



# **Mn/DOT Flexible Pavement Design Mechanistic-Empirical Method**

**Pavement Design Systems and Pavement Performance Models  
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# Acknowledgements

- Icelandic Road Administration
- Haraldur Sigursteinsson
- Nordic Road Association
- NordFoU Project



# Pavement Design at Mn/DOT

- Current procedure
  - Subgrade soil R-value, traffic, rule-of-thumb materials properties
  - Relates to ride
- MnPAVE procedure
  - Modulus of all layers, base strength, repeated load damage in HMA and subgrade
  - Relates to structural distresses – cracking, rutting

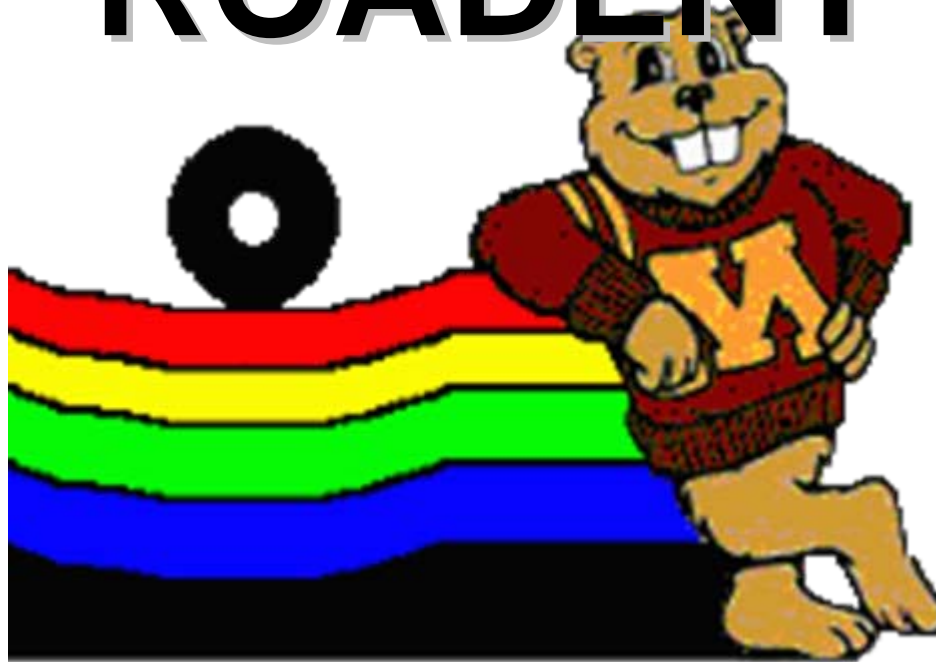


# Background

## WESLEA

- Layered Elastic Analysis (5 Layers)
- Developed at U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (Van Cauwelaert *et al*, 1986)

# ROADENT



University of Minnesota (1996-1999)

Dr. David Timm – Auburn University

Dr. David Newcomb – NAPA

Dr. Bjorn Birgisson – University of Florida





Structural and Seasonal Information (F1 for Help)

Check Seasons to Evaluate

- Summer (Normal Condition) 26 weeks
- Fall (Wet Condition) 8 weeks
- Winter (Frozen Condition) 12 weeks
- Spring (Thaw Condition) 6 weeks
- Second Spring 0 weeks

Number of Pavement Layers

2  3  4  5

Input Season

Summer

AC Temperature Adjustment

AC Surface Temp 85 F

Edit Equation

	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Layer 4	Layer 5
Material Type	AC	GB	GB	Soil	Soil
Min Modulus (psi)	50000	5000	5000	3000	3000
Modulus (psi)	290471	20000	10000	6000	6000
Max Modulus (psi)	2500000	50000	50000	40000	40000
Poisson's Ratio	0.35	0.4	0.4	0.45	0.45
Min - Max	0.15 - 0.4	0.35 - 0.45	0.35 - 0.45	0.2 - 0.5	0.2 - 0.5
Thickness (in)	6	6	18	999	Infinite
	Variability	Variability	Variability	Variability	Variability

OK

Cancel

# MnPAVE Pavement Design

- Climate model
- More material types and default properties
- Lab and field test results
- Updated performance models

 Climate

 Structure

 Traffic

 Output

For Help, press F1





# MnPAVE

## Mn\DOT Flexible Pavement Design Mechanistic-Empirical Method

### Beta Version 5.2

This version of MnPAVE is not fully calibrated. Its intended use is to compare MnPAVE to existing design methods. To view the entire disclaimer, click on "View...Disclaimer".





 **Project**

MnPAVE will be updated periodically.

[Download MnPAVE Here](#)  
(Requires internet connection)

ESAL  Load Spectrum

 **Climate**

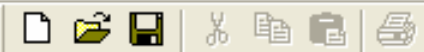
 **Structure**

 **Traffic**

 **Output**







# Climate



Seasons  
Ramsey County

	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Days	Pavement Temp. (°F)
Fall (Standard)	91	48
Winter (Frozen)	96	23
Early Spring (Base Thaw)	14	38
Late Spring (Soil Thaw)	57	58
Summer (High Temp.)	107	82

Units

English

SI

Finished Climate  
Go to Control Panel

Map Details

Selected County  
Ramsey  
Metro District

Click map or enter coordinates.

Latitude  
45 ° 0

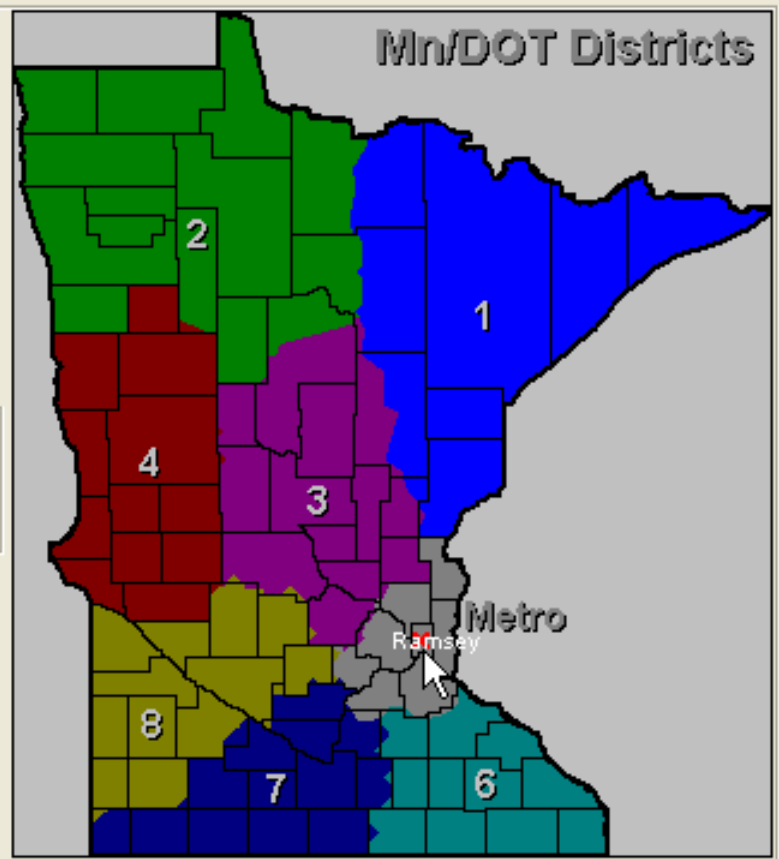
Longitude  
93 ° 6

Pointer Text

Counties

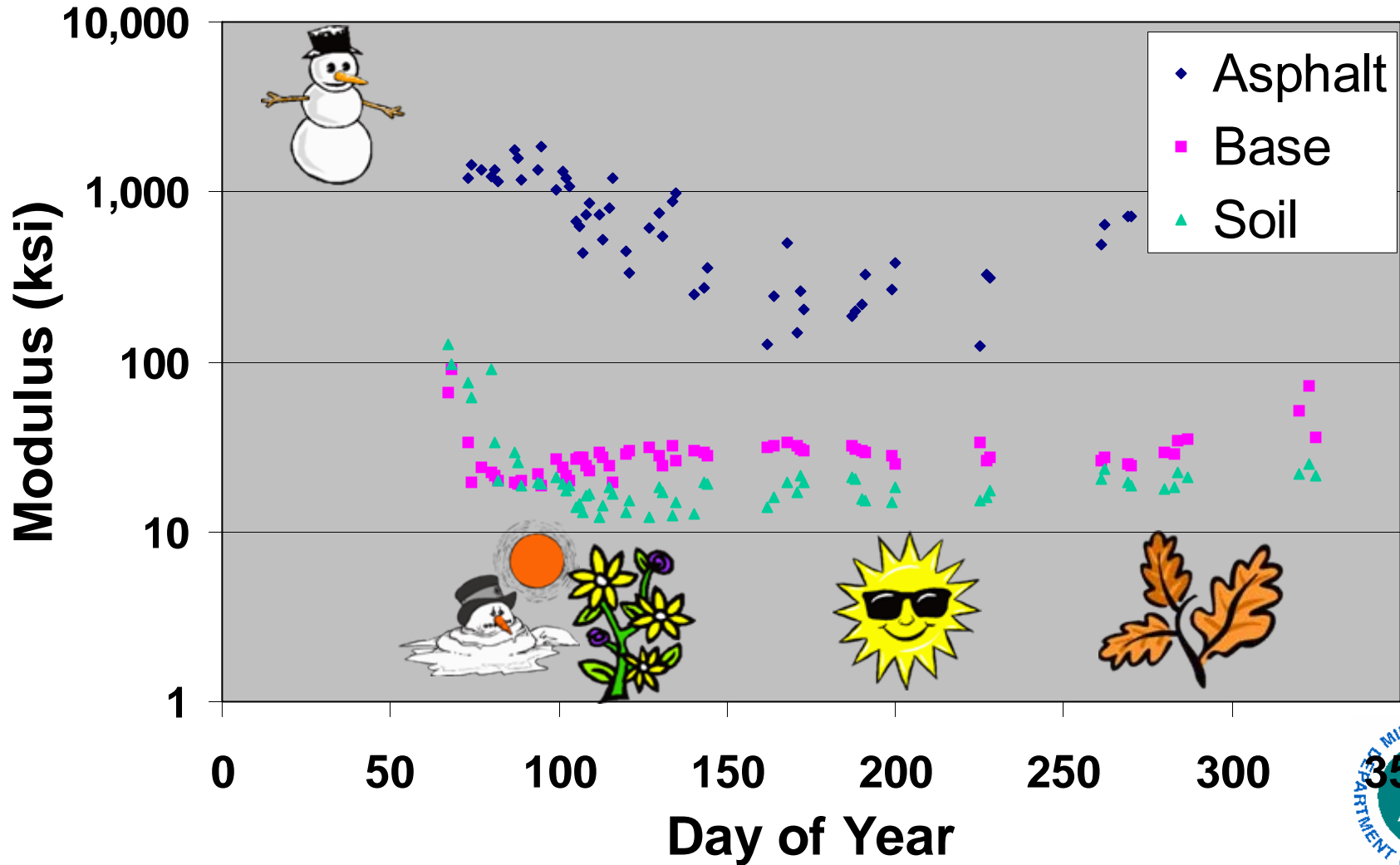
Coordinates

None



# Seasons

## MnROAD Cell 21



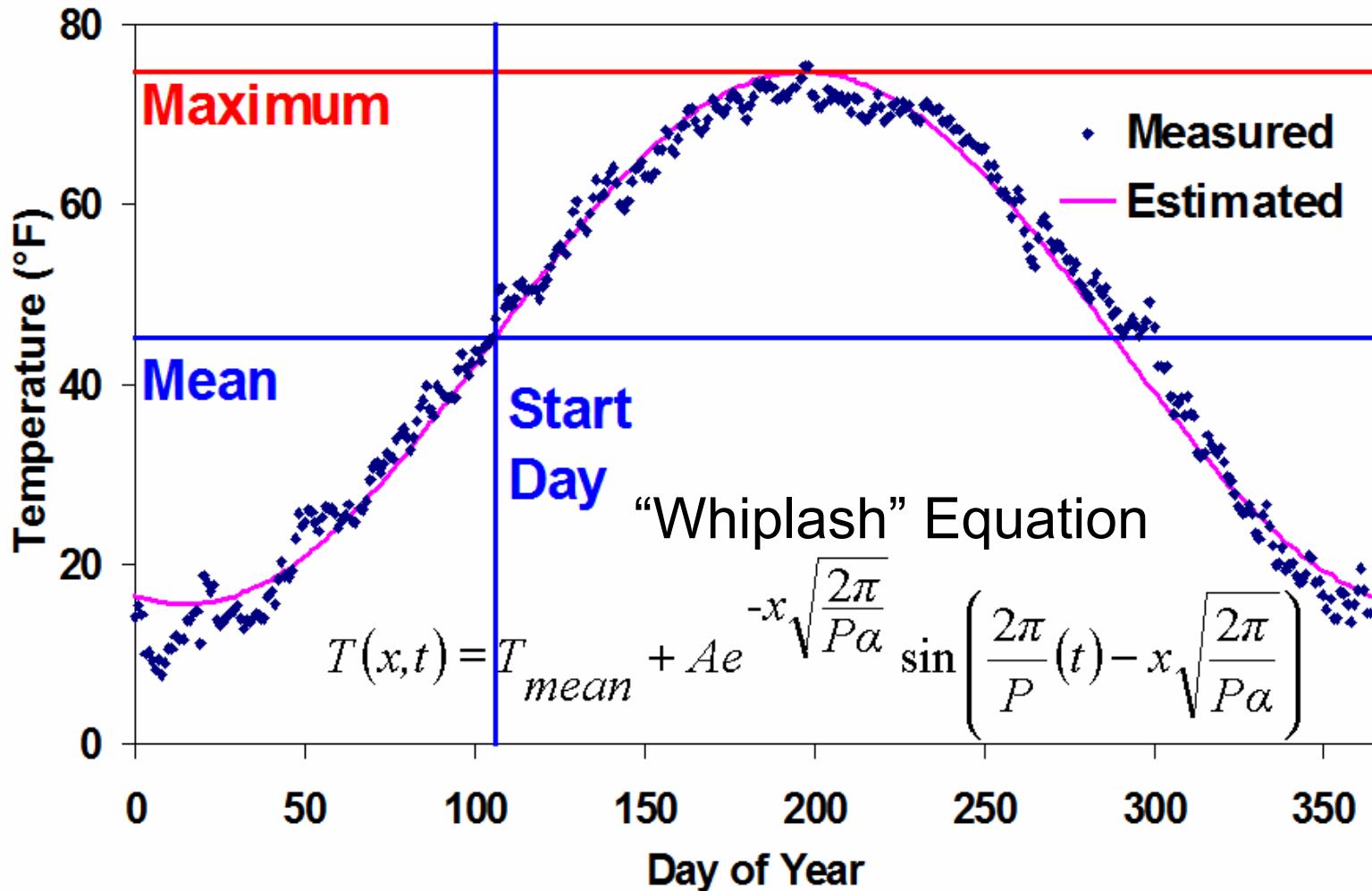
# Criteria for Determining the Beginning of MnPAVE Seasons

Season	Criteria
Fall	3-day Average Temperature $< 17\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Winter	Freezing Index $> 90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C-days}$
Spring Thaw	Thawing Index $> 15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C-days}$
Spring Recovery	2 Weeks After Start of Spring Thaw
Summer	3-day Average Temperature $> 17\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

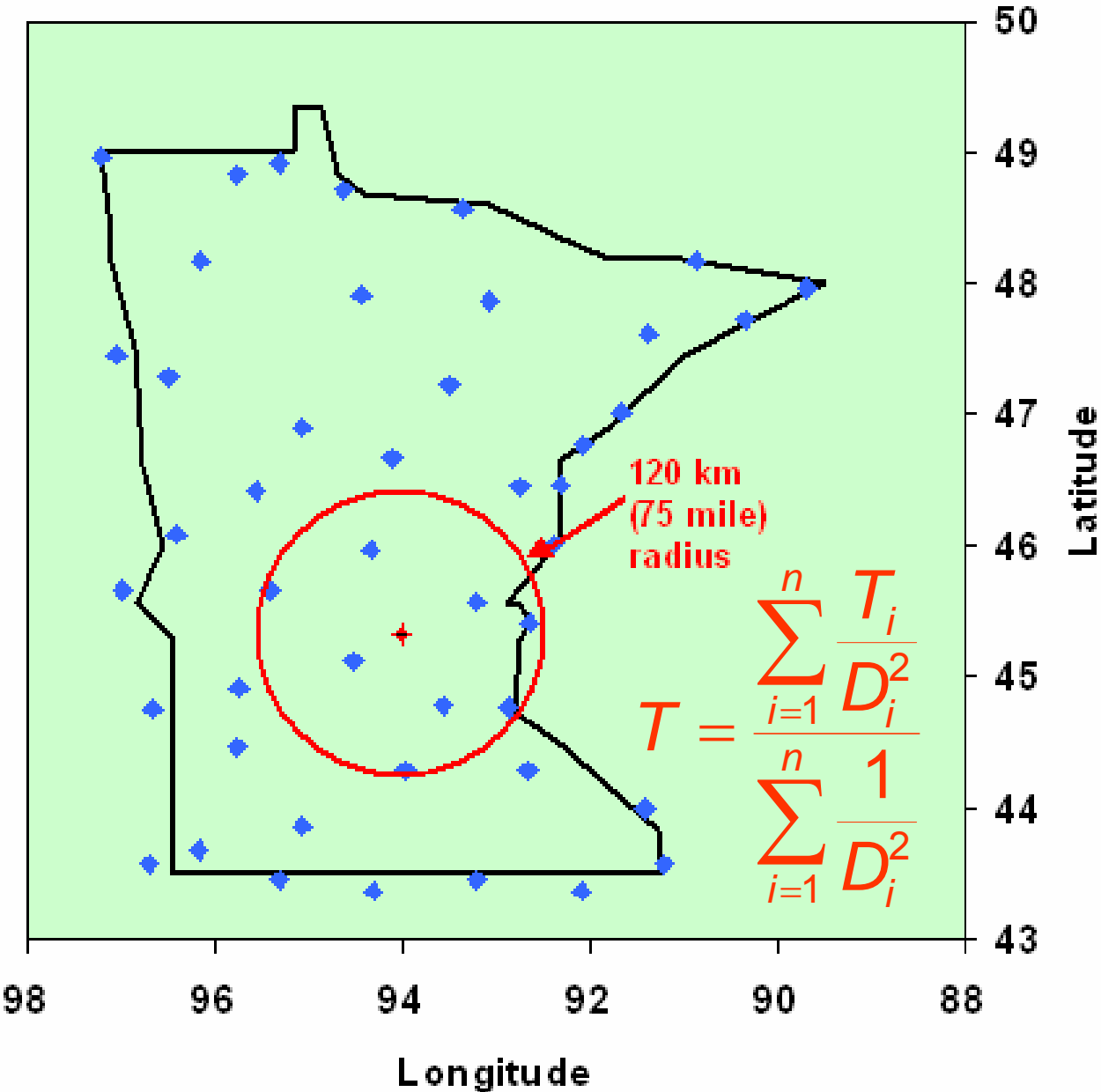


# Temperature Model

30-Year Average Daily Temperatures (1971 - 2000)  
Marshall, MN



# Weather Stations



# 5 Seasons vs. 52 Weeks

- Number of times the asphalt modulus (stiffness) is calculated.
- Affects the calculation time.
- Wide range of pavements were simulated.
- Design thickness differed by no more than 0.1 in.
- Default MnPAVE procedure has 5 seasons.



# Structure

MnPAVE - Demo1.mpv

File Edit View Window Help

Demo1.mpv

## Structure

Basic Intermediate Advanced

Default Structures

- HMA  
Agg. Base  
Eng. Soil
- HMA 1  
HMA 2  
Agg. Base  
Eng. Soil
- HMA  
Eng. Soil
- HMA  
Agg. Base  
Agg. Subbase  
Eng. Soil
- HMA Overlay  
Old HMA  
Agg. Base  
Eng. Soil
- User Defined

Edit Structure

Layers	Material	Thickness (in.)
<input type="radio"/> 1	HMA	6
<input type="radio"/> 2	AggBase	6
<input type="radio"/> 3	Subbase	18
<input type="radio"/> 4	EngSoil	12
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	UndSoil	

Design Mode: Basic

Units

English  SI

Finished Structure  
Go to Control Panel

Material Type

- Hot-Mix Asphalt
- Aggregate Base
- Aggregate Subbase
- Engineered Soil
- Undisturbed Soil

Click to Select Subtype

- PG 58-34
- Mn/DOT Class 5
- Mn/DOT Select Granular
- Clay Loam
- Clay Loam

View Moisture Characteristics

NUM

For Help, press F1





# Structure

Basic Intermediate **Advanced**

View

Test Results

Resistance Factors

Check box to enter test data.  
Uncheck to use Basic defaults.

HMA Modulus

Agg. Test Type

Soil Test Type

Other

- Lab Mr, ksi
- R-Value
- DCP,mm/blow

- Lab Mr, ksi
- R-Value
- DCP,mm/blow

- Design Modulus, ksi
- Poisson's Ratio

Edit Structure

Layers	Material	Thickness (in.)
<input type="radio"/> 1	HMA	6
<input type="radio"/> 2	AggBase	6
<input type="radio"/> 3	Subbase	18
<input type="radio"/> 4	EngSoil	12
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	UndSoil	

PG 58-34
----------

22

11

15

CL

Design Mode: Intermediate

Units

- English
- SI

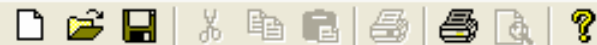
Finished Structure  
Go to Control Panel

Moisture Data

Mohr-Coulomb







# Structure

Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Design Mode

- Use values from Basic Design Level
- Use values from Intermediate Design Level
- Advanced mode (enter values now)

Parameter Shown Below

- Design Modulus, ksi
- Poisson's Ratio
- Seasonal Modulus Multipliers

Structural Number = 4.7

Edit Structure

Layers	Material	Thickness (in.)
<input type="radio"/> 1	HMA	6
<input type="radio"/> 2	AggBase	6
<input type="radio"/> 3	Subbase	18
<input type="radio"/> 4	EngSoil	12
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5	UndSoil	

	Fall	Winter	Early Spring	Late Spring	Summer
	1022	2614	1541	651.2	215.6
	22	50	6.6	15.4	18.7
	11.6	50	3.48	8.12	9.86
	6.4	50	50	4.48	5.44
	3.2	32	32	2.24	2.72

Design Mode: Advanced

Units

- English
- SI

Finished Structure  
Go to Control Panel

Import HMA Moduli from Basic

Import Other Moduli from Basic

Input Moisture Characteristics



# Material Properties

- New Asphalt
- Existing Asphalt  
(overlay design)
- Aggregate Base/Subbase
- Soils



# Witczak Equation

$$\log E = a_0 + a_1 p_{200} + a_2 (p_{200})^2 + a_3 p_4 + a_4 V_a + a_5 \frac{V_{beff}}{V_{beff} + V_a} + \frac{a_6 + a_7 p_4 + a_8 p_{3/8} + a_9 (p_{3/8})^2 + a_{10} p_{3/4}}{1 + e^{(a_{11} + a_{12} \log f + a_{13} 2 \log \eta)}}$$

Where:

$E = 10^{-5}$  x Dynamic Modulus (psi)

$\eta = 10^{-8}$  x Dynamic Viscosity (cP)

$P_b$  = binder content (% by wt. of mix)

$V_a$  = Air voids (% by volume)

$P_{ba}$  = Absorption (% by wt. of aggregate)

$G_b$  = specific gravity of binder

$G_{sb}$  = Bulk specific gravity of aggregate

$f$  = Load frequency (Hz)

$V_{beff}$  = Effective binder content (% by vol.)

$p_{3/4}$  = Cumulative % retained on 3/4" sieve

$p_{3/8}$  = Cumulative % retained on 3/8" sieve

$p_4$  = Cumulative % retained on No. 4 sieve

$p_{200}$  = Percent passing No. 200 sieve



# Thompson (ILLI-PAVE) Equation

$$\log_{10} E_{AC} = 1.48 - 1.76 \log_{10} \left( \frac{AREA}{D_0} \right) + 0.26 \left( \frac{AREA}{T_{AC}} \right)$$

Where:

$$AREA = 6 \left( 1 + \frac{2D_1}{D_0} + \frac{2D_2}{D_0} + \frac{D_3}{D_0} \right)$$

$E_{AC}$  = Modulus of the HMA layer (ksi)

$T_{AC}$  = Temperature of the HMA layer (°F)

$D_0$  = Deflection at center of load (mils)

$D_1$  = Deflection at 12 in. (305 mm) from center of load

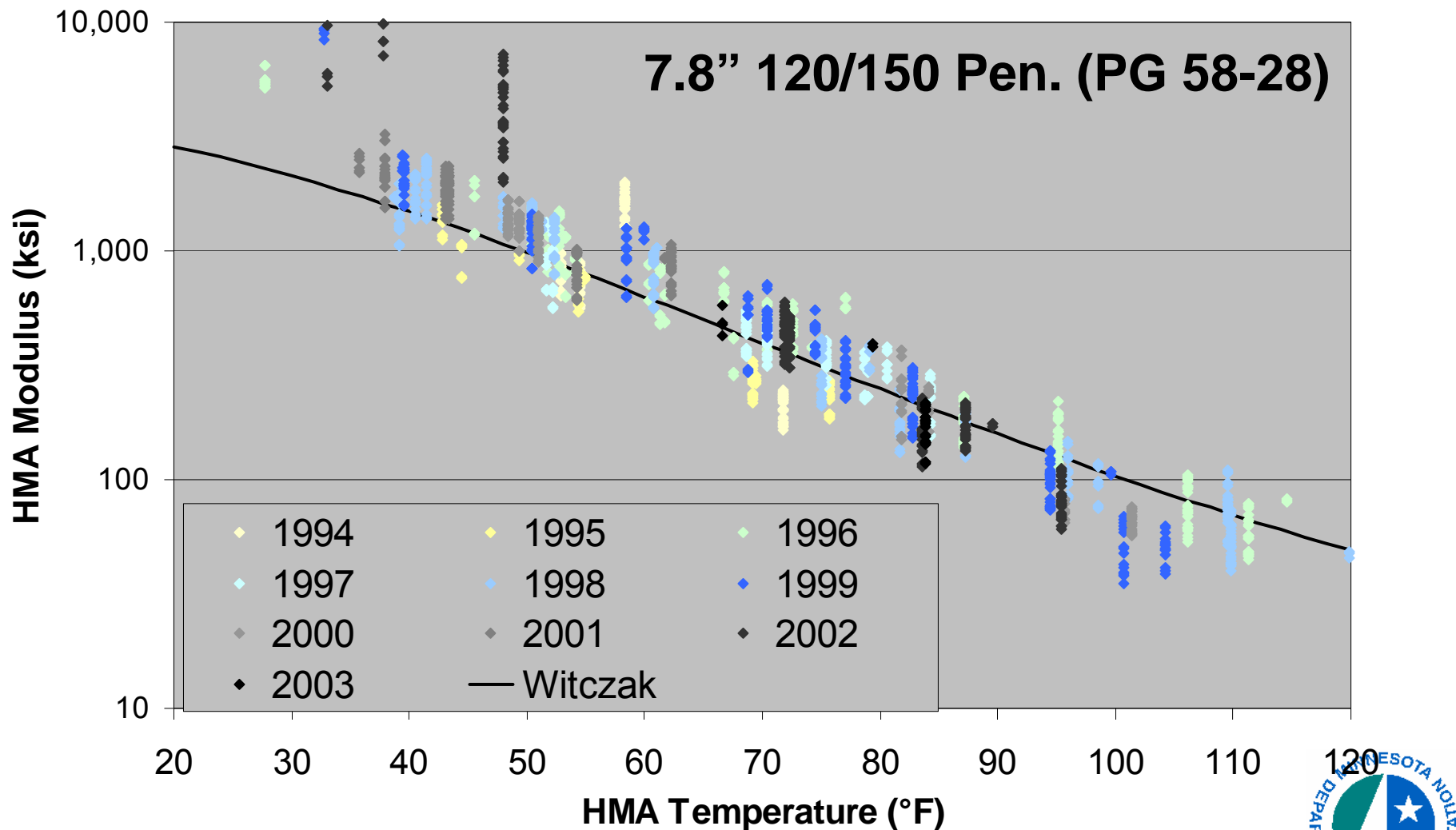
$D_2$  = Deflection at 24 in. (610 mm) from center of load

$D_3$  = Deflection at 36 in. (914 mm) from center of load



# Cell 20 Modulus Comparison 1994-2003

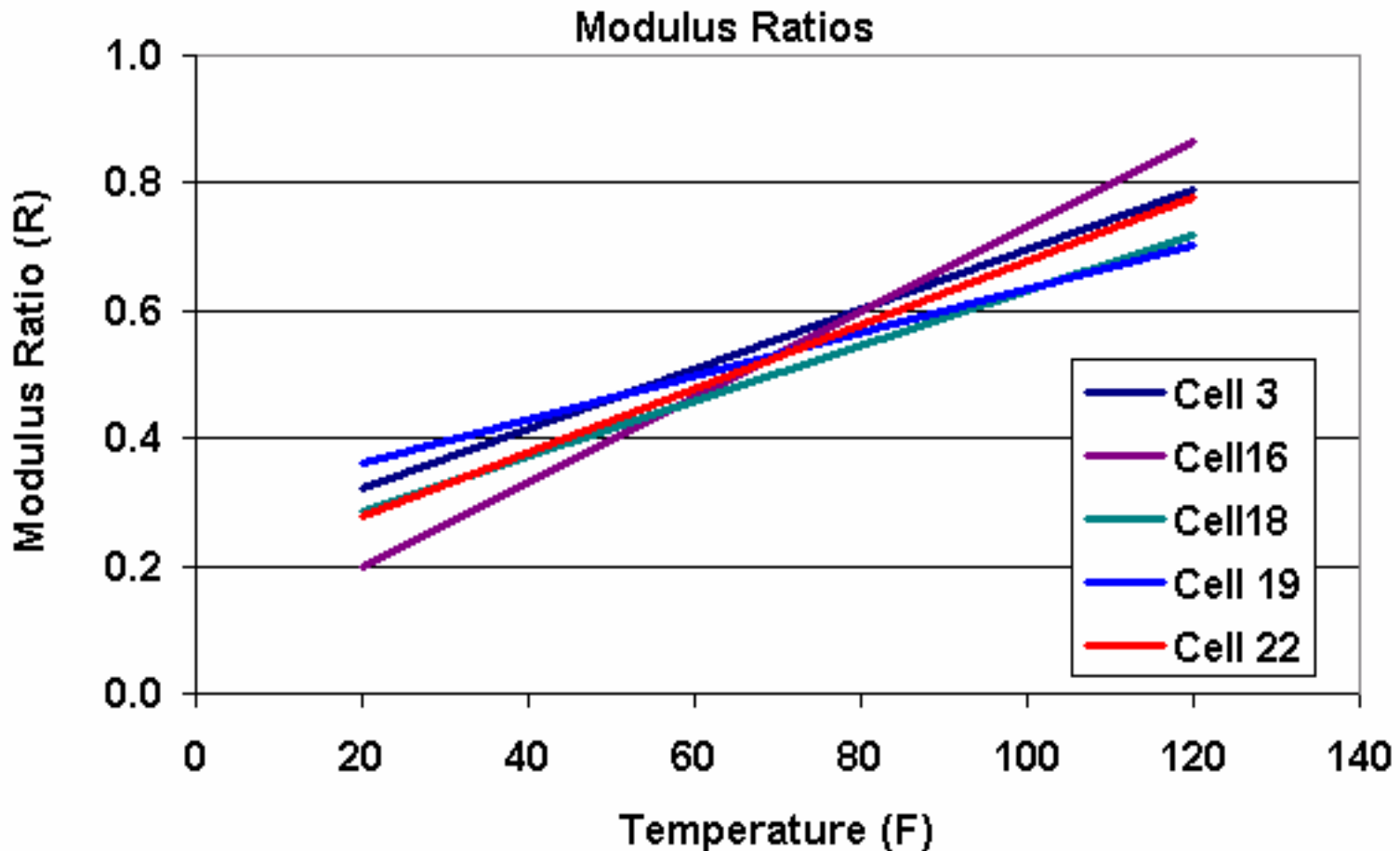
## Witczak and Thompson Equations



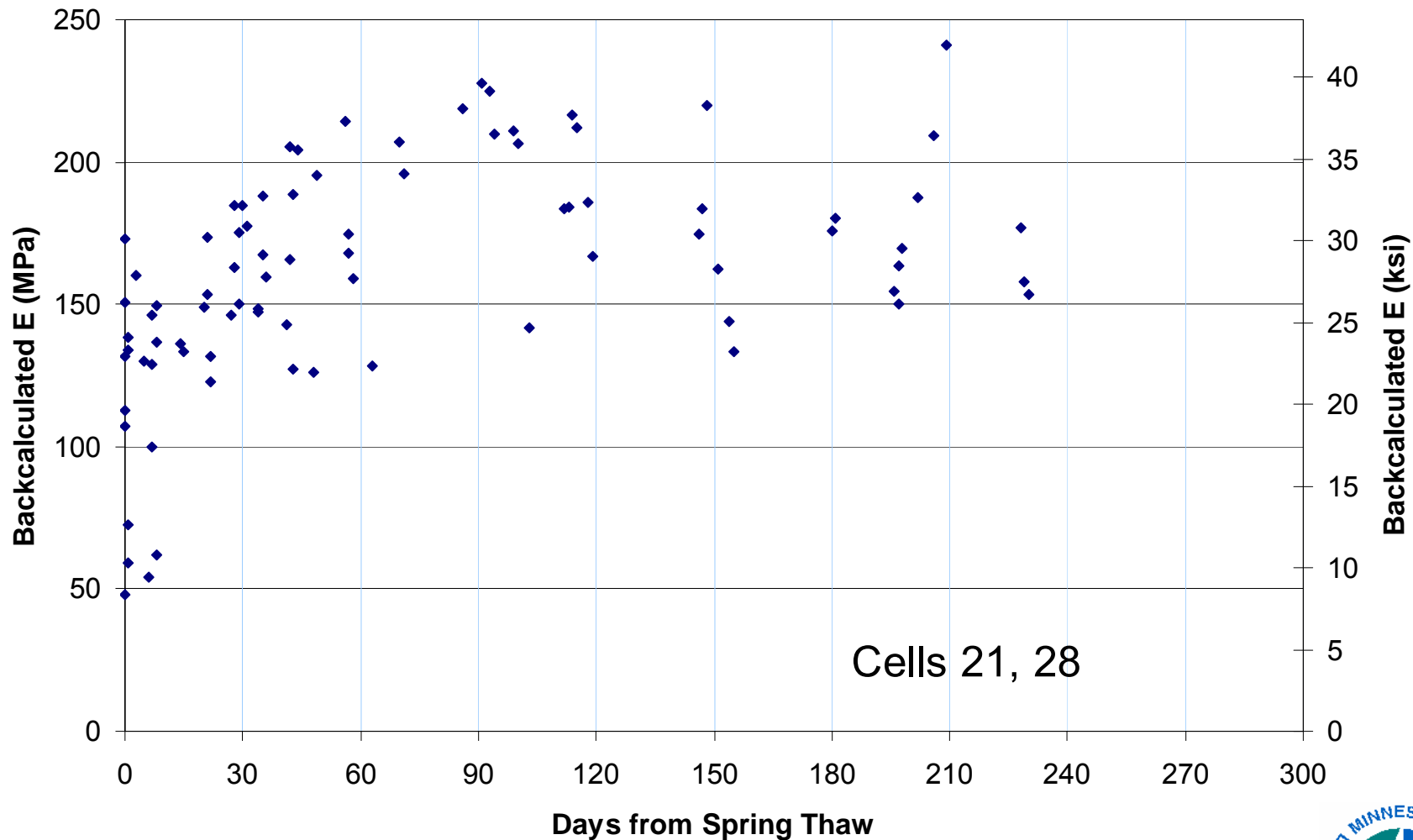
# Modulus Reduction Factor

– Modulus Ratio (R )

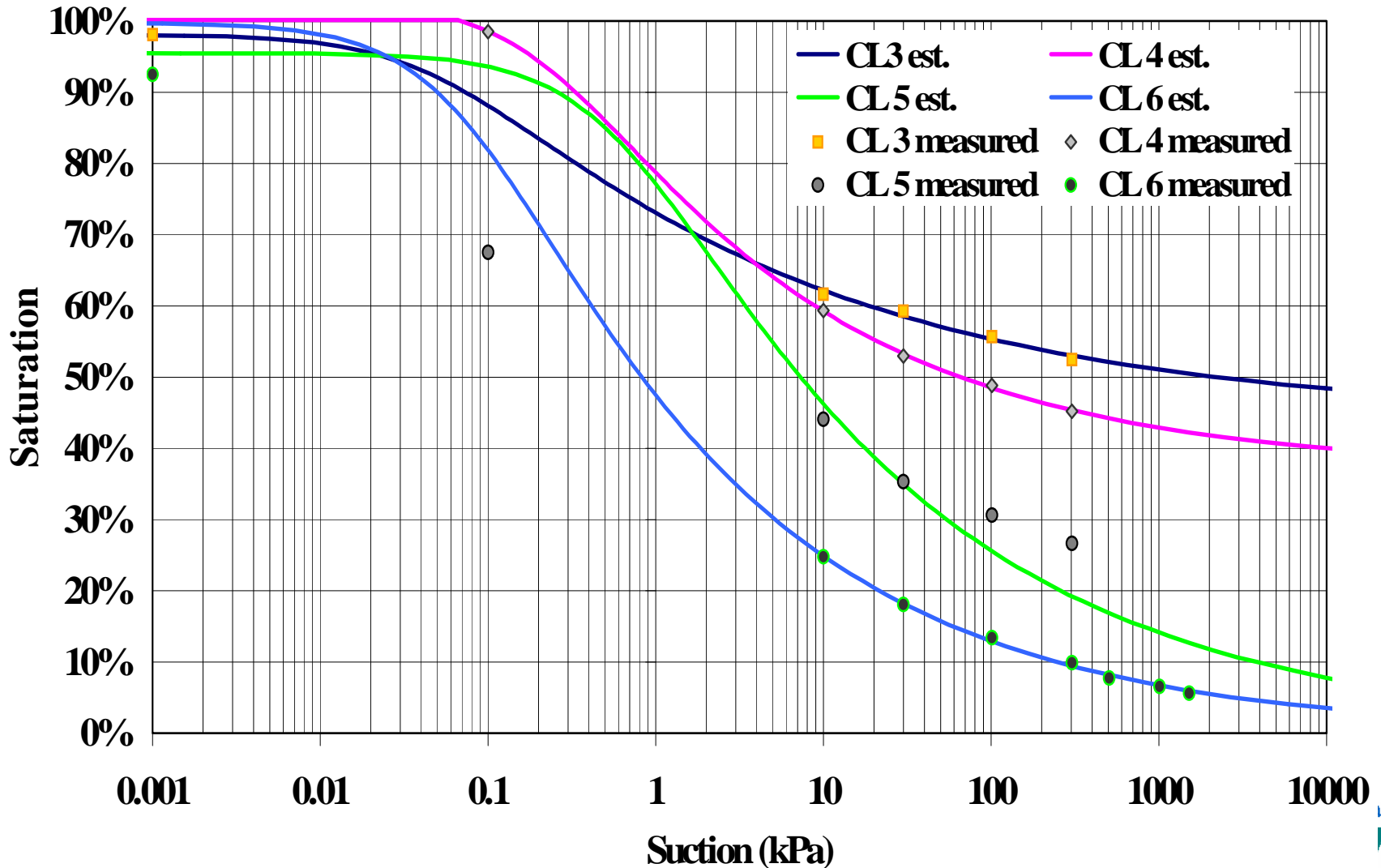
- $R = E^*(\text{near crack}) / E^*(\text{between cracks})$



# MnROAD Class 5 Moduli 1994-1996



# Unsaturated Properties



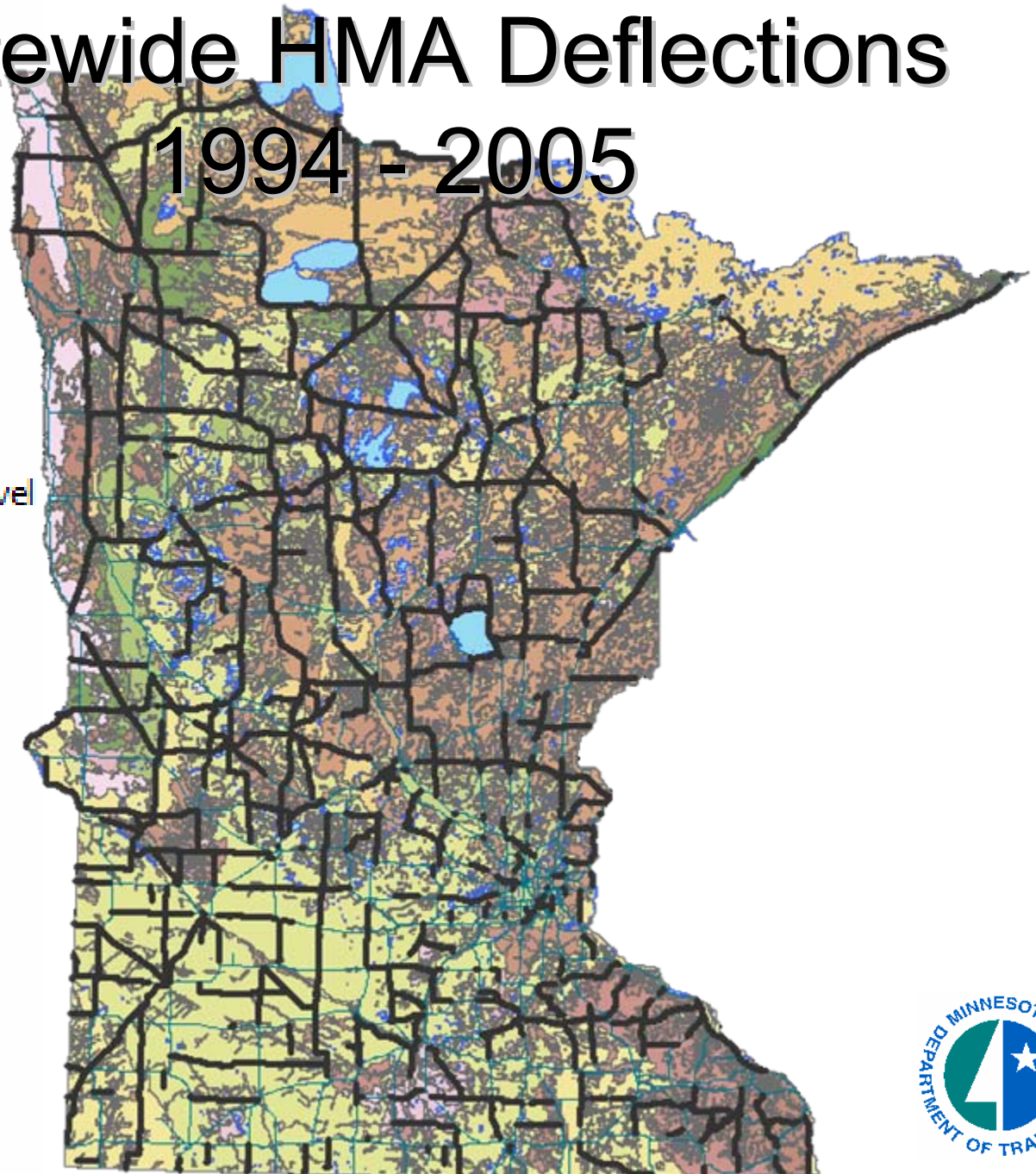


# Statewide HMA Deflections 1994 - 2005

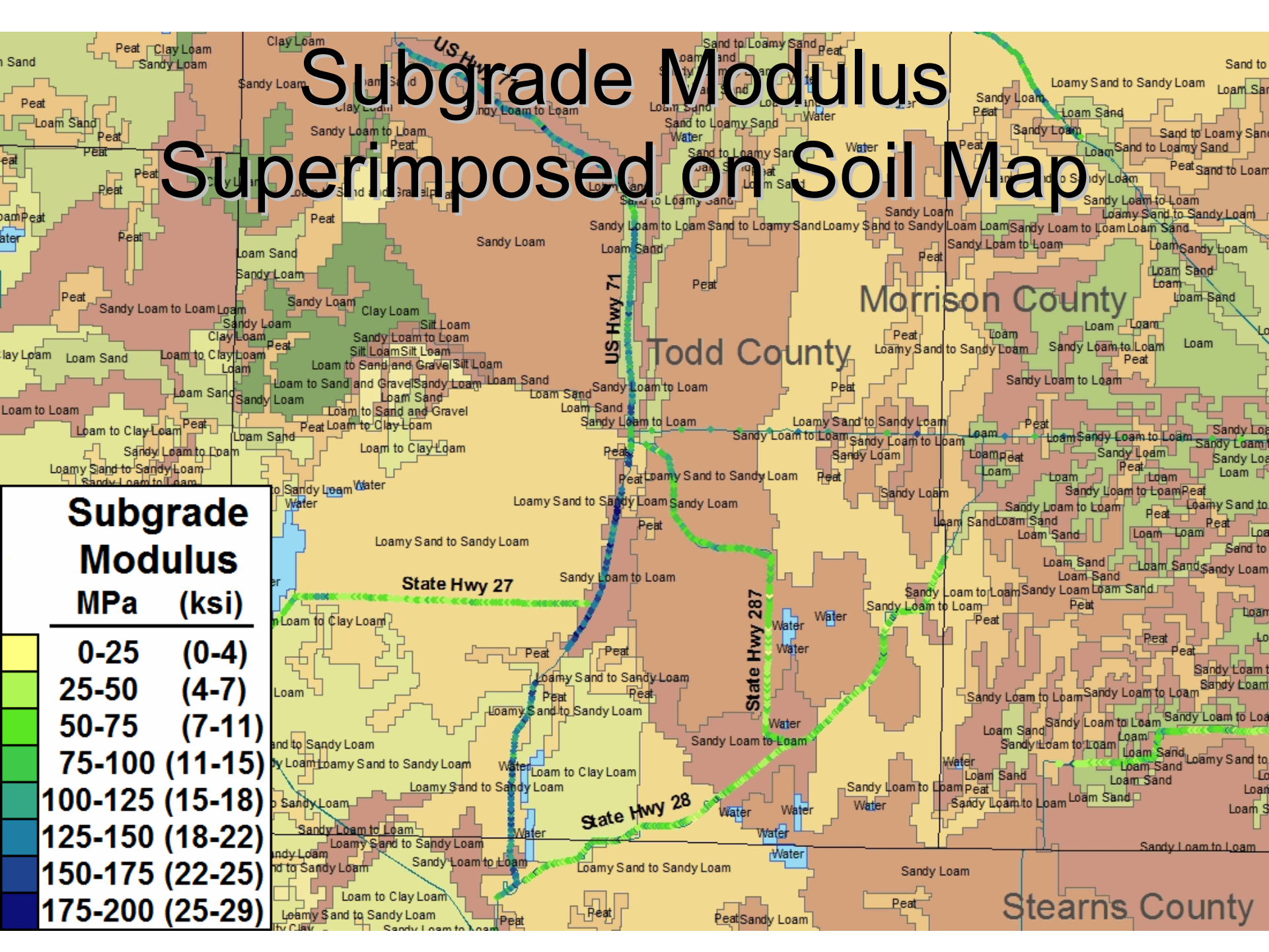
Soil Class

LEGEND

- Clay
- Clay Loam
- Clay Loam to Silty Clay Loam
- Loam
- Loam Sand
- Loam to Clay Loam
- Loam to Sand and Gravel
- Loam to Silt Loam
- Loam to Silty Clay
- Loam, Clay Loam, Sand and Gravel
- Loamy Sand to Sandy Loam
- Mine Dumps
- Peat
- Sand
- Sand to Loamy Sand
- Sandy Loam
- Sandy Loam to Loam
- Silt Loam
- Silt Loam to Silty Clay Loam
- Silty Clay
- Silty Clay Loam
- Silty Clay Loam to Silty Clay
- Silty Clay to Clay
- Water



# Subgrade Modulus Superimposed on Soil Map



## Subgrade Modulus

MPa (ksi)

0-25 (0-4)

25-50 (4-7)

50-75 (7-11)

75-100 (11-15)

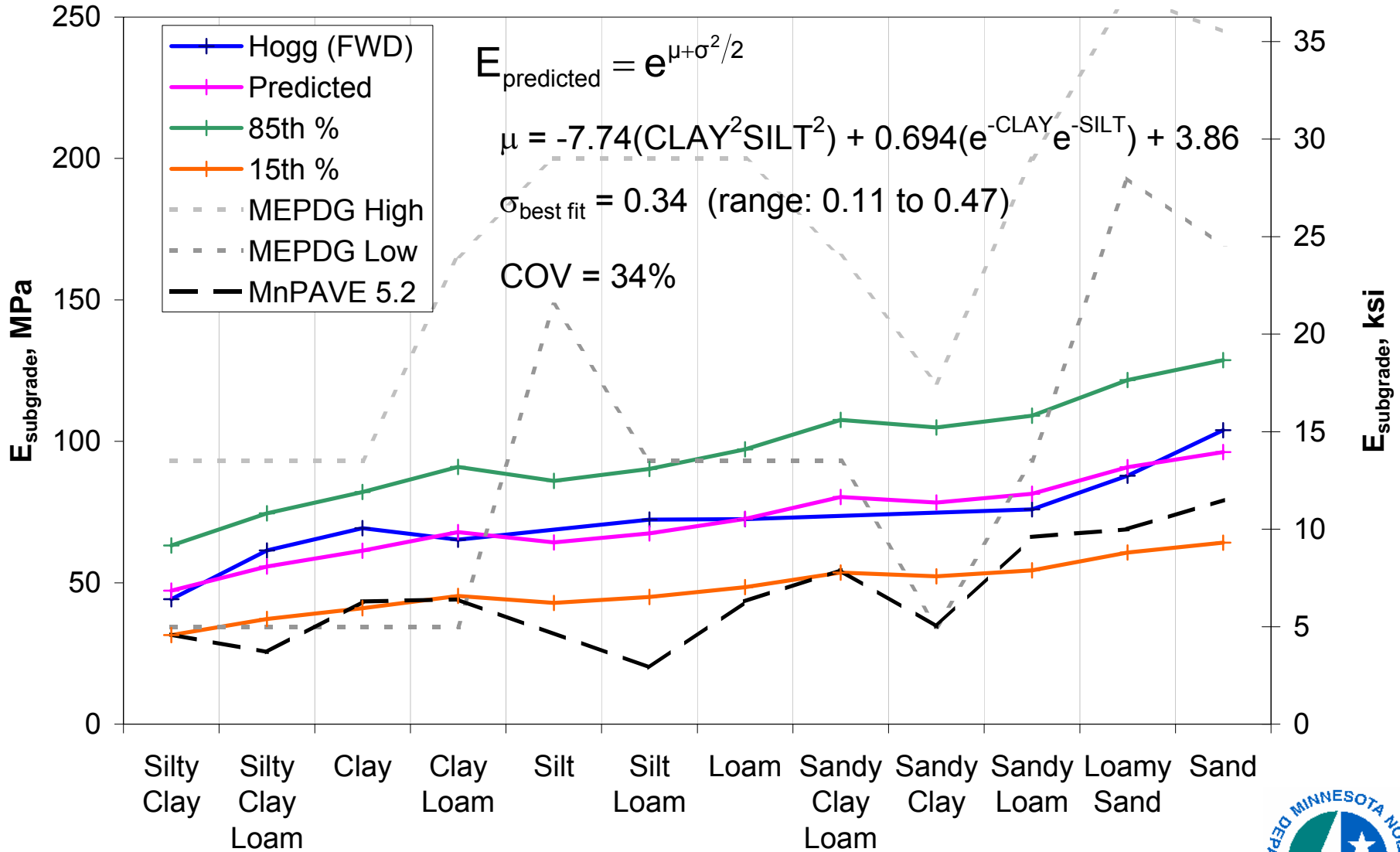
100-125 (15-18)

125-150 (18-22)

150-175 (22-25)

175-200 (25-29)

# Subgrade Modulus Predictions



# Traffic

MnPAVE - Demo1.mpv

File Edit View Window Help

Demo1.mpv

## ESAL

**Axle Configuration**

Tire Pressure  psi

Axle Weight  kips

Wheel Weight  kips

**ESALs**

Lifetime  million

First Year  million (Calculated)

Design Period Length  years

Annual Growth Rate (%)  (Simple Growth)

**Units**

English

SI

Finished Traffic  
Go to  
Control Panel

**Allowable Stress Failure Criterion**

	Axle Weight (kips)	Tire Pressure (psi)	Wheel Spacing (in.)
Heaviest Single Tire Axle	<input type="text" value="34"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/>	
Heaviest Dual Tire Axle	<input type="text" value="36"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/>	<input type="text" value="13.5"/>

Restore Mn/ROAD Defaults

For Help, press F1

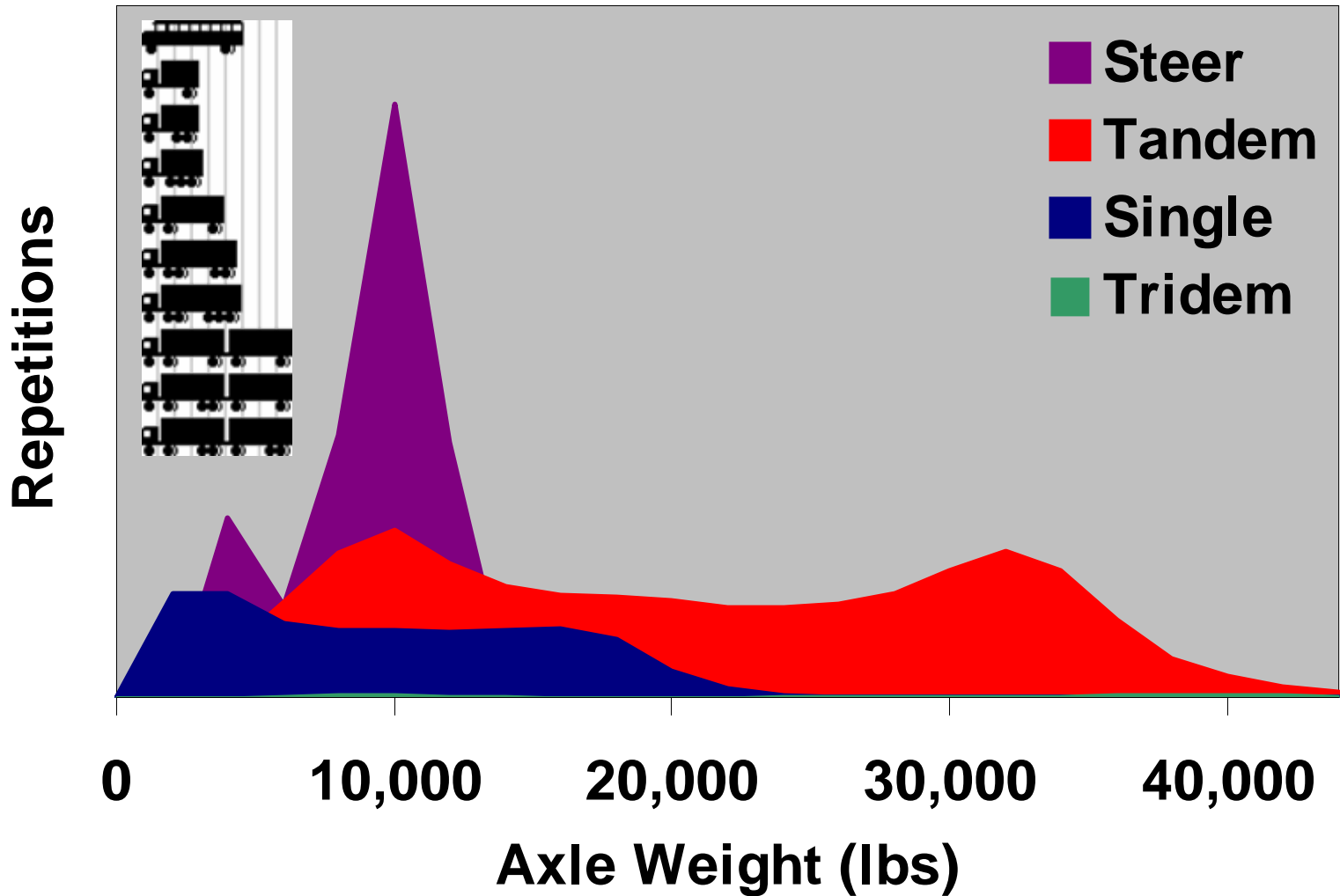


# Simplified Load Spectrum Input

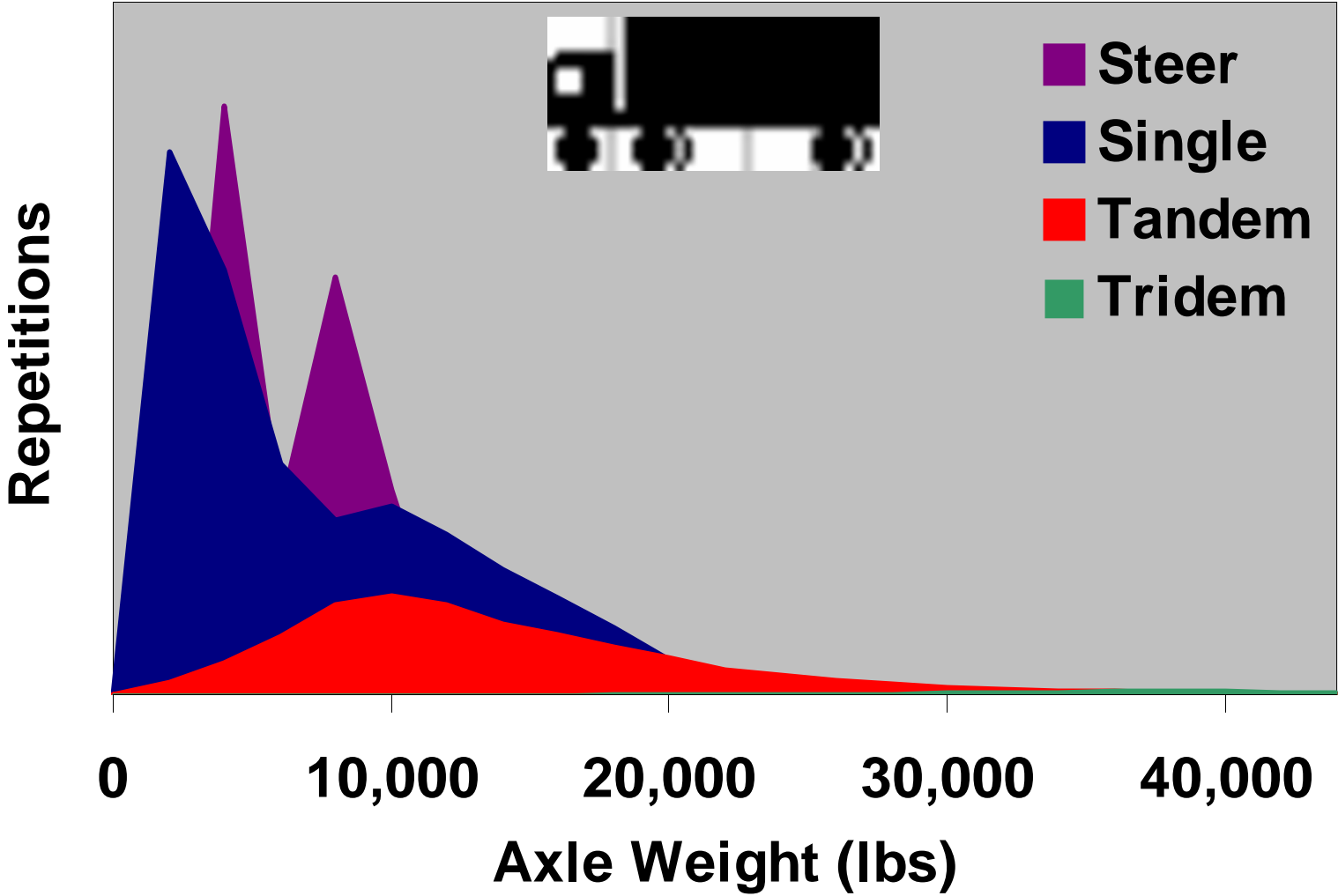
- Analysis of WIM data
- Mn/DOT and FHWA vehicle types
- Axle distributions by truck type
- Assumptions about truck distributions
- Route types



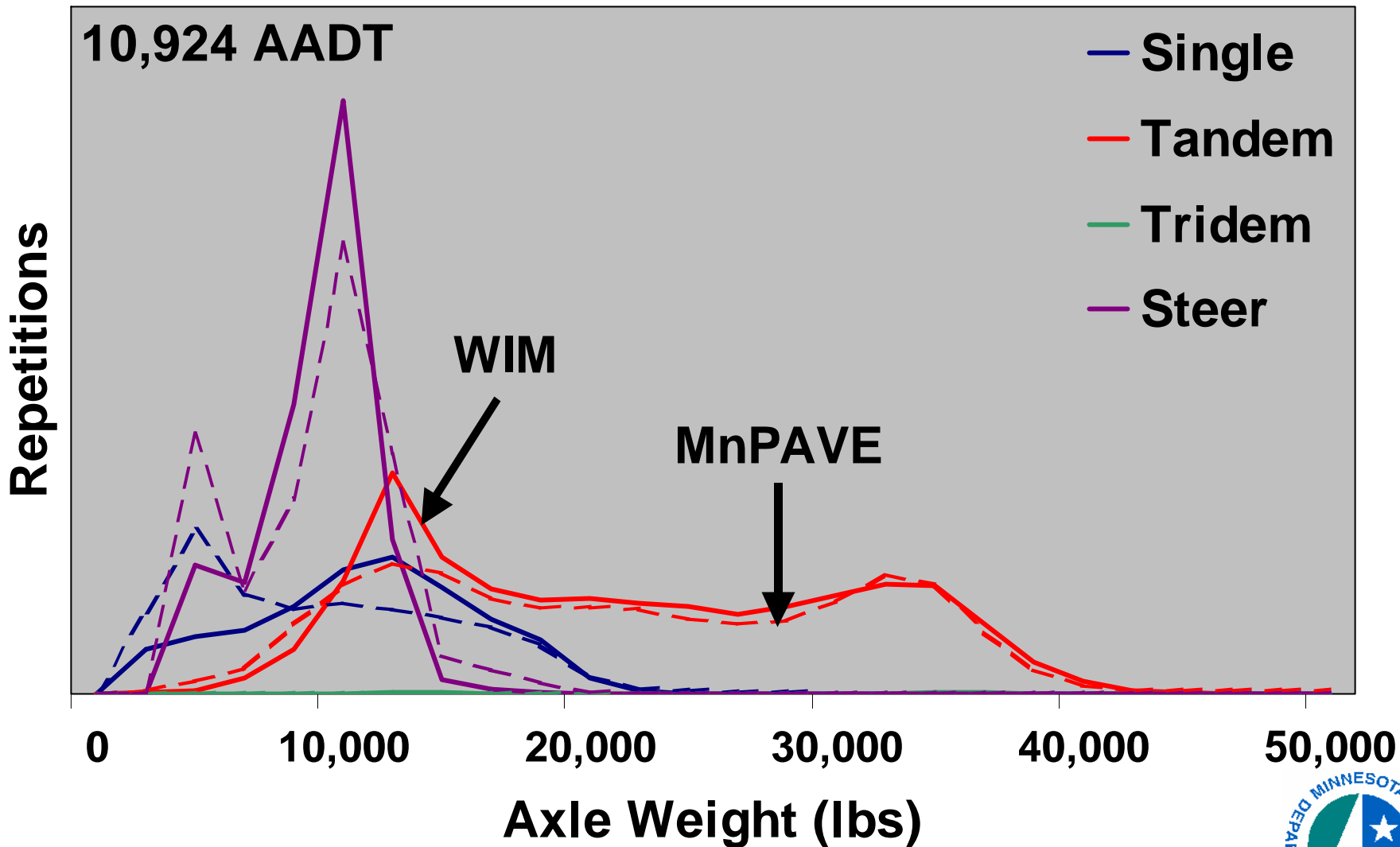
# MnROAD 2001 WIM Data



# Vehicle Type 8



# Burnsville I-35E (Feb. 1 - Mar. 1 1992)







# Spectrum

Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

### Traffic Input

First Year  
Design Lane  
AADT

3,200

Design Life (years)

20

Annual Growth Rate (%)

3

- Simple
- Compound

Traffic Mode:

Basic

Units

- English
- SI

Finished Traffic  
Go to  
Control Panel

### Traffic Types

- Urban Interstate
- Rural Interstate
- Urban Highway
- Rural Highway
- Low Volume
- Custom

Note: Basic calculations provide a rough estimate of the load spectrum for a given route and are not intended for design use.





# Spectrum

Basic Intermediate Advanced

Standard VehicleTypes Custom Traffic

Mn/DOT

FHWA

### Traffic Input

First Year  
Design Lane  
AADT

3,200

Design Life (years)

20

Annual Growth Rate (%)

3

Simple

Compound

Traffic Mode: Intermediate

Units

English

SI

Finished Traffic  
Go to  
Control Panel

Type No.		Percent	
1 - 3.	Autos, Light Trucks	89	(Calculated)
4.	2 Axle 6 Tire	1.2	
5.	3+ Axle Single	0.6	
6.	3 Axle Semi	0.3	
7.	4 Axle Semi	0.3	
8.	5 Axle Semi	7.2	
9.	6 Axle Semi	0.3	
10.	Trailers & Buses	0.8	
11.	Twin Trailer	0.3	



Note: Load Spectrum calculations are based on vehicle and axle data recorded by the Weigh-In-Motion device at Mn/ROAD.





# Spectrum

Basic Intermediate Advanced

Tire Pressure...	100	100	100	100
Tire Spacing ...	13.50	13.50	13.50	
Axle Spacing...		54.00	54.00	

Traffic Input

First Year Design Lane AADT

3,200

Design Life (years)

20

Annual Growth Rate (%)

3

- Simple
- Compound

Traffic Mode: Basic

Units

- English
- SI

Finished Traffic  
Go to Control Panel

Lifetime Axle Repetitions  Seasonal Traffic  Use WIM Data

Axle Weight (kips)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tandem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tridem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steer	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Tandem	<input type="checkbox"/> Tridem
1 - 3	142,327	8,522	0	0			
3 - 5	280,795	30,362	16	430,776			
5 - 7	169,196	58,359	146	179,648			
7 - 9	128,723	150,770	675	382,297			
9 - 11	123,468	235,555	2,196	943,157			
11 - 13	103,875	295,482	5,073	521,082			
13 - 15	90,147	268,562	4,349	75,130			
15 - 17	94,439	213,546	2,093	49,021			
17 - 19	87,715	192,471	1,026	24,478			
19 - 21	32,072	190,462	971	4,028			
21 - 23	8,219	166,828	1,230	1,105			
23 - 25	3,848	165,782	1,253	381			
25 - 27	3,201	156,183	1,557	229			

Clear All

Rural Highway

Calculated ESALs = 2,103,608

Show LEF



# Output

MnPAVE - Demo1.mpv

File Edit View Window Help

Demo1.mpv

**Output**  Life  Damage

Traffic Type: Load Spectrum    Total Repetitions: 9,304,455

Expected Life

Years

Fatigue: 27

Rutting: 20

Adjust Materials

	H (in.)
HMA: PG 58-34	6
AggBase: Cl.5	6
Subbase: SelGr	18
EngSoil: CL	12
UndSoil: CL	

Recalculate

Units:  English  SI

Go Back to Control Panel

Basic | Batch Mode | Reliability

Percent of Total Damage

	Fall	Winter	Early Spring	Late Spring	Summer	
MnPAVE Fatigue	9.2	0.2	0.8	14.7	75.1	
MnPAVE Rutting	17.2	0.2	0	25.9	56.6	


Export

Design Summary  Damage Details

Export to File

For Help, press F1

NUM





# Questions

[www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us](http://www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us)

