

Iowa traffic and safety info online

differences. Heitzman says his philosophy is: "You try something and see if it works, and later you can go back and see why it worked."

One disadvantage he cited in using foamed asphalt is that it is essential to have hot asphalt cement supplied to the project because temperature is critical to the foaming. Also, he says that the availability of foamed asphalt equipment is still in question, but there's not much equipment in the state for emulsion, either.

For more information about using foamed asphalt, contact Mike Heitzman, 515-239-1003. •

TWO PROJECTS related to traffic and safety in Iowa have recently been completed. The valuable information and products resulting from the projects are available from the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) web site.

The Traffic and Safety Informational Series contains answers to questions that are commonly asked by the public and city council members regarding traffic and safety. The goal of the project was to develop and provide clear and consistent material that can be modified by local transportation officials to fit the needs of their jurisdiction and then distributed to the public as appropriate. The series was funded by the Iowa Traffic Safety Fund and is available at www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/tsinfo/.

A recent study of red light running in Iowa examined the scope and impact of the problem and evaluated countermeasures, including automated enforcement. The project was sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) Office of Traffic and Safety. The findings are available at www.ctre.iastate.edu/database/00000196.html.

Both projects were a joint effort of the Iowa DOT and CTRE. •

What is foamed asphalt?

FOAMED asphalt technology is a process that expands the surface area of the material to make it go farther. In the process, a small amount of water is added to hot asphalt cement to create a foaming action that makes asphalt mixable.

Heitzman explained the process by comparing the asphalt to egg whites. Raw egg whites don't mix very well with dry ingredients, but when the egg whites are beaten, they have greater volume and mix more easily with other ingredients. Asphalt works in much the same way.

Foamed asphalt technology didn't gain much acceptance after it was developed in the 1950s, mainly because there was no equipment available that could efficiently and economically apply the technology. In recent years, new equipment has been manufactured that makes foamed asphalt application easier and more practical to use. •

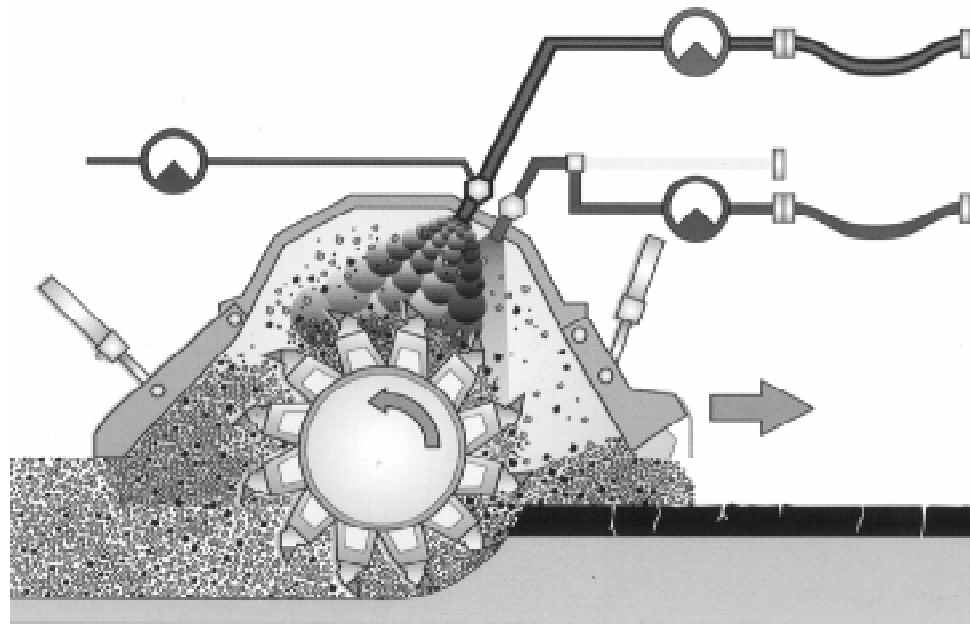


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