



**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3050



Bob Riley  
Governor

December 8, 2006

Joe McInnes  
Transportation Director

**MATERIALS AND TESTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY 4-06**

TO: Division Engineers

FROM: Larry Lockett, P. E. *Larry Lockett*  
Materials and Tests Engineer

RE: Flushing of Shoulders on  
Resurfacing Projects

Flushing the shoulders on resurfacing projects, consists of placing borrow material on the shoulders to bring the shoulders up to the grade of the newly placed overlay.

During a recent Construction Engineers/Materials Engineers quarterly video conference, the loss of material being placed on the shoulders to flush the shoulders adjacent to the overlay was discussed.

Please be advised that when material is required to flush the shoulders adjacent to an overlay, the material that is utilized for this purpose should have suitable binder, or cohesive properties, to keep the material in-place and prevent it from being washed away during rain events. Vehicles, such as 18-wheelers, pulling off onto the material can also cause the material to be lost if it does not have suitable binder, or cohesive properties.

Simply specifying an A-4 or better material to be placed on the shoulders will not ensure that the material will not be washed away or otherwise lost. Specifying an A-4 or better material to be placed on the shoulders could result in a sandy material with no binder, or cohesive properties being used to flush the shoulders, which is undesirable.

Preferably, a soil aggregate base course type material, crushed aggregate base course, crusher run material, or other materials with binder, or cohesive properties should be used to flush the shoulders adjacent to an overlay, when required. Materials reports that are submitted for resurfacing projects should indicate the material to be used to flush the shoulders when this operation is required.

LL/GMB/jt

CC: Mr. G. M. Harper, P.E.  
Mr. Terry McDuffie, P. E.  
Mr. John Lorentson, P. E.  
Division Materials Engineers  
File