

Elmore County Gets Innovative

The county repairs miles of distressed roadway annually with an "Asphalt Zipper" using cement.



The Road Recycled

Full Depth Reclamation with Cement

Innovative

In Elmore County, deteriorated roads are being recycled with a new type of roadway reclaimer that attaches to a front-end loader. In May of 2005 the Elmore County Highway Department purchased an AZ 300 Asphalt Zipper. The AZ 300 is being used to reclaim a depth of 8" and a width of 30".

"We were searching for a cost effective way to reconstruct the base in small stretches on our many miles of county roads. Most of our base problems are associated with weak material that has been exposed to moisture. These areas are mainly relegated to the outside wheel path. The reclaiming attachment we found is ideal for reclaiming this type of failure. We are fortunate that the Elmore County Commission was willing to venture outside the box and purchase this piece of equipment," stated Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer.

When asked why cement was being used, Beyer stated "We tried other products and determined that the cement performed best and allowed us to reopen the road faster. We purchase it locally and mix approximately 30 lbs per square yard. Also, the cement helped dry out some of our bases."



Elmore County dispatches three workers, a front-end loader, a motor grader, a water truck, a steel drum roller, a dump truck and the Asphalt Zipper. At the end of the day, a chip seal is placed on the repair. The process is as follows:

- Step 1. Spread the cement on the area of roadway to be recycled.**
- Step 2. Blend cement, roadway surface and base.**
- Step 3. Mix water if needed.**
- Step 4. Compact.**
- Step 5. Place chip seal.**

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