Open Graded Friction Course (OGFC) pavement sheds water and provides good skid resistance. A problem with OGFC surfaces is short life before raveling begins. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is testing several alternative surfaces. Surfaces being tested and compared include Novachip placed over new and old asphalt mixes, an OGFC and a Permeable Friction Course (PFC), each over new mixes. The report looks at construction techniques and compares each of the alternative surfaces.

Other state DOT’s report that Novachip has a proven track record in the maintenance field. Uses include repairing of oxidized surfaces, extending life of the surface and restoring skid resistance. ODOT needs to know if the cost and performance of NovaChip is equal to/or better than OGFC, ODOT’s standard surface treatment.

Based on ease of construction, NovaChip and OGFC were approximately equal, yet the requirement of the special NovaChip laydown machine makes the that product unique. The PFC also needed a special machine (at the plant) to introduce the fiber into the mix.