Removing Existing Pavement (Concrete Pavement Repairs)

This construction advisory serves as a reminder to construction engineers and staff of the specification requirements for removal of existing concrete pavement as it relates to disturbing the aggregate base.

Inadequate support, as a result of the loss of density of the base material during pavement removal, is suspected to be a factor which is contributing to premature failure of in-service concrete pavement repairs.

There have been many reported cases where the contractor’s methods for removal of the existing concrete pavement in preparation for full-depth repairs have resulted in excessive disturbance of the existing underlying aggregate base course.

Subsection 603.03.B.1.b of the Standard Specifications for Construction states: “Except for utility cuts, install lifting devices in the slab. Lift the slab without disturbing the base.”

Standard Plans Series R-44-F describes the sawing diagram and lift pin details for removing old slabs.

All efforts should be made to not disturb the aggregate base material during removal of the existing concrete pavement and preparation of the site for concrete placement. If the base is disturbed, the contractor should be instructed to restore it to the required density and elevation. Depending on the severity of disturbance, this may require that the contractor install and compact additional base course aggregate. The department will not pay separately for this work required to correct these deficiencies as a result of the contractors operations.

Please share this information with all of your construction staff and consultants within your area.