RESEARCH REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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Evaluation of the "FiberDowel" Load Transfer Device	Corrosion Proof Dowel	Bar System as a	Work Plan Construction Evaluation <u>Final</u> X	8. Project No. 9. Project No. 10. Project No.	
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14. Supplementary Notes					
15. Abstract Purpose and Need Corrosion of reinforcing causes distresses in concrete and can lead to premature failure in PCC pavement. An alternative to standard reinforcing steel needs to be looked at to prolong the life of PCC pavement.					
Objective The objective of this study will be to determine if a dowel bar composed of continuous fiberglass filaments and polyester resin will prevent faulting from recurring in jointed concrete pavement as well as serve as a corrosion free device.					
Scope In 1995, the North Dakota Department of Transportation incorporated a test section containing a corrosion proof dowel bar system called "FiberDowel" as a load Transfer Device. Test sections were incorporated into project IM-8-029(007)022. The "FiberDowel" bars will be evaluated similar to the steel dowel bars and the results of both test sections will be compared.					

Evaluating items such as monitoring of distresses around the dowel bars and non-destructive deflection testing of load transfer across the doweled joints will be evaluated annually for a period of five-years. The non-destructive deflection testing will be accomplished with the use of a falling weight deflectometer.

Summary

The retrofitting of "FiberDowel" bars as load transfer devices is similar to that of plain steel dowel bars except for the absence of epoxy coating or bond breaking material.

Post construction FWD analysis showed the joints retrofitted with plain steel dowel bars initially exhibited approximately 20% greater load transfer than the corresponding joints retrofitted with "FiberDowel" bars.

FWD analysis taken during the 1997/1998/2001 seasons indicate the joints retrofitted with plain steel dowel bars are performing well and are registering nearly twice the load transfer percentages than the corresponding joints retrofitted with "FiberDowel" bars.

Recommendation

The use of "FiberDowel" bars may prove to be less corrosive over time. However, the loss of load transfer experienced when compared to plain steel dowel bars coupled with significantly higher costs far outweigh any advantages. It is not recommended that "FiberDowel" bars be used as an option on dowel bar retrofit projects.

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