



# Hot-Mix Asphalt (HMA)

## Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

North-East State Materials Engineers Association  
Atlantic City, New Jersey  
October 8<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Thomas Harman**

*Team Leader – Senior Pavement Engineer*  
Federal Highway Administration - Resource Center  
Pavement & Materials TST



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

MOVING THE  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY 



# CHANGE

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*The dogmas of the quiet past  
are inadequate to the stormy  
present... as our case is new, so  
we must think anew and act  
anew.*



# Our Visit

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- Our Nation's Transportation System
- ***Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance***
  - Need
  - Structural Design & Analysis
    - Pavement Type Selection, RealCost™
  - Materials Characterization & Design
    - Superpave PGx, AMPT, Mix Type Selection Guide, NAPA/FHWA
  - Quality Assurance Systems
    - 6+ Building Blocks
  - Production & Placement
    - Automation, Innovation, & Basics
  - Monitoring & Preservation
    - Thinking about tomorrow to drive today's decisions
- GOAL: Provide you with resources!

Need

Structure

Materials

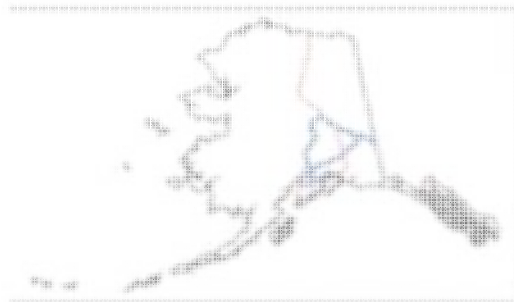
Acceptance

Construction

Preservation



# Two Words About Our Nation's Transportation System



National Highway System

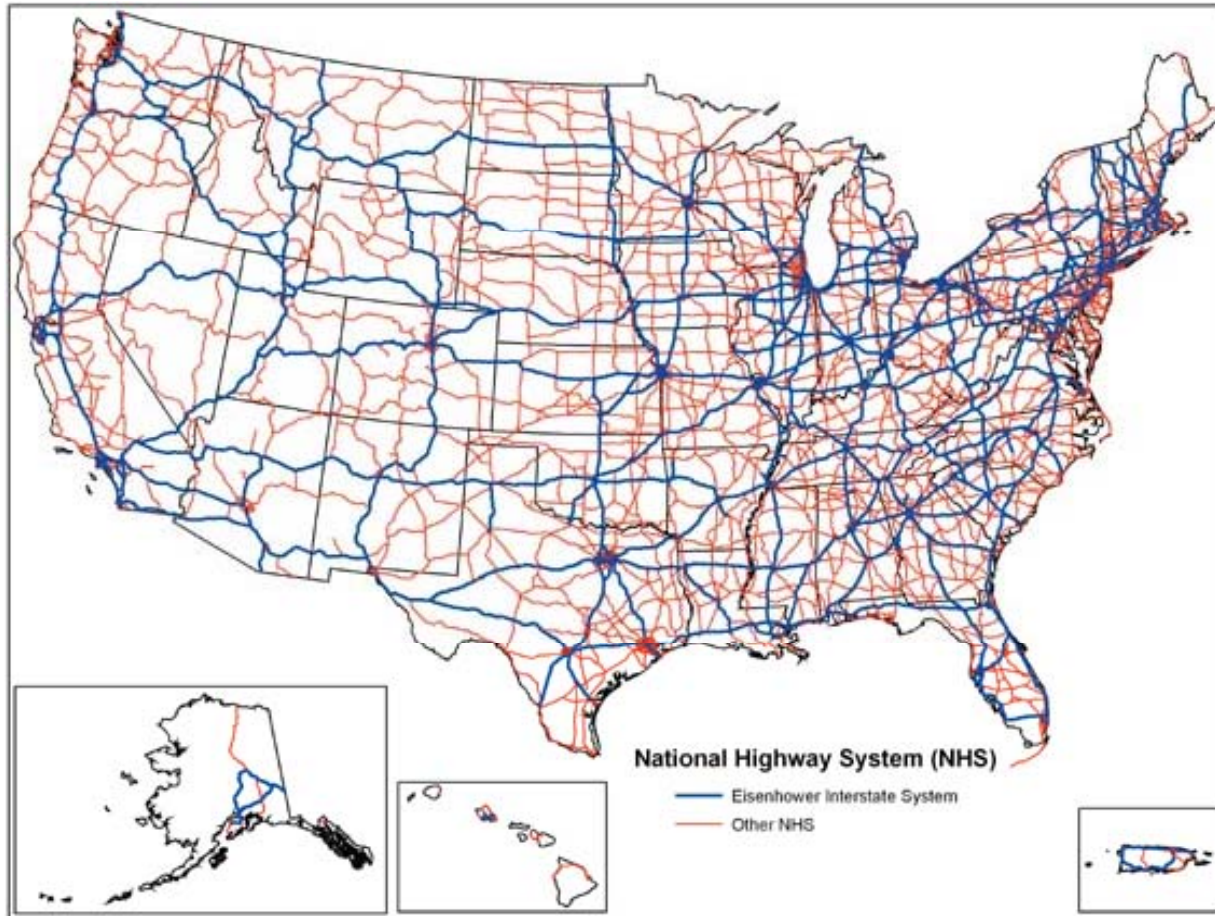
- Eisenhower Interstate System
- Other roads





# National Statistics:

3,963,262 miles of Roads 590,000 Bridges  
2.7 trillion vehicle-miles / year



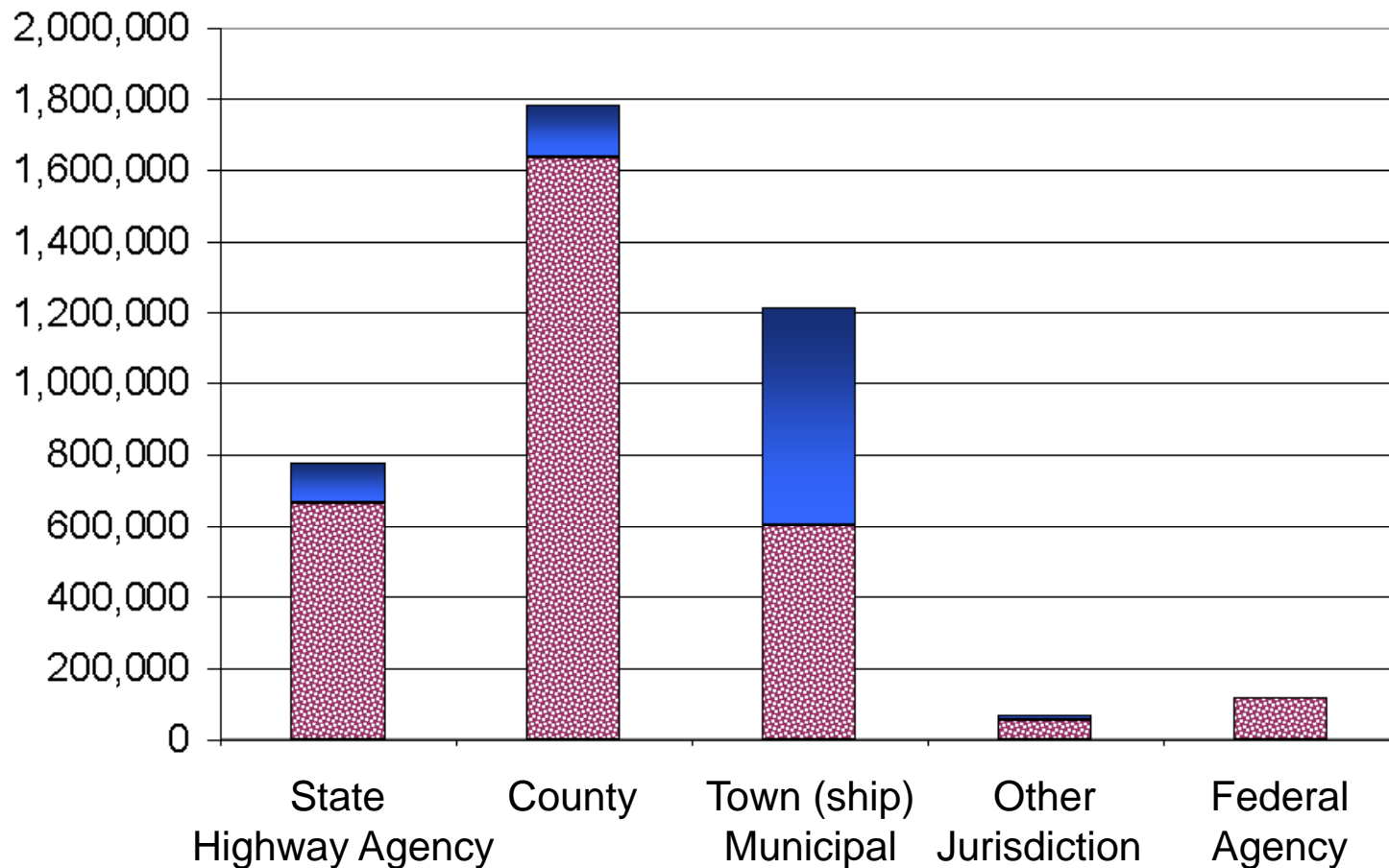


# National Statistics:

## *3,963,262 miles of Roads*

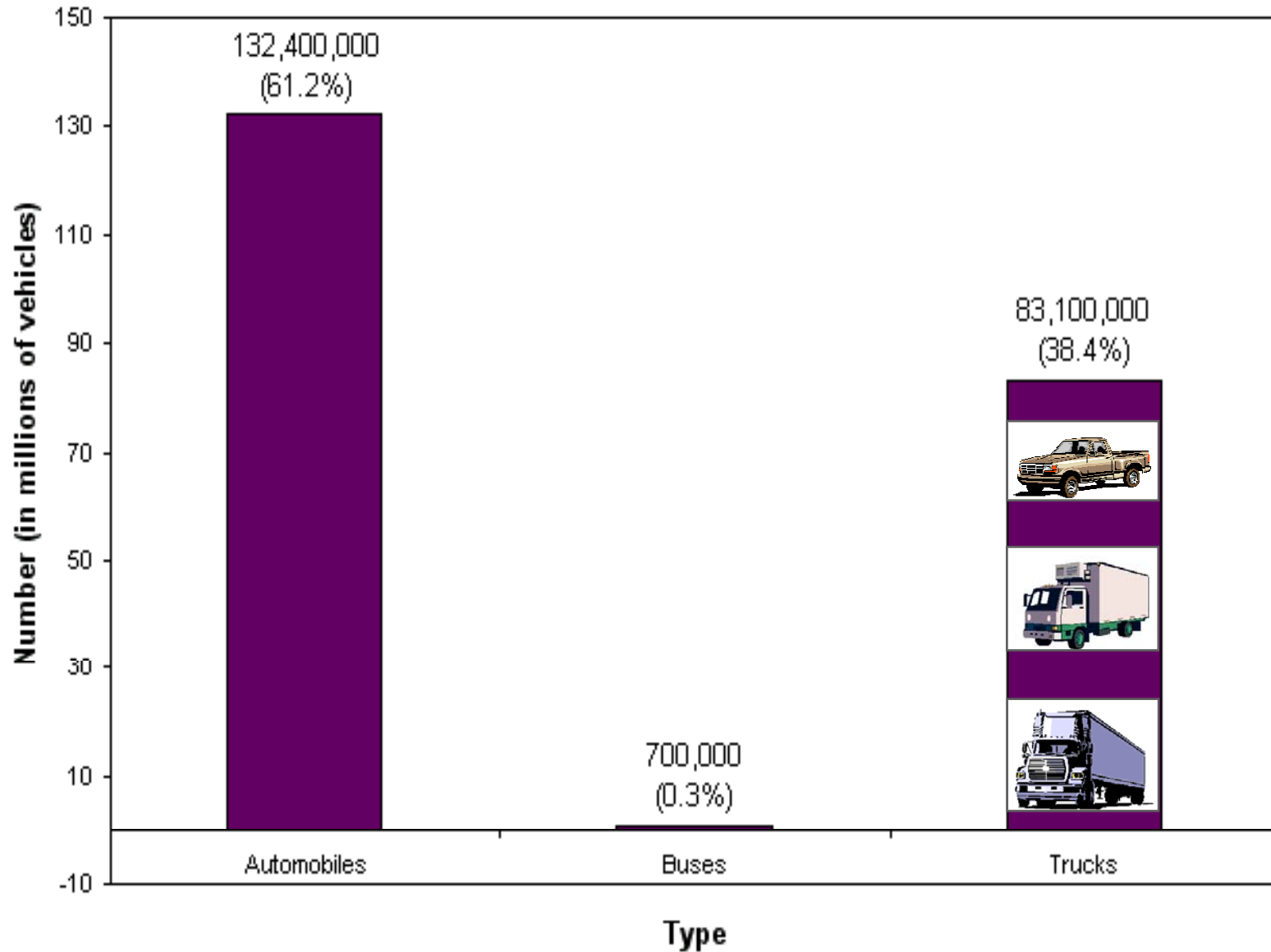
### U.S. Public Road Ownership (Centerline Miles)

Urban (Solid) vs. Rural (crosshatched)



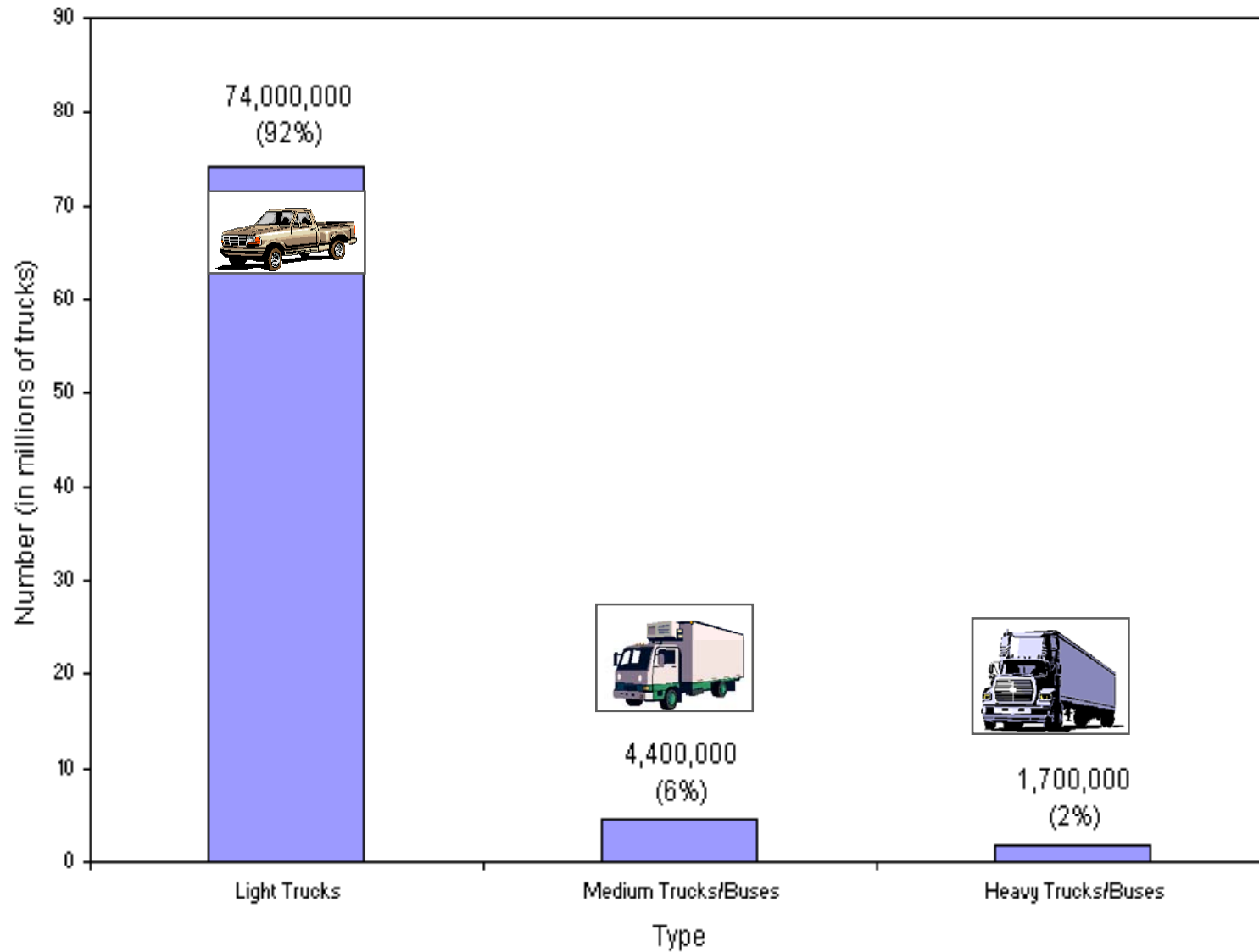
# US Vehicle Population in 2000

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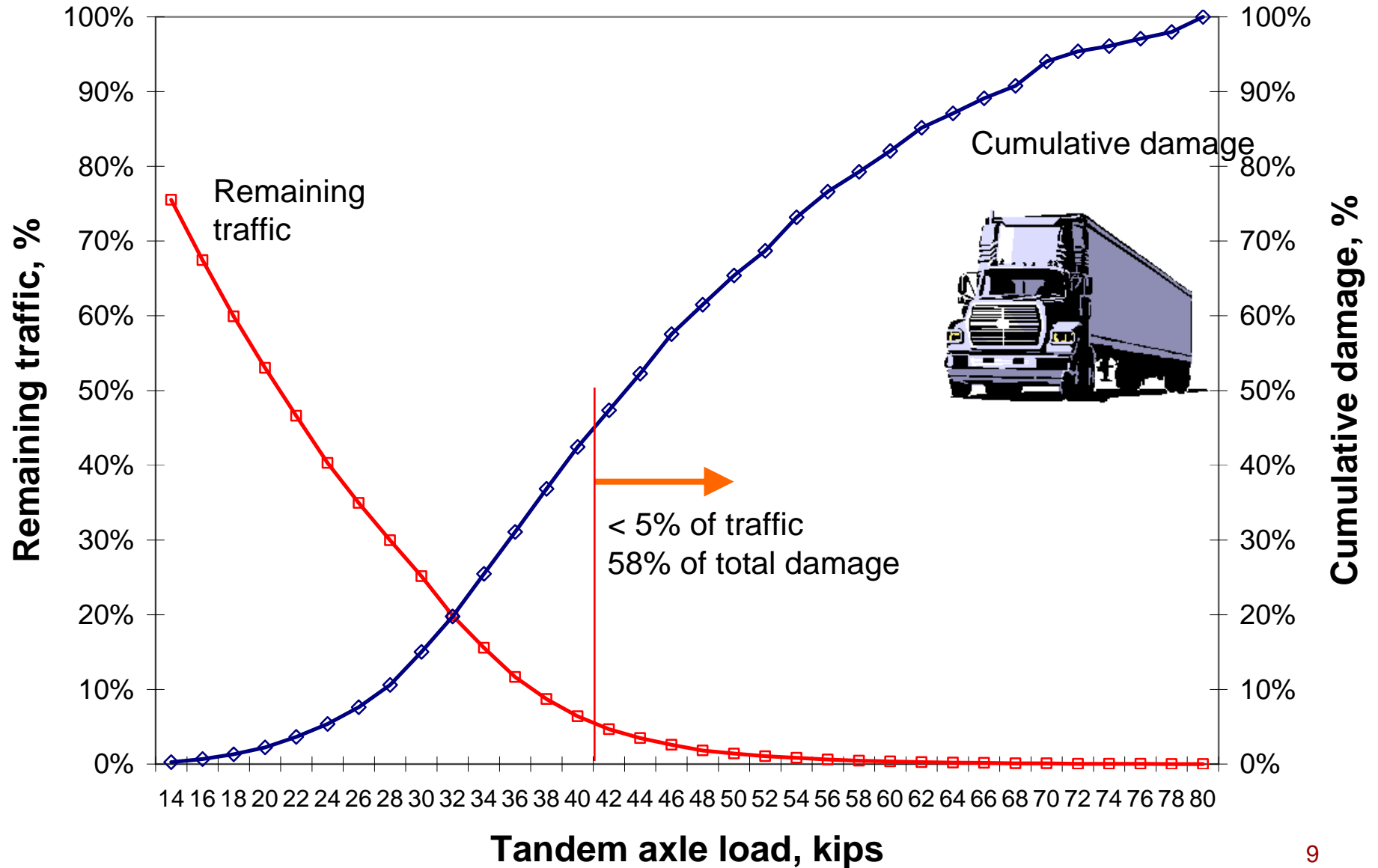
# Truck Distribution

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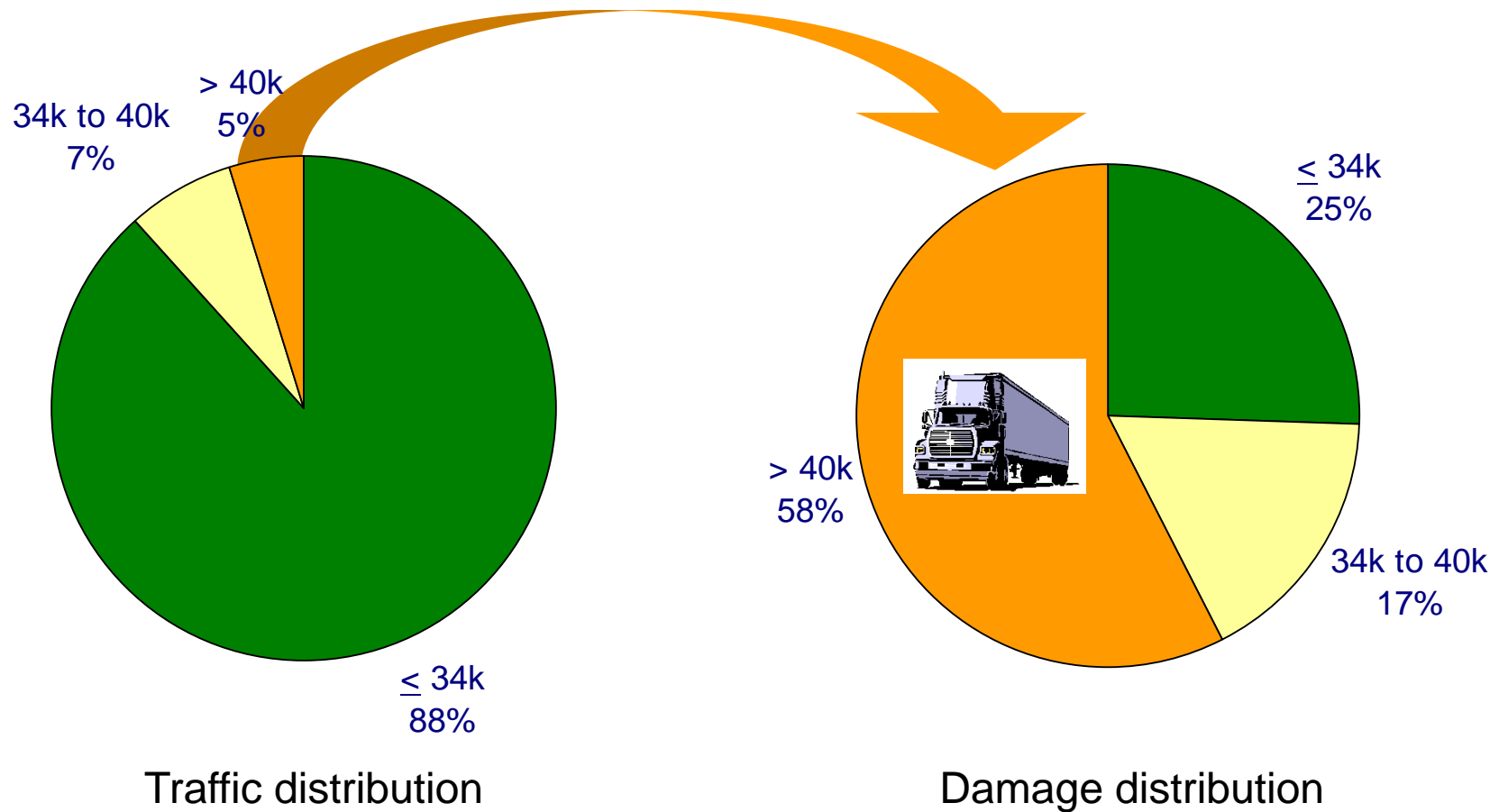
# Damage vs. Axle Weight



# Damage vs. Axle Weight

5% of traffic causes almost 60% of damage

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# Networks... Intermodal

- Air
- Truck
- Rail
- Water
- Pipeline

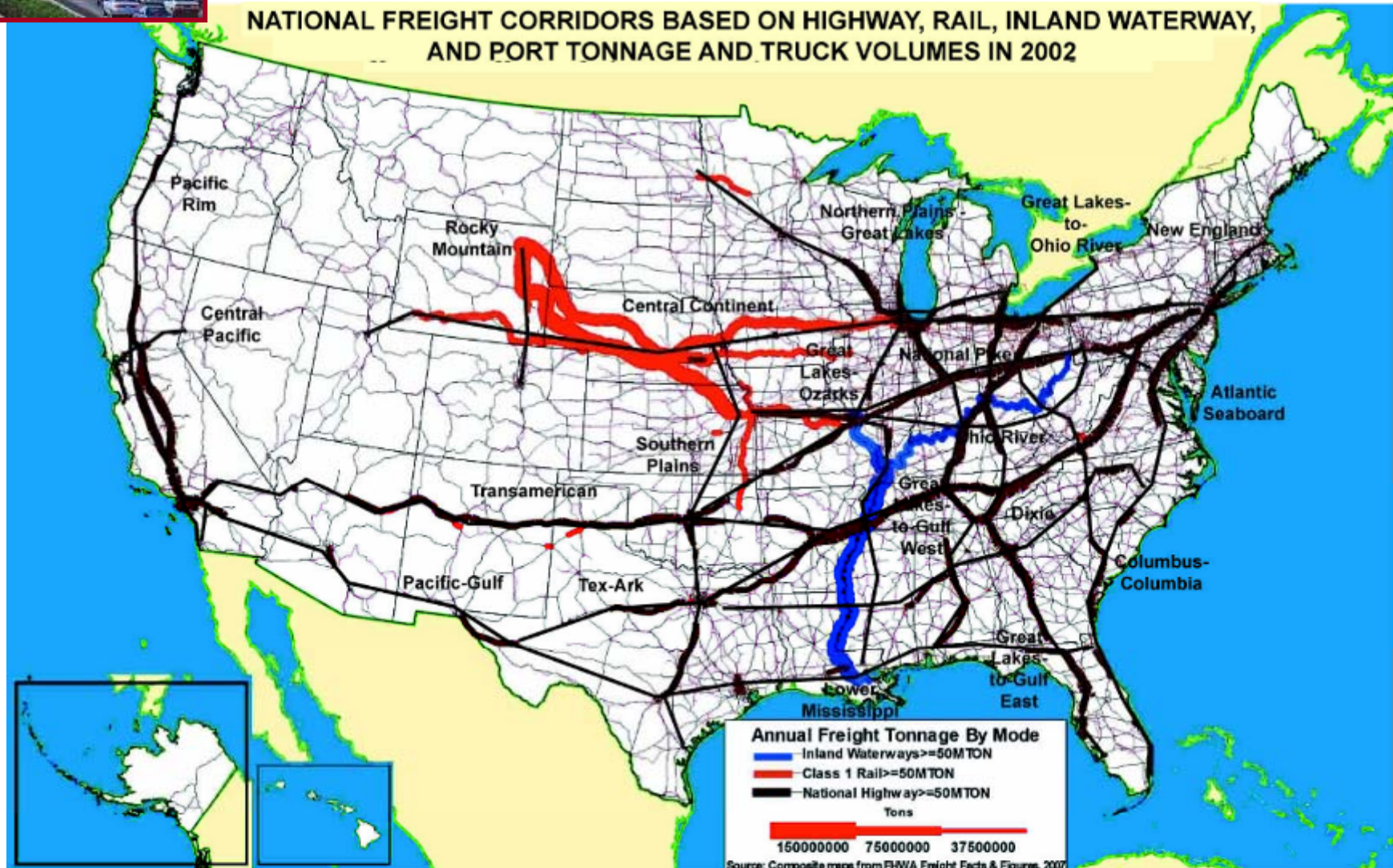
Highway Network





# National Freight Corridors

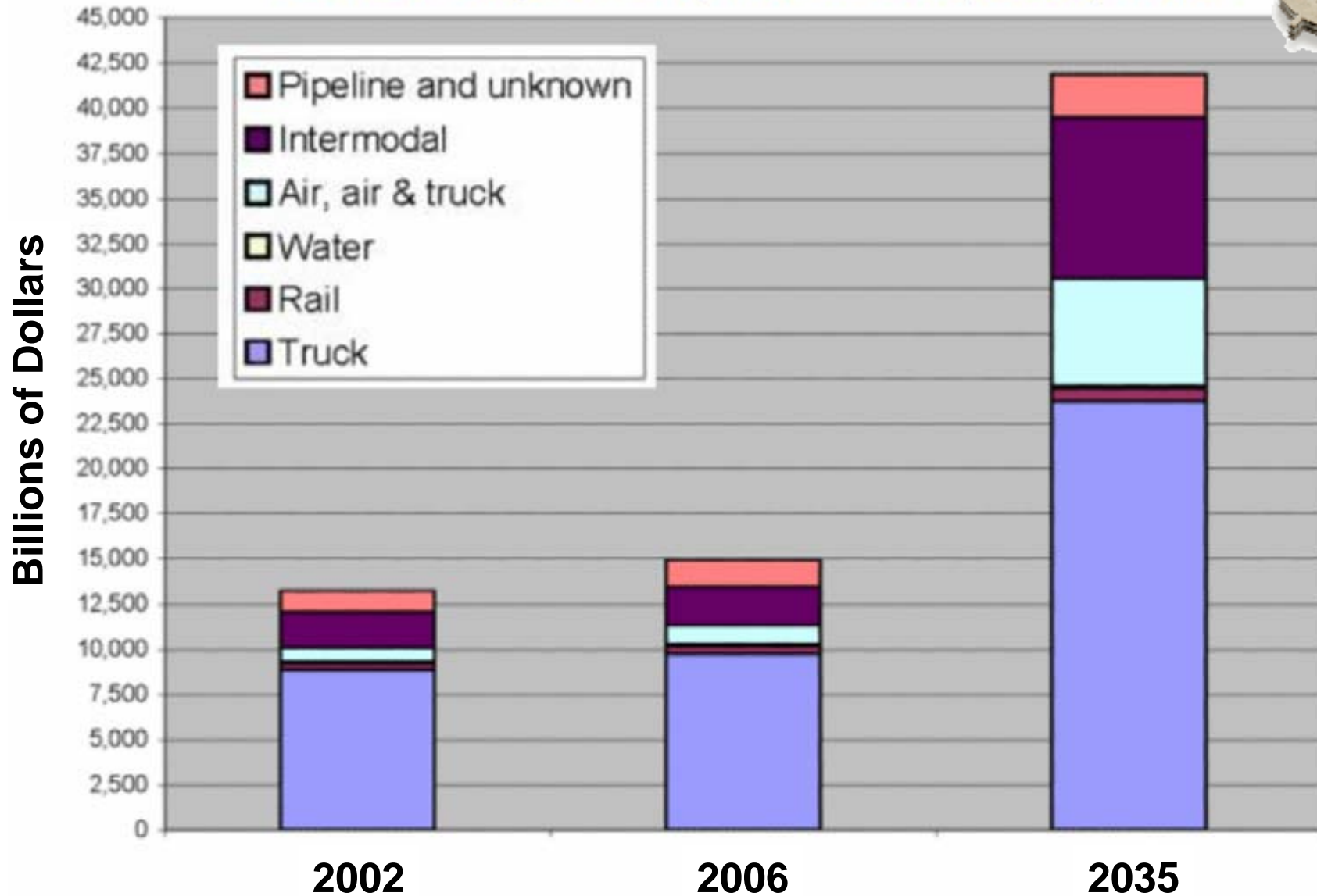
NATIONAL FREIGHT CORRIDORS BASED ON HIGHWAY, RAIL, INLAND WATERWAY, AND PORT TONNAGE AND TRUCK VOLUMES IN 2002



# Commerce



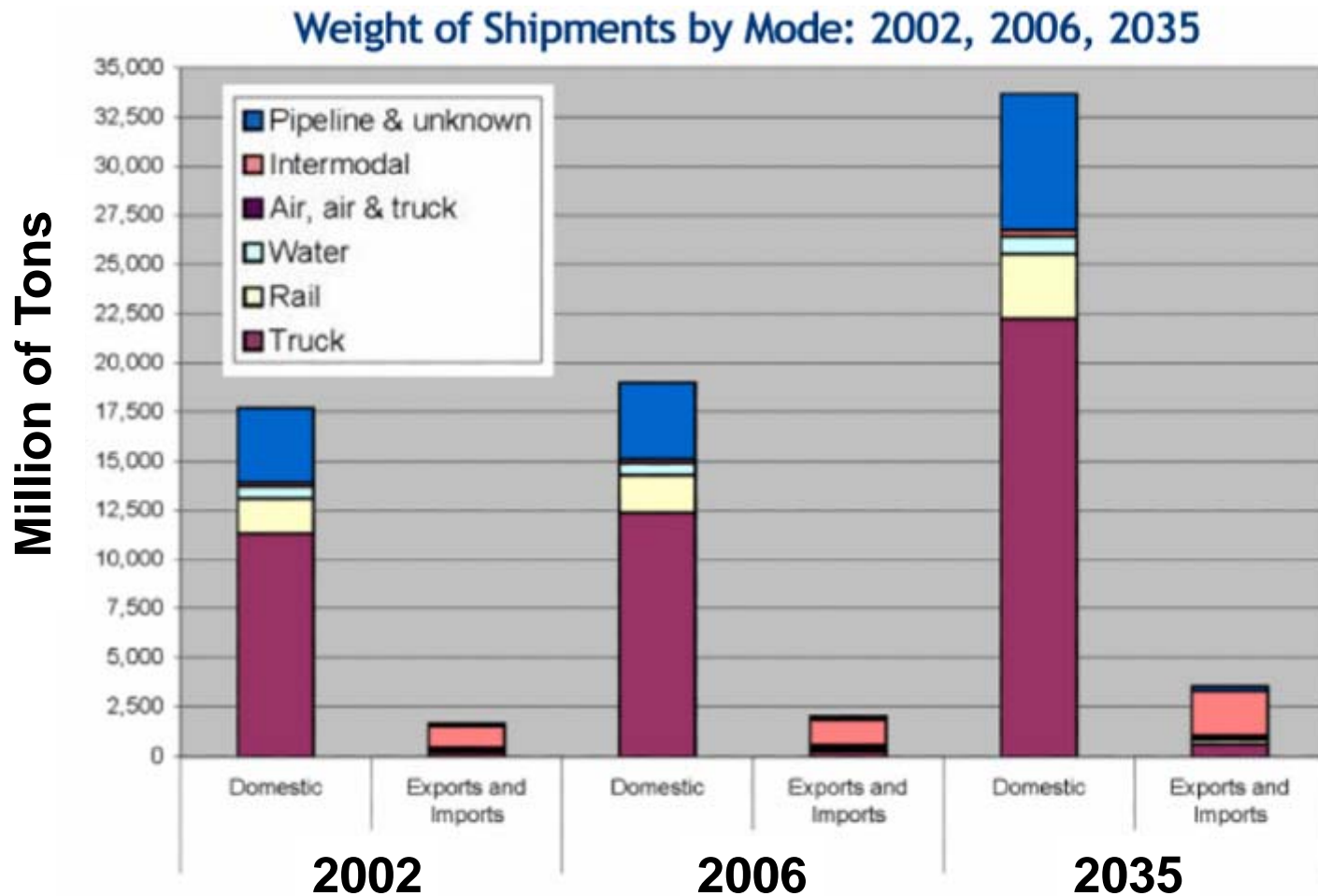
Value of Shipments by Mode: 2002, 2006, 2035



# Tonnage

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In the US, an average 53 million tons of freight was moved each day in 2002...



Why



Key

- An efficient freight transportation system can also improve a State or Region's ability to attract and retain businesses



Economic Vitality and  
Competitiveness

The Environment

Safety and Quality-of-Life

National Security

# CHANGES

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- **Congestion** and **Freight** are driving factors
- Increased traffic and loadings
- Environmental Concerns (sustainability)
  - ex. Use of bag-houses at production facilities, increase in recycled materials
- Supply sources (asphalt, polymers, aggregates)
  - Escalating materials costs
- Production changes
  - ex. Drum plants vs. batch plants
- Staff reductions
- Shifting roles
- Personnel experience & shortages



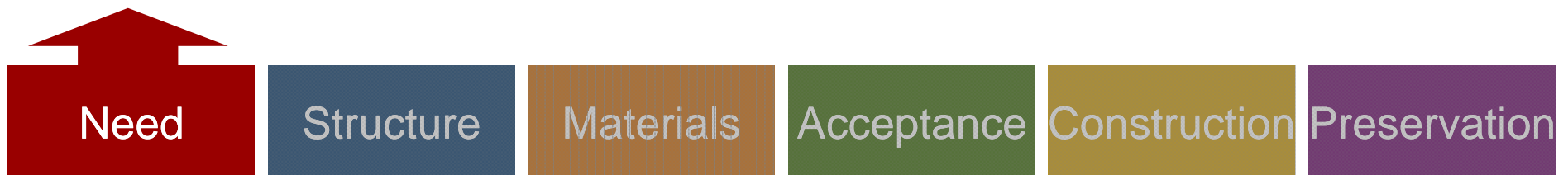
# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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- Risk

- Risk is the likelihood of a bad or unwanted outcome – such as poor pavement performance or low profit margin (or crap dice)
- All systems have some inherent Risk, and
- Changes within a system will either increase, decrease, and/or shift Risk between parties,
  - ex. Owner Agency & Contractor



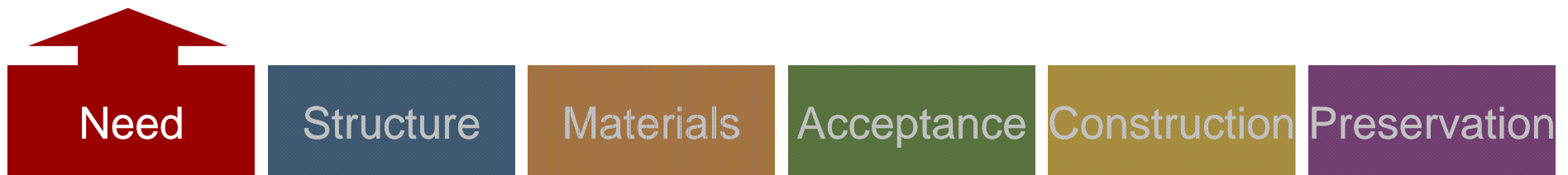
# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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- Risk - Law of Unexpected Consequences...

*“Sometimes in getting what you ask for you loose what you truly wanted.”*



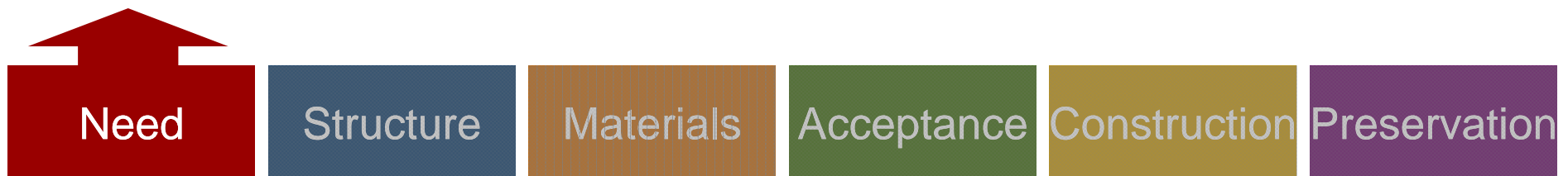
# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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## Innovation

- New materials, testing tools, and production equipment and procedures offer the potential for even greater pavement performance!



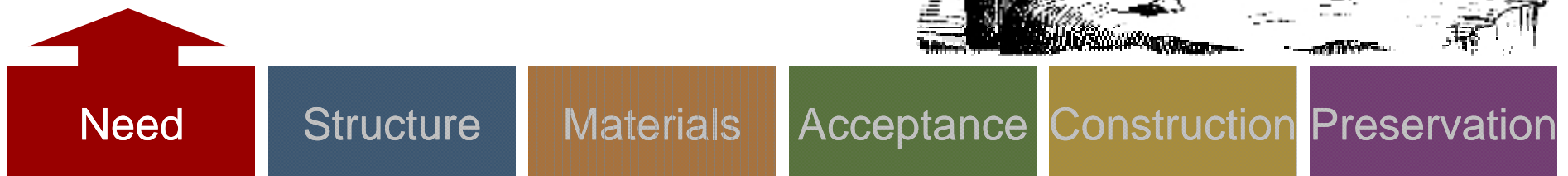
# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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## Risk and Innovation

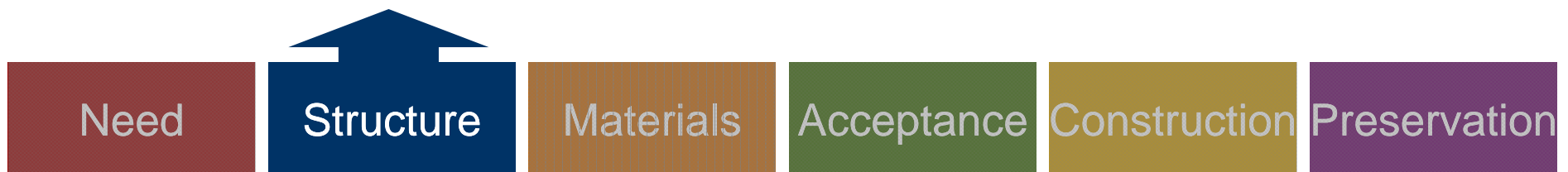
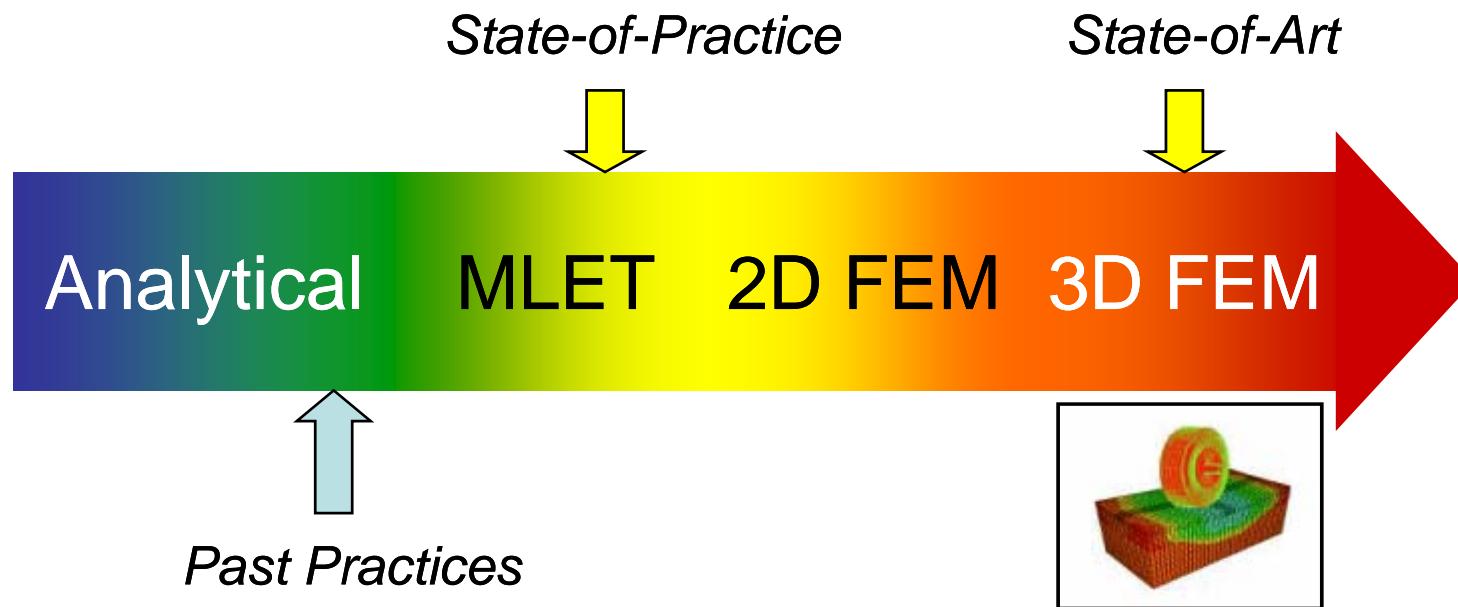
- In developing systems that reduce overall Risk, we can create an environment that does **NOT** foster or reward innovation.



# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



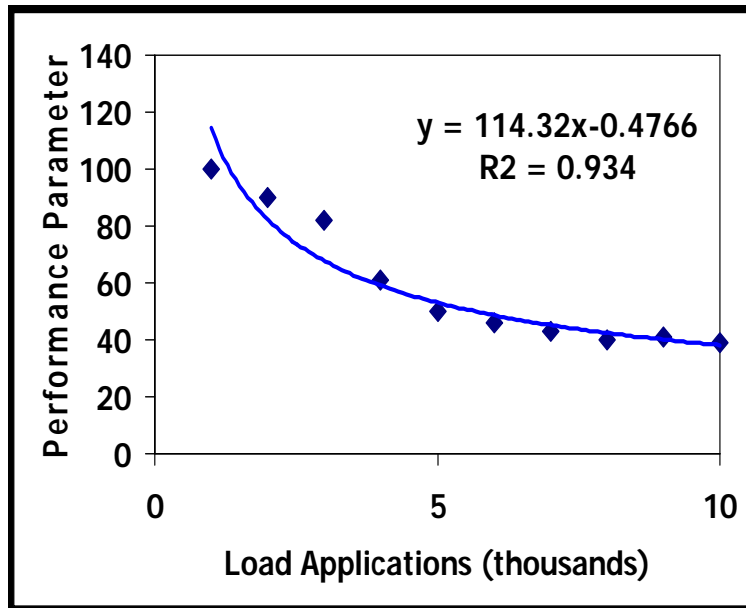
# Evolution of Pavement Design



# Evolution of Pavement Design



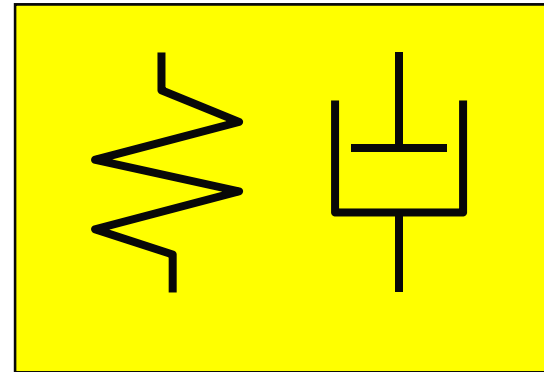
## Empirical



- Get a lot of data
- Find a Trend (Hope for)

## Mechanistic

- Springs
- Dashpots



Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

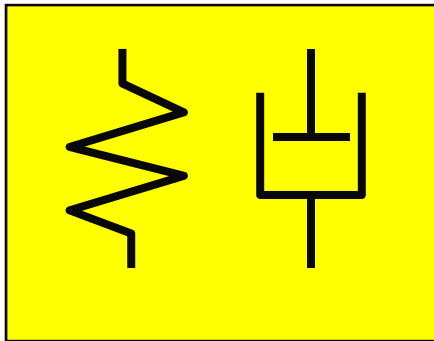
Construction

Preservation

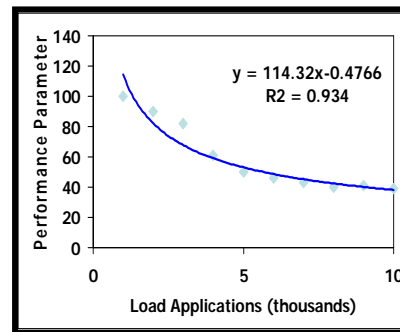
# Evolution of Pavement Design



- Mechanistic-Empirical
  - Combines mechanistically based models (equations) with empirically derived models (equations)



+



Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

Construction

Preservation



AASHO  
Interim Guide  
for the Design

Guide

00V

FOREWORD

Apr This interim guide for the design of pavement structures is based on data from the AASHO Road Test at Ottawa Illinois. In those areas not covered by the Road Test, theoretical analysis and experience have been utilized.

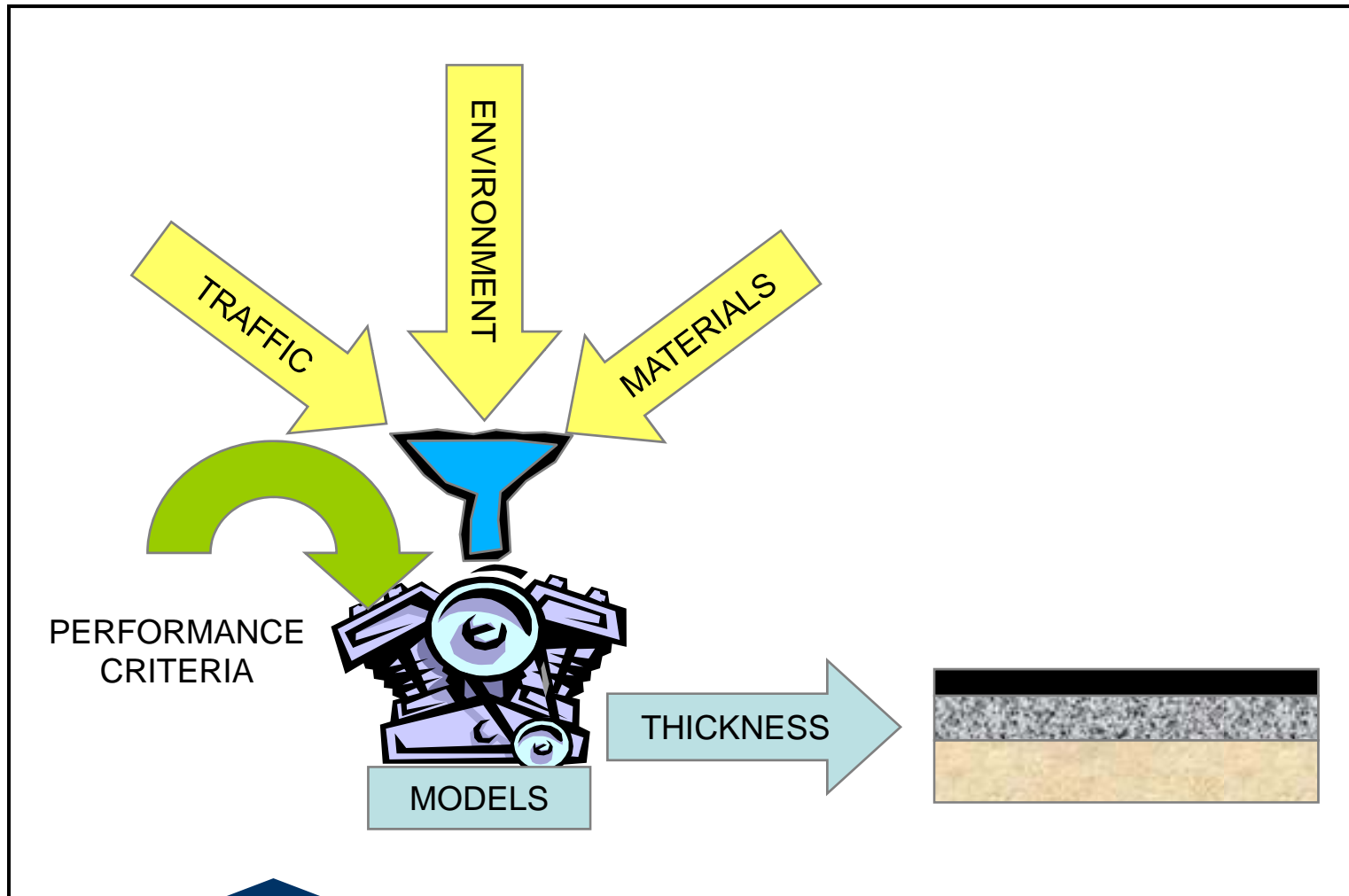
**It is essential that the user of the guide understand its limitations, which are: ...**

Environmental Section is still in-place today.

Fred Finn – Bituminous Engineer for the Track



# New AASHTO M-E Pavement Design Guide



# New M-E Pavement Design Guide

The screenshot displays the 'Md SHA Training - Mechanistic Empirical Pavement Design Guide' software interface. The main window is titled 'Md SHA Training - Mechanistic Empirical Pavement Design Guide' and shows a project configuration screen. On the left, there is a sidebar with a tree view of inputs and results. The 'Inputs' section includes Traffic, General Traffic Inputs, Climate, Structure, and Layers. The 'Results' section includes Input Summary, Output Summary, and Flexible Summary. On the right, there is an 'Analysis Status' table and a 'General Project Information' table. At the bottom right, there is a 'Run Analysis' button.

Analysis	% Complete
Traffic	100%
Climatic	100%
Thermal Cracking	100%
AC Analysis	100%
Summary	100%

Parameter	Value
Type	New Flexible
Design Life	15 Years
Climate	C:\DG2002\Projects\Md SHA Training\Md SHA Tr...
Construction Date	9/2008
Traffic Open Date	10/2008
Initial AADTT	1500



# Life-Cycle Cost Analysis Software RealCost™



## Probabilistic Life-Cycle Cost Analysis

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/asstmgmt/lcca.cfm>

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel RealCost software interface. The window title is "Microsoft Excel - RealCost". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Data, Window, and Help. The toolbar contains various icons for file operations and editing. The active worksheet is titled "INPUT WORKSHEET". The data is organized into sections:

- 1. Economic Variables**
  - 4 Value of Time for Passenger Cars (\$/hour)
  - 5 Value of Time for Single Unit Trucks (\$/hour)
  - 6 Value of Time for Combination Trucks (\$/hour)
- 2. Analysis Options**
  - 9 Include User Costs in Analysis (Yes)
  - 10 Include User Cost Remaining Service Life Value (Yes)
  - 11 Use Differential User Costs (Yes)
  - 12 User Cost Computation Method (Calculated)
  - 13 Include Agency Cost Remaining Service Life Value (Yes)
  - 14 Traffic Direction (Both)
  - 15 Analysis Period (Years) (4)
  - 16 Beginning of Analysis Period
  - 17 Discount Rate (%)
- 3. Project Details and Quantity Calculations**
  - 20 State Route
  - 21 Project Name
  - 22 Region
  - 23 County
  - 24 Analyzed By
  - 25 Mileposts
  - 26 Begin
  - 27 End
  - 28 Length of Project (miles) (0.00)
  - Comments
- 4. Traffic Data**
  - 32 AADT Construction Year (total for both directions)
  - 33 Cars as Percentage of AADT (%) (100.0)
  - 34 Single Unit Trucks as Percentage of AADT (%)
  - 35 Combination Trucks as Percentage of AADT (%)
  - 36 Annual Growth Rate of Traffic (%)
  - 37 Speed Limit Under Normal Operating Conditions (mph)
  - 38 No of Lanes in Each Direction During Construction
  - 39 Free Flow Capacity (rphpl)

Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

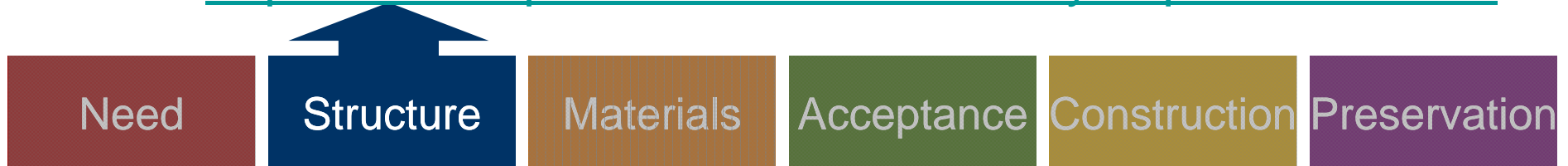
Construction

Preservation

# Pavement Design Resources

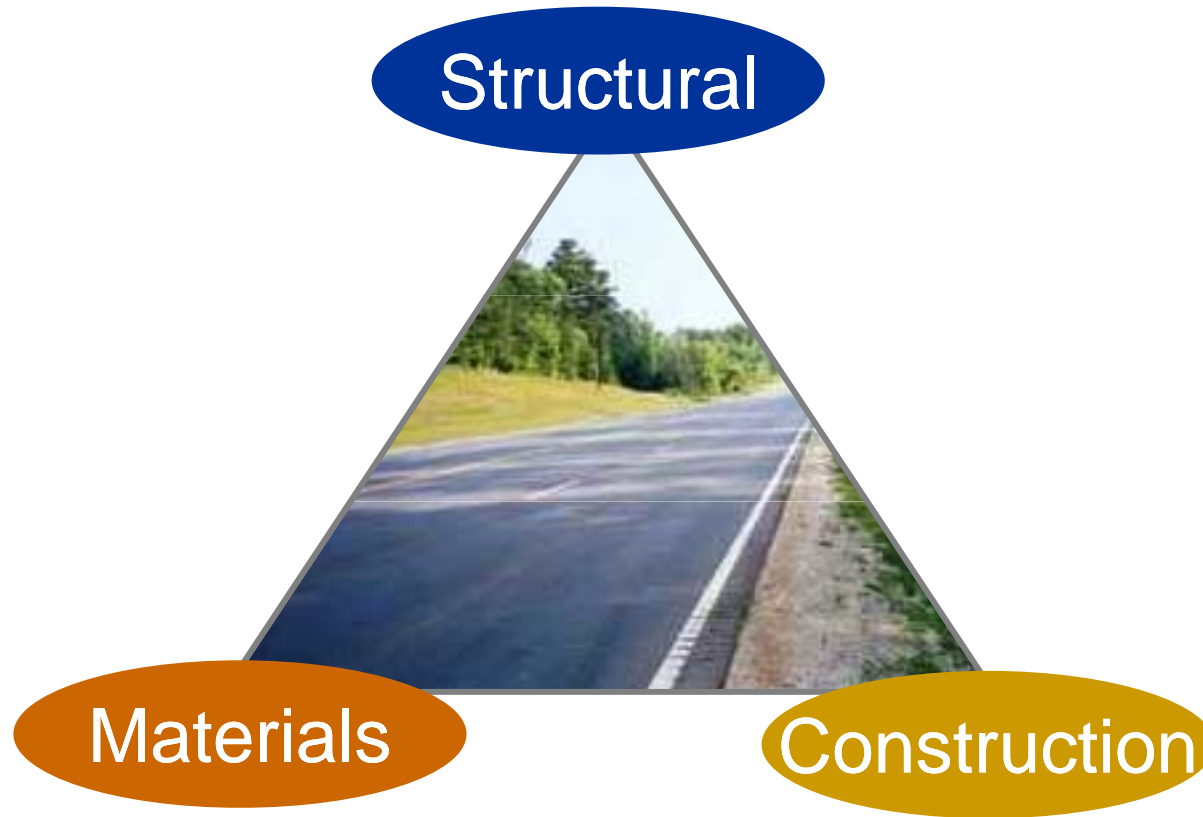
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- FHWA:
  - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/>
- NCHRP, 1-37A: **Free software download**
  - <http://www.trb.org/mepdg/>
- National Asphalt Pavement Association
  - <http://www.hotmix.org/>
- Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA)
  - <http://www.asphaltalliance.com/index.asp>
- APA: Perpetual Pavements
  - <http://www.asphaltalliance.com/library.asp?MENU=519>



# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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## Superpave®

Performance-Based  
Purchase Specification  
Design and Analysis Tool





# Why SHRP?

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- In the 1980's procedures and practices could not assure performance.
- **Unacceptable Risk**
- Distress...
  - Rutting
  - Fatigue cracking
  - Low-temperature cracking



# Major Steps in Superpave Mix Design

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1. Selection of Materials,
2. Selection of a Design Aggregate Structure,
3. Selection of the Design Binder Content,
4. Evaluation of Moisture Sensitivity of the Design Mixture, and
5. Performance Characterization.

Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance





Superpave Gyratory Compactor

# *ONGOING*

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## Refinement

- **Understanding Modifiers, PGx**
- **Asphalt Mix Performance Tester**
- *Equipment Calibration*
- *Understanding acid*
- *Improved moisture test*
  
- Construction Quality
- Link to Pavement Design
- Communication!



Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

Construction

Preservation

# Paul Mack

*New York State - Retired*

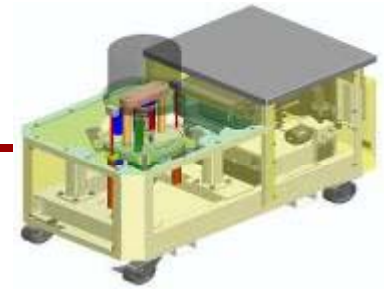
*Imperfection should never  
stall implementation.*

*You can still drink from a  
chipped cup.*

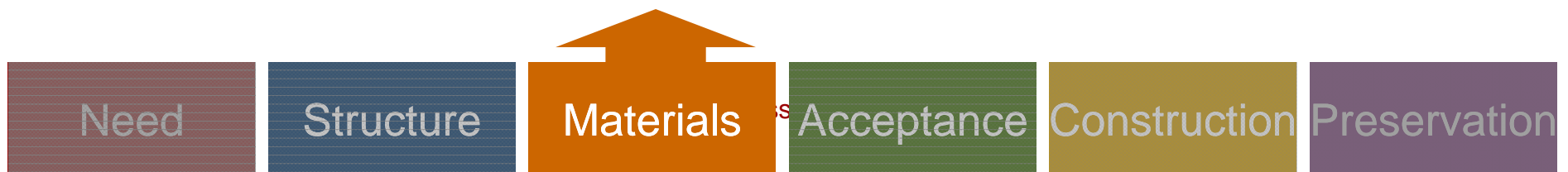


# Challenges

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- Achieving VMA
- Suitability of Gyrotory Compaction Levels
- Issues of Durability & Binder content
- Need for a Moisture Sensitivity Test
- Deployment of a Performance/Strength Test



# NCHRP 9 – Bituminous Materials

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- RAP Characterization, 9-12
- Gyratory Level, 9-9, 9-16, 9-19
- Volumetric Requirements, 9-25, 9-31
- Performance Testing, 9-19, 9-29
- Mixture Design Manual, 9-33



# New Asphalt Mix Performance Tester

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## AMPT



Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



# AMPT – Pooled Fund Study

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- POC: Dr. Audrey Copeland, FHWA
  - [Audrey.Copeland@dot.gov](mailto:Audrey.Copeland@dot.gov)



Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

Construction

Preservation

# SHRP Asphalt Program Coordinator

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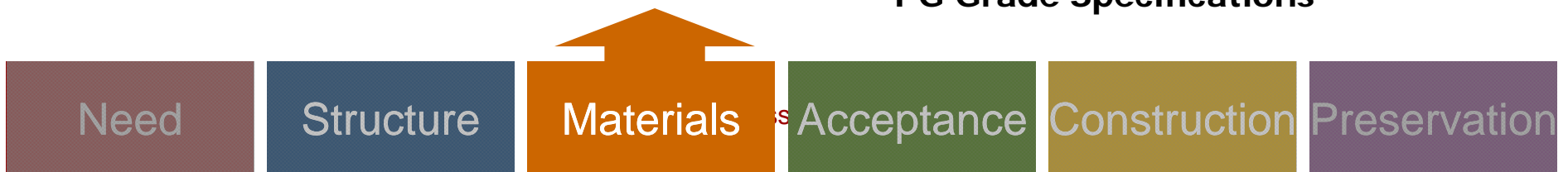
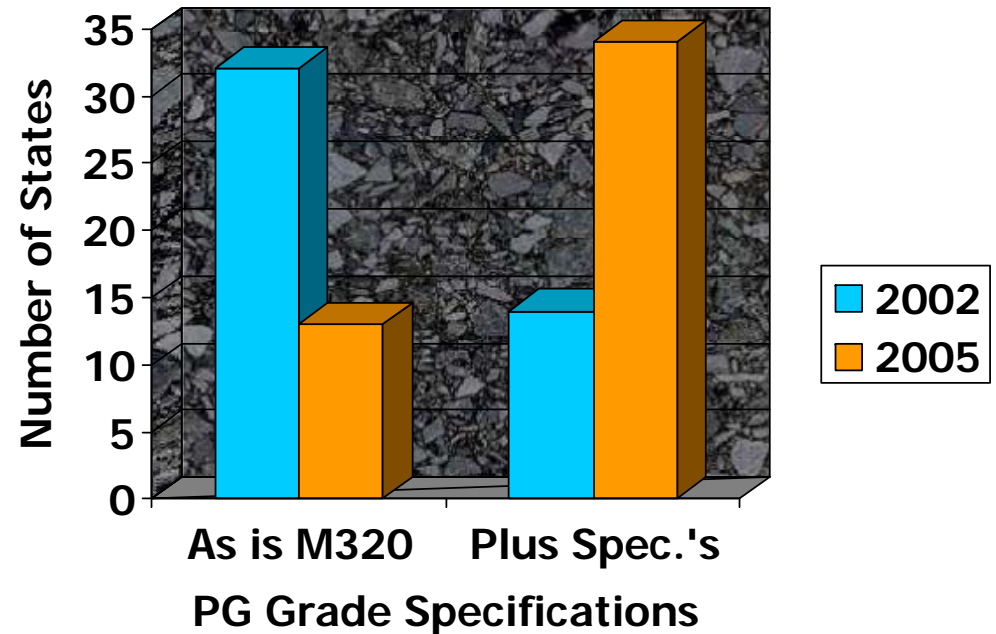
Dr. Thomas Kennedy

“One of the principal goals of the *SHRP* asphalt program is to reduce or eliminate the proliferation of asphalt binder specifications.”

# Growing Trend from 2002 to 2005

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- 34 States with Plus Specs (67%)
- 13 States Straight M 320
- 21 Different Pluses
- 4 Duel / Hybrid
- **The Winner! – M 320 with 13 Pluses**  
+++++



# Superpave® Plus

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WHY?

# High-Temperature Performance

## I-80, Nevada

Same gradation - different binders.

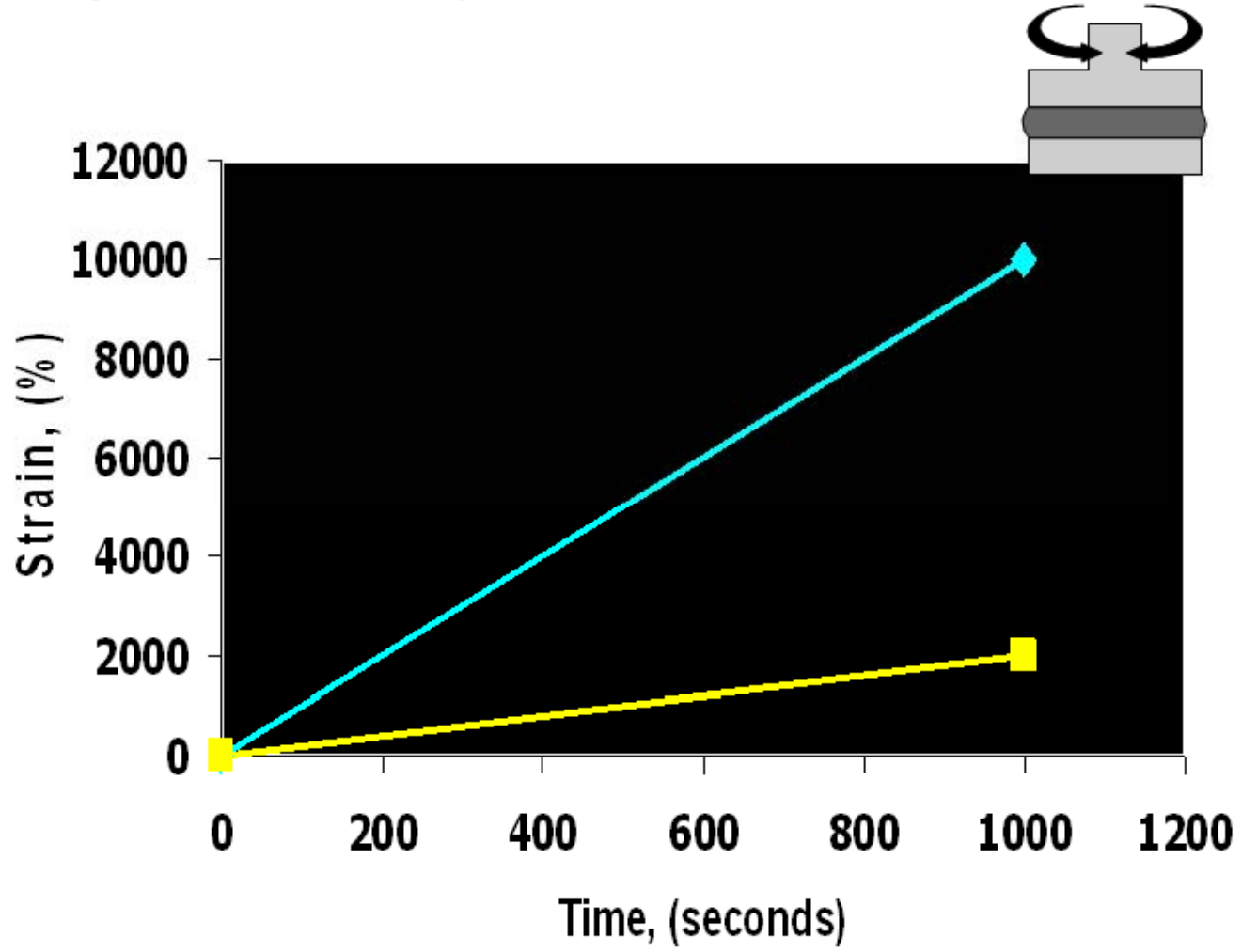


PG 63-22 modified  
No rutting



PG 67-22 unmodified  
15mm of rutting

# High Temperature (Rutting) Repeated Creep Recovery Test



## New Superpave Tool... PGx (Table 3)

- Original Spec was based on Modulus,  $G^*$  is Stress / Strain
- Compliance,  $J_{NR}$  is Strain / Stress
  - **x: Standard, Heavy, Very Heavy**
  - Eliminates grade-bumping
  - Accounts for traffic level through Jnr criteria

# Materials Resources

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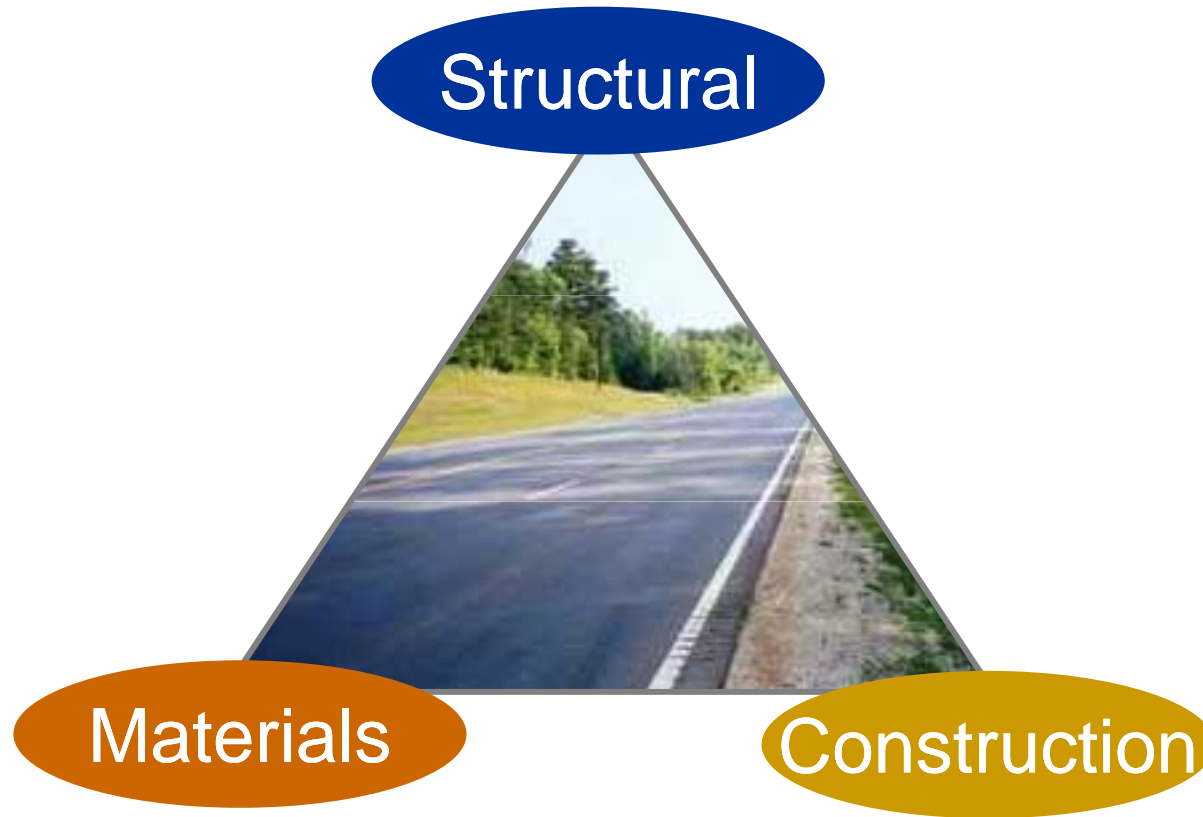
- FHWA:
  - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/>
- NCHRP, 9-series
  - <http://www.trb.org/mepdg/>
- National Asphalt Pavement Association
  - <http://www.hotmix.org/>
- Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA)
  - <http://www.asphaltalliance.com/index.asp>
- Asphalt Institute
  - <http://www.asphaltinstitute.org/>





# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance

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# Construction

- *Contacting Mechanisms*
  - Design Standards (ex. Superpave) to Performance Specifications to Warranties to Public-Private-Partnership



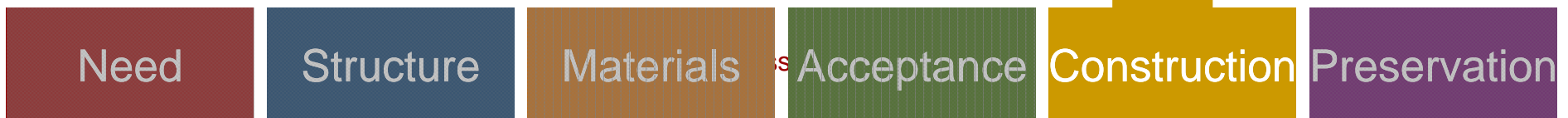
## Quality Assurance Systems

- Ex. Percent Within Limits (PWL)

## Compaction & Intelligent Construction Systems (ICS)

- Longitudinal Joints, Automated Plants, IC Rolls, Infrared Cameras, Real time project information...

- Warm Mix Asphalt Technologies
- HIGH RAP Materials



**DRAFT**



# **FHWA**

# **Quality Assurance**

# **Assessment**

## **FY 2008**

# What it is **NOT** and what it **IS**...

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- The Assessment is NOT...
  - A “Gotcha”
  - A way to compare States
  - A indication of pavement performance
  - Perfect
  
- The Assessment is...
  - A tool to identify potential areas of RISK
  - A tool to identify “successful practices”
  - A tool to prioritize training
  - A tool to guide specification refinement

# Driving Factors

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- Quality Assurance Reviews (HIPT)
  - State Agency Compliance with CFR
- National Review Program: Quality Assurance in Materials & Construction (Division Office Assessment of Risk)
  - Kevin McLaury (MT), Team Leader, Max Grogg (IA), Mike Praul (ME), Brad Neitzke (WFL), Ken Jacoby (HIAM), Pete Kulyk (HPC), & Tamiko Burnell (HSA)



# National Review Program: Quality Assurance in Materials & Construction

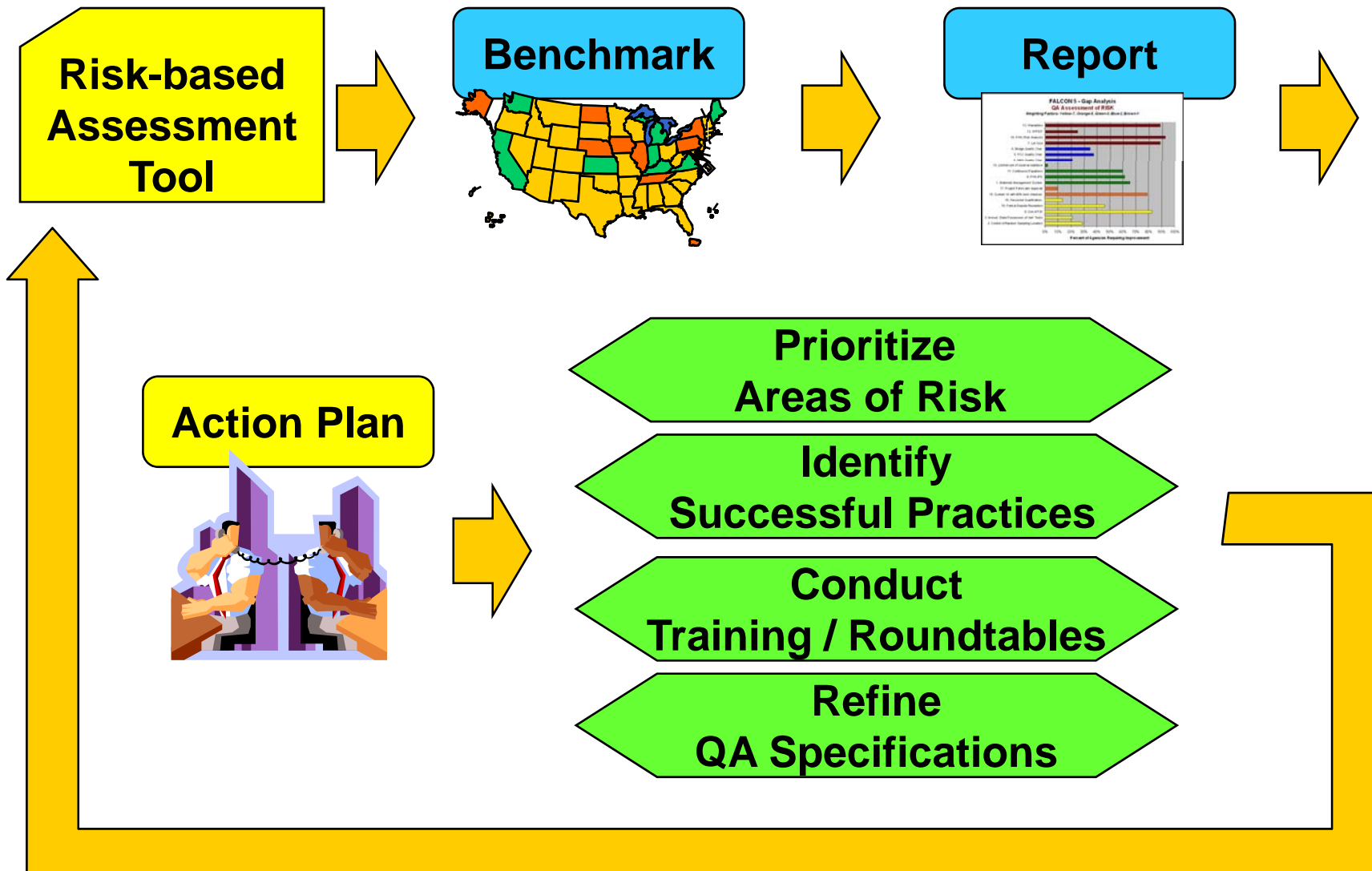
## Six Building Blocks...

1. Contractor Quality Control
2. Agency Acceptance
3. Independent Assurance
4. Dispute Resolution
5. Laboratory Accreditation and Qualification
6. Personnel Qualification/Certification, and

7. RISK



# Risk-based Process



# Division Office Interview *(Mike/Lee/Dennis)*

## Assessment of RISK *(QA System)*

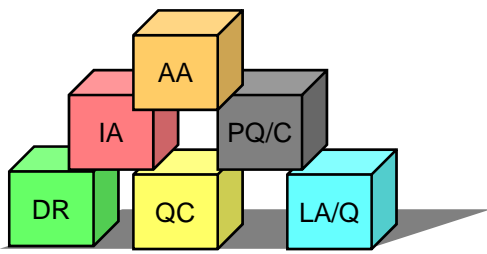
- 18 Questions...
  - Covers the Six Building Blocks
  - Questions Weighted
  - 1, 2, 3, 5, & 7

- Frequency
  - 52 in FY 2008
  - Updated... TBD

Microsoft Excel - Advanced QA System Performance Measure DVD.tph

Question #	Question	Weight	State 1	State 2	State 3	State 4	State 5	State 6	State 7	State 8	State 9	State 10	S	
<b>A State ID must be included</b>														
1	Does the State use a materials management system, which includes all test results (State and/or Contractor), that is used in the acceptance process?	5	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N		
2	Does the State have a documented process for controlling the location of random sampling?	7	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N		
3	Does the State control of the locations for verification testing and takes immediate possession of the samples?	7	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N		
<b>Quality Characteristics used in Acceptance</b>														
Which of the following does the State use for Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) pavement acceptance? (Total weight 3)														
4	Asphalt Binder Content, P <sub>b</sub>	0.6	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		
	Void in Total Mix, V <sub>a</sub>	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y		
	Void in Mineral Aggregate, VMA	0.4	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N		
	In-place density	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
5	Smoothness (ex. IRI)	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		
	Which of the following does the State use for Concrete pavement acceptance? (Total weight 3)													
	Strength (either compressive or flexural)	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Pavement Thickness	0.6	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y		
	Entrained Air Content	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y		
6	Permeability	0.6	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
	Smoothness (ex. IRI)	0.6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y		
	Which of the following does the State use for Concrete Bridge Deck acceptance? (Total weight 3)													
	Strength (either compressive or flexural)	0.75	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
7	Entrained Air Content	0.75	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
	Permeability	0.75	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
	Smoothness (ex. IRI)	0.75	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
	Are the payment lot sizes between 7 and 20 tests?	3	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N		
8	Does the State use PWL/PD type specifications?	5	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N		
9	Does State include contractor tests in acceptance decision? (Total weight 3 - if applicable)		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y		
	If the State uses contractor tests in the acceptance decision does the State verify the contractor test results with F&I tests using a minimum of five (5) State results to 5-20 contractor results?	3	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N		

Balancing F

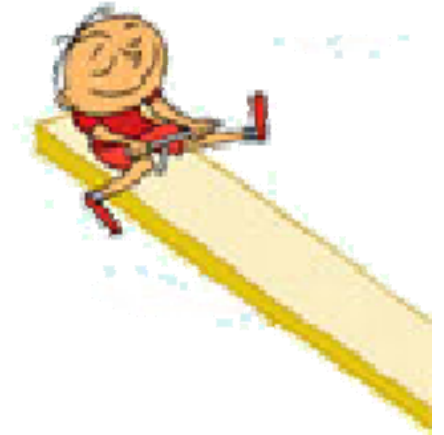




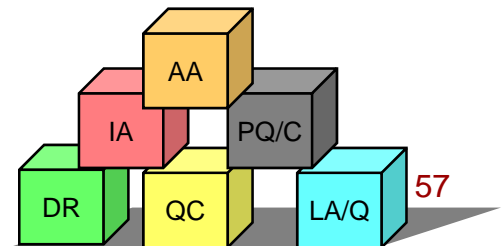
# Two desired outcomes...

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- We get what we pay for... Balanced, low-risk system
- Create a culture of Trust



Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



# Definitions

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- **Advanced States**

- Those States that have highly developed QA programs that demonstrate their capability for measuring the quality of their construction and materials programs. An advanced QA program includes highly developed Contractor Quality Control, Agency Acceptance, Dispute Resolution, Independent Assurance, Technician Certification or Qualification, and Laboratory Certification programs.

- **Intermediate States**

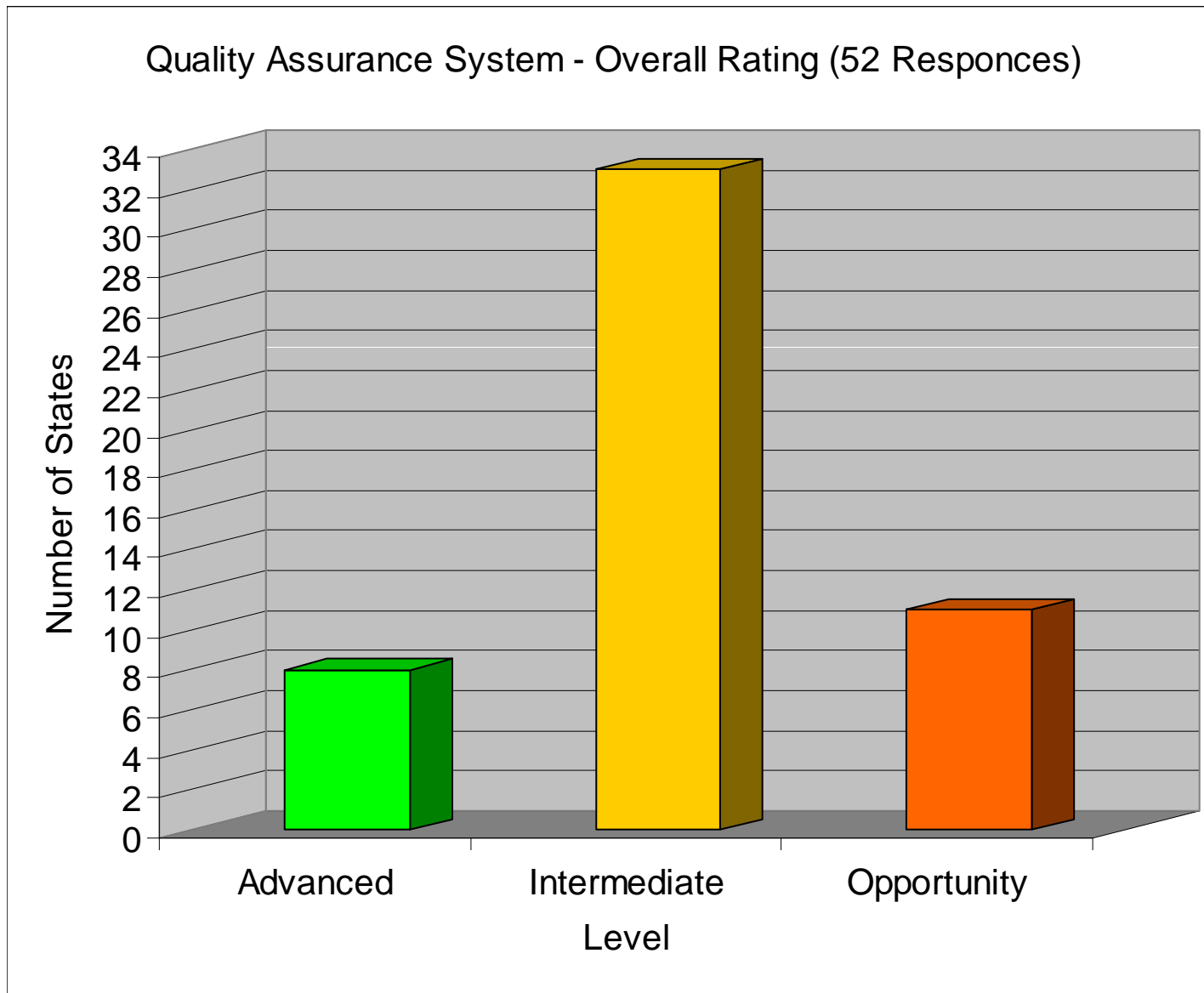
- Those States that have substantially demonstrated an effective QA program for measuring quality and includes most of the QA elements of an advanced QA program.

- **Opportunity States**

- Those States that have a demonstrated a weakness in their construction and materials programs to measure quality or have a weakness in their program that could lead to fraud.

# NPM – A low rating is not a compliance issue with 23 CFR 637.

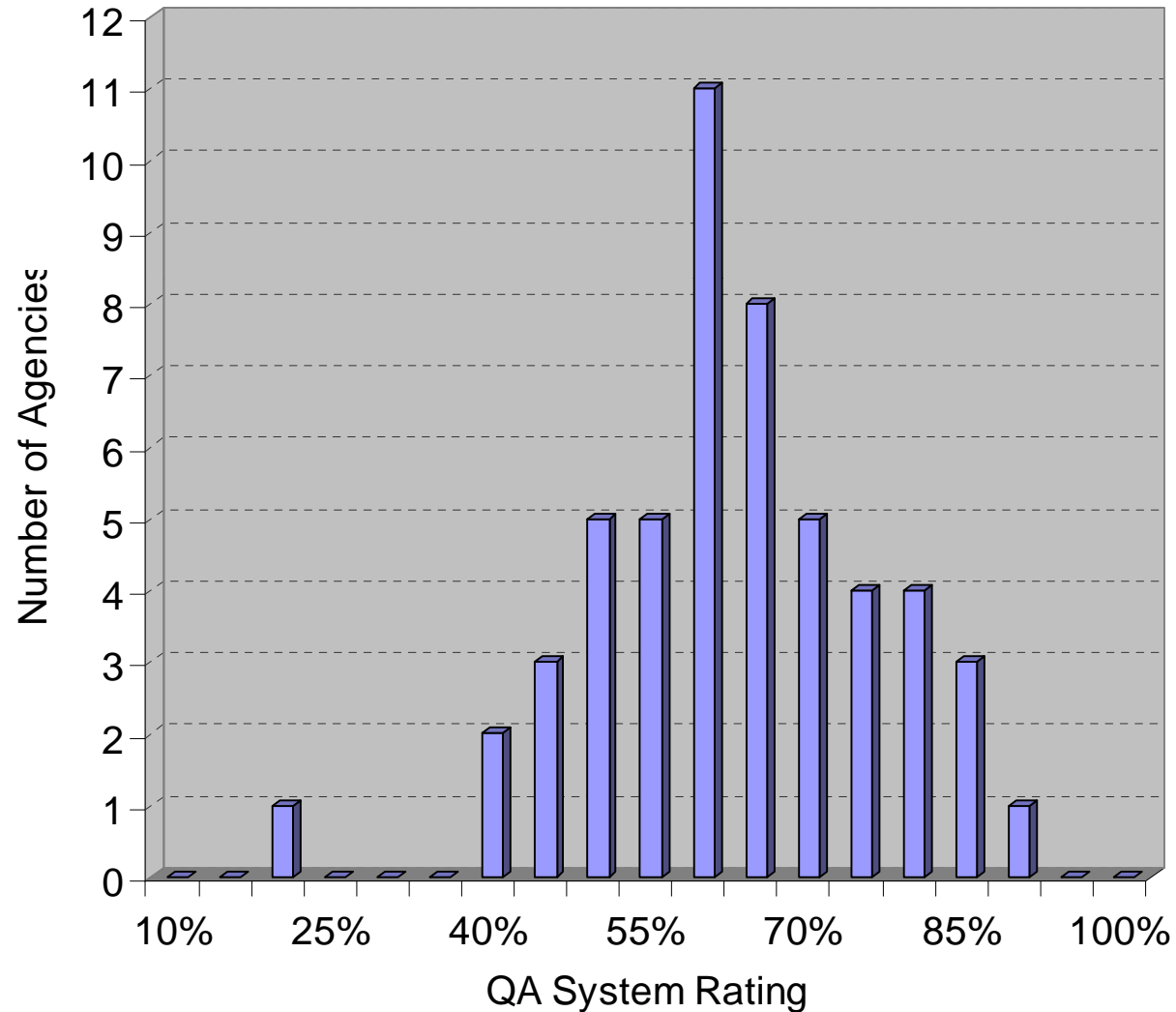
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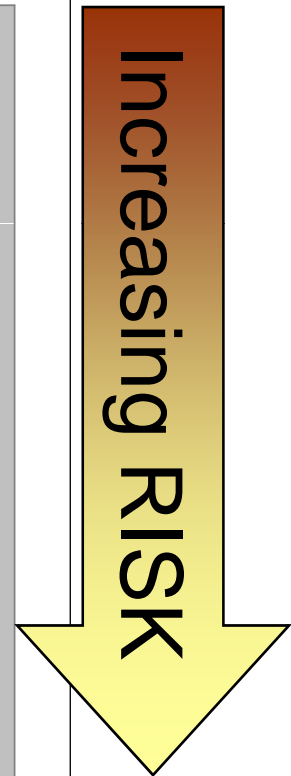
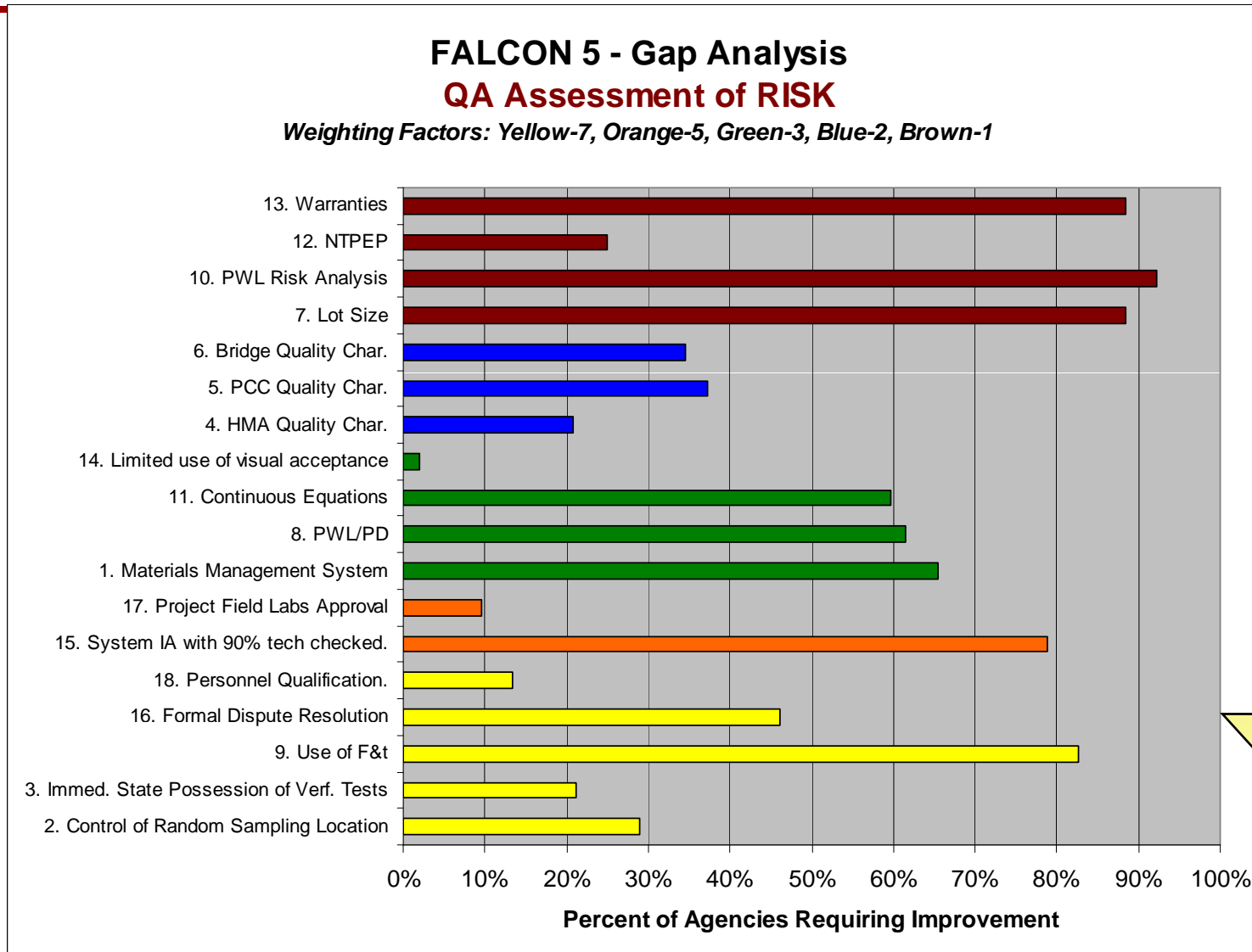
# Distribution of Rating

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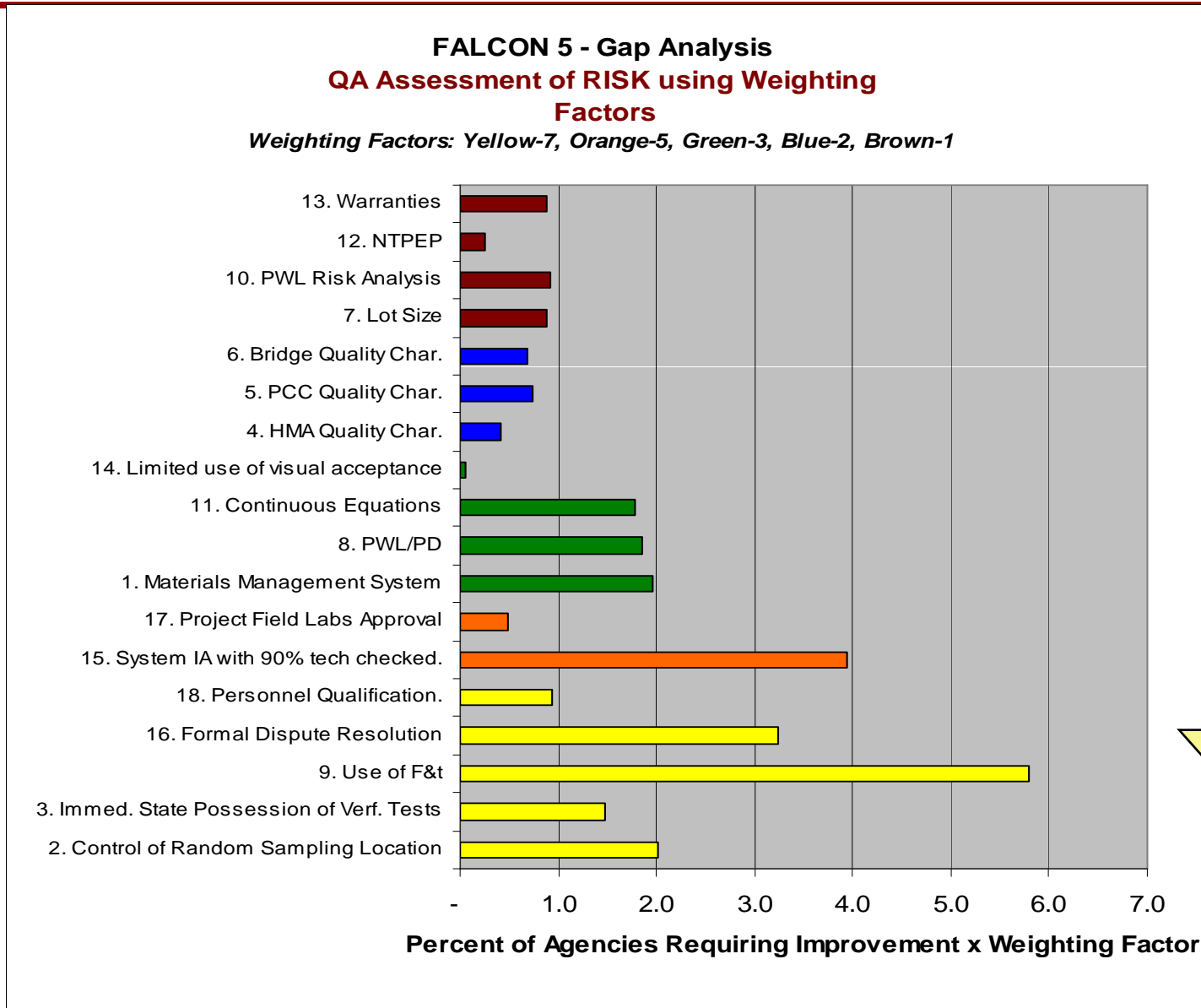
Histogram of QA System Rating - FY 2008



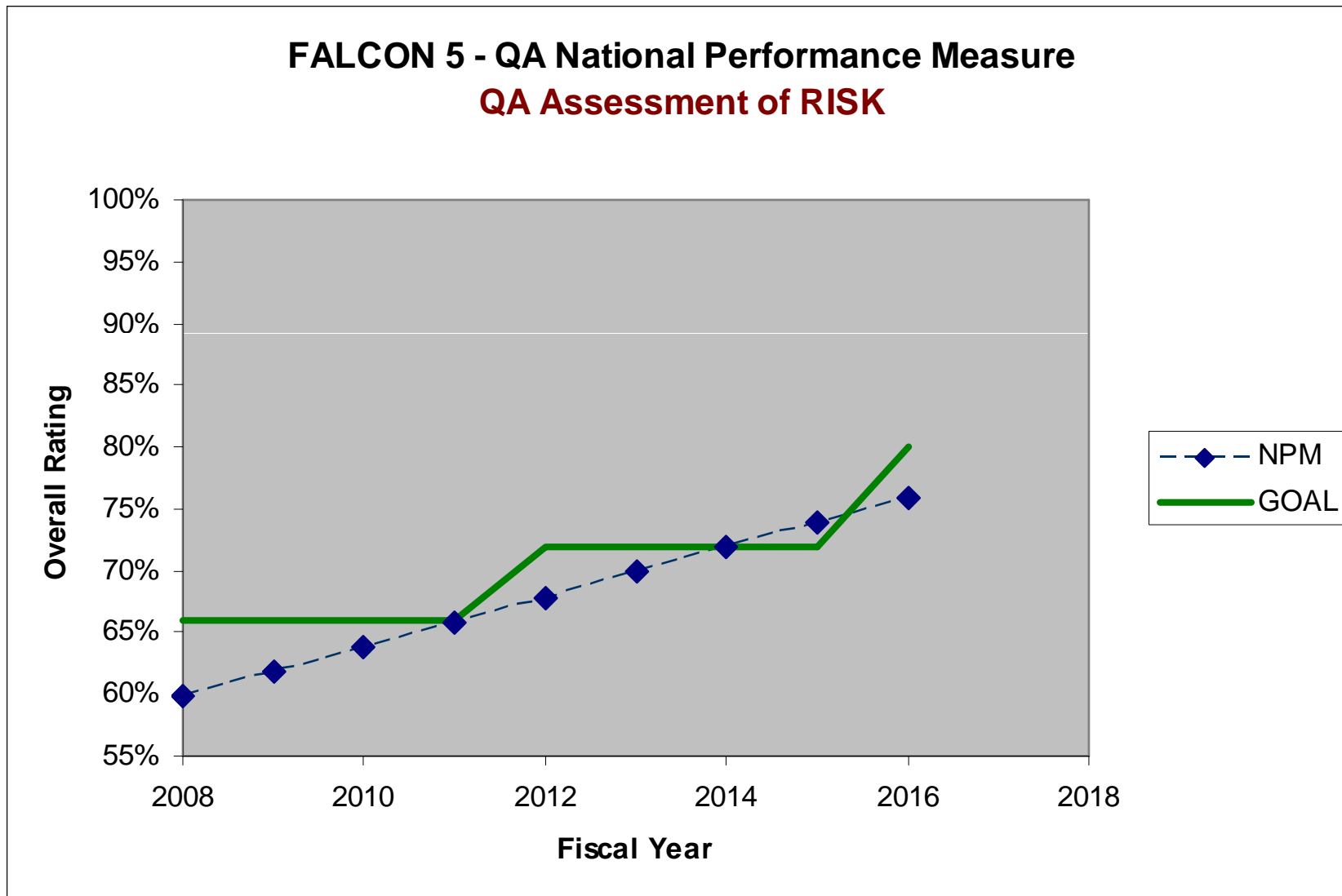
# % of Agencies Needing Advancement



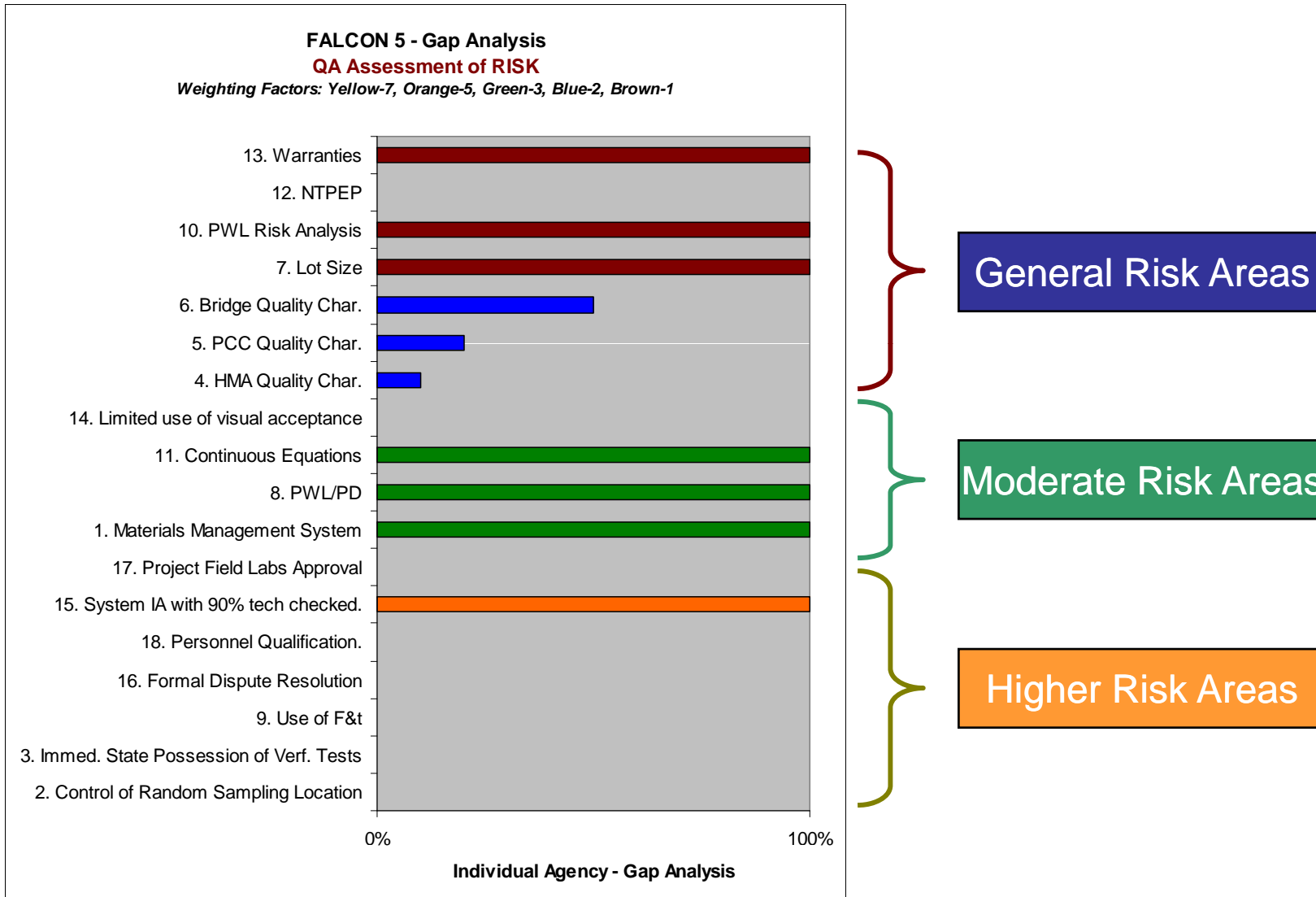
# x Weighting Factor



# National Performance Measure (SIP)



# Gaps for Average Division Office





# Activities to Address Gaps

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## Risk Areas Identified

Q-7 (Lot Size)

Q-8 (PWL/PD)

Q-9 (F & t tests)

Q-10 (Risk Analysis)

Q-11 (Continuous Pay Equations)

Q-15 (System AI 90% tech checked)

Q-16 (Formal Dispute Resolution)

## Products & Services

PWL Workshop

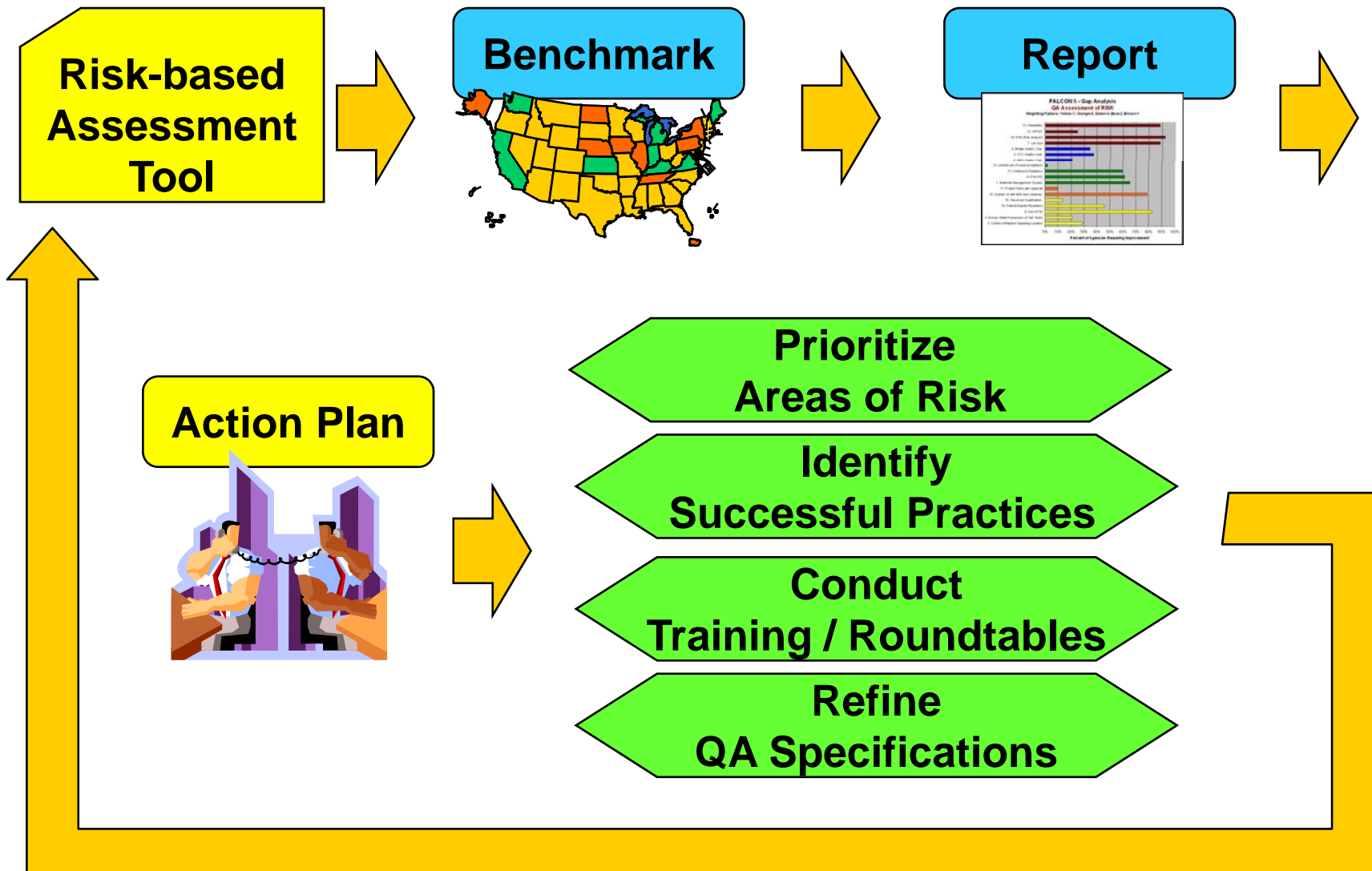
SpecRisk Workshop

Topical web-based manual on Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance for Field Engineers training course

Provide Examples of **SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES**

# Risk-based Process





# Intelligent Construction Systems

Reducing Risk  
100% Sampling  
Link to PMS

# Intelligent Compactors

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*(aka Smart Rollers)*

- Soils and Asphalt
- Intelligent
  - Measures a parameter that relates to performance (density/stiffness)
  - Adjusts compaction effort based on measure response
  - Provides real-time graphical information
  - Records response tied to location (GPS)





# HMA Compaction

Good Performing Longitudinal  
Joints are not an “Accident!”

*6 year old pavement*

© Courtesy of A Heritage Group Company

# Low Density Joint



Day after a hard rain –  
Trapped Moisture

*1 year old pavement*

® Courtesy of A Heritage Group Company

# Low Density Joint

**Premature Joint Failure**  
Joint Life = Pavement Life  
(i.e. 10 yrs vs. 15 yrs)

*10 year old pavement*

© Courtesy of A Heritage Group Company

# National RAP Expert Task Group





# HMA Asphalt Pavement Recycling Expert Task Group



Advance the use of RAP in asphalt paving applications by providing highway agencies with critical information regarding the use of RAP, technical guidance on high-RAP projects, and direction on research activities.

The members consist of representatives from highway agencies, industry, and academia.

Website: [www.ncat.us/rap/rap](http://www.ncat.us/rap/rap)

Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



# RAP Resources

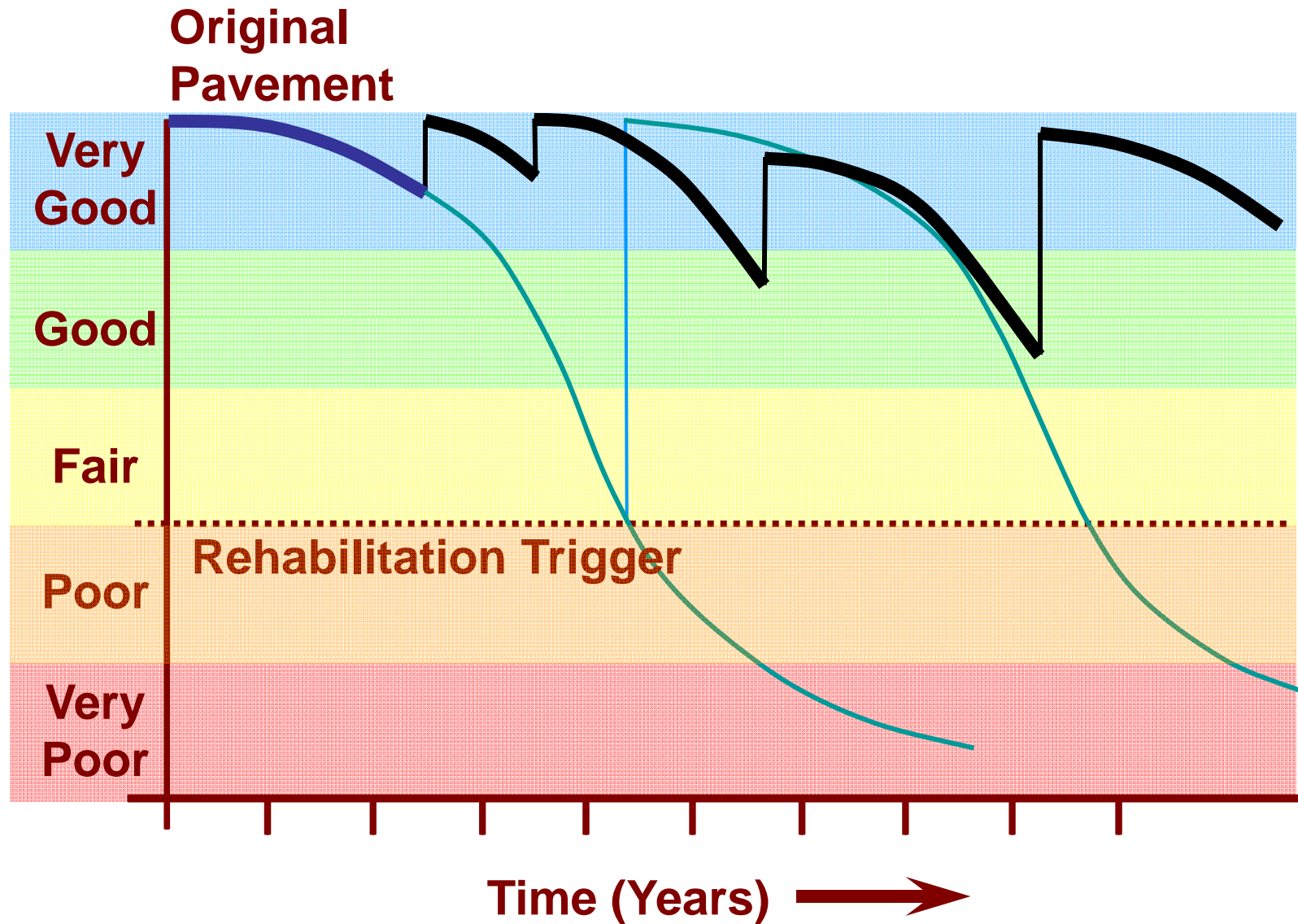
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- New Expert Task Group on High RAP
- FHWA
  - [www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/recycling](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/recycling)
- Recycled Materials Resource Center
  - [www.rmrc.unh.edu](http://www.rmrc.unh.edu)
- Green Highways Partnership
  - [www.greenhighways.org](http://www.greenhighways.org)
- FHWA R&D
  - <http://www.tfhrc.gov/hnr20/recycle/waste/index.htm>

# The Pavement Preservation Concept

Thinking about tomorrow to drive today's decisions

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# Acceptance & Construction Resources

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- FHWA: Asset Management
  - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/asstmgmt/index.htm>
- National Asphalt Pavement Association
  - <http://www.hotmix.org/>
- Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA)
  - <http://www.asphaltalliance.com/index.asp>
- Asphalt Institute
  - <http://www.asphaltinstitute.org/>
- Foundation for Pavement Preservation
  - <http://fp2.org/>

Need

Structure

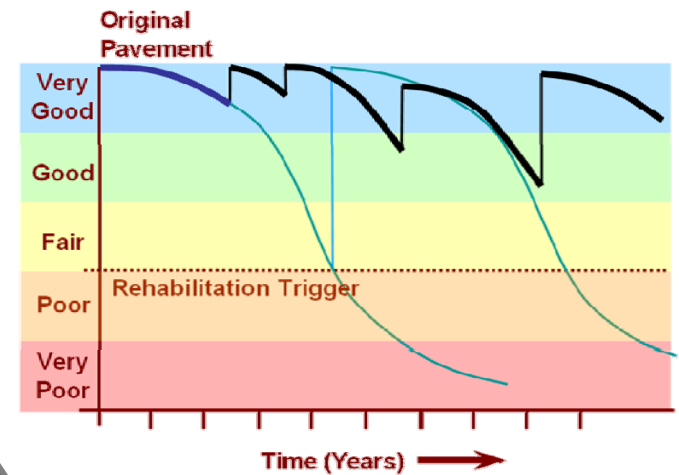
Materials

Acceptance

Construction

Preservation

# Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



15

Materials

Construction

Need

Structure

Materials

Acceptance

Construction

Preservation

# Risk and Innovation

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- Systems like Superpave reduces the Risk of poor pavement performance, and
- Are adapting to address innovative materials and other evolving technologies.

Balancing Risk & Assuring Performance



# Questions?

