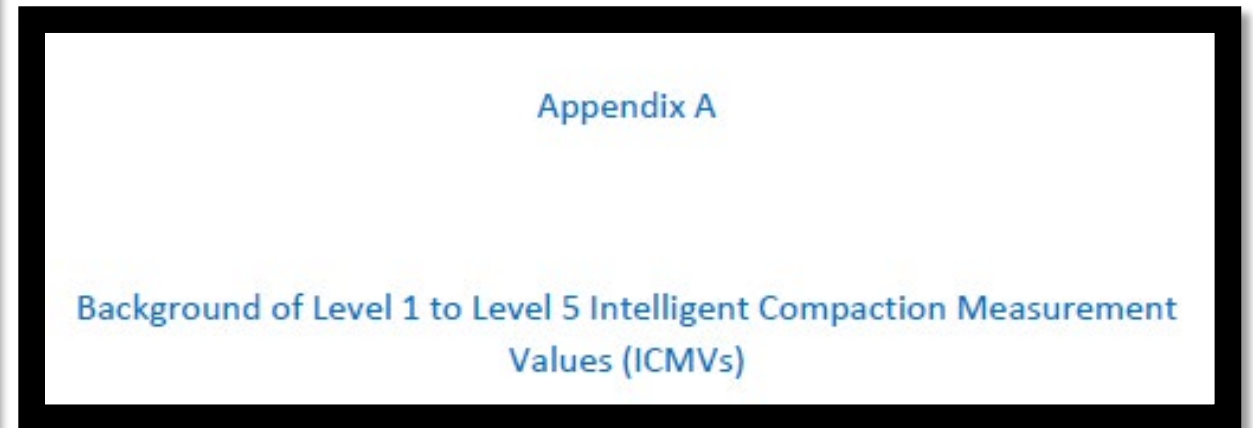
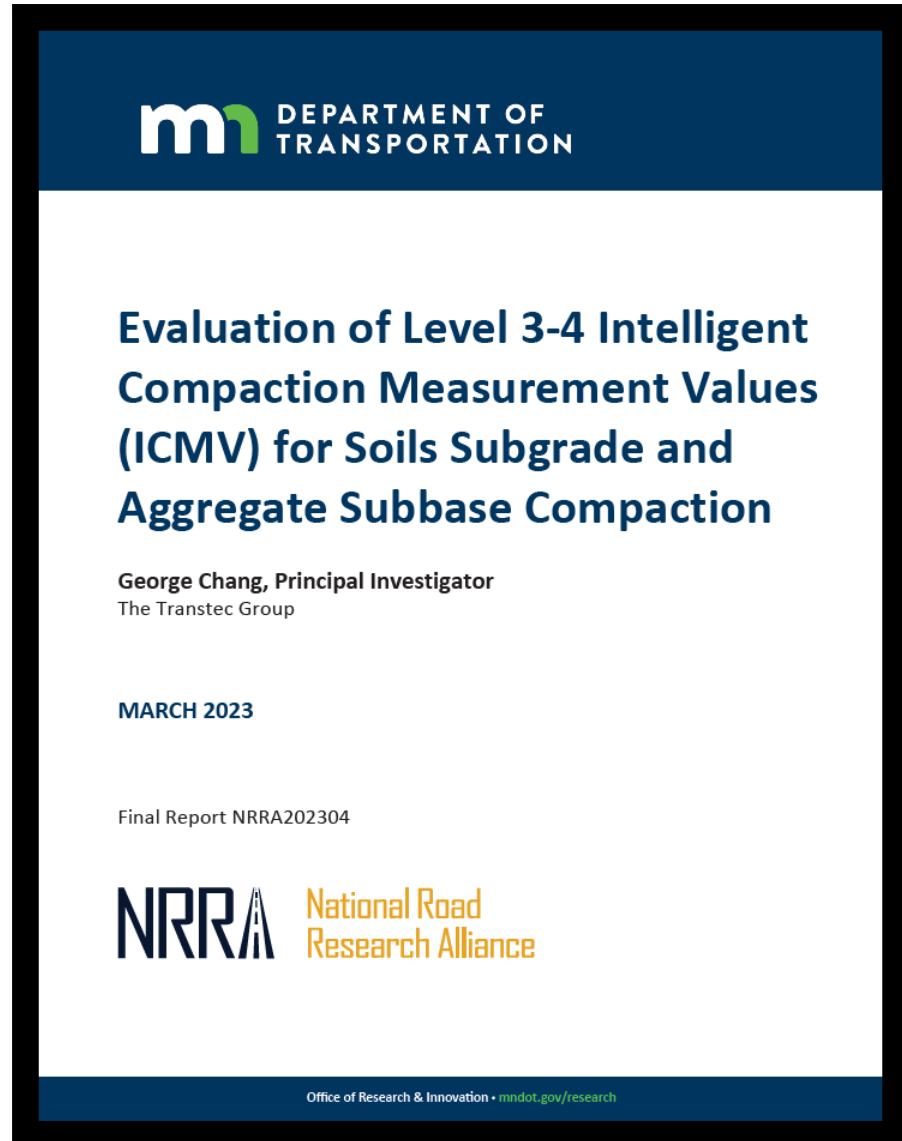


# 5 Levels of ICMV



Level	Model	Measurement Values	Correlation <sup>1</sup>	Decouple <sup>2</sup>	Layer Specific <sup>3</sup>	Advanced IC <sup>4</sup>
1	Empirical	Harmonic ratio	0	×	×	×
2	Energy	Energy index	?	×	×	×
3	Discrete vibration	Stiffness Coefficient	✓	×	×	0
	Steel drum movement	Resistance force	✓	✓	0	0
	Continuous static	Modulus	✓	×	✓	✓
4	Hybrid	Resistance force, Modulus	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Continuous dynamic	Density, Modulus	✓	✓	✓	✓

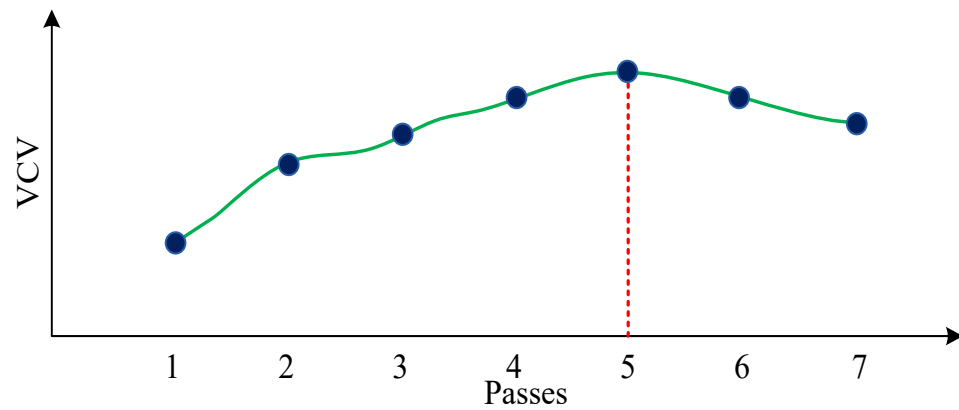
# Detailed Models of 5-Level ICMVs



<https://mdl.mndot.gov/items/NRRA202304>

# **Benefits and Challenges**

# Optimize Roller Passes



7 Passes ✓



Test section



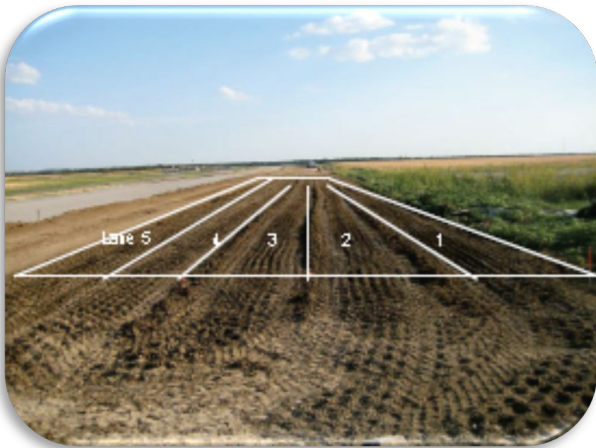
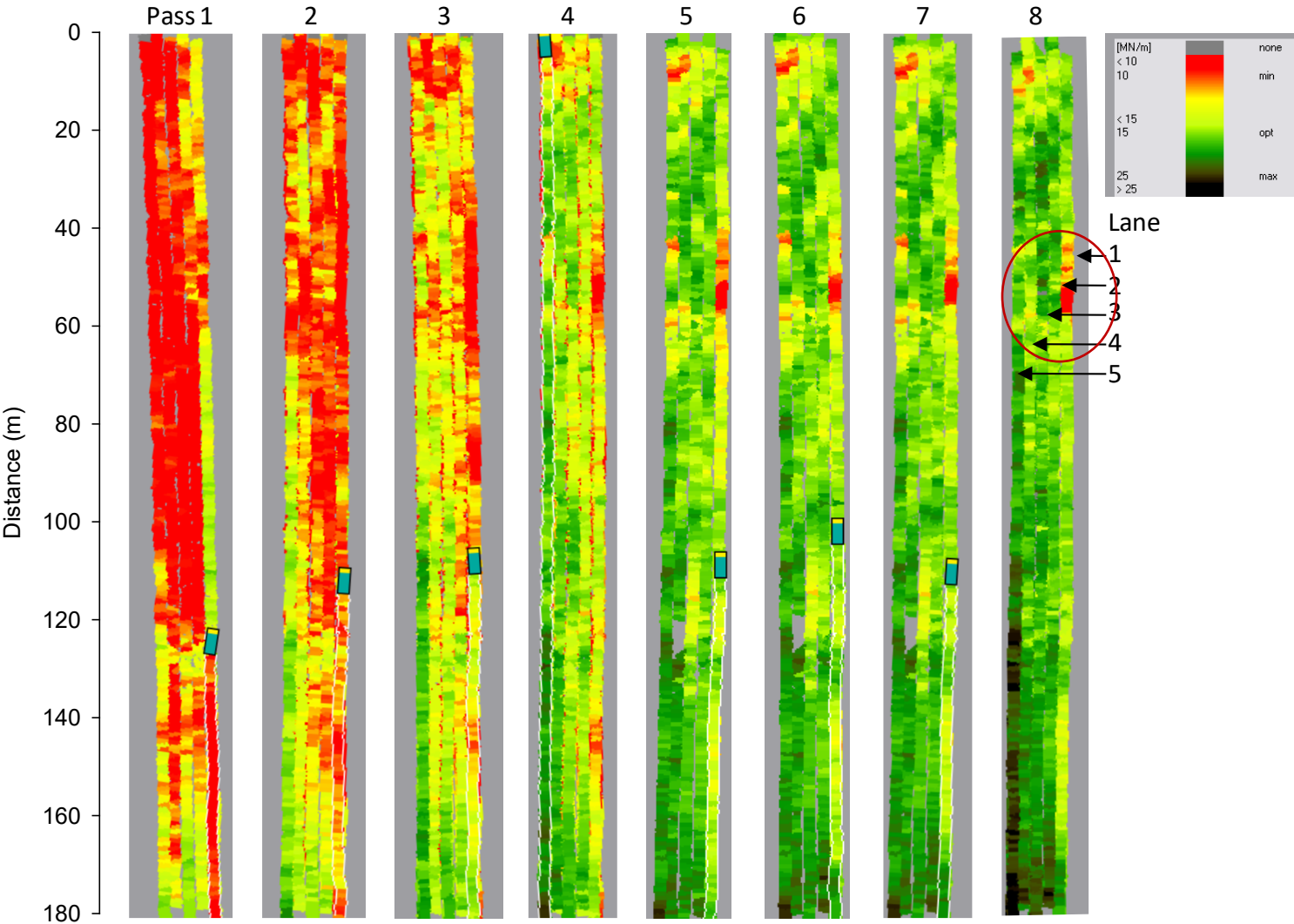
5 Passes ✓



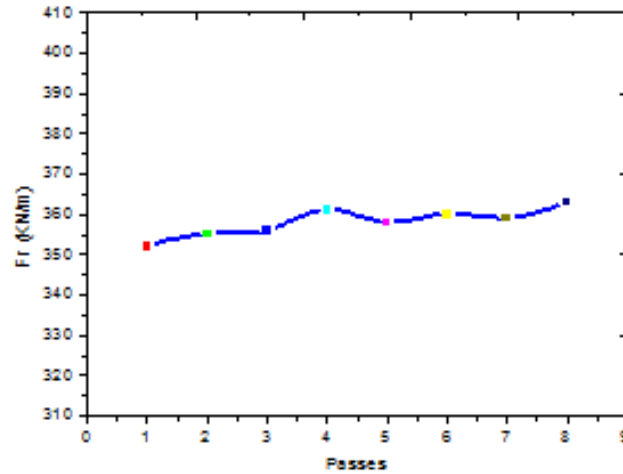
Construction section



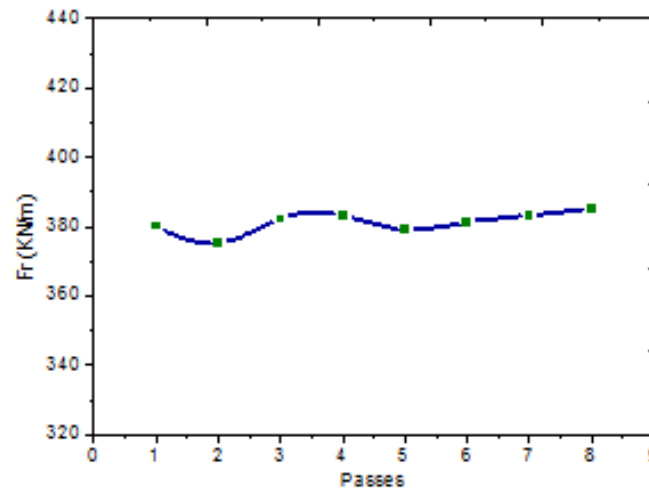
# Identify Weak Areas



# Identify Poor Aggregate & Gradation

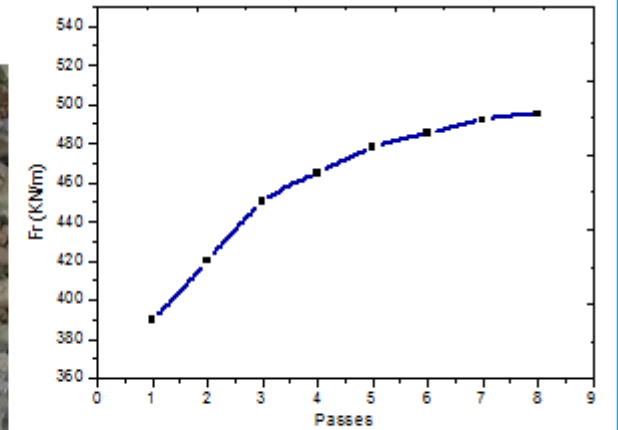


(a) poor-graded



(b) rounded gravel

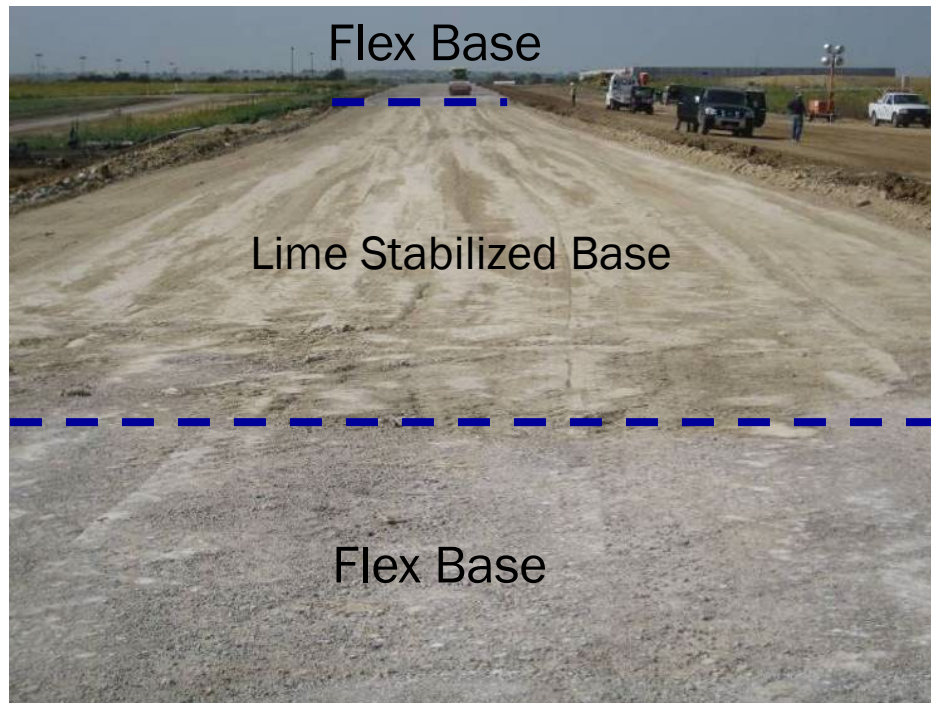
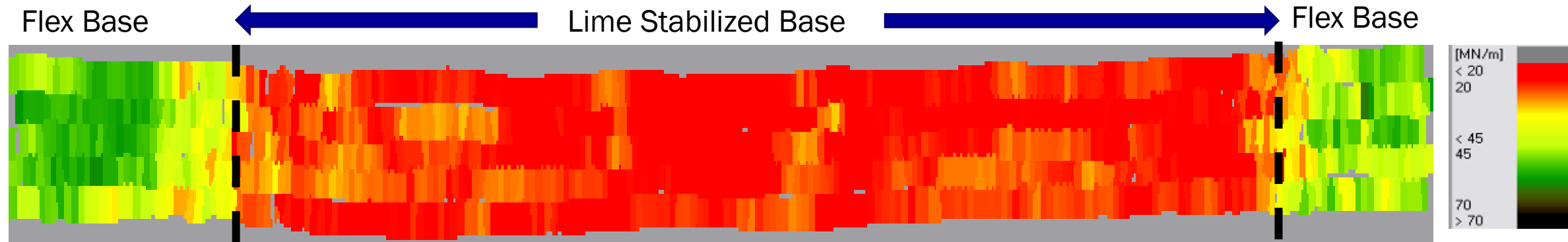
Sinecore  
Level 3 ICMV - VCV



(c) well-graded

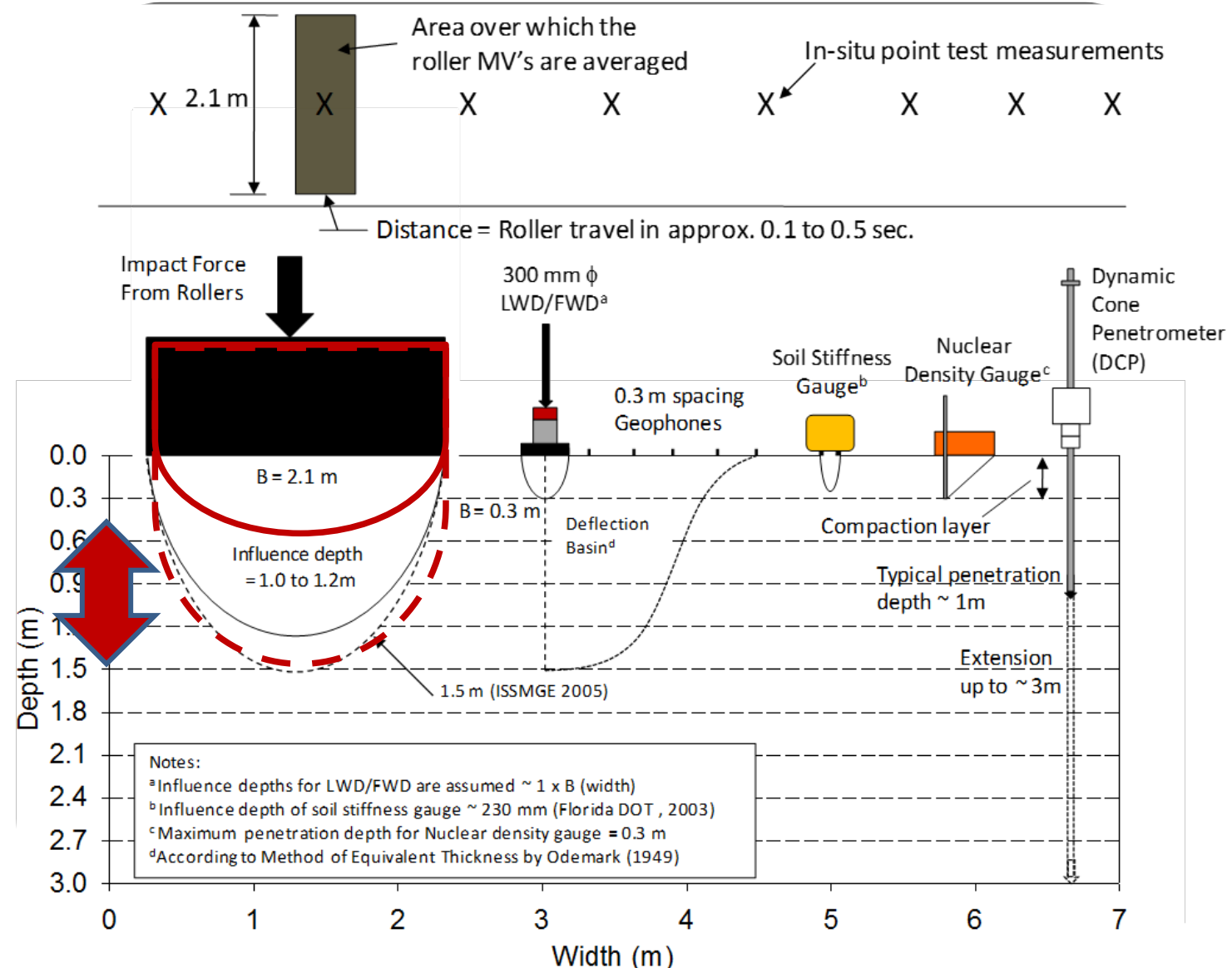


# Differentiate Materials

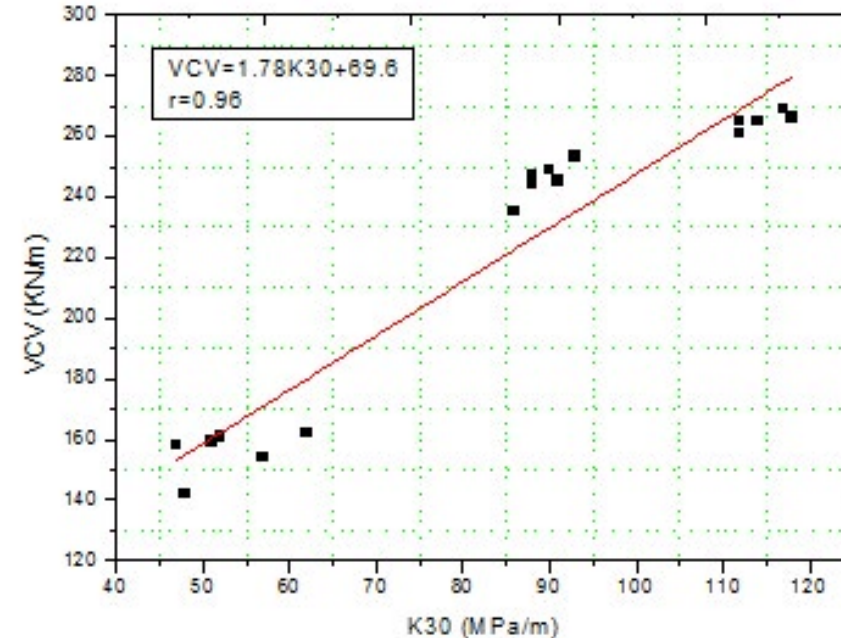
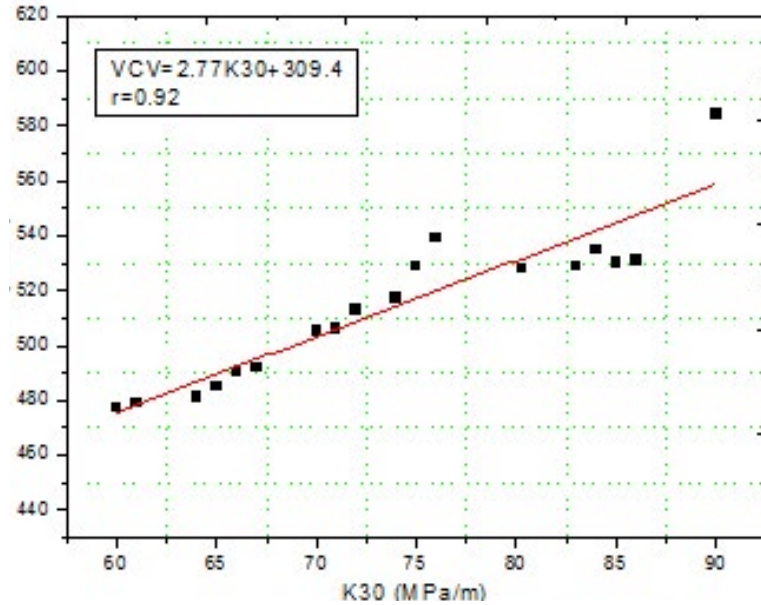


# Challenges on Correlation

0.5 m **20 in.**  
1.2 m **5 ft**

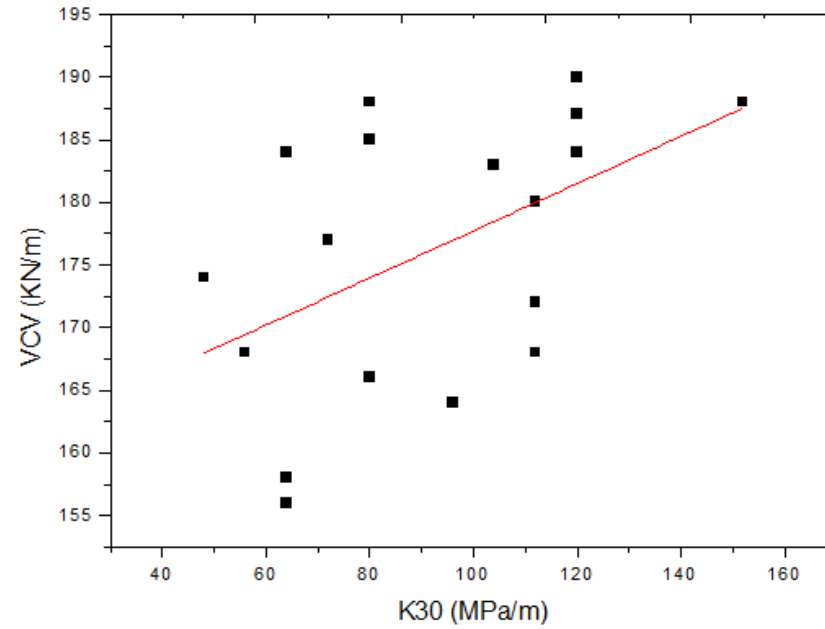


# Correlation Cases





# Correlation Cases



# **FHWA IC Field Demo**

# Field Work Plan

- Test Site Selection
- 3+ Days of field tests
  - Day 1 – Roller instrumentation and Mapping test section's subgrade
  - Day 2 – Mapping test section's subbase
  - Day 3 – Mapping near-by subbase sections





# XCMG Single Drum Roller



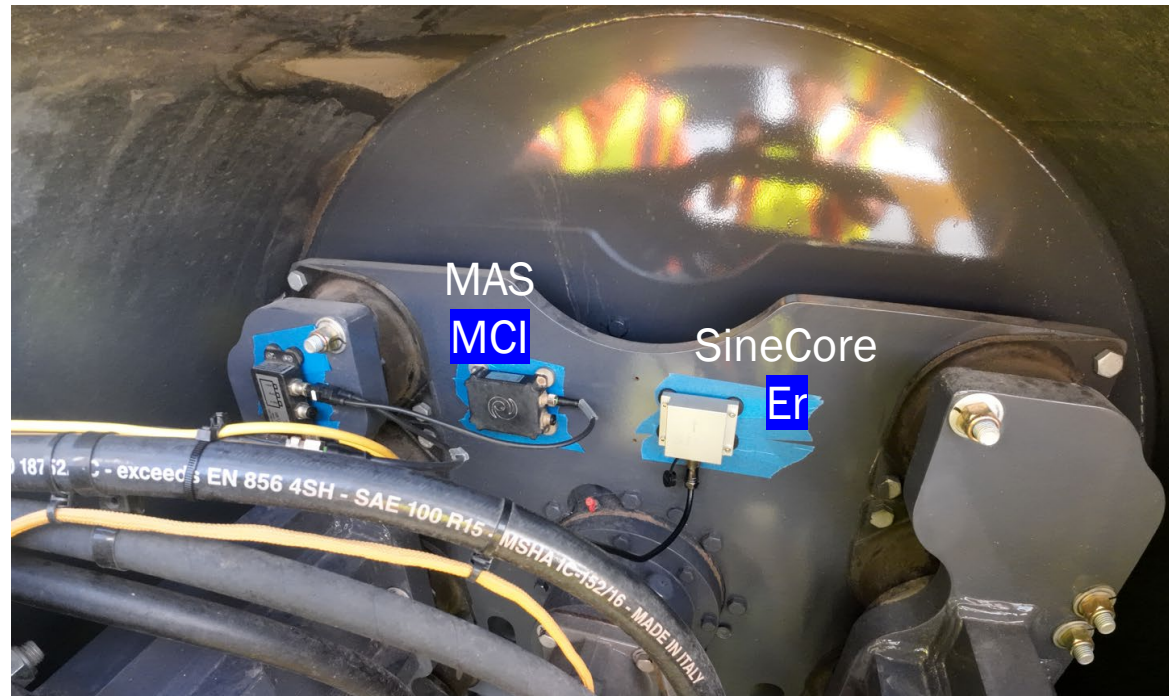
XCMG XS165 Smooth Drum Roller

# MOBA IC Retrofit System



- MOBA MCA-3000 IC Retrofit with MAS (MCI) and SineCore (Er)

GPS Receiver



Onboard Display



# IC Demo # 1 - MnDOT TH 34 Site

MnDOT District 2, Becker Co., SP0303-68, TH34

Tuesday, Aug. 22 to Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023



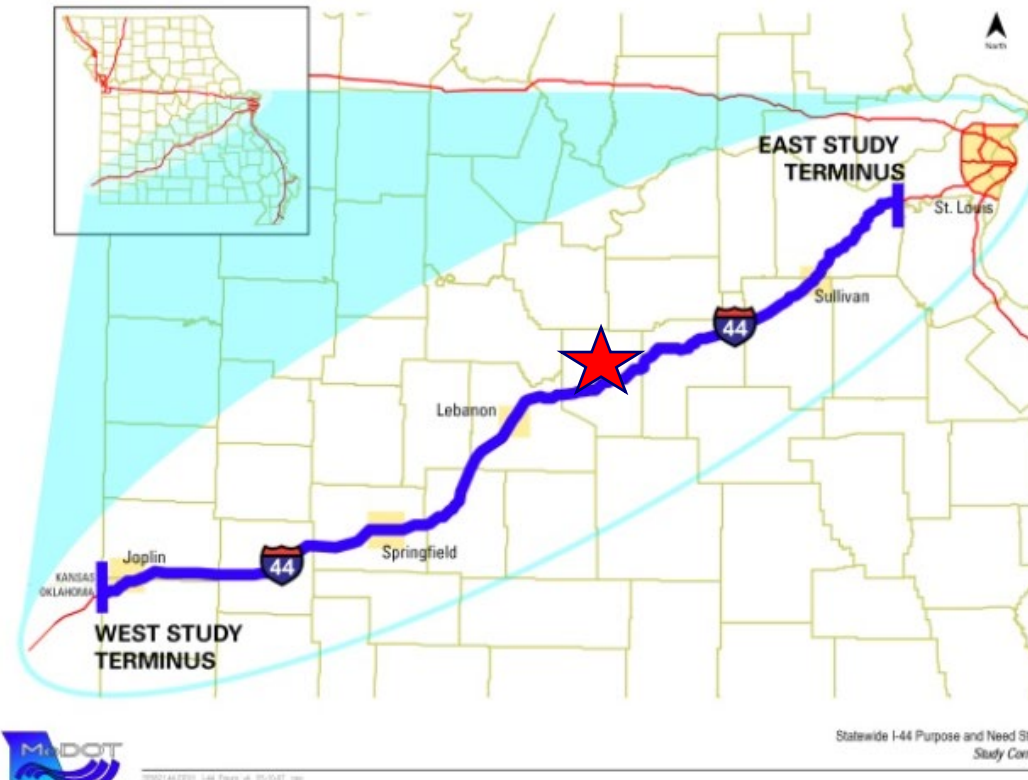
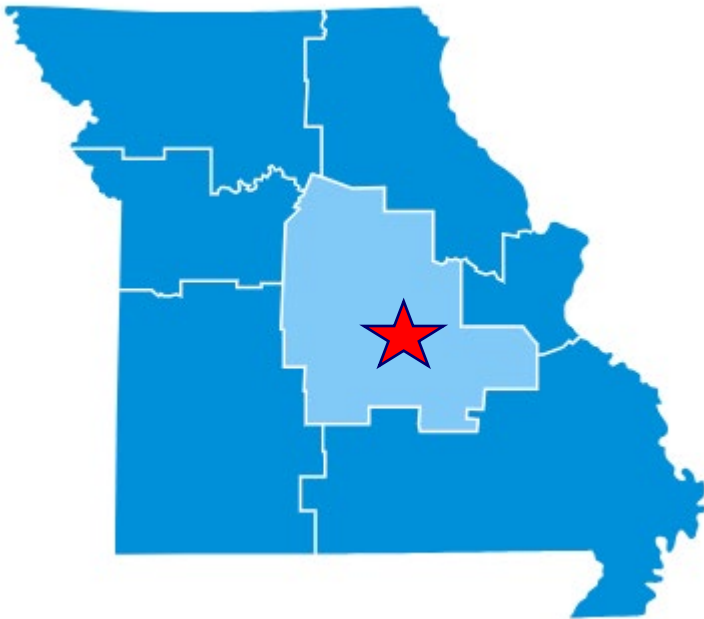
# IC Demo # 2 - MnDOT TH 15 Site

MnDOT District 8, Meeker Co. and Stearns Co. SP4707-26, TH15  
Tuesday, Aug. 29 to Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023



# IC Demo # 3 - MoDOT I-44 Site

MoDOT Central District, I-44 (East of Rolla, MO)  
Oct.9 to Oct. 10, 2023



# Initial Set Up and Trial Runs





# Initial Set Up and Trial Runs



# IC Mapping – Two Stages

Pre-Mapping Subgrade



Existing  
Base

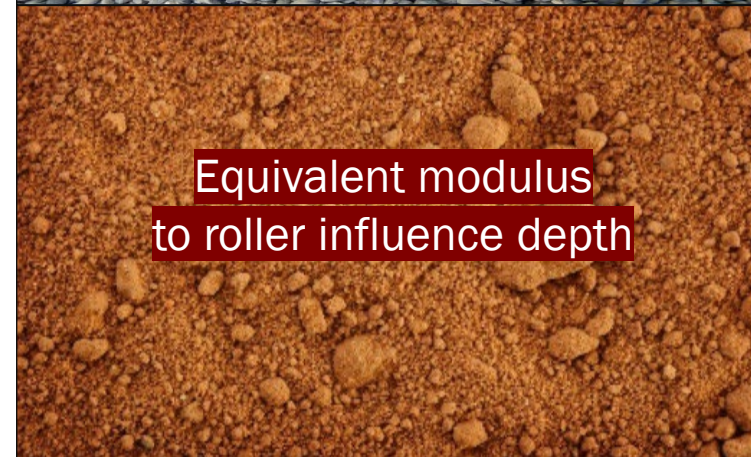


Equivalent modulus  
to roller influence depth

Mapping Subbase



Modulus of top layer



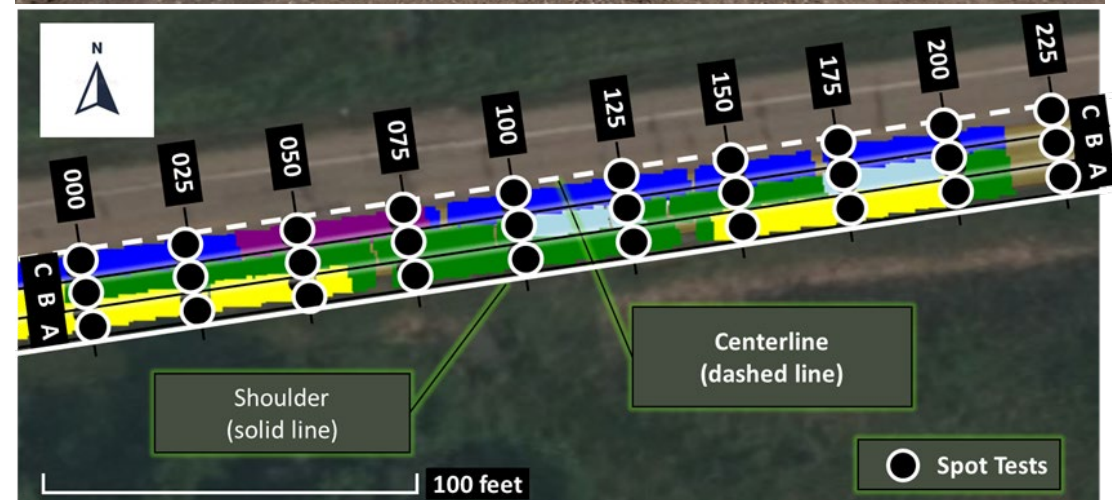
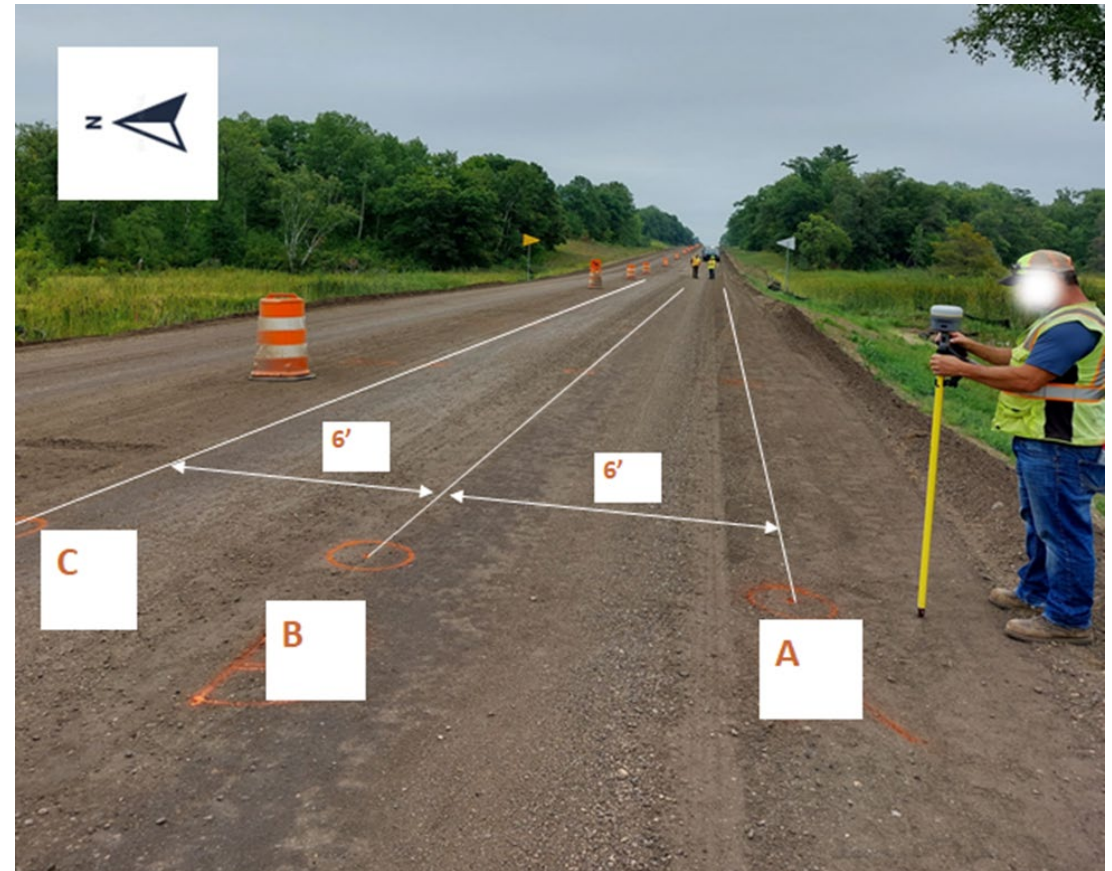
Equivalent modulus  
to roller influence depth

Constructed  
Layer



# Gridded section

- 250 ft X 24 ft
- Three test lines
- Grid spacing 25 ft



# Soft/Medium/Hard Sections



# Test Sections

- Demo No.1
  - Gridded Section: Subbase Mapping only (SG not available)
  - L/M/H sections mapping
- Demo No.2
  - Gridded Section: Subbase mapping only (SG not available)
  - L/M/H sections mapping
- Demo No.3
  - Gridded Section: Subgrade mapping and Subbase mapping
  - No L/M/H sections mapping (near-by mapping not available)



# Subgrade Mapping

Test section:

225 ft X 18 ft

Three test lines

Spot tests 25 ft apart





# IC Mapping on the Subgrade





# A Weak Subgrade Area





# Subbase Testing

Test section:

250 ft X 18 ft

Three test lines

Spot tests 25 ft apart





# IC Mapping on Subbase





# LWD and NDG Spot Tests





# LWD and GPS Tests



# **Example Results**



# Subbase Mapping Results for the Gridded Section

SineCore Resistance Modulus ( $E_r$ ) [MPa/m<sup>2</sup>]

Demo # 1 - TH 34

Er

60.0	
57.5	
55.0	
52.5	
50.0	
47.5	
45.0	
42.5	
40.0	

Selections

☒ Final Coverage

☐ Individual Passes

Frequency

Frequency (vpm)

3,500	
3,000	
2,500	
2,000	
1,500	
1,000	
500	
0	

Selections

☒ Final Coverage

☐ Individual Passes

Amplitude

Amplitude (in)

0.12	
0.10	
0.08	
0.06	
0.04	
0.02	
0.00	

Selections

☒ Final Coverage

☐ Individual Passes

10 m

Speed

Speed (mph)

7.0	
6.0	
5.0	
4.0	
3.0	
2.0	
1.0	
0.0	

Selections

☒ Final Coverage

☐ Individual Passes

## Subbase Mapping Results for the Gridded Section

MOBA Compaction Index (MCI) [unitless]

Demo # 1 - TH 34

Northing (m): 5190400.0  
Easting (m): 295951.0

MCI

MCI

80.0  
70.0  
60.0  
50.0  
40.0  
30.0  
20.0  
10.0  
0.0

Selections

- ☒ Final Coverage  
☐ Individual Passes

Northing (m): 5190383.2  
Easting (m): 295957.9

Amplitude

Amplitude (in)

0.12  
0.10  
0.08  
0.06  
0.04  
0.02  
0.00

Selections

- ☒ Final Coverage  
☐ Individual Passes

10 m

Northing (m): 5190369.0  
Easting (m): 295922.9

Frequency

Frequency (vpm)

3,500  
3,000  
2,500  
2,000  
1,500  
1,000  
500  
0

Selections

- ☒ Final Coverage  
☐ Individual Passes

Northing (m): 5190401.0  
Easting (m): 295932.9

Speed

Speed (mph)

7.0  
6.0  
5.0  
4.0  
3.0  
2.0  
1.0  
0.0

Selections

- ☒ Final Coverage  
☐ Individual Passes



ProjectAdd dataReportViewer

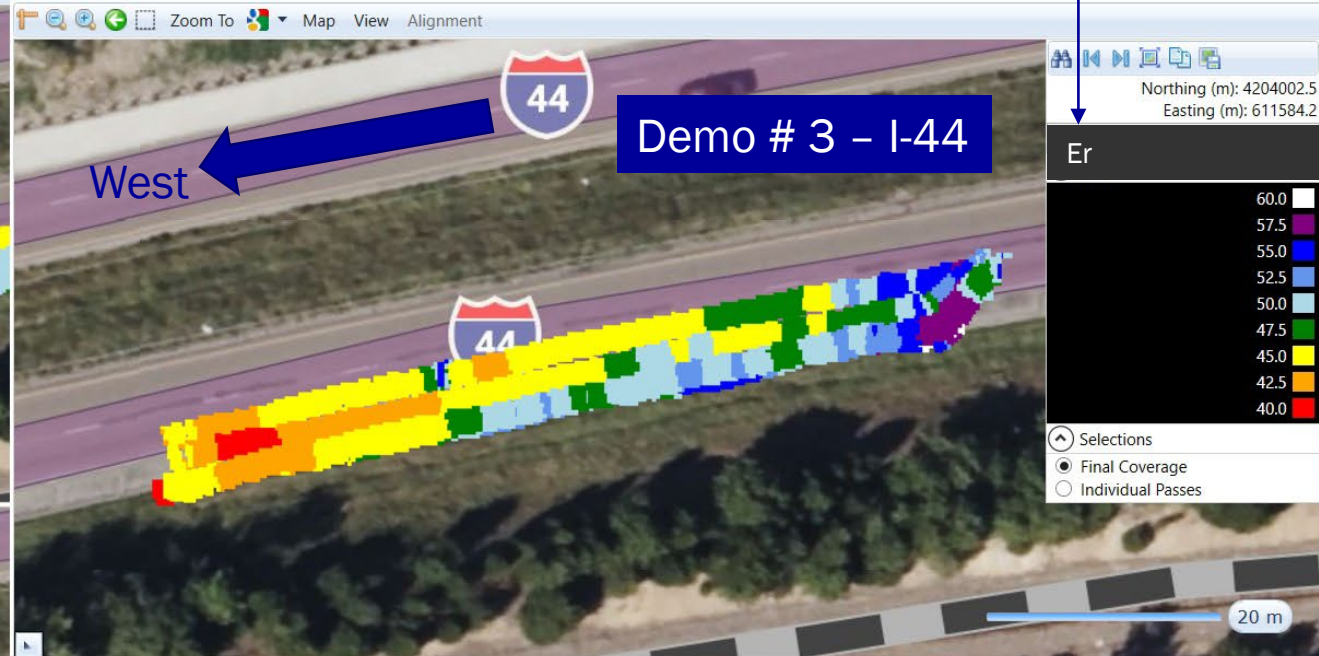
File

Subgrade Mapping

Group

Apply

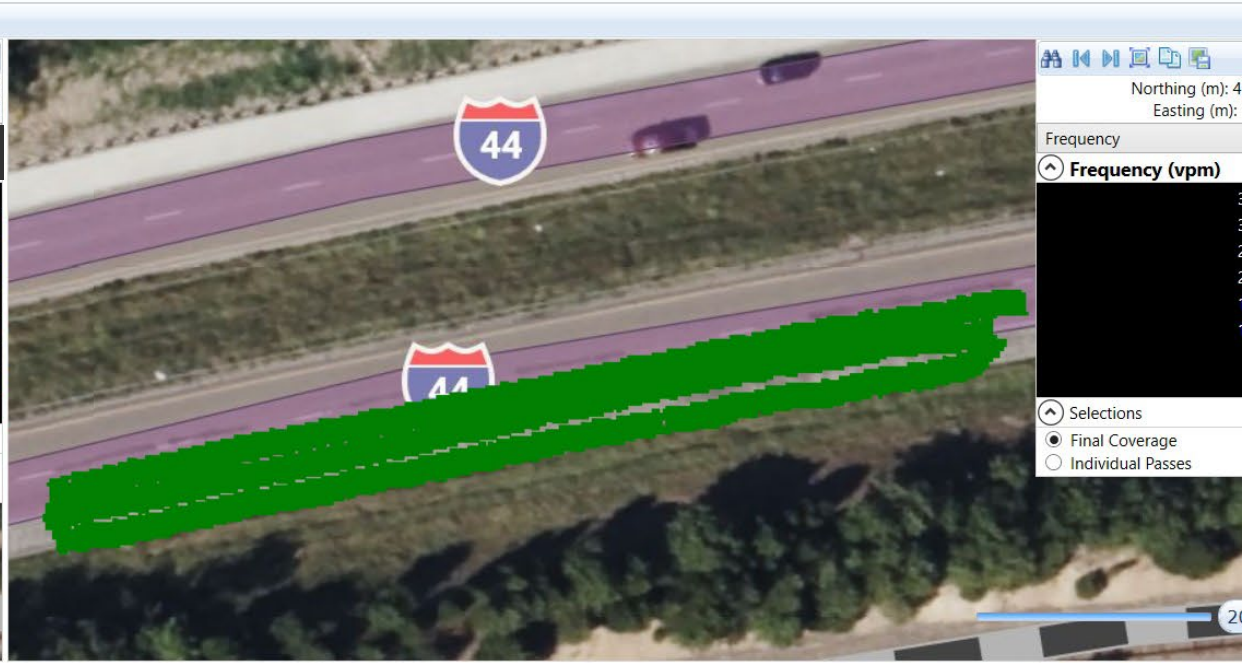
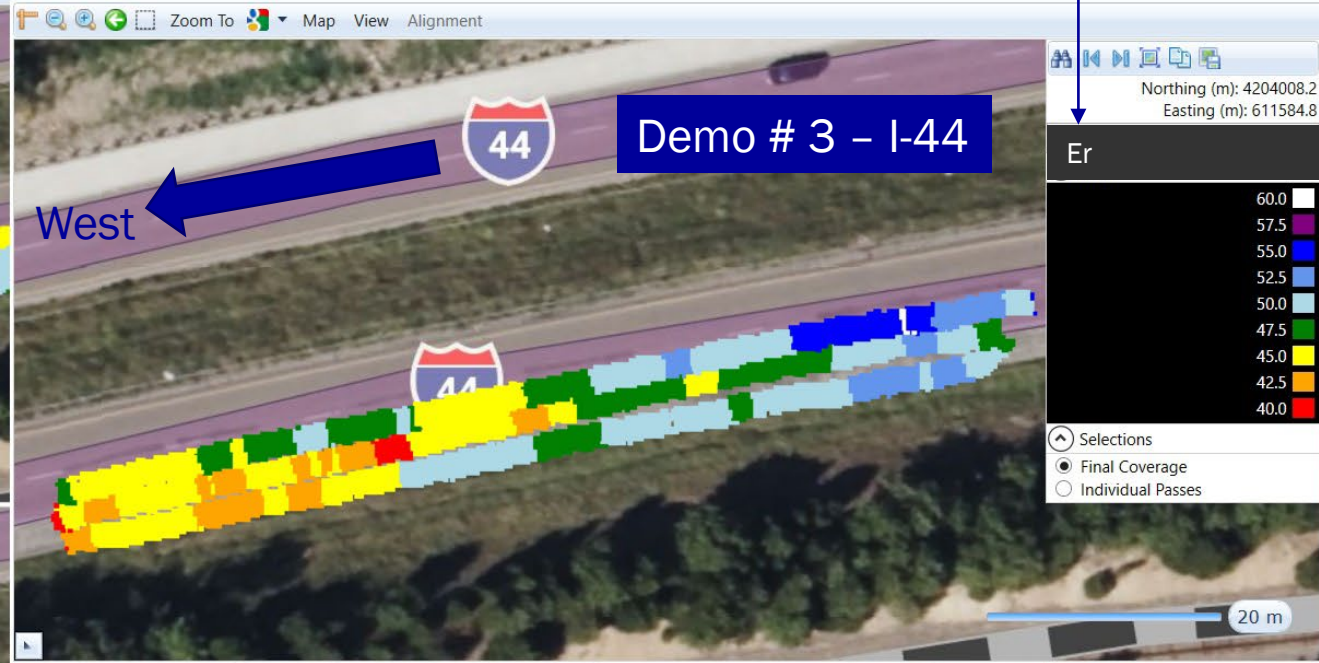
# SineCore Resistance Modulus (Er) [MPa/m^2]





# Subbase Mapping

## SineCore Resistance Modulus ( $E_r$ ) [MPa/m<sup>2</sup>]





# Subgrade Mapping ICMV Results (Er)

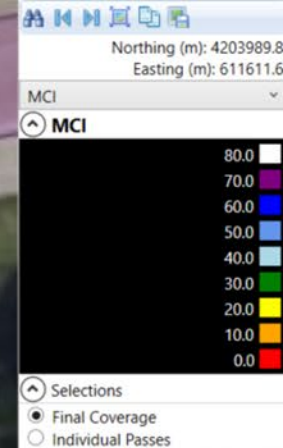
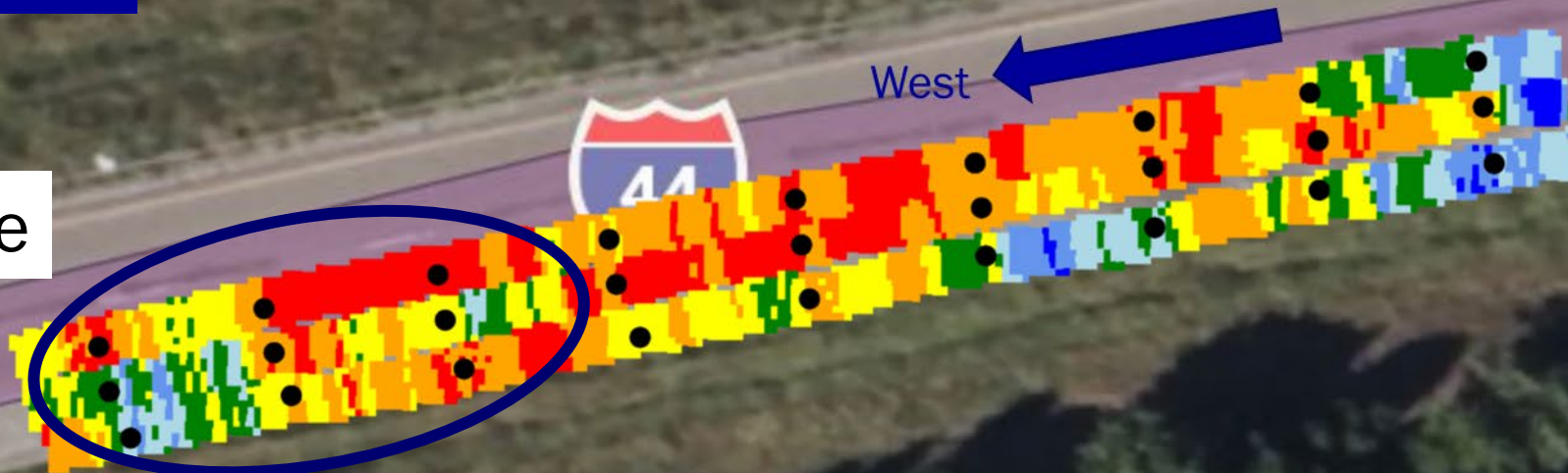
Demo # 3 – I-44



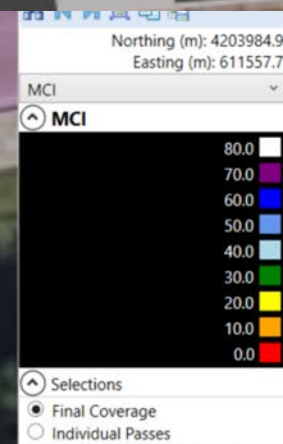


# Demo # 3 – I-44

Subbase



Subgrade



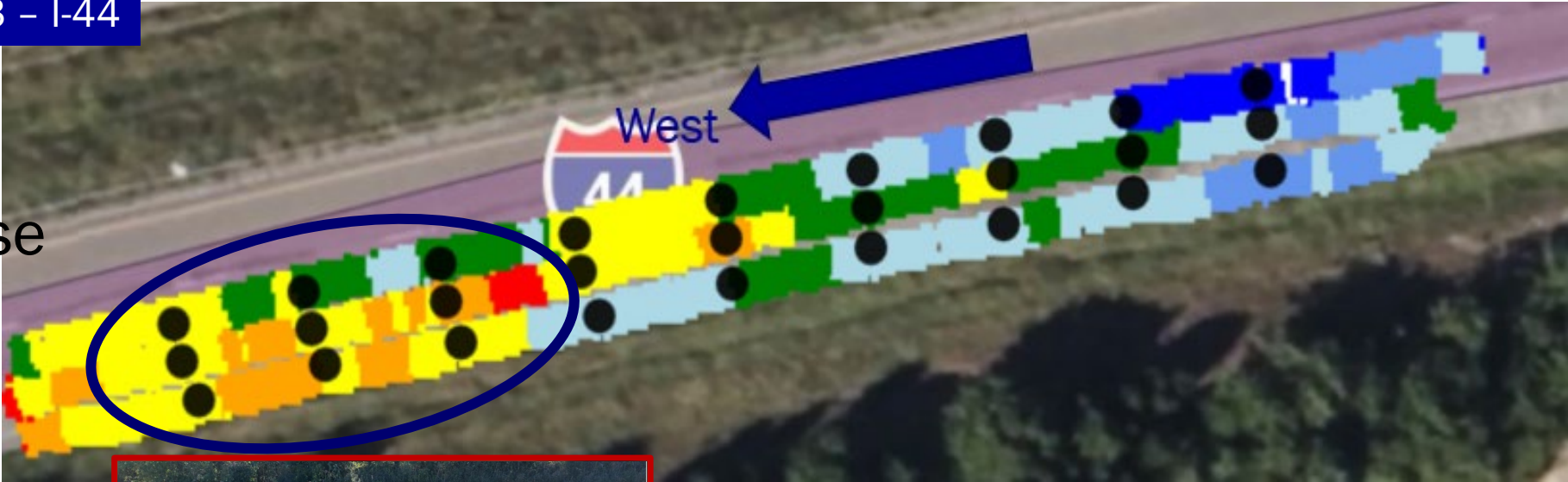


# Subbase Mapping ICMV Results (Er)

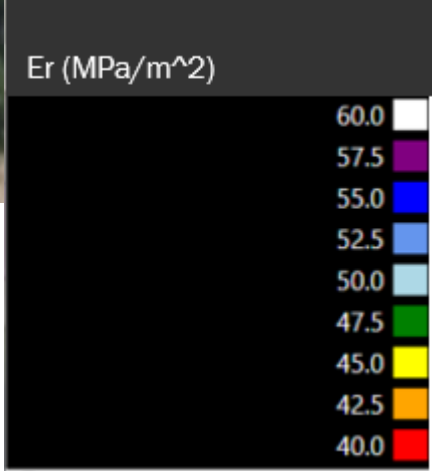
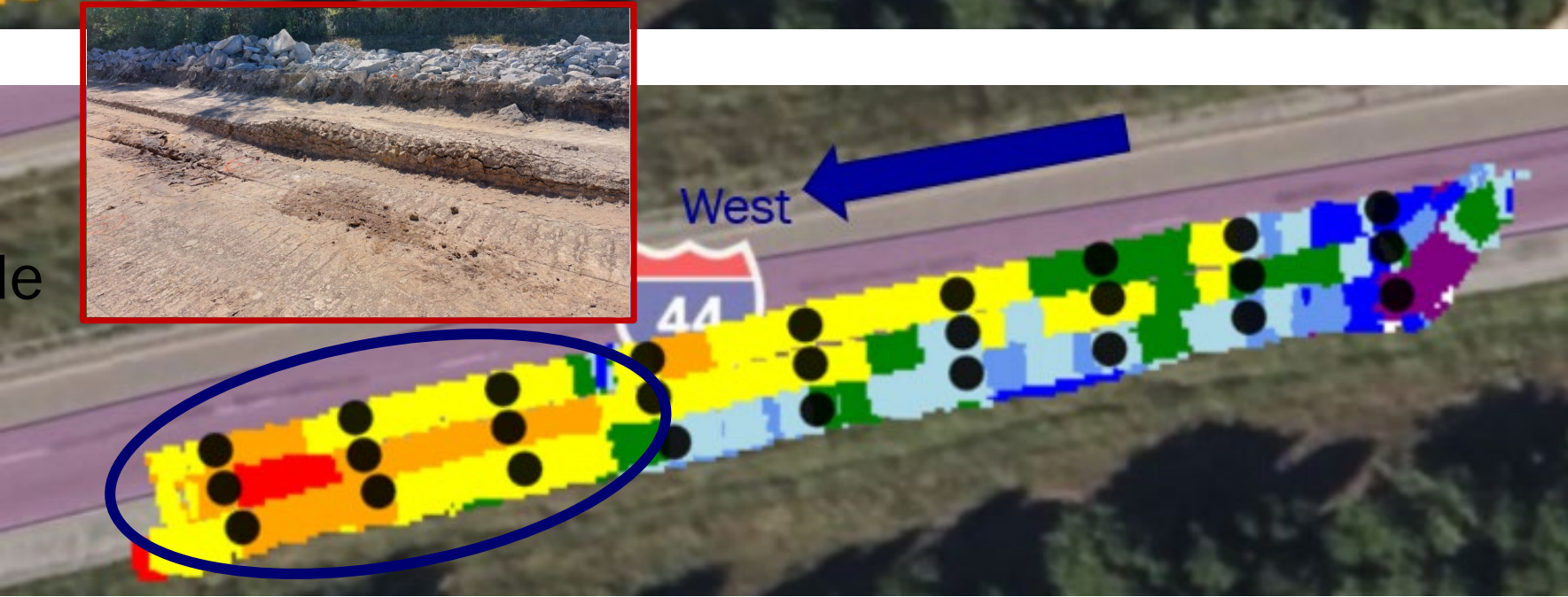
Demo # 3 – I-44



Subbase

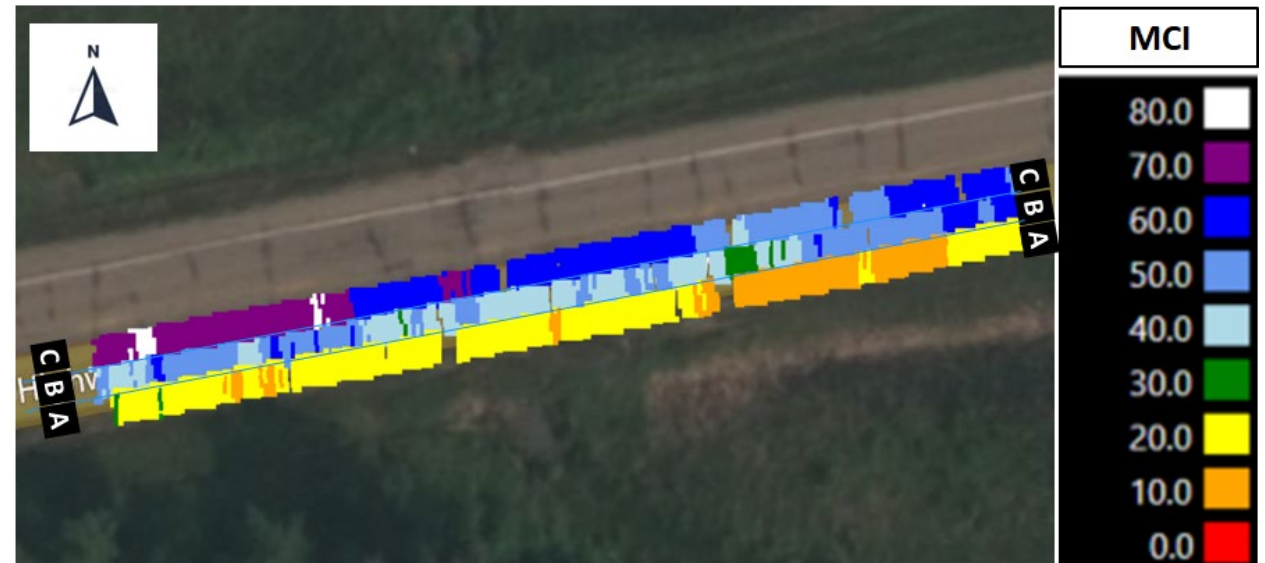
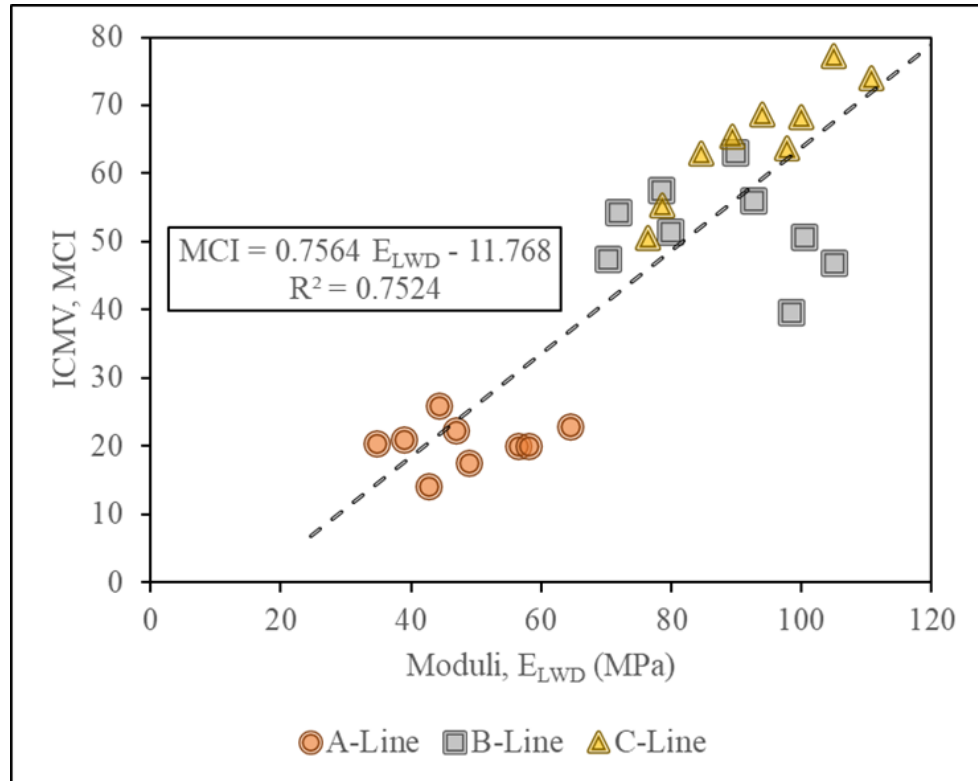


Subgrade





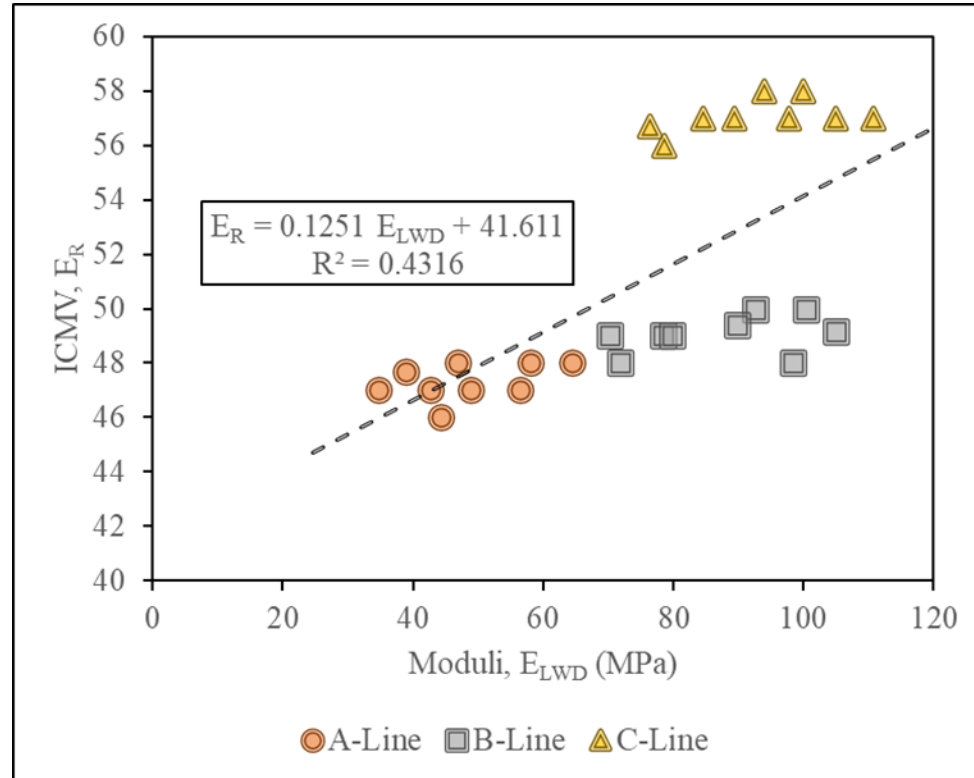
# Demo no. 1 - Example Correlation (gridded Section)



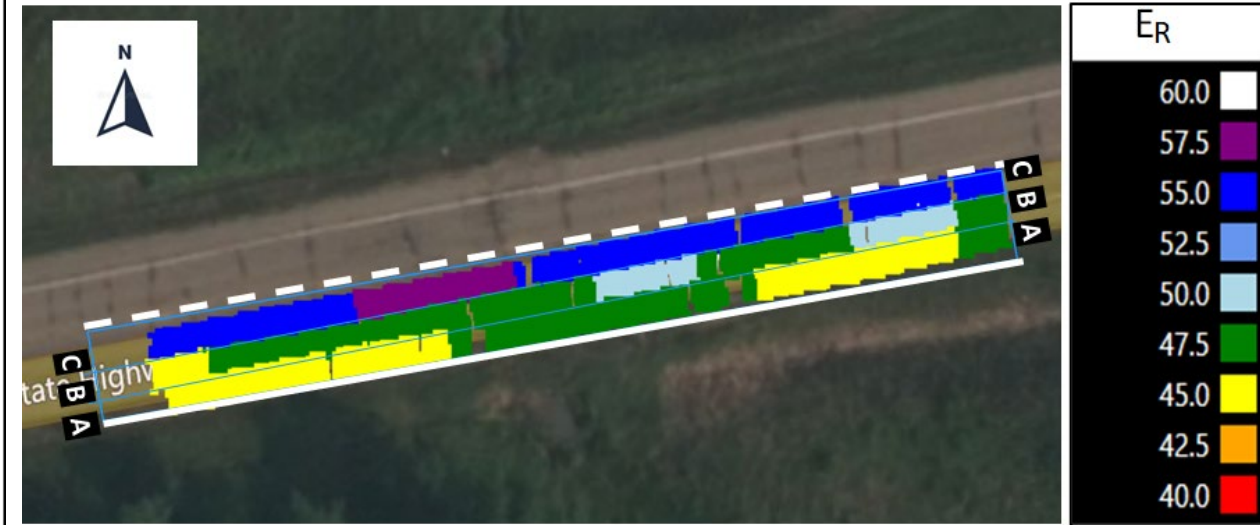
MCI vs. LWD

Relatively Uniform Support  
Wide Range of Stiffnesses

# Demo no. 1 - Example Correlation (gridded Section)

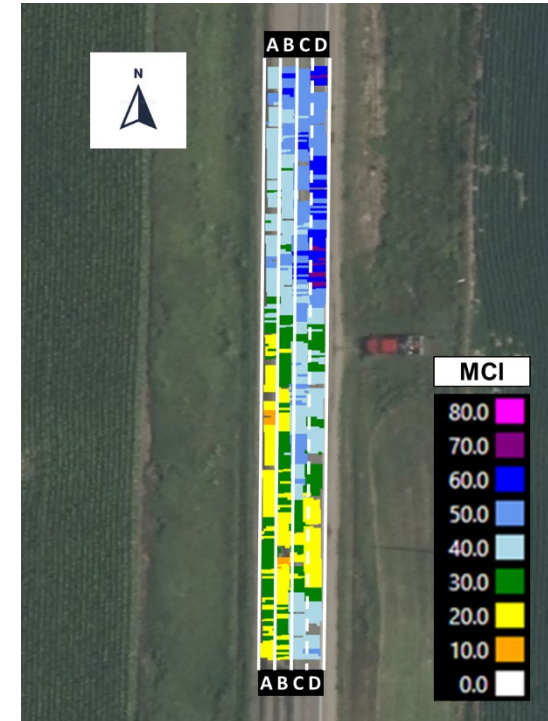
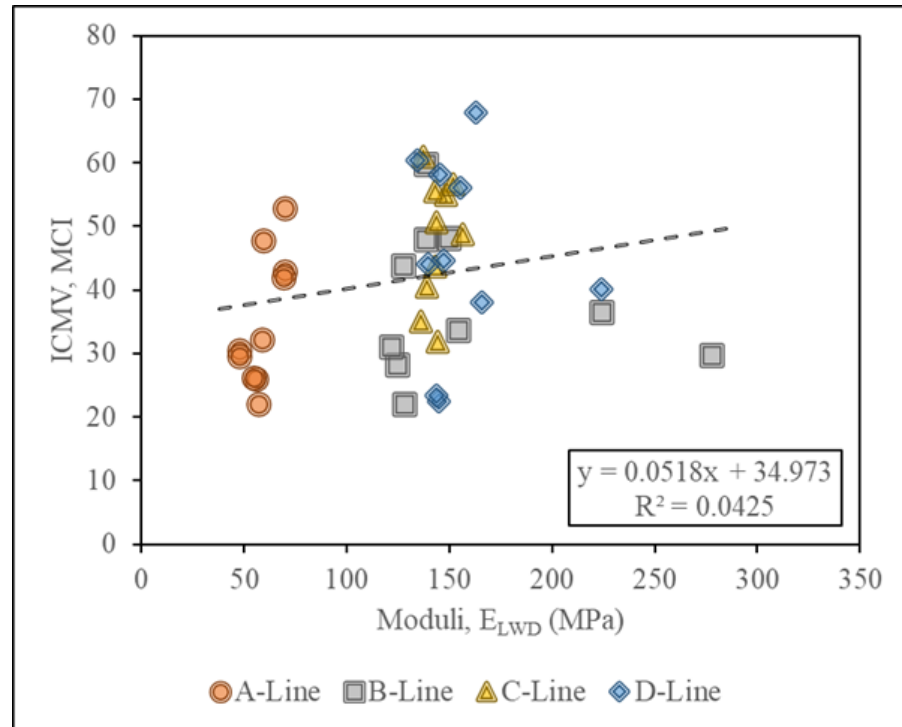


Er vs. LWD



Relatively Uniform Support  
Wide Range of Stiffnesses

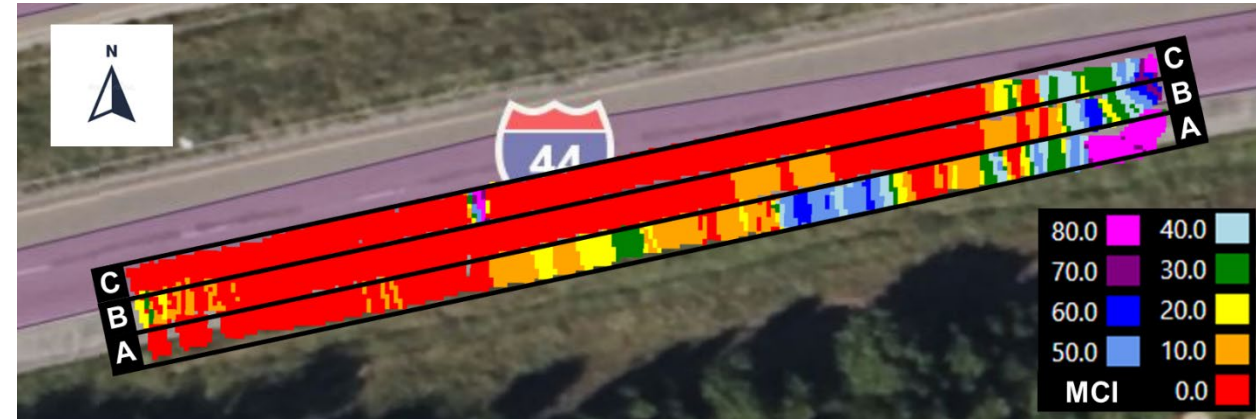
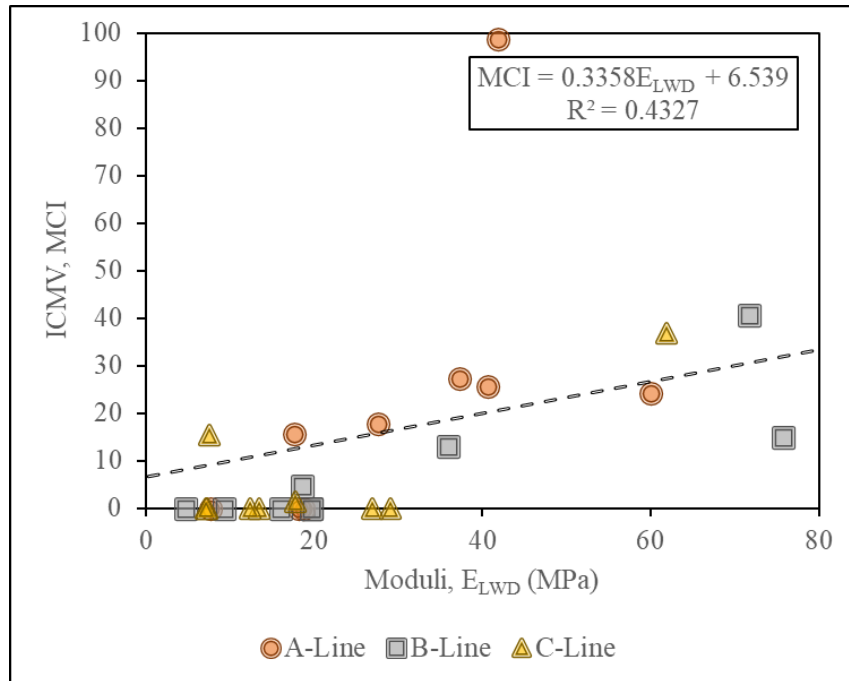
# Demo no. 2 - Example Correlation (gridded Section – Day 1)



MCI vs. LWD

SB Extremely Stiff

# Demo no. 3 - Example Correlation (gridded section - SG)

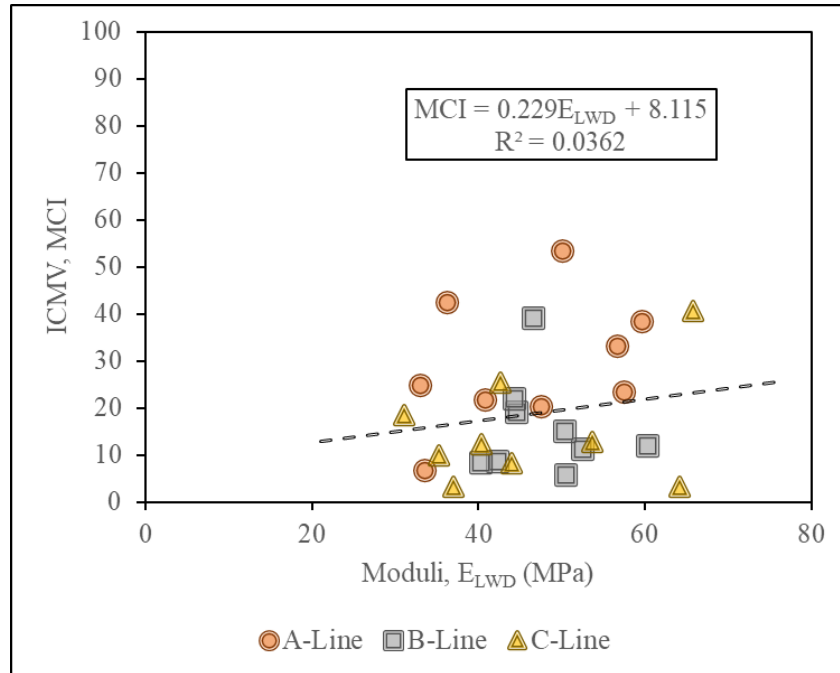


MCI vs. LWD

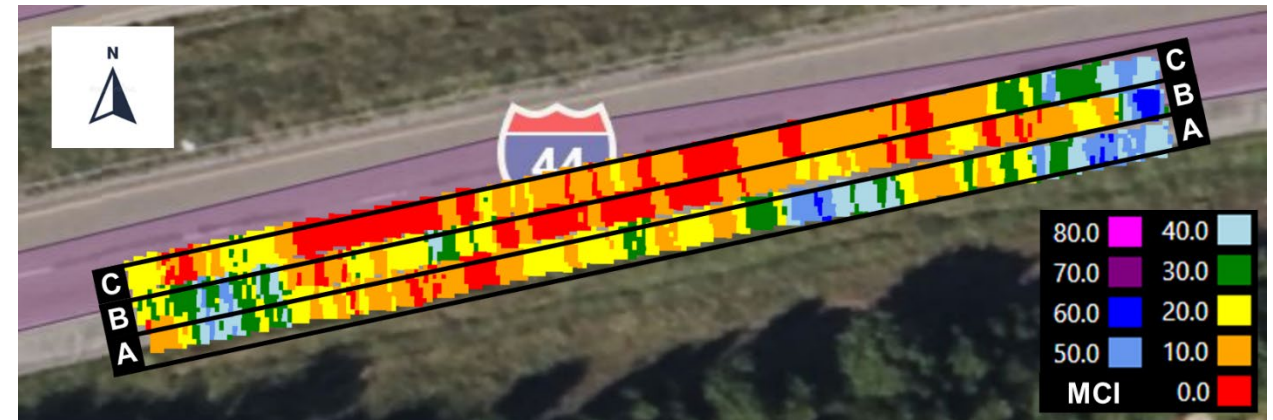
ICMV bottoms at soft areas



# Demo no. 3 - Example Correlation (gridded section - SB)



MCI vs. LWD



18" of Rock Base  
LWD Measures 12"

# Comparison of Test Efficiency

Gridded Test Sections



**LWD**  
**2 Hours**  
**Spot Tests**

**NDG**  
**6 Hours**  
**Spot Tests**



**IC Mapping**  
**10 Min.**  
**100% Coverage**

# Summary of Findings



# **(Draft) Summary of Findings**

- IC mapping in gridded sections is efficient (20X and 50X faster than LWD and NDG) and has 100% full coverage.
- Subgrade mapping is not always available due to the construction pace.
- If subgrade mapping is available, it'd help to interpret subbase mapping and correlation results.
- Correlation results are affected by different footprints and influence the depths of testing and field uniformity.
- Even relative ICMVs from mapping (proofing) the entire constructed surface are great values to identify quality issues and potential weak spots.
- IC procedures need to be SIMPLIFIED for the industry to adopt.
- Higher Levels of ICMVs would help.

# Acknowledgement

The research team appreciates the FHWA funding and guidance for this study.

- FHWA Tom Yu, Stephen Cooper, Felix R. Gonzalez-Gonzalez

We would also like to thank the following individuals who have assisted with the field demonstration projects.

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Luke Walstrom, Aundie Curtiss, Kohl Skalin, John Traxler
- MoDOT Eric Abbott, Willie Johnson, Jeff Gabe
- MOBA Paul Angerhofer, Jon Lano, David Shelstad
- XCMG Zhang Z.L., Zhu, G.Y., Raul Lopez
- MST Xiong Zhang and his students
- Sitech Devin Corley





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# THANKS TO OUR RESEARCH PARTNERS

