

Recycling of Asphalt Pavements Using Bio-Based Oils

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Asphalt Pavement in the U.S.

• > 2.6 million miles of asphalt roadways.

• Roadways replaced every 10 - 15 years.

• Asphalt stiffens and roadway deteriorates

• Asphalt is removed/milled and crushed

into reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP).

• RAP is hard and brittle (compared to new

• ~ 420 million tons produced annually.

due to aging/oxidation.

asphalt).

Project Goals

Increase Recyclability of Asphalt

- New asphalt pavements contain approximately 20% RAP.
- Rejuvenating oils can increase RAP content.
- Need to soften aged asphalt binder on RAP.

Increase Sustainability of Asphalt

- More RAP = Less virgin materials.
- Asphalt binder is petroleum based.
- Aggregate is processed and transported.

Reduce Environmental Footprint

- Replace traditional rejuvenating oils with environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Bio-based oils that are easy to produce.
- Cost effective and do not compete with a food source.

Bio-Based Oils

Camelina Oil

- Low water, fertilizer, & pesticide requirements.
- Grown in US and Europe.

Mustard Oil

- Grows well in most soils.
- Not used for cooking (toxic).

Algae Oil

- Low environmental footprint.
- Less land area than terrestrial crops.





Conclusions & Future Work

Universal Simple Aging Test (USAT)

Restore Viscosity

Prevent Rutting

Rutting Parameter (G*/sinδ)



- Accelerated aging by thermal oxidation.
- 300 μ m film thickness.
- 50 min @ 150°C + 40 hours @ 100°C.

Rejuvenation

- Mix with bio-based oils.
- 120 RPM for 3 minutes.

Viscosity @ 135°C

- Unaged asphalt binder = 443 mPa-s
- Aged asphalt binder = 1443 mPa-s



- Measures resistance of asphalt pavement to permanent deformation.
- Excessive amounts of oil can lead to rutting.
- G*/sinδ ≥ 1.0 kPa (AASHTO requirement)
- Unaged asphalt binder = 1.65 kPa
- Aged asphalt binder = 16.8 kPa



• For all oils the *optimum* % (to restore viscosity) is below *maximum* % (to prevent rutting).

Oil	Optimum	Maximum
Algae	11.2%	13.7%
Mustard	11.0%	13.4%
Camelina	9.9%	12.2%

Additional Asphalt Binder Testing

- Measure fatigue parameter (G*sin δ)
- *Minimum %* (to prevent fatigue cracking)

Asphalt Mixture Testing

- Hot mix asphalt with RAP + oils
- Evaluate cracking and rutting resistance.

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