

LONG TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM DIRECTIVE



For The Technical Direction Of The LTPP Program



Program Area: DISTRESS

Directive Number: D-11

Date: 7 February 1997

Subject: Use of Distress Maps from Prior Surveys

Consistency in distress data collection is critical to the quality of the information stored in the Information Management System (IMS). The expected variability in the data collected by different personnel for the same test section can create difficulties in the interpretation of the conditions in the test section. In an effort to reduce this between rater variability and the resulting inconsistencies in year to year data for a test section, the following policy is established.

Raters assigned to perform a manual survey on an LTPP test section will obtain a copy of the distress map made during the most recent prior survey. (This map will have undergone office review and discrepancies/questions resolved before it is made available.)

The prior survey map will be used by the rater for (1) familiarization with the types, severity and quantities of distresses, (2) determining the limits of the survey, and (3) determining the location of the wheel-paths.

The rater will then independently map the test section; a new map, not an edited version of the prior map, will be drawn.

The intent of this process is to promote consistency, not to perpetuate errors. The rater must note disagreements with the prior map information and bring any such issues to the attention of the office reviewer for resolution. Inconsistencies with prior surveys should also be documented by video or photographs.

Any questions regarding this directive should be submitted to the FHWA Pavement Performance Division with a copy to the LTPP Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC).

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