

# Meeting Notes

## MTO-OAPC Hot Mix Asphalt Subcommittee

<b>Date</b>	May 28, 2026
<b>Time</b>	10:00 am to 1:00 pm
<b>Meeting Hosted By</b>	Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
<b>Location</b>	CETI & Microsoft Teams

### Attendance:

#### Attendee

Fernando Magisano  
 Donn Bernal  
 Alexis Del Rosario  
 Sina Varamini  
 Amma Agbedor  
 Mark Latyn  
 Selena Lavorato  
 Joel Magnan  
 Gelu Vasiliu  
 Stephen Lee  
 Warren Lee  
 Imran Bashir  
 Heather Bell  
 Jenn Meleschuk

#### Organization

Canadian Asphalt Industries Inc.  
 Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council (OAPC)  
 Ontario Road Builders Association (ORBA)  
 CRM of Americas  
 Asphalt Institute (AI)  
 Capital Paving Inc.  
 GIP Inc.  
 MTO, Engineering Materials Office (EMO)  
 MTO, EMO  
 MTO, EMO  
 MTO, EMO  
 MTO, EMO  
 MTO, EMO  
 MTO, Construction Management Office (CMO)

#### Regrets

Trevor Moore  
 Steve Manolis  
 Dana McLachlin  
 Kourtney Adamson  
 Hashim Anwar  
 Kevin Martin  
 Sonja Dambremont  
 Gizelle Cotton

#### Organization

COLAS Construction  
 GIP Inc.  
 Morrison Hershfield  
 Yellowline Asphalt Products Ltd.  
 CRH Canada  
 Fermar Paving Ltd.  
 MTO, Construction Northeast  
 MTO, Construction East

## **Introduction / Announcements:**

- Kevin English was introduced as the new Director of the Standards and Contracts Branch.
- OAPC delivered a safety talk on summer road construction safety.

## **Open Items**

### **2019-12-8 Mix Performance Testing**

#### Description:

- MTO to develop specification for Mix Performance Testing (MPT) that can be included on any project.
- OAPC wondering if MTO has preferred method for Balanced Mix Designs (BMD).
- MTO is conducting ongoing MPT lab correlations.

#### Discussion:

- MTO was to provide mix properties for all MPT correlation samples but was unable to complete this due to competing priorities.
- MTO asked how OAPC would use this data and whether OAPC could provide a summary report of their findings.
- OAPC confirmed the data would be incorporated into O-MAP and shared with members.
- MTO noted that updated LS methods for MPT are nearing final accessibility review, with the lab manual targeted for publication in June. The manual is updated on a five-year cycle (approximately 20% annually) with additional updates for technical changes as required. This year's update will include updates to DCT, FIT, HWT, and a new LS for ISS.
- MTO summarized the 2025 round 2 MPT correlation results: FIT-SCB had 13 labs and a COV of 35%. DCT had 7 labs and COV of 13%. HWT had 11 labs and COV of 20% at 10,000 passes and 68% at 20,000 passes with 9 labs reaching 20,000 passes.
- MTO confirmed there is no COV requirement used by any jurisdiction. MTO indicated variability may improve with the updated LS methods, better sample preparation, temperature control, and training (including CCIL certification).
- OAPC raised concerns about high variability and lack of improvement across multiple correlation rounds. Interested to see if there is a pattern that certain labs are always outliers or if qualified labs are less variable as a subset.
- MTO stated O-MAP report shows industry can adjust a mix that was failing HWT with high FIT variability to pass all tests. Proving that the expertise is there and needs to be shared with your members.
- OAPC suggested holding a focused MPT meeting once all mix properties and updated LS methods are available.
- MTO confirmed BMD and MPT is gradually being implemented using AASHTO Approach A for the first BMD trials.

- OAPC expressed concerns regarding variability, QA reliability, and potential impacts to aggregate sources.
- MTO noted that QA MPT results will initially be for information only.
- OAPC highlighted potential issues with certain aggregates have been shown to not meet HWT criteria but have performed in the field historically. Requiring BMD to meet current HWT criteria could limit aggregates to only 1 or 2 sources known to meet HWT and exclude historically rut resistance aggregate sources.
- MTO requested evidence and examples of instances where this occurred, as MTO has not previously been made aware this may be an issue.
- OAPC suggested allowing failed BMD mixes as control sections.
- OAPC stated that there is not enough experience with all mix types, specifically there are no correlation data for a -34 grade mixes and they are used in over half the province.
- MTO acknowledged this but continues to seek OAPC's support in arranging -34 mix for correlation purpose as discussed in previous meetings.
- OAPC said if we know we have problems with some mixes, maybe start with those to find out if MPT would predict the failure. If tests are blind to these failures, then we cannot go ahead with these.
- MTO emphasized implementation of performance-based tests is happening in the US and MTO made a commitment to also implement them from the 2016 Auditor General's recommendations.
- OAPC noted current MPT results are more benchmarking and not used to predict life cycle.
- OAPC offered to prepare data on issues that MTO may not be aware of for discussion at a focused MPT meeting.

Action Items:

- MTO to provide mix properties for all MPT correlation samples in similar fashion as provided for the HMA correlation.
- OAPC to prepare brief on MPT issues.
- MTO to consider a focused MPT meeting.

**2022-03-10 Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for Asphalt in Ontario**

Description:

- As part of the net zero emissions goal, OAPC is seeking to understand MTO's perspectives on EPDs for Ontario asphalt mixes and forging a collaborative approach to make it work.

Discussion:

- OAPC completed data collection at the end of January, followed by analysis. The dataset includes 8 mix types and 40 plants across Ontario. Mixes with recycled

content show lower GHG emissions. Surface mixes for highways had the highest global warming potential due to aggregate sourcing and transportation distances.

- OAPC is working on a draft report and presentation with an Ontario average EPD by end of July.

Action Items:

- None.

### **2022-05-13 SMA Applications – SMA Grit Specification Revisions**

Description:

- OAPC suggests MTO can look at revising specification due to lack of grit sand sources available.
- OAPC indicated that there is variability in how Contract Administration (CA) firms accept gritting material on MTO contracts.

Discussion:

- MTO updated LS-282 to address overloading concerns.
- MTO stated the SMA grit correlation continues and includes all QA and referee labs. The 2026 Round 1 results show consistency with low standard deviations and COVs across 31 labs.
- MTO is reviewing gradation and AC data (OSSGA and contract data) to expand the acceptance bands and account for test variability. The goal is a transparent and consistent approach for administration that accommodates existing grit sources. A phased implementation may be used, starting with gradation band updates.
- OAPC questioned if limits of where SMA will be used is going to expand because traffic volumes keep increasing.
- MTO plans to update the surface directive after receiving new traffic data this year.
- OAPC asked if noise is considered in the surface course directive.
- MTO clarified that noise is not a key factor for asphalt surface selection, since friction and rutting are more influenced by mix type. Consideration for installation of noise barriers is a separate project specific assessment. Concrete pavement historically has more noise concerns, but current standard with longitudinal grooving instead of prior transverse tining has significantly decreased the noise to similar to asphalt mixes.

Action Items:

- None.

### **2023-09-1 Balanced Mix Design**

Description:

- OAPC wants to understand MTO's process on BMD.

Discussion:

- MTO reviewed the Asphalt Institute BMD course outline and found it lacking in practical, hands-on content. Heavily theoretical course and should have a

prerequisite so don't have to spend so much time on basics. More lab focused and hands on with worked examples of how to change things to make a failing mix pass BMD. NCAT course seems better, but it is still a little too short. Course seems like a workshop that is informational. On April 16 there was an organized BMD course held by a private lab that was well received and focused more on practical aspects. MTO cannot recommend any particular course at this time.

- MTO provided an update that CCIL indicated it will certify labs first, followed by technicians and training delivery will be left to the labs. This is a similar approach to how Superpave mix design technicians are certified. MTO noted that Superpave certification is required prior to BMD certification and that CCIL is in the process of developing its own procedures and forms.
- OAPC advised that a meeting with Asphalt Institute is scheduled for the third week of June to support alignment on BMD. The intent is to develop a course for fall delivery, using Asphalt Institute material as a baseline and customizing it for Ontario, including consideration of CCIL requirements and/or separate technician training prior to certification.

Action Items:

- None.

**2023-09-3 OPSS 313 – Revisiting Quality Evaluation**

Description:

- How can OAPC increase or strive for better quality in asphalt pavement?

Discussion:

- MTO advised that work is ongoing, including literature reviews, jurisdictional scans, and evaluation of past experience. Limited success has been achieved in extracting data from MTO contracts; therefore, efforts have expanded to a broader literature review. Concerns remain regarding both upper and lower limits based on the literature.
- MTO is examining other jurisdictional limits and historical documentation, including a 1994 report referencing Marshall mix data from 1992. It appears that during the transition to Superpave, Marshall mixes were mapped to equivalent Superpave mixes, with only minor adjustments to the lower limit over time. MTO is seeking a more recent Superpave dataset. While the lower limit has been evaluated over time, the upper limit has not been reviewed recently, raising concerns regarding potential over compaction.

Action Items:

- MTO to continue analysis as planned.

**2025-06-1 Change Proposals for RAP in Surface Mixes**

Description:

- MTO is still interested in receiving change proposals for RAP in surface mixes but haven't been receiving these. Are asked about it internally. So, MTO has developed some guidelines for what the MTO would expect.

Discussion:

- MTO advised that the guideline has been updated and that several RAP change proposals were received already this year, including one for a mainline application and one for shoulders only. While shoulder trials are not ideal, they can provide increased comfort with RAP mix and BMD.
- OAPC noted that the guideline was posted on the Information Highway to increase awareness.
- MTO indicated that some contractors proposed a control virgin mix; therefore, the guideline has been updated to include benchmarking of MPT results for a control mix.
- OAPC noted that additional physical testing requirements for RAP have been added.
- MTO advised that the intent is to confirm performance of aggregates, consistent with earlier versions of the guideline. Core samples for MPT are being phased out, with a shift toward loose mix samples for both MPT and BMD. This will form the basis of a NSSP for BMD and MPT.
- OAPC requested clarification by adding a note referencing the definition of Approach A for BMD.
- MTO confirmed that this latest version of the guideline can be shared with members.
- OAPC noted that the increased physical testing requirements will significantly increase laboratory workload and that freeze/thaw and MDA testing are not typically performed on extracted aggregates, questioning whether this reflects a new direction for MTO.
- MTO clarified that MDA correlates with several other properties, serves as an indicator of stability, and is a relatively simple test to confirm consistency of the RAP.
- OAPC raised concerns that MDA blending may not yield sufficient extracted material, questioning how many extractions would be required and whether samples sizes should be increased.
- MTO agreed to review whether sample sizes need to be increased to support MDA and freeze/thaw on extracted HMA.

Action Items:

- MTO to confirm sample sizes for extract aggregate MDA and freeze/thaw.

**2025-09-1 Anti-Stripping Treatment Clauses**

Description:

- Ongoing concerns regarding inconsistent application of anti-stripping treatment clauses in certain tenders.

Discussion:

- MTO updated the anti-stripping wording and posted it to TCP as an administrative change, and that education will be provided to designers.

Action Items:

- Close item.

**2025-09-2 Update on the Harmonization Initiative**

Description:

- ORBA/OAPC is seeking MTO's perspective on the harmonization initiative, as well as an update on the progress achieved to date.

Discussion:

- MTO advised that work on the harmonization initiative is ongoing, with the Municipal Standards Harmonization Office leading the effort. Consultation on proposed regulatory changes has been completed, and results are under review. No decisions have been finalized. Further discussions are planned, with broad stakeholder involvement anticipated. A committee and governance structure will be established, with interest expected to be higher due to the mandatory requirements.

Action Items:

- None.

**2025-12-2 Warm Mix Implementation**

Description:

- OAPC requested an update on warm mix implementation.

Discussion:

- MTO advised that a list of items for the asphalt plant visit was provided and proposed June 23<sup>rd</sup> as the visit date.
- OAPC confirmed the 10 am on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> is preferred, with a maximum of 12 participants.
- MTO indicated that the visit will focus on understanding how temperature is monitored and documented, noting that practices may differ between batch and drum plants.
- OAPC requested a review of MTO's observations from WMA trials to date. It was noted that, on some northern projects, a single product was used to meet both AST and WMA requirements. In control sections, WMA used for AST at higher temperatures showed improved compaction.
- MTO noted that WMA performance has not consistently demonstrated improved compaction, and claims of WMA as a compaction aid are not substantiated.
- OAPC stated that WMA would not be used as a compaction aid in colder conditions if it was not effective, given the cost.
- MTO clarified that the use of WMA does not guarantee improved compaction based on the data previously presented.
- OAPC noted experience with extending hauling distances to support improved compaction.

- MTO advised that WMA trials and MPT testing on existing WMA projects is being paused to reassess benefits, as some samples may not represent true WMA. Previously tendered projects will proceed, but no new projects will be initiated at this time.
- OAPC emphasized that dosage is a critical factor and noted that contractors increase dosage in the winter to improve compaction.

Action Items:

- OAPC to organized June 23<sup>rd</sup> plant visit.

**2026-02-1 Tack Coat**

Description:

- Interlayer Shear Stress (ISS) test is required on all contracts for information only. MTO is conducting correlations.

Discussion:

- MTO advised that there is no update on the ISS correlation at this time. Samples are being collected to support two correlation rounds per year.
- MTO also noted a tack coat trial change proposal involving different application rates and products has been submitted, and that a NSSP is being developed for a trial with different application rates, products, and surfaces.

Action Items:

- None.

**2026-02-2 Regression Method**

Description:

- Regression Method is a mix design method to increase AC content of mixes. OAPC is interested in why this method is not being adopted.

Discussion:

- OAPC advised that they have not surveyed its members and noted that the method does not appear to be widely utilized. Current focus remains on BMD and MPT and this item can be closed until further discussion is warranted.

Action Items:

- Close item.

**New Items**

**2026-05-1 Recovered Asphalt Cement**

Description:

- Recovered Asphalt Cement specifications posted on TCP for full implementation.

### Discussion:

- OAPC noted that RAC specifications were posted on TCP and is trying to understand the reason for all the changes.
- MTO stated that these were previously NSSPs used only to gather information, but there was not enough data being collected as NSSPs. There are concerns that PGAC testing may not capture all potential issues related to additives, contamination, aging effects, etc. The updates are aligned with PGAC and only minor changes were made. The intent is to provide assurance that the PGAC is performing properly and not adversely affected at the HMA plant.
- OAPC stated that the issue with RAC is the accuracy of the test, noting that they feel the variability is large and questioned whether it provides a good representation.
- MTO indicated that the criteria were selected based on the correlation variability.
- OAPC noted that the specification now includes all mixes, even binder mixes with up to 40% RAP.
- MTO stated that data shows RAP mixes are not failing. The high-end grade will remain high, and at only 20% RAP, the low-end grade is not impacted significantly enough to cause it to be rejectable. MTO's CTAA paper shows that RAC correlates better with field performance than tank PGAC grading; and therefore, is not representative of the end product which is more important to the MTO.
- OAPC asked whether there has been an opportunity to separate the data by grades.
- MTO responded that there is not enough data available to separate it by grade.
- OAPC agreed that the allowance on the acceptance limit makes sense, but asked whether it has been compared with the RAC correlation variability.
- MTO stated that the minor borderline limits were selected based on RAC correlation variability.
- OAPC asked whether a SP 25 mix with 30-40% RAP could affect the RAC grade.
- MTO indicated that this has not been observed; however, further examination may be required.
- OAPC asked whether there is an intent to correlate RAC and tank AC samples.
- MTO responded that this could be done by adding a requirement that the RAC sample be taken within 24 hours of the tank AC sample.

### Action Items:

- OAPC to provide formal comments on TCP.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

- OAPC requested a return to full in-person referee testing.
- MTO stated that there was consultation on this and will follow up with QA staff and the specification custodian.
- OAPC claimed that every time a request has been made for in-person referee it has been denied. OAPC members feel the referee laboratory may be making the decision. OAPC asked whether any referee have been conducted in-person recently and noted the need to allow in-person when appropriate. In addition, limited and stationary cameras are not ideal and communication with the laboratory during testing is limited.

- MTO stated that EMO is responsible for the referee laboratory agreements and should be informed when issues occur to enforce the referee agreement requirements.
- OAPC indicated that CMS asphalt mix designs require entry for a 6.7 mm sieve creating false data. OAPC also noted that the concrete mix designs on CMS are not using concrete sieves.
- MTO responded that they would flag these issues to the CMS team.
- MTO asked how to access Asphalt Topic and Road Builder magazines, noting that they are no longer freely available on the ORBA website and are now hosted on an external site. MTO asked whether there is a way to access them for free or without creating an account.
- OAPC agreed to look into this since they are in the middle of revamping their magazines.

#### Action Items:

- MTO to discuss in-person and virtual referee witnessing with referee specification custodian and QA Sections.
- MTO to inform CMS team of functionality of sieves in mix design fields.
- OAPC to provide direction on accessing Asphalt Topics and Road Builder magazines.

## **Information Shared for this Meeting**

### **Documents Share by MTO**

1. MPT Correlations Data for Sharing with ORBA Cumulative 2026 (May 25 2026) Updated.pdf
2. 2026 R1 SMA Grit Summary for OAPC.pdf
3. Guidelines for Evaluating RAP Change Proposal for Surface Course -May 13 2026.pdf

### **Documents Shared by OAPC**

1. Safety Talk (1) for May\_28\_2026.docx
2. SSP 111S15 – June 2026-Tracked.pdf
3. SSP 103S58 – June 2026-Tracked.pdf

## **Next Meeting**

- 2026 Meeting Dates (10 am to 1 pm):
  - ~~Feb 26 (OAPC to host)~~
  - ~~May 28 (MTO to host)~~
  - September 24 (OAPC to host)
  - December 10 (MTO to host)
- Meeting Adjourned 1:00 pm