



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

6300 Georgetown Pike  
McLean, Virginia 22101-2296

Subject: ACTION: LTPP Directive GO-38  
LTPP Pavement Performance Monitoring Adjustments  
(Supersedes LTPP Directive GO-21, D-27)

Date: March 17, 2006

From: Jack H. Springer  
Highway Research Engineer

Reply to  
Attn of: HRDI-13

To: Mr. Frank Meyer, LTPP North Atlantic Regional Contract  
and LTPP North Central Regional Contract  
Mr. Kevin Senn, LTPP Western Regional Contract  
Mr. Mark Gardner, LTPP Southern Regional Contract

Attached is LTPP Directive GO-38, LTPP Pavement Performance Monitoring Adjustments. This directive should be transmitted to all appropriate personnel as soon as possible. This directive supersedes directive GO-21 and D-27.

If you have any questions concerning this transmittal, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 493-3144.

Attachment

FHWA:HRDI-13:JSpringer:mad:493-3144:3/14/06

File: mdeeney/directives/GO-38.doc

cc:

A. Lopez, HRDI-13  
J. Springer, HRDI-13  
LTPP Staff  
G. Rada, TSSC  
Directive File  
Official File (120.26)  
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# LONG TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM DIRECTIVE



*For the Technical Direction of the LTPP Program*

**Program Area:** General Operations

**Directive Number:** GO-38

**Date:** March 17, 2006

**Supersedes:** GO-21, D-27

**Subject:** LTPP Pavement Performance Monitoring Adjustments

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## **Introduction**

This directive presents pavement performance monitoring adjustments intended to optimize use of available LTPP program resources under the SAFETEA-LU legislation. The basis for these adjustments is to focus LTPP monitoring resources on the four major pavement families that comprise the majority of test sections in the LTPP program.

The four major pavement families are:

- **New HMA pavements.** Test sections in the GPS-1, GPS-2, SPS-1, SPS-8 (Flexible), and SPS-9 (New Construction) experiments.
- **New Jointed Plain Concrete Pavements.** Test sections in the GPS-3, SPS-2 and SPS-8 (Rigid) experiments.
- **HMA Overlays on HMA pavements.** Test sections in the GPS-6, SPS-5, and SPS-9 (Overlay) experiments.
- **HMA Overlays on PCC pavements.** Test sections in the GPS-7 and SPS-6 experiments.

## **Test Section Monitoring using SAFETEA-LU LTPP Funds**

Monitoring of LTPP test sections using LTPP program funds during the 2006-2008 time period will be considered under the following conditions:

1. Pavement sections currently classified as active in the GPS-1, GPS-2, GPS-3, GPS-6, GPS-7, SPS-1, SPS-2, SPS-5, SPS-6, SPS-8, or SPS-9 experiments.
2. Acceptable traffic monitoring measurements have been performed in the past, are currently being performed, or the site is currently included in the pooled fund study on SPS traffic monitoring. Acceptable means that some portion of the traffic data has passed the LTPP data quality checks and the results are contained in the LTPP Pavement Performance Database.
3. The highway agency is expected to provide needed LTPP traffic control, traffic data, and general administrative support for their test sections.
4. The highway agency has actively supported LTPP needs in the past by supplying requested rehabilitation, maintenance, and materials data and site support.

5. Supplemental test sections on approved SPS project sites represent the standard agency pavement design structure for the facility.
6. The incremental cost to monitor a test section not listed in a previous category while performing measurements on other test sections is minimal, and the monitoring provides useful information. Monitoring of sections not listed in item 1 above will require written approval by FHWA LTPP staff.

Region Support Contractors shall provide an initial list of eligible test sections by April 14, 2006 to FHWA for review and written approval. RSCs can submit updates and changes to the approved list, but all test section monitoring must be pre-approved by LTPP FHWA management.

### **SAFETEA-LU LTPP Funded Monitoring**

1. All pavement-monitoring measurements performed using LTPP program funds under SAFETEA-LU funding shall be completed prior to January 1, 2009.
2. One manual distress and profile measurement shall be performed on approved test sections **initially** classified in the SPS-1, SPS-2, SPS-5, SPS-6 and SPS-8 experiments.
3. Profile measurements on non-approved sections co-located with approved monitoring sites may be measured and processed with data collected on the approved sections.
4. Approved test sections currently classified in the GPS-1, GPS-2, GPS-3, GPS-6 (except 6A), GPS-7 (except 7A) and SPS-9 experiments may be monitored according to the following criteria:
  - a. A manual distress measurement may be performed if a manual distress measurement has not been performed after 2004.
  - b. A profile measurement may be performed if a measurement has not been performed after 2004.
  - c. The incremental cost to monitor the section is minimal, and the data collection activity provides useful information.
5. Monitoring measurements on other sites shall be pre-approved by FHWA.
6. Test section coordinate location measurements using Global Positioning System (GPS) units shall be made in accordance with LTPP Directive GO-34. Measurements should be performed at test sections located along or adjacent to the RSC travel route to approved monitoring locations and at other locations approved by FHWA. By this directive, the completion date for GO-34 activities is changed to "prior to January 2009."
7. Deflection measurements using LTPP program funds shall not be performed unless pre-approved by FHWA.
8. A Form RI-1 should be completed by the Agency or the RSC to document when a test section or project site is taken out of service due to application of overlay, surface treatment, or reconstruction activity. This includes all LTPP test sections regardless of the disposition of future monitoring activities.

## Highway Agency Funded Pavement Performance Monitoring

In the event that a highway agency chooses to support continued performance monitoring at test sections, the data may be included as part of the LTPP data set under the following conditions:

- Data must be collected in accordance with all applicable LTPP data collection protocols, directives, guidelines and procedures
- Data must be collected using LTPP approved equipment and personnel.
- Data collection must be completed prior to January 1, 2009.

Under these conditions the state would be required to fund data collection, processing, and database entry services. These services will be funded through a direct agreement between the agency and contractor, without any expressed or implied warrants on the FHWA LTPP office or its employees. FHWA approval must be obtained for entry of this data into the LTPP database.

### Test Section Out of Study Classification

Out of study classification of a test section or project site means that program funds will no longer be expended to collect or process new data for inclusion in the LTPP database.

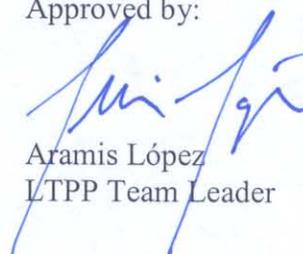
1. All test sections classified in the GPS-6A, GPS-7A, GPS-9, SPS-3, SPS-4, and SPS-7 experiments shall be taken out of study effective the date of this directive. The required paperwork shall be completed by the end of June 2006.
2. Test sections should be taken out of study if any of the following occur:
  - a. A highway agency notifies the RSC or the FHWA LTPP office that they will no longer provide data collection support.
  - b. A rehabilitation, reconstruction, or resurfacing construction event occurs prior to January 1, 2009.
  - c. The RSC knows of some condition that warrants an out of study recommendation, and the FHWA approves the recommendation.

### Active Test Section Classification

Test sections not placed out of study, including those classified in the GPS-4 and GPS-5 experiments, will maintain an active status in the LTPP database through the end of the SAFTEA-LU legislation, or until an activity occurs resulting in the placement of the section out of study as defined above. As active test sections, RSCs should encourage agencies to maintain the integrity of site signs and markings, and notify RSC staff of intended maintenance or rehabilitation activities. As resources allow, post-2008 data collection, processing, and entry into the LTPP database activities at active test sections may be considered.

Prepared by: TSSC

Approved by:



Aramis López  
LTPP Team Leader