

# Rubberized Modified Asphalt

Tracing The Past And Exploring Advanced Toward Sustainable Roadway Materials

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Presentation Prepared for:  
CAPTG – SWIFT 2024  
September 16, 2024

 **captg**

 **SWIFT**  
VANCOUVER

SEPT 17-19 2024

 **CRM**

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, likely belonging to an older person, gently cupping a small green seedling with dark soil. The seedling has several green leaves and a reddish stem. The background is softly blurred, showing more hands and what appears to be a container of soil.

**Recycling** is  
crucial, benefiting  
not just us  
but also  
ensuring a  
sustainable future  
for coming  
generations



**DECARBONIZATION  
2030 & 2050**

**Change in Materials**



**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

**EVER-INCREASING  
TRAFFIC**



**EXTREME  
EVENTS**





**WORLD  
IS  
CHANGING**



**NEED  
SHIFT IN  
THINKING**

# RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY



**RESILIENT ASPHALT PAVEMENTS**  
**Industry Solutions for the Resilience Goal**

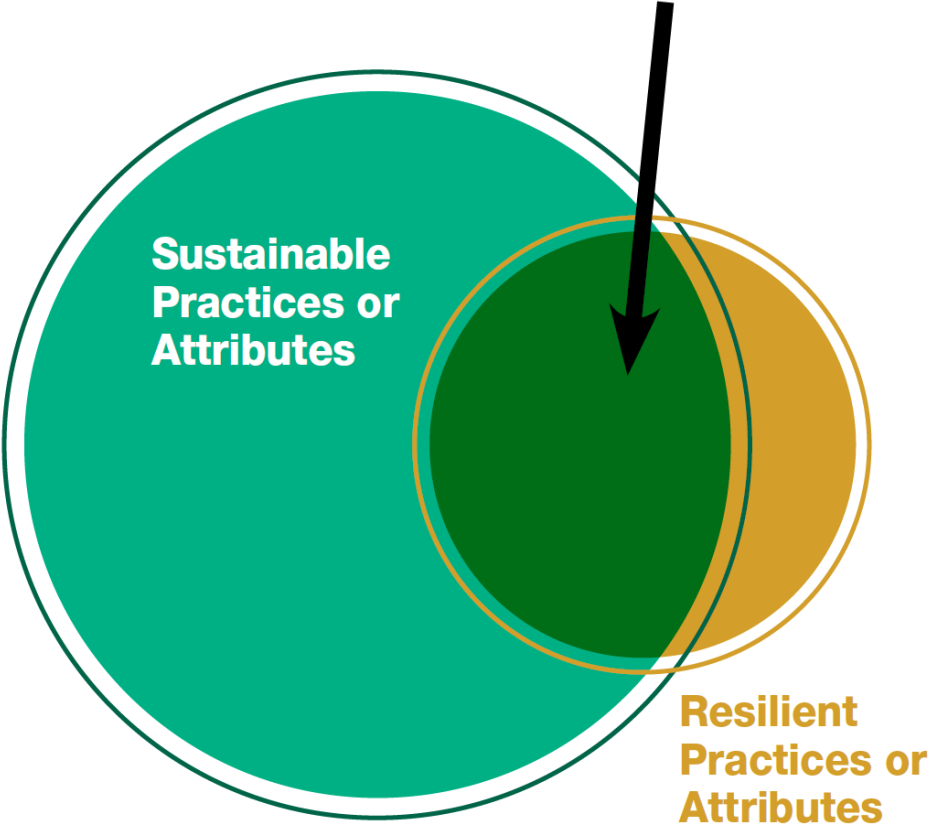
NAPA Report by

- **Benjamin F. Bowers, PhD, PE**  
Assistant Professor, Auburn University, Auburn Alabama
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Assistant Research Professor, National Center for Asphalt Technology  
Auburn University, Auburn Alabama



Sustainability in Practice 105

## Sustainable + Resilient Practices or Attributes



**Figure 1. Venn Diagram of Sustainable, Resilient, and Resilient + Sustainable Practices and Attributes for Asphalt Pavements**

# RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

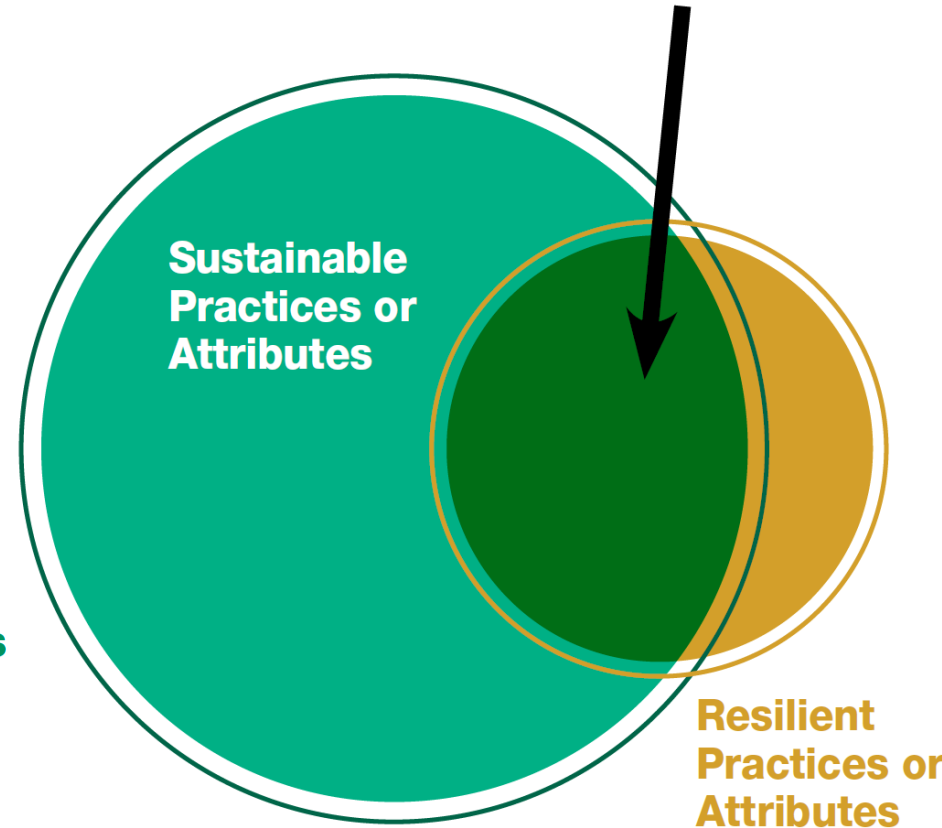
## Sustainable + Resilient Practices or Attributes

- Warm Mix Asphalt (low emissions + increase in haul distance)
- Porous pavement systems (stormwater management + nuisance flooding)
- Perpetual Pavement Design
- Deep reconstruction of pavement (increase deep layer moduli)
- Rapid construction
- Ability to adjust pavement design to climate / climatic events to extend pavement life

## Sustainable Practices or Attributes

- Use of recycled materials
- Cold Recycled Asphalt
- Asphalt mix and plant optimization

## Sustainable + Resilient Practices or Attributes



## Resilient Practices or Attributes That Are Not Sustainable

- Use of novel materials with unknown environmental or safety risks
- Use of climate adaptable materials when the social and environmental benefits do not outweigh the costs (e.g., use of polymer modified binders for low volume roads)
- Over-designing for low-risk catastrophic events

**Figure 1. Venn Diagram of Sustainable, Resilient, and Resilient + Sustainable Practices and Attributes for Asphalt Pavements**

# PROVEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREEN & RESILIENT ROADWAYS

NCAT Report 18-01

MATERIAL SELECTION  
GUIDANCE FOR ASPHALT  
PAVEMENT DESIGN

Dr. Carolina Rodezno  
Dr. David H. Timm  
Dr. Mary Robbins  
Dr. Nam Tran

June 2018

277 Technology Parkway ■ Auburn, AL 36830

National Center for  
Asphalt Technology  
**NCAT**  
at AUBURN UNIVERSITY

"Asphalt pavement materials and technologies that have been identified as potential candidates for cost-effective and sustainable asphalt pavement systems:

- a) Warm mix asphalt
- b) Reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP)**
- c) Recycled asphalt shingles (RAS)**
- d) Recycled tire rubber (RMA)**
- e) Stone matrix asphalt
- f) Cold recycling** and
- g) Polymer-modified asphalt"

A person is climbing a steep, textured rock face. The climber is silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky. The rock is light-colored and shows signs of weathering and cracks. The overall scene conveys a sense of challenge and effort.

# CHALLENGES WITH CURRENT MINDSET IN APPROACHING GREEN SOLUTIONS

*Valued greatly, but We have a  
part-time commitment!*

*Undertaking a limited number of projects, often only when  
prompted.*

*We tend to stay on the side of caution, relying heavily on  
previous experience and conventional materials/processes.*

*Need for **policies and incentives**  
**Leadership and commitment**  
**Integration in specs and projects***



# CHANGE IN MINDSET IS NEEDED

Net-zero emissions by 2050



Government  
of Canada

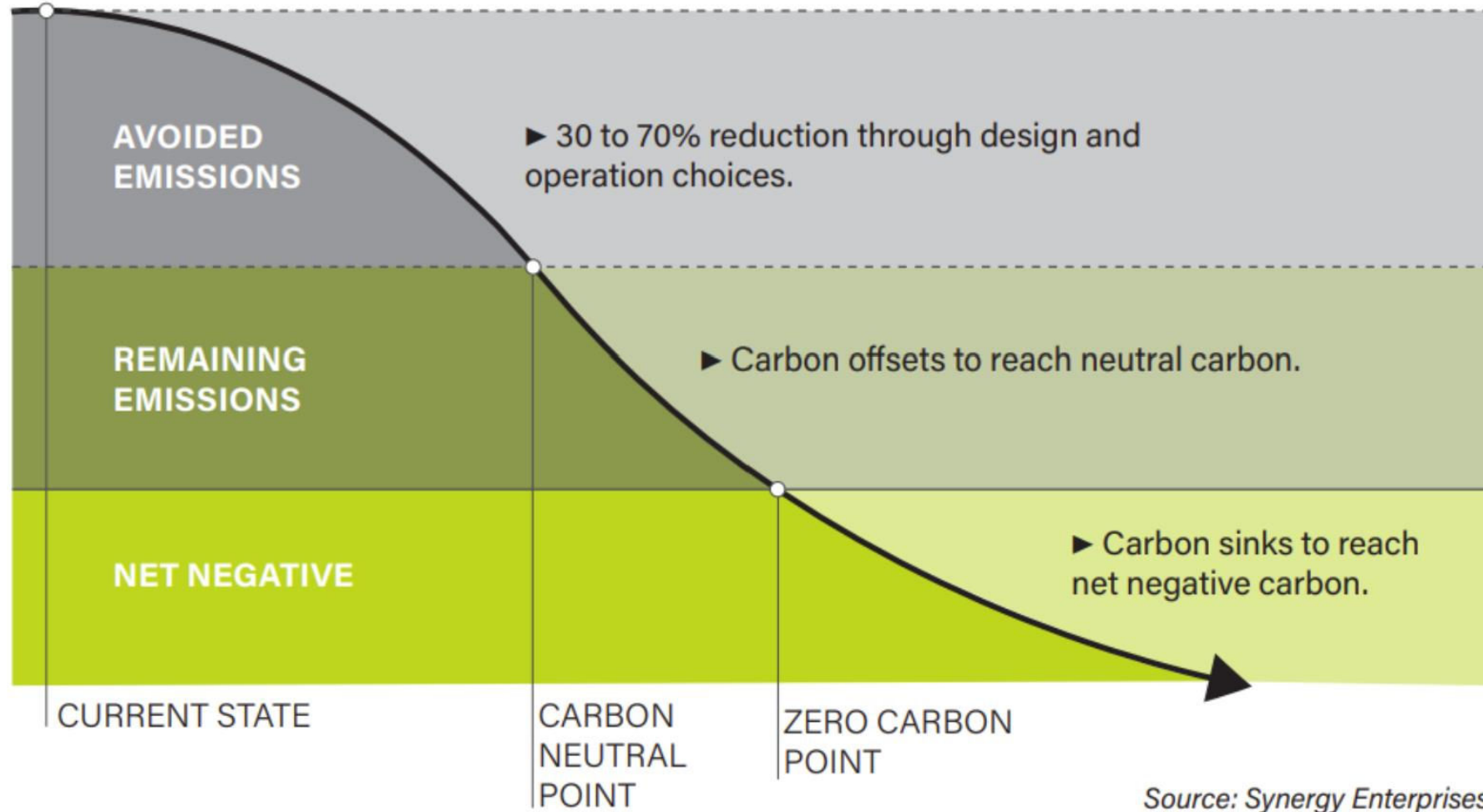
Gouvernement  
du Canada

## ***The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act***

Law to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050

# THE DECARBONIZATION PATHWAY

## Materials and Processes



# Decarbonization Opportunity.. EPDs

## Environmental Product Declaration

“Nutrition label” for asphalt pavement products

EPD “Nutrition” Label	
Your Building Product	
Amount per Unit	
LCA IMACT MEASURES	TOTAL
Primary Energy (MJ)	12.4
Global Warming Potential (kg CO <sup>2</sup> eq)	0.96
Ozone Depletion (kg CFC- 11 eq)	1.80E-08
Acidification Potential (mol H <sup>+</sup> eq)	0.93
Eutrophication Potential (kg N <sup>-</sup> eq)	6.43E-04
Photo-Oxidant Creation Potential (kg O <sub>3</sub> eq)	0.121

Your Product’s Ingredients: Listed Here



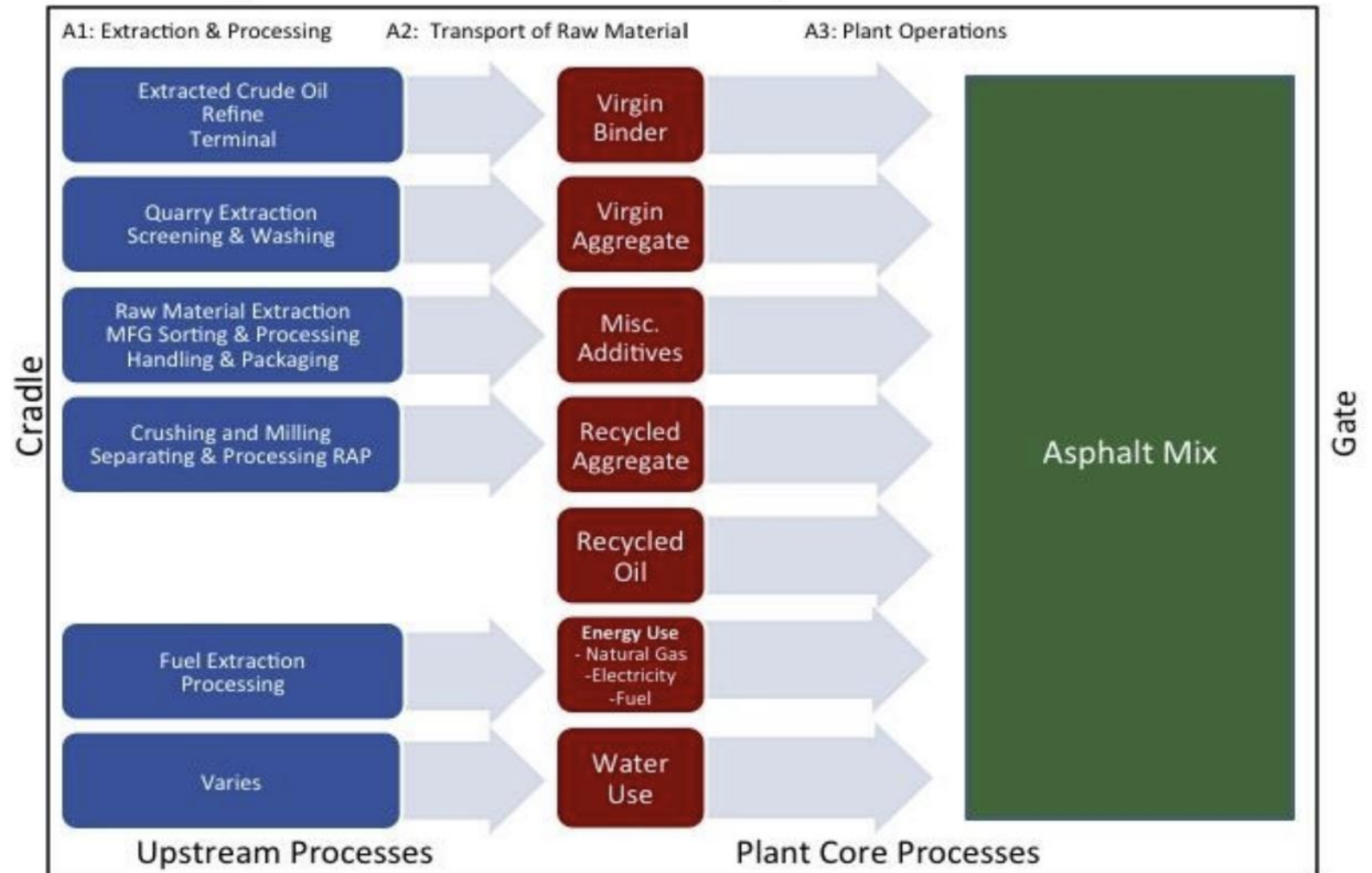
# AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT



Life Cycle Assessment of Asphalt Mixtures in Support of an Environmental Product Declaration



## Key Processes Within System Boundaries



# EXAMPLE OF CURRENT “BUY-CLEAN” POLICY EUROPE - NORWAY



Contract awarded to the lowest price after CO<sub>2</sub> price adjustment

Year	2019	2020-2023	2024
CO <sub>2</sub> -value NOK/kg	2	5	7,5
CO <sub>2</sub> -value USD/kg	0,19	0,47	0,70

Source: Norwegian Public Roads Administration, public information

- **Example case (stretching numbers to make the case clearer)**
- Tender 50.000 tons asphalt mix (produced and installed)
- CO<sub>2</sub>-value: 0,70 USD/kg

Contractor	Price offering USD	EPD A1-A5 Kg CO <sub>2</sub> /ton	ΔkgCO <sub>2</sub> /ton above baseline	CO <sub>2</sub> Penalty ΔCO <sub>2</sub> *tons*value	CO <sub>2</sub> adjusted price
A	5.270.000	50	15	+ 525.000	5.795.000
B	5.090.000	60	25	+ 875.000	5.965.000
C	5.710.000	35 (baseline)		-	5.710.000

*Bitumen availability and sustainability pushing for innovation and alternative binders*

*Presented by:  
Eivind Olav Andersen  
Veiteknologen AS*



Typical Asphaltic Surface Mix  
(low RAP Mix)

**MATERIALS (A1)  $\approx$  60% KG CO<sub>2</sub>e**



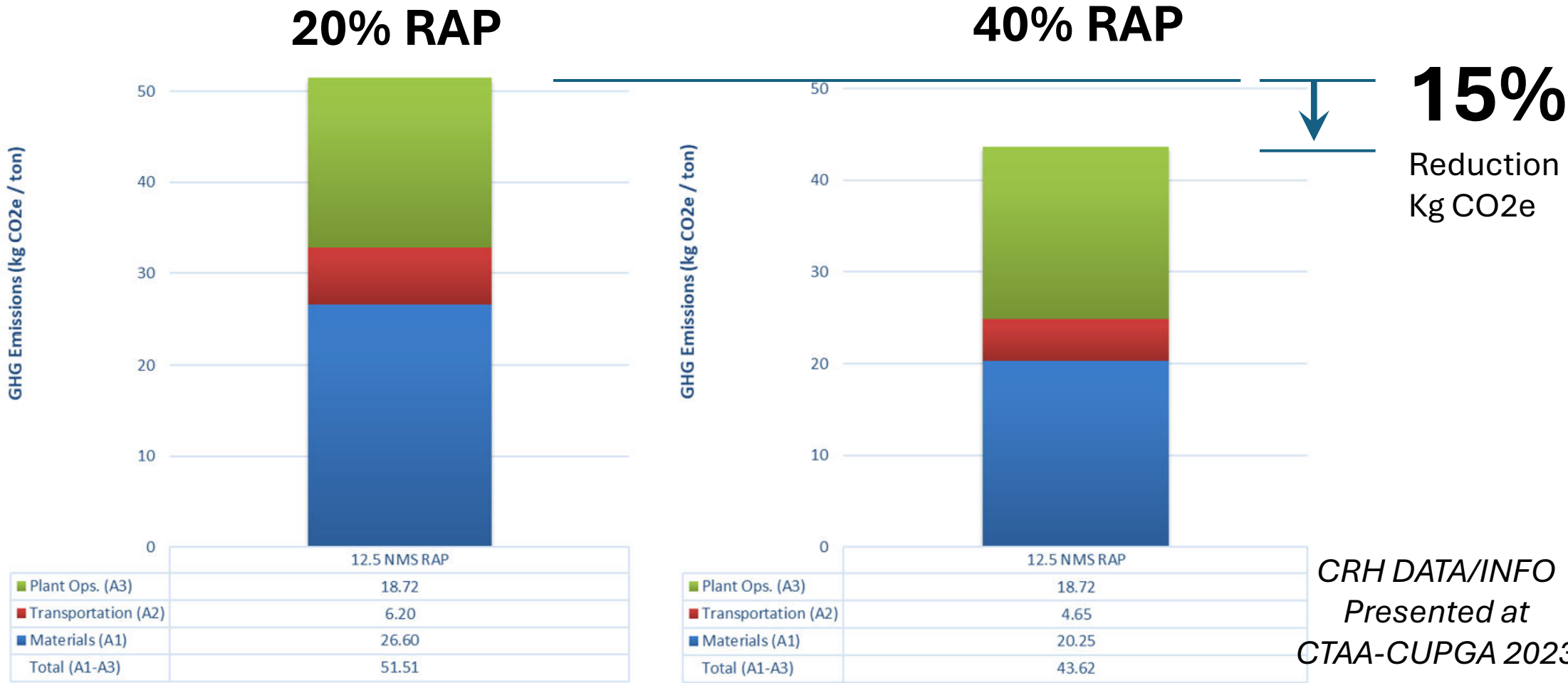
**PLANT OPERATIONS (A2)  $\approx$  33% KG CO<sub>2</sub>e**

**TRANSPORTATION (A2)  $\approx$  7% KG CO<sub>2</sub>e**



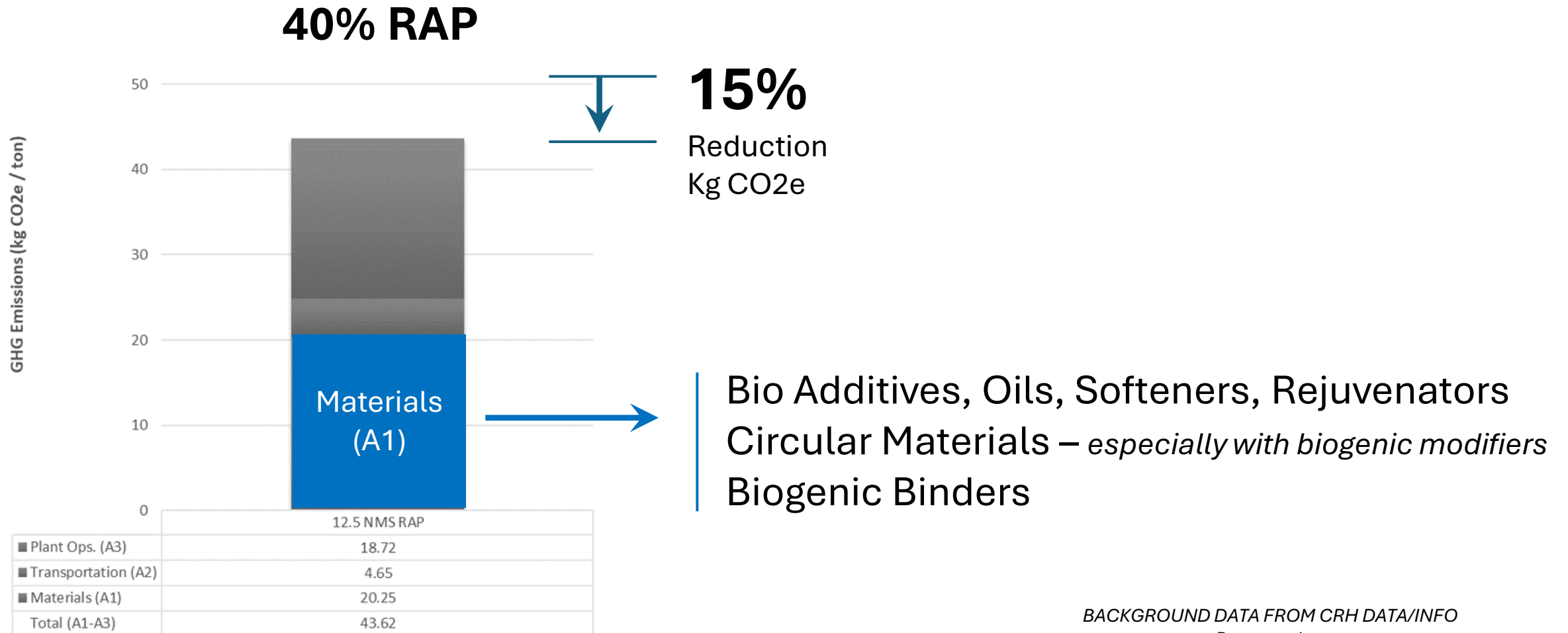
# RAP IMPACT ON EPD

single variable isolated example of a specific regionalized plant



# Achieving More than 20% Decarbonization

single variable isolated example of a specific regionalized plant





# POTENTIAL IMPACT PER TON

*Rubberized Mix + 14% RAP*

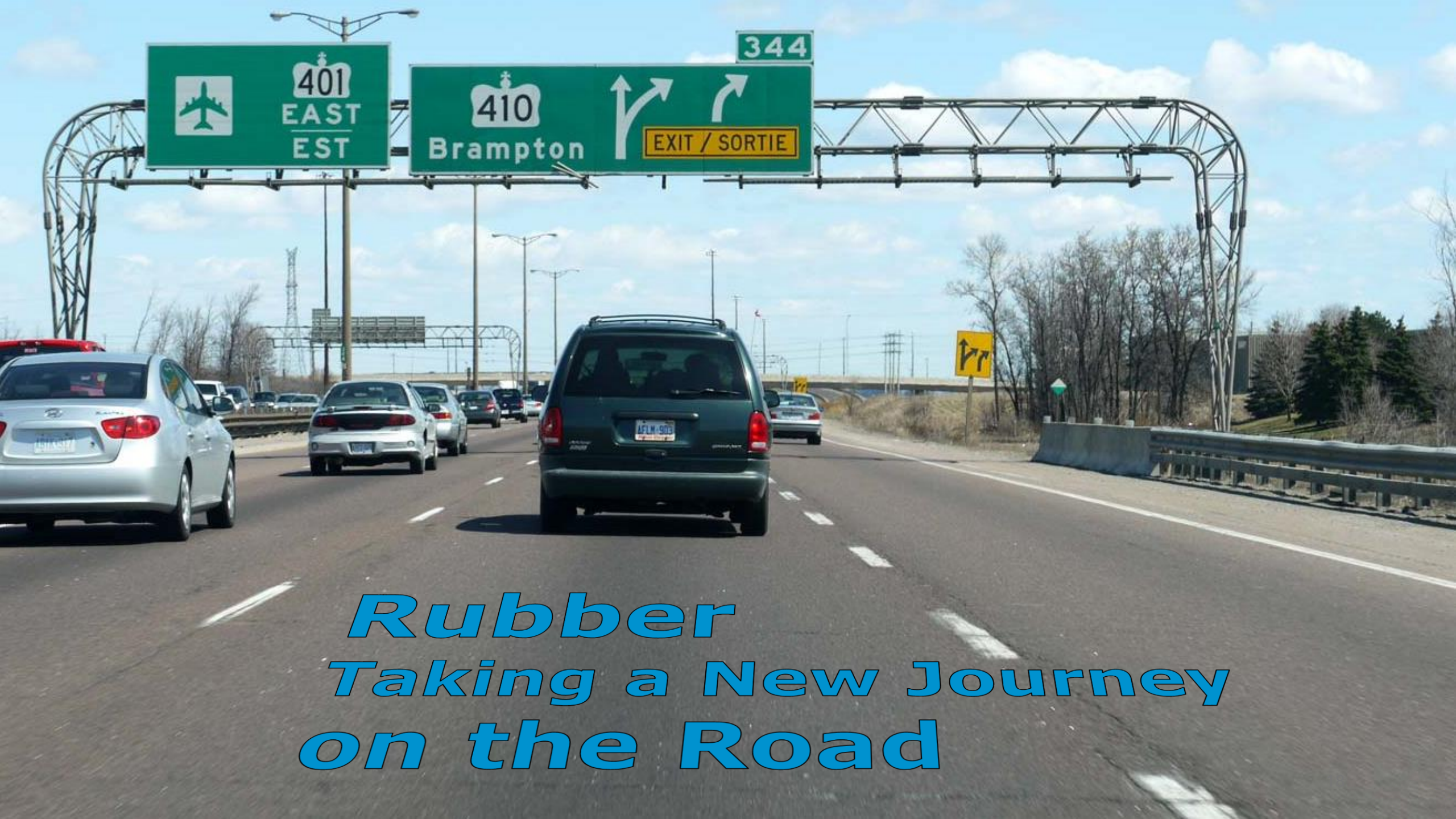
**56.02 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e**

*Polymer SBS Mix + 14% RAP*

**58.26 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e**

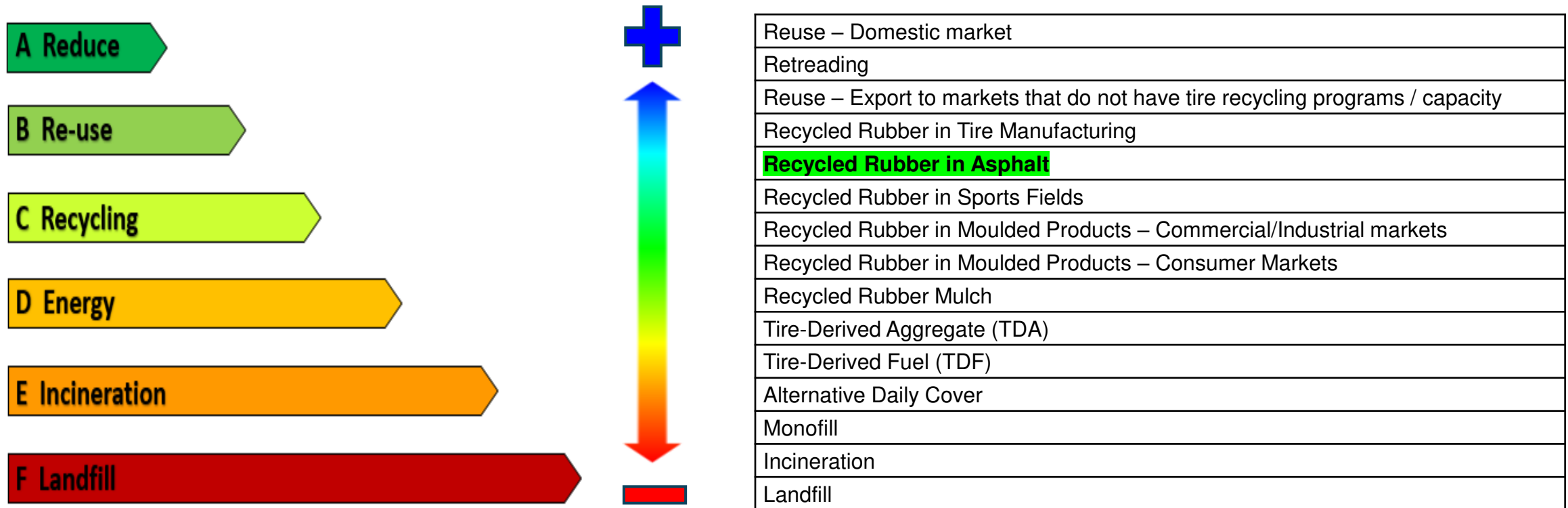
Actual Rubberized Asphalt Paving Project in US

**Emerald**  
ECO LABEL



***Rubber  
Taking a New Journey  
on the Road***

# Global End-of-Life Tire (ELT) Management Waste Hierarchy



# Rubberized Modified Asphalt

Complex, highly-engineered composite for wide range of loading and climatic applications

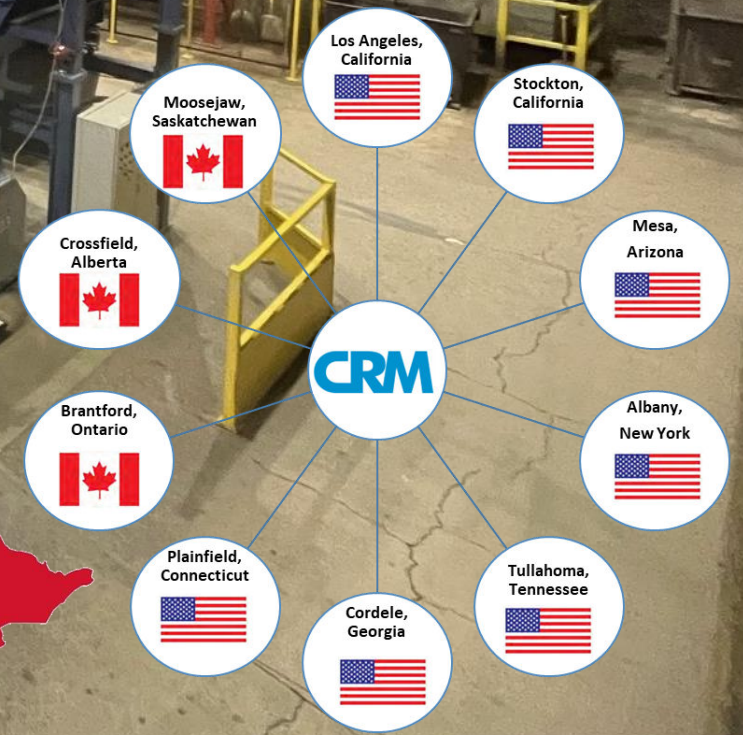
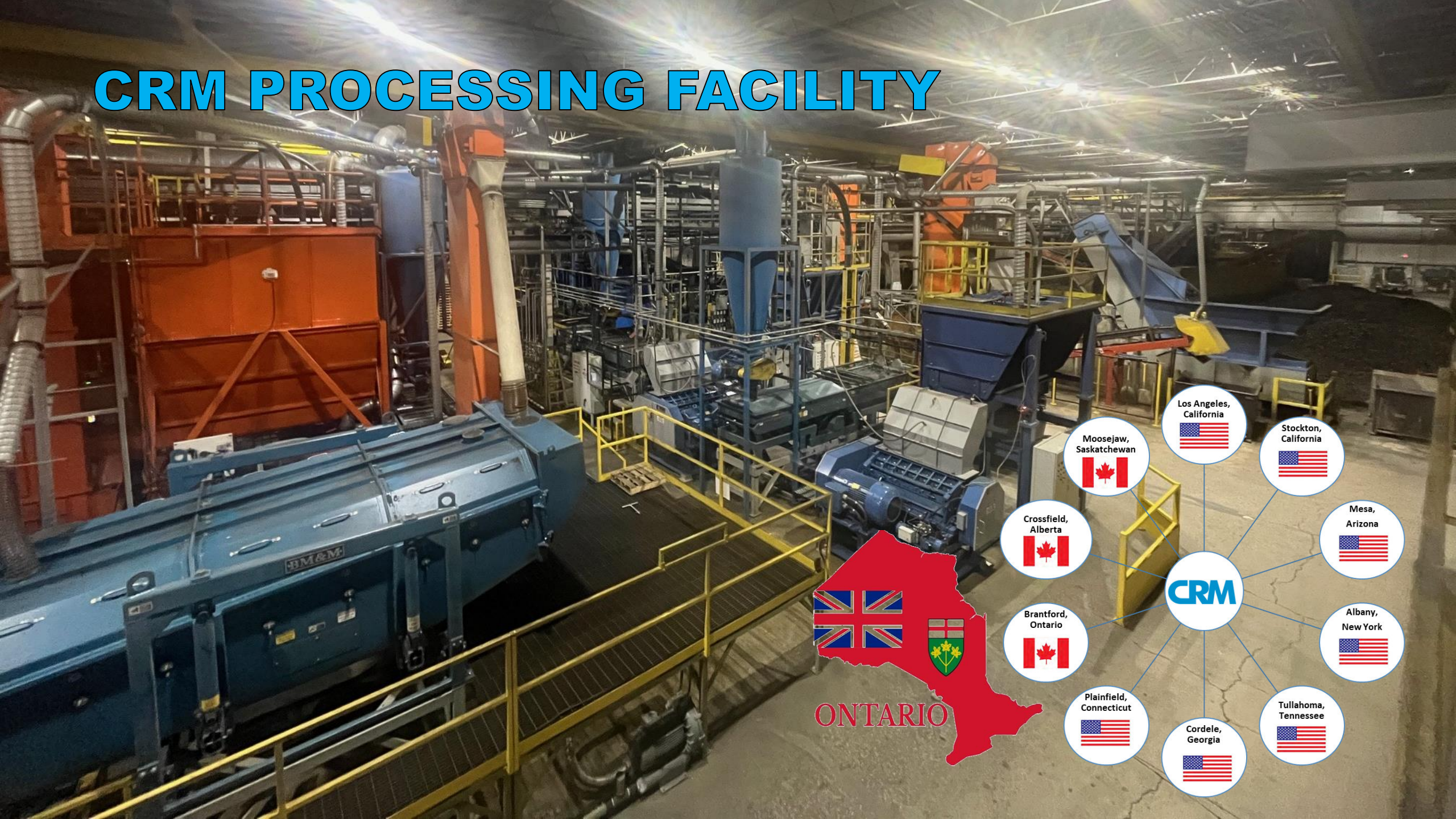


Premium  
Polymers  
in Tires

**Natural Rubber/Latex (biogenic)**  
**Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR)**  
**Styrene Butadiene Styrene (SBS)**  
**Butadiene Rubber (BR)**



# CRM PROCESSING FACILITY



# CRM Production Technologies

## AMBIENT

Shredded into two- inch chips processed further at ambient temperature

Further granulation of chips awhile separating steel and fabric

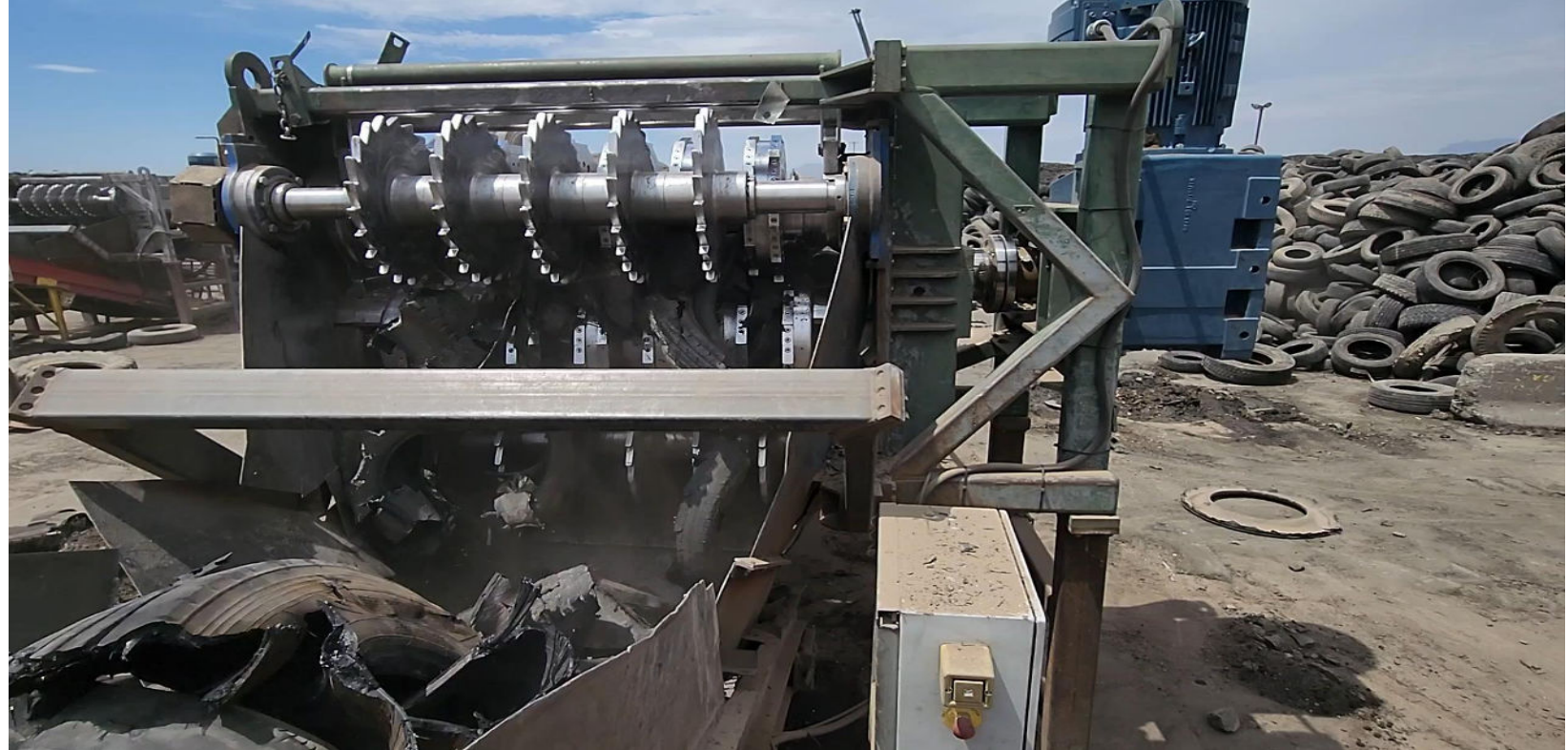


## CRYOGENIC

Advanced rotating freeze chamber from ambient to glass transition temperature of -200C

Impacting force to granulate

# CRM Primary Shredding Department



# CRM Secondary Shredding Department





# Metal Detection



# Wire Separation



# Fiber (“Tire Fluff”) Separation



# Classification (Sieving) Department



# Bagging Department



# Final Product & Shipping



# GROUND TIRE RUBBER (GTR) Rigorous Specification



## **30- Mesh**

- Uncured or de-vulcanized rubber will not be permitted.
- The GTR shall not exceed 2 mm (1/16 in.) in any dimension
- Shall contain no free metal particles or other foreign contaminating materials.
- The GTR shall be stored in a dry location protected from the rain.
- The GTR shall have a maximum of 0.75% moisture by weight and shall be free flowing.
- When the GTR is combined with the asphalt cement, the moisture content of the GTR shall not cause foaming of the blend.

# GROUND TIRE RUBBER (GTR) For Asphalt Applications



## 30- Mesh

Sieve Analysis Required

Ambient or Cryogenic can be used – Cryogenic is recommended

Sieve Size (mm)	% Passing
1.18 mm (No. 16)	100
600 Microns (No. 30)	95 ± 5
300 Microns (No. 50)	> 20

*No. 200 sieve is 74 Microns , human hair thickness is 20 to 100 microns*

A Mineral powder (such as Talc) meeting AASHTO M17, Mineral Filler for Bituminous Paving Mixtures, may be added up to 4% by weight of GTR



# GTR

## Premium Asphalt Applications

**80- and 100- Mesh Sizes**  
Using **Micronizing** process

Sieve Size (mm)

165 Microns (No. 80)

149 Microns (No. 100)

This rubber specification is mainly used in Automotive and Rubber Molded Product industries, but Can be used in premium RMA applications



# WHY TIRE RUBBER IN ASPHALT?

## Asphalt Cement and Need for Modification

Cracking due to colder fall and winter temperatures

Permanent Deformation (i.e. "Rutting") due to high summer temperature

Sensitivity to loading frequency and intensity

Resulting in shorter life of pavements & increased maintenance costs over time



# NEED FOR ENGINEERED MODIFIERS

Flux Oils and Extenders

PPA - Polyphosphoric acid

Polymers

## Elastomers

Enhance strength at high temp and elastic at low temp (rubber)

*SBR Latex*

*SBS - Styrene Butadiene Styrene*

*GTR (Containing SBS & SBR, NR, BR)*

## Plastomers

Enhance strength but not elasticity (Plastic)...mostly used in hot climates

*Any responsible usage of the above modifiers*



# GTR in Asphalts

The purpose is not to get rid of tires but to enhance the performance of the binder.

## **Objective**

*"Leveraging the sophisticated engineering of tires to enhance a wider range of performance characteristics and create asphalt pavement applications that rival the efficiency and durability of tires"*

# HISTORY OF GTR IN ASPHALT

Developed in **1960's** by City of Phoenix Engineer, Charles McDonald

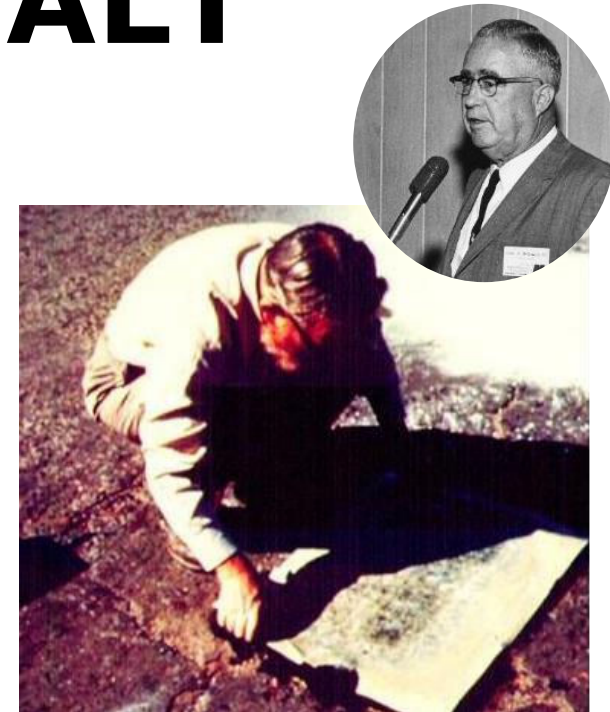
Often referred to as the "wet process" or McDonald Process

Large amount of crumb rubber used as a Binder Modifier for a patching mix "band-aid"

Needs constant agitation – instability issues

ASTM D6114 definition – 15% rubber minimum but in practice 18% - 22% (AC wt.)

Expand to applications such as: surface treatments, interlayers, and AR open-graded friction courses (AR-OGFC).



**1991**, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) required states to use a minimum amount of crumb rubber from recycled tires in asphalt surfacing placed each year beginning with the 1994 paving season

Some processes were not well developed

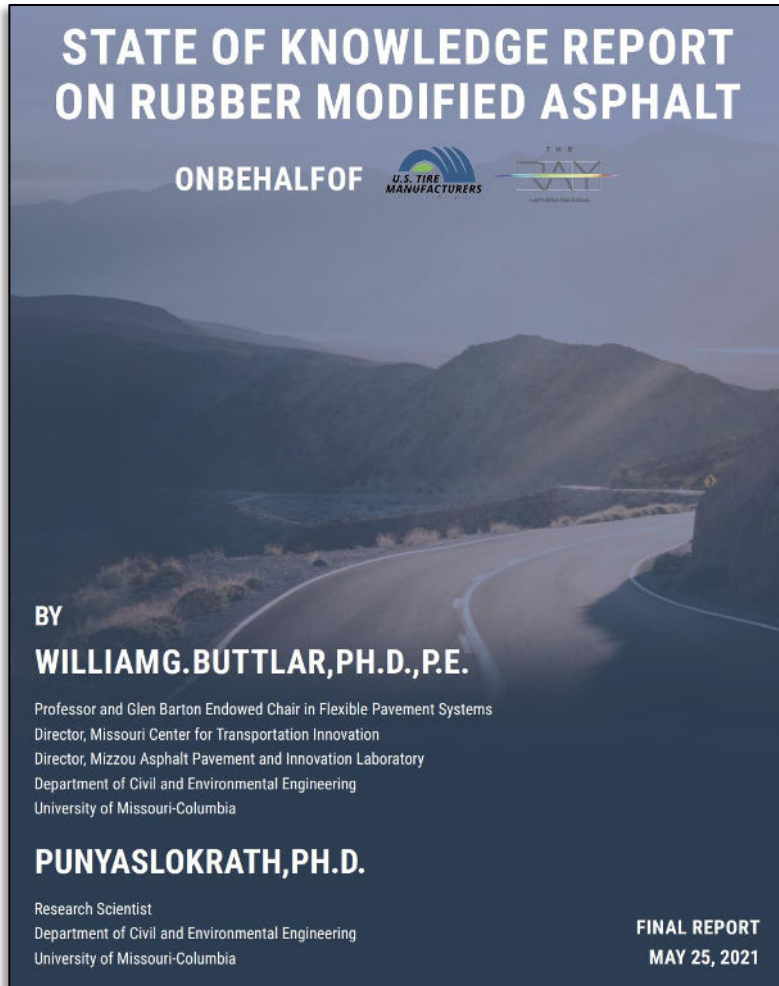
Lack of experience and little expertise in controlling quality

Many of the projects went horribly wrong

When a new technology goes bad = wait until people retire to try again! Big enough push back from the states, the mandate was reversed.

# PROVEN PERFORMANCE BENEFITS

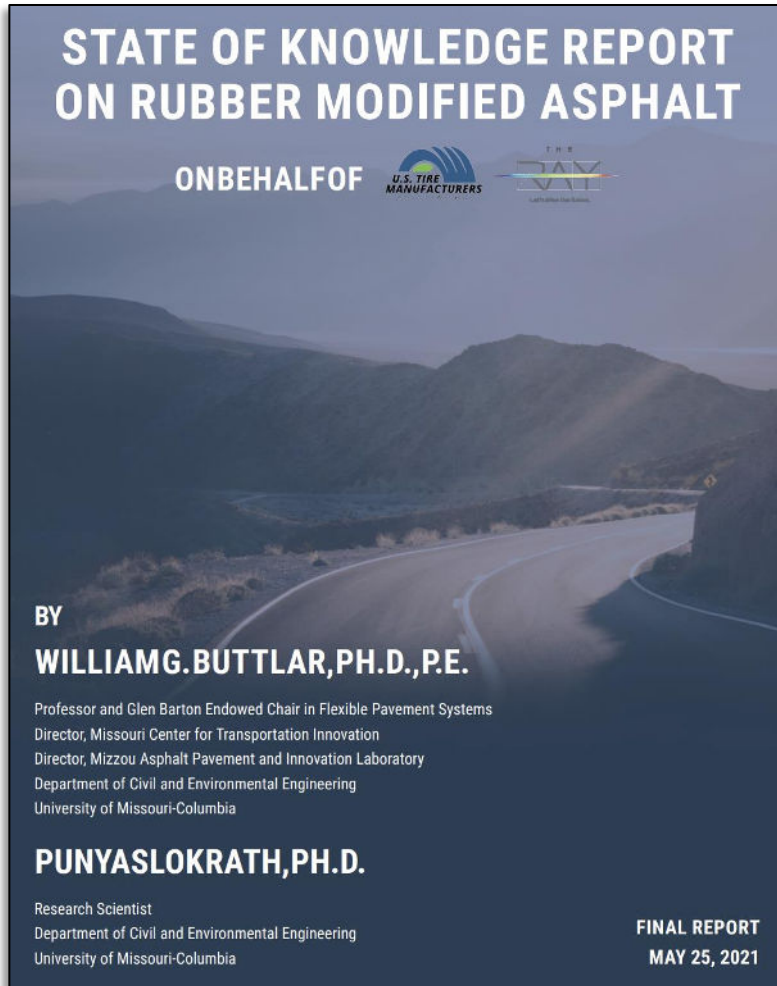
## Over 20 years of field performance



- **Longevity** - The past two decades of research indicate that all three primary RMA approaches, i.e., traditional wet process, terminal-blend wet process, and the modern dry process (engineered crumb rubber) lead to **extended pavement life** as compared to pavements made with unmodified binders. Moreover, RMA can provide similar performance as pavements constructed with costly polymer-modified binders (West et al 2012; Willis, 2013). RMA is particularly **resistant against early pavement rutting failures**, owing to the stability provided to the liquid binder system imparted by the swollen, elastic rubber particles (Choubane, Sholar, Musselman, & Page, 1999; G. B. Way, 2012). RMA is also **very resistant to fatigue cracking in high traffic volume applications and to low temperature cracking** (W. Buttlar et al., 2021; Raad, Saboundjian, & Minassian, 2001; Souliman, Mamlouk, & Eifert, 2016; Tao Wang, Xiao, Amirghanian, Huang, & Zheng, 2017).
- **Pavement noise reduction** - or more precisely, the mitigation of road noise emanating from vehicles, has been quantified in several studies in recent years. **Noise reduction arising from RMA use has been measured to range from 1-10 decibels**, depending on a mix type, traffic level, vehicle speeds, and other environmental variables. Due to the exponential nature of the dB scale, **a reduction of just 2-3 dB creates a similar environmental benefit as a 50% reduction in traffic noise intensity**. In addition, long-term field observations have indicated that noise reduction due to RMA decreases over the years but at a substantially lower rate as compared to other surfacing alternatives (Carlson, Zhu, & Xiao, 2003; P. Donovan & Janello, 2018; Sacramento County Public Works Agency, 1999).
- **Ride Quality and Safety** - RMA has been shown to **create smoother pavements and therefore better ride quality for motorists** (Vázquez, Luong, Bueno, Terán, & Paje, 2016). In addition, the use of RMA provides **better pavement skid resistance, which can reduce traffic accidents during wet weather** (Texas Department of Transportation, 2003b).

# PROVEN PERFORMANCE BENEFITS

Over 20 years of field performance

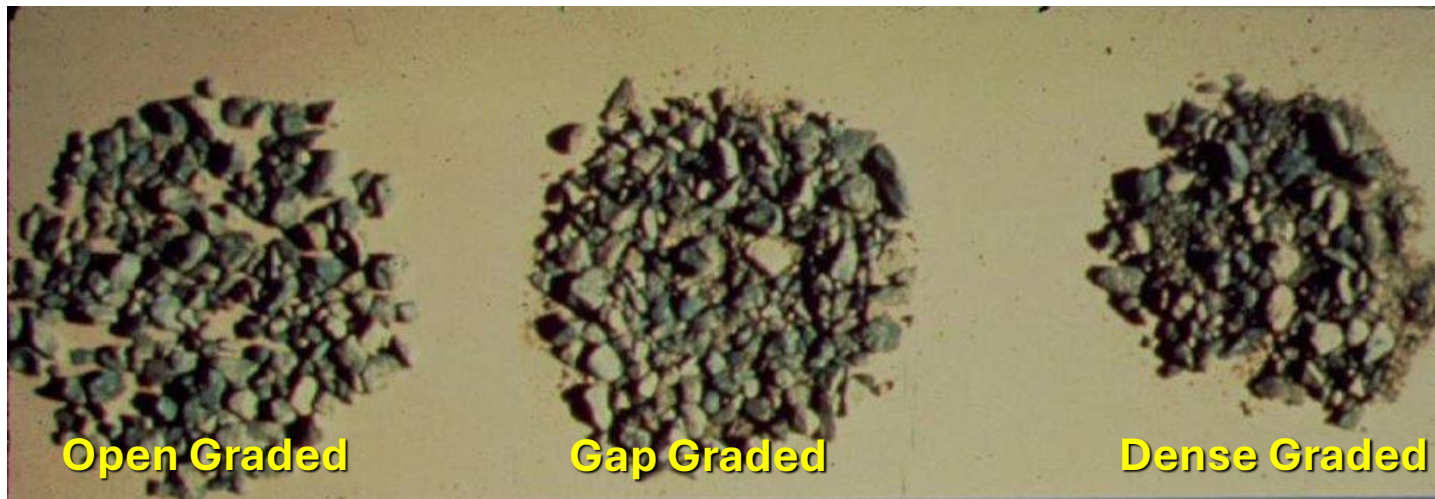
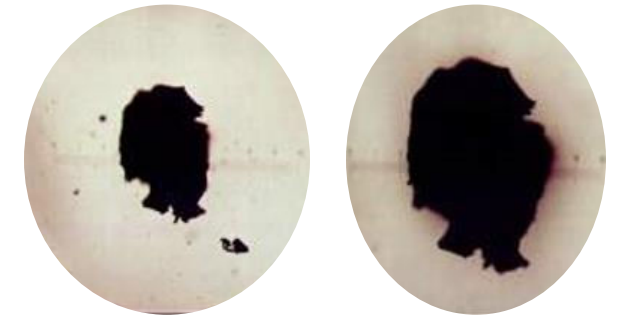


- **Initial costs** – Based on initial, per-ton costs only, RMA is generally more expensive than unmodified asphalt, but less expensive than polymer modified asphalt (Howard, Baumgardner, Jordan, Hemsley, & Hopkins, 2021). However, in the case of asphalt overlay rehabilitation projects on a cost-per-square-yard basis, it has been shown that **thin RMA overlays can be built at a lower cost as compared to unmodified asphalt overlays - approximately 43% less cost with a 10% boost in pavement life** (William G. Buttlar & Rath, 2019). Similarly, an earlier study (Harvey, Bejarano, Fantoni, Heath, & Shin, 2000) demonstrated that **a 50% reduction in pavement layer thickness can be achieved by using RMA in lieu of unmodified mixtures while achieving better performance.**
- **Life cycle cost savings** – Life cycle cost analysis (LCCA) studies have reported life cycle cost savings for RMA spanning widely, from a range of 4% to 40% savings in a study compiled for Caltrans (Dingxin Cheng, Hicks, & Rodriguez, 2012) to more than 400% savings (Souliman et al., 2016) when basing the results on laboratory-based fatigue performance. More work is needed to develop a more comprehensive national database of pavement costs, including both initial costs and subsequent maintenance costs, and pavement service life, which can be used to more accurately assess the life cycle cost benefits of RMA.

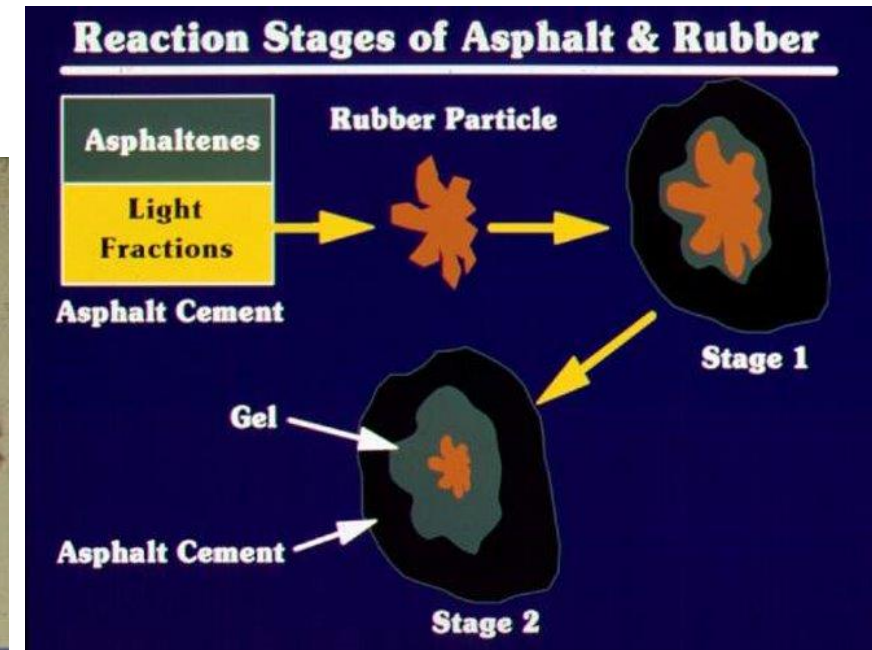
# GTR BENEFITS

It allows use of larger size aggregate and more stones in aggregate structure - moving toward SMA

It allows more binder in the mix without bleeding or flushing

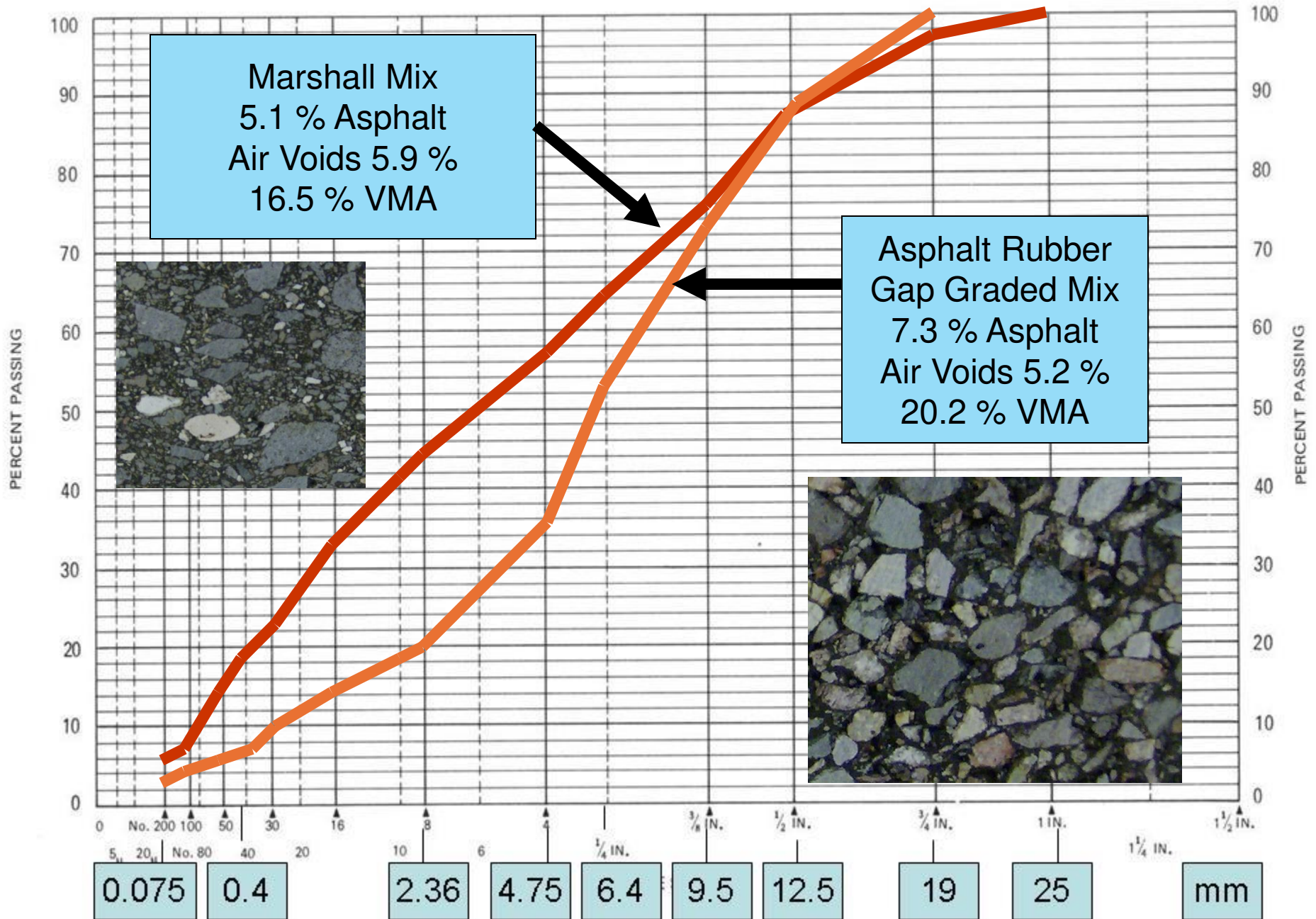


Use with Rubber

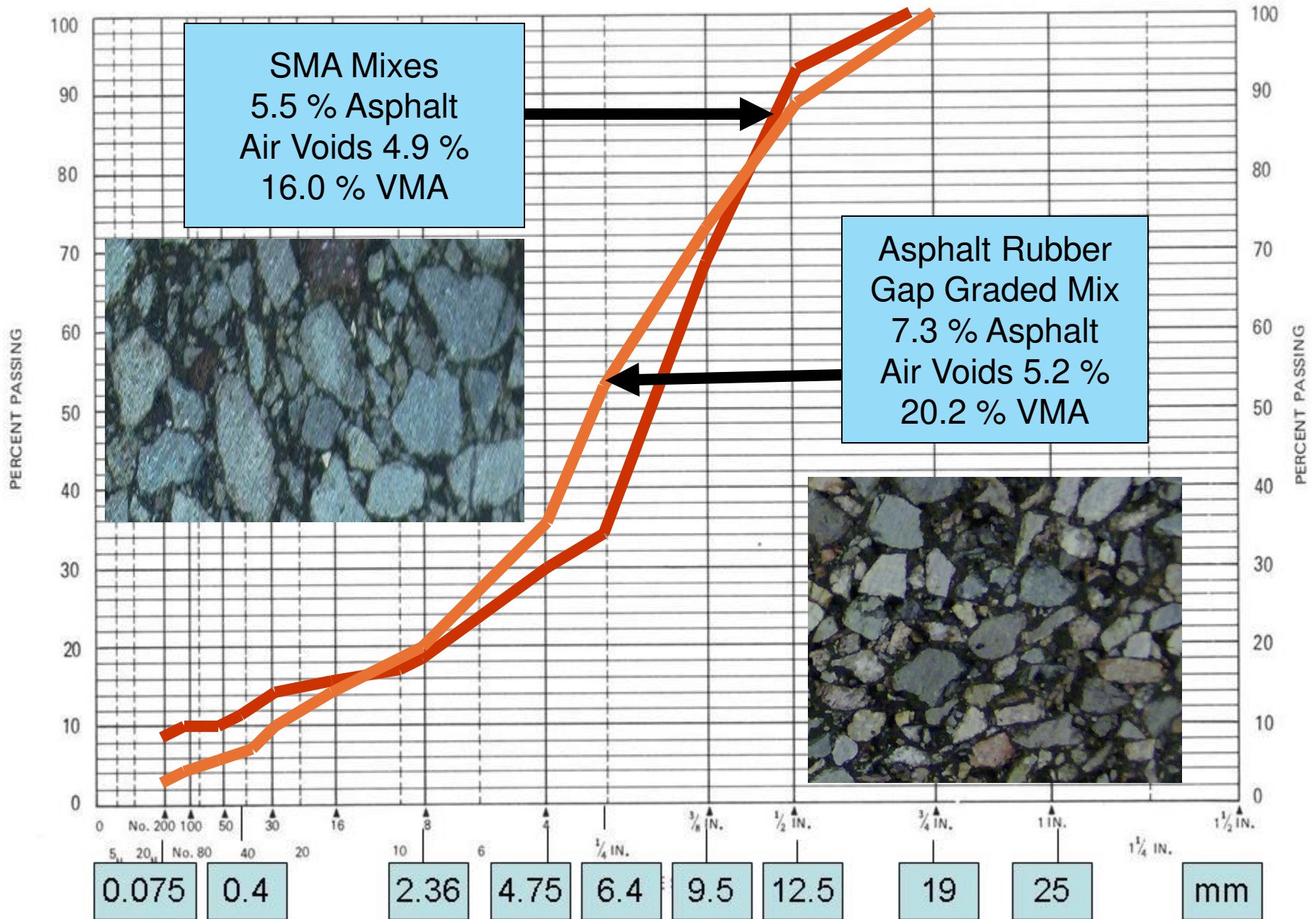




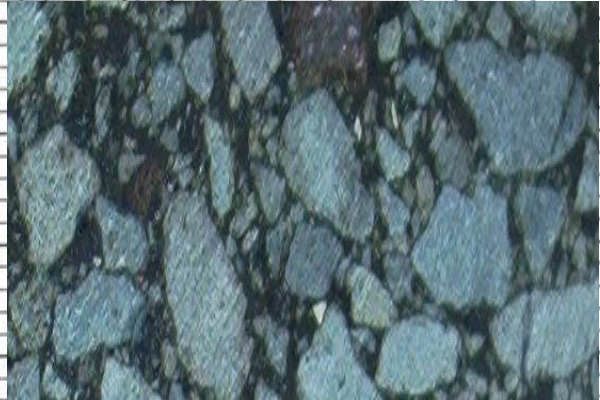
GRADATION DESIGN RECORD  
SIEVE SIZES RAISED TO 0.45 POWER



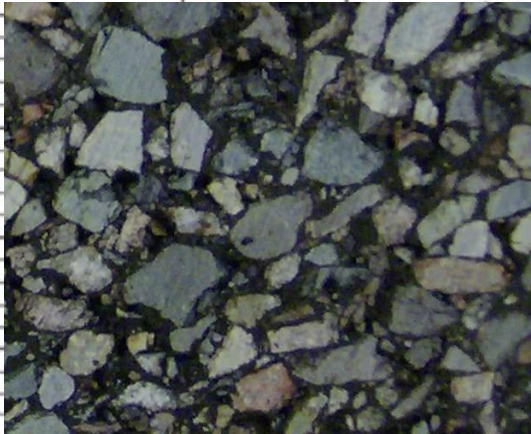
GRADATION DESIGN RECORD  
SIEVE SIZES RAISED TO 0.45 POWER



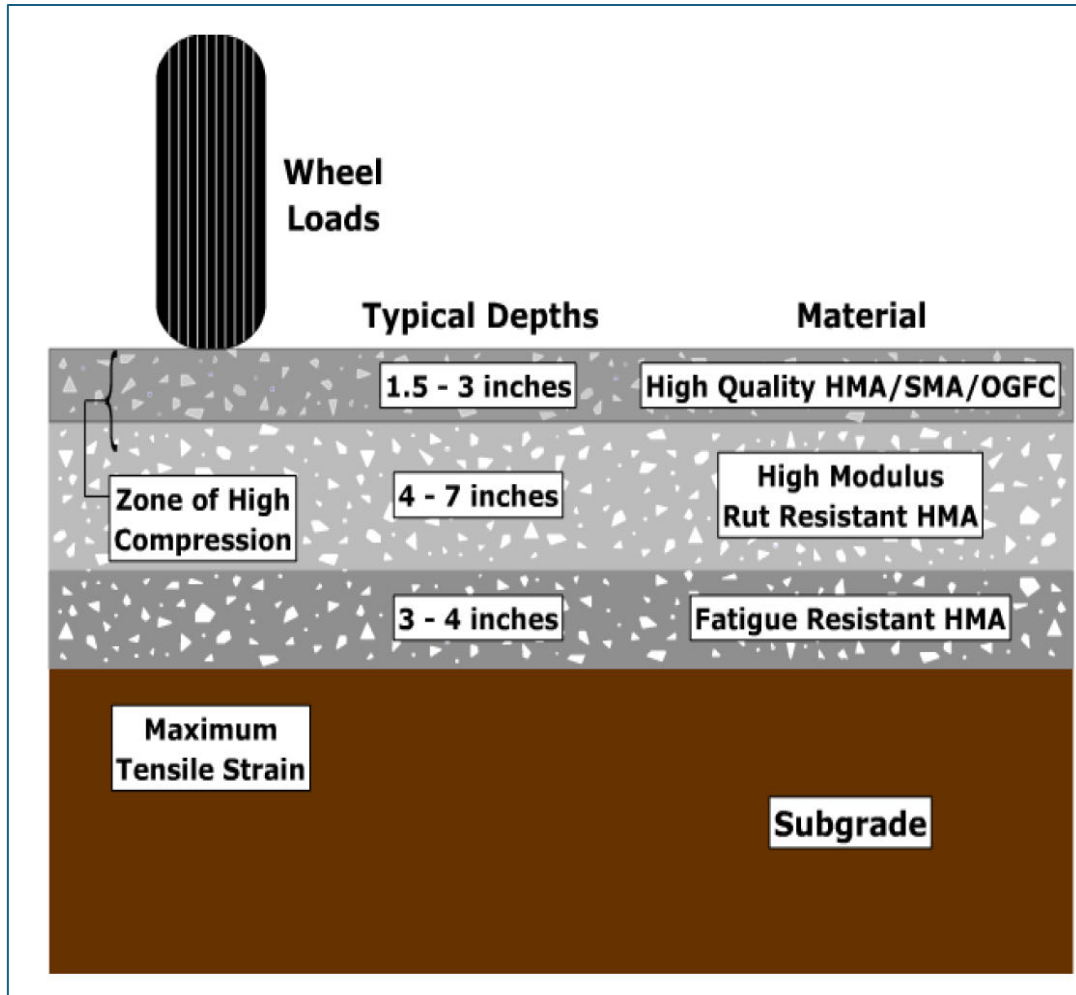
SMA Mixes  
5.5 % Asphalt  
Air Voids 4.9 %  
16.0 % VMA



Asphalt Rubber  
Gap Graded Mix  
7.3 % Asphalt  
Air Voids 5.2 %  
20.2 % VMA

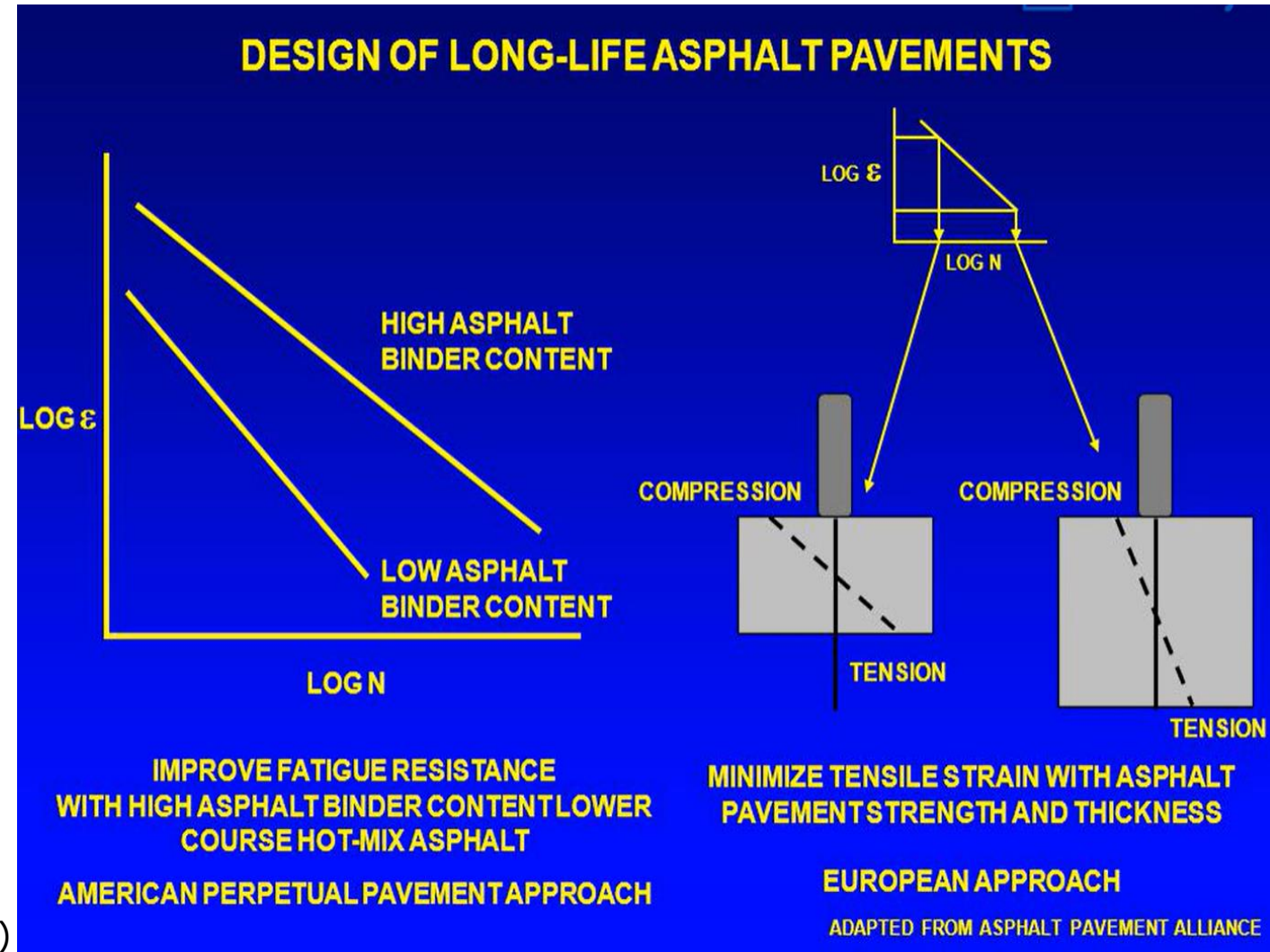


# RUBBERIZATION TO PERPETUAL ROADWAYS



(Newcomb, 2001)

(Dr. John Emery, CUPGA 2007)



# **GTR IN ASPHALT**

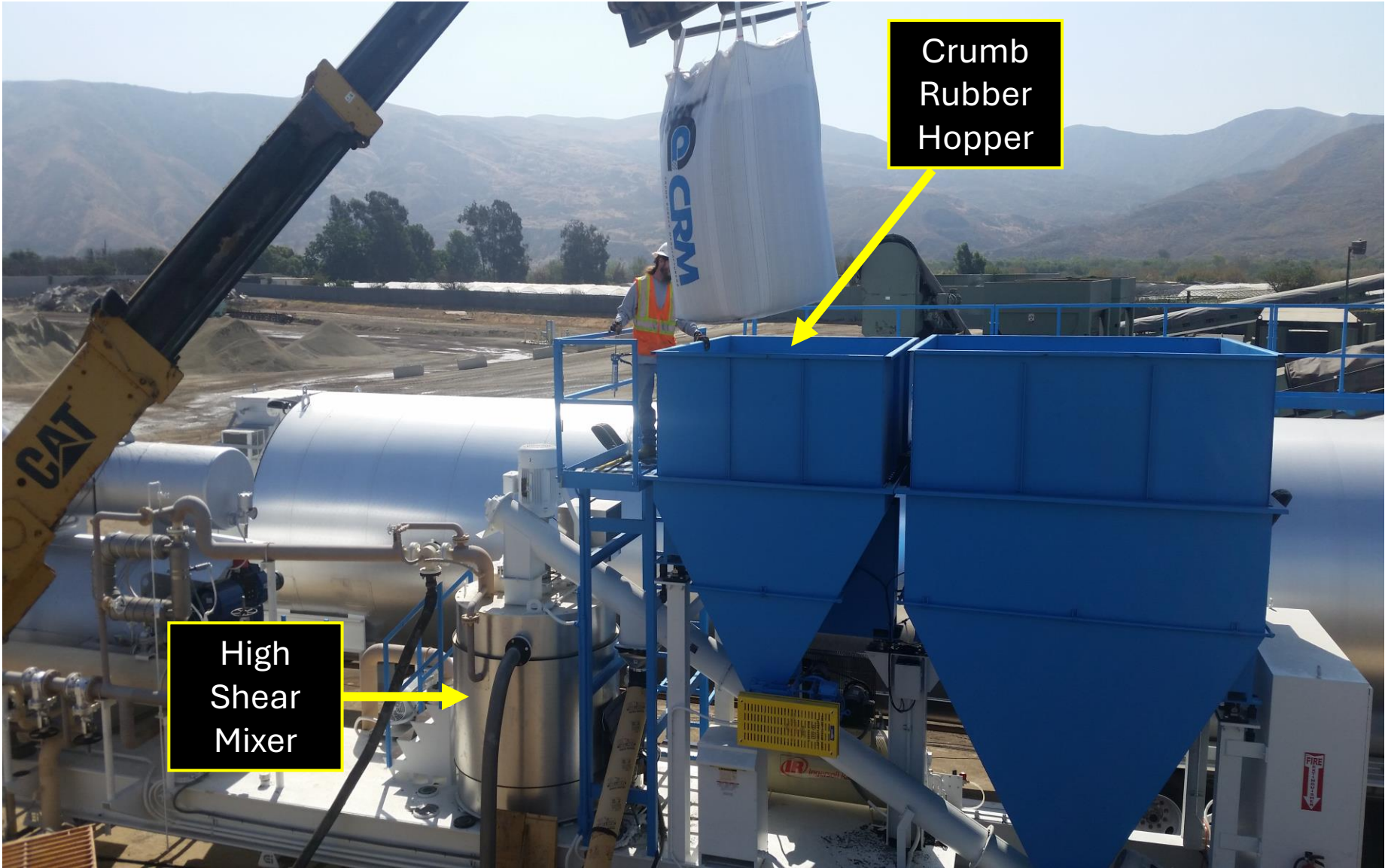
## Utilization Methods

Wet Process – Rubber is added to liquid asphalt

Dry Process- Rubber is added often through RAP collar

- Substitute for 1-3% of Aggregate

# WET PROCESS



Crumb  
Rubber  
Hopper

High  
Shear  
Mixer

# WET PROCESS



Virgin AC  
Tank

RMA  
Tank

# WET PROCESS



# Paving Experience “Business as usual”





# Paving Experience



# Paving Experience with Warm Mix Additives

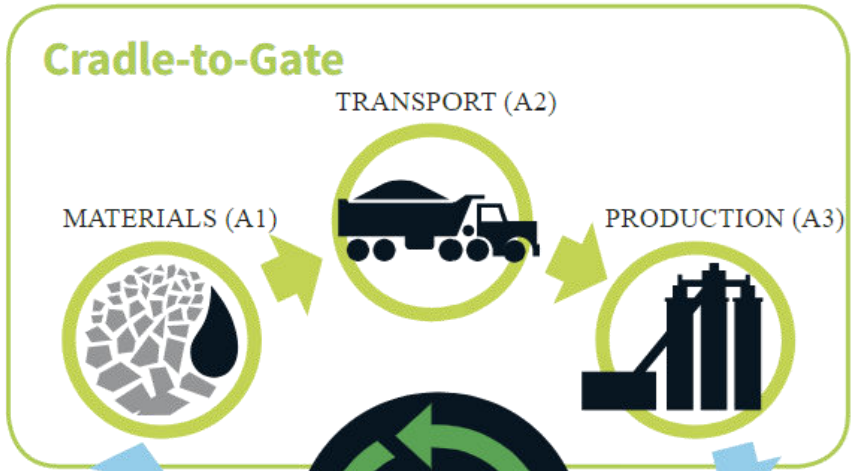




Don't pave in the cold but AR performs well in the cold  
No use of pneumatic rollers for heavy Rubberized Mixes –  
"Rubber picks up Rubber"  
Warm Mix Additives can aid laydown

# BALANCING MINDSET

Focusing on EPDs considering Low-Carbon Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)



END OF LIFE (C1-C4)



CONSTRUCTION (A4, A5)



MAINTENANCE & REHABILITATION (B2-B5)



USE (B1, B6, B7)

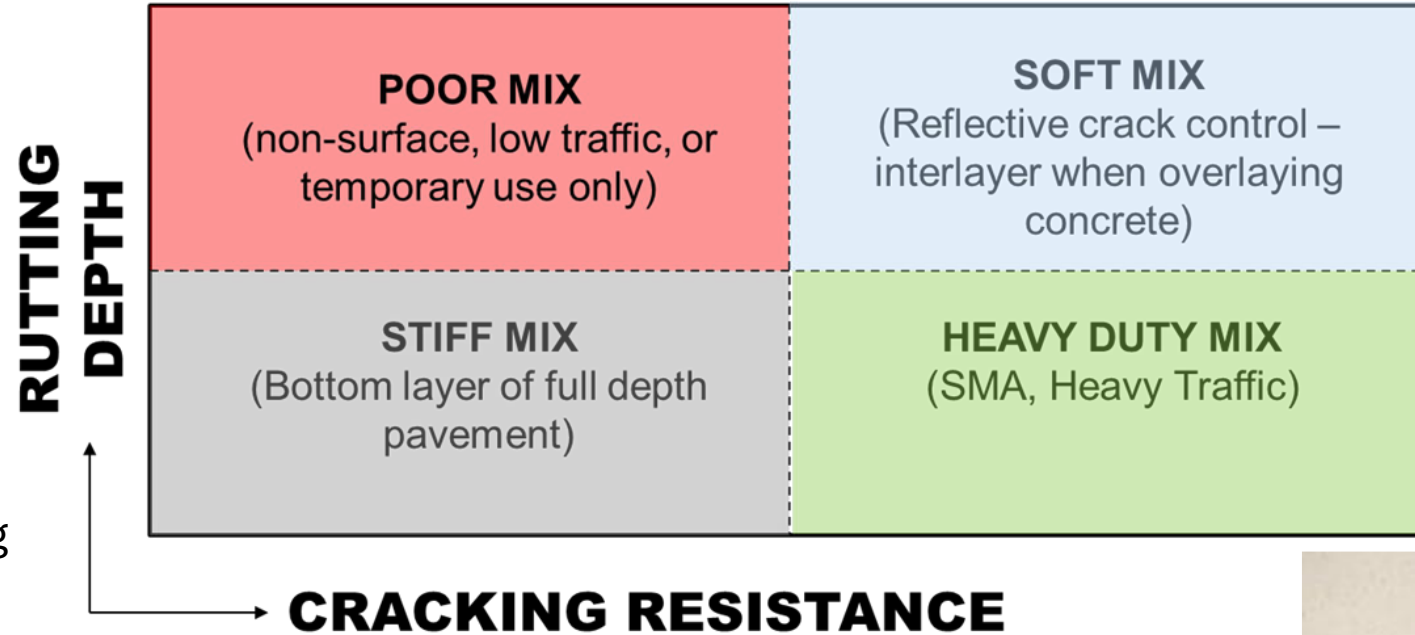
No Impact on Workability and Constructability

Performance Testing to ensure durability (PROPOSED)

# BALANCING kg CO2e VS. PERFORMANCE Ontario Example



Hamburg Wheel Tracking



DCT Thermal Cracking

**Proposed Buy-Clean Policy:**  
*Bid Value*  
*CO2e Adjustment*  
*Performance/Application Adjusted*

SCB Fatigue





# Last Few Words...

**ACCELERATED INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION** The asphalt sector must intensify its efforts in embracing innovation and sustainable practices more in the next six years than it has in the previous twenty-five.

**CULTURAL SHIFT** Transition from a 'Market Push' approach, which is driven by the supply side, to a 'Market Pull' mentality that responds to demand and sustainability goals.

**UNIFIED EFFORT** There must be an unwavering commitment to sustainability from all parties involved in the asphalt industry, indicating a joint responsibility.

**TECHNOLOGY AND RECYCLING** Acknowledge the availability of advanced technologies and recycling methods; these should be actively supported and promoted

**POLICY AND INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT** Implement policies and incentives that foster innovation and commitment to sustainable practices within the industry.

**LEADERSHIP AND SPECIFICATION INTEGRATION** Strong leadership is required to integrate sustainable practices into the specifications and execution of projects.



# Last Few Words..

- Rubber Modified Asphalt (RMA) and Ground Tire Rubber (GTR) integration in asphalt applications is an established and beneficial technology.
- A dependable supply coupled with strict quality control ensures consistent availability of this source for projects at all levels.
- It is versatile for **HMA/WMA** applications, dense-graded mixes, hot-applied and emulsified surface treatments such as chip seals, as well as hot-applied sealants and membranes.
- RMA is a substantial driver for carbon footprint reduction in terms of **equivalent CO2**. Its impact is especially significant if Environmental Product Declarations (**EPDs**) and '**buy clean**' policies gain widespread adoption.
  - Highly compatible with RAP and Warm Mix additives
  - Compatible with other type of polymers
  - Compatible with bio-oils or known as biogenic oils, bio-oils, and other oil-derived circular materials
- Collaboration between Tire Rubber Association of Canada members (ELT Committee) with other road builders, agencies, and technical associations
- Education of the benefits of RMA

# QUESTIONS



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