

TENNESSEE VOL. 23, NO. 1 SPRING 2009

# CONCRETE

MAGAZINE



Inside this Edition -  
**CONCRETE  
DESIGN  
AWARDS**

Five Part Series on the—

## New TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification Part 5: The Future of CLSM in Tennessee

L. K. Crouch, J. D. Self, Adam C. Walker, Jason Phillips and Alan Sparkman

### INTRODUCTION

This paper is the fifth in a five part series of technology transfer articles on the new 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification (1). We hope you find the information presented helpful in producing CLSM mixtures meeting the new specification. In the final article, the authors address the question, "What are the next steps in CLSM research and development in Tennessee?"

Table 1 shows performance-related property requirements of the 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification. Through the first four articles in the series, the authors have attempted to show that the 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification is an excellent specification for CLSM. The 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification:

- Is versatile and flexible in recognizing the need for different types of CLSM mixtures for various applications;
- Encourages innovation on the part of ready mix producers and contractors through specifying performance-related properties rather than proportions;
- Is proven and practical by being based on years of research including numerous field demonstrations and tests;
- Is rigorous and safe by requiring demonstration test trenches for EFF and ESFF CLSM mixtures prior to use;
- Fosters cooperation between government and industry since the specification was developed from research co-sponsored by TCA and members of the Tennessee concrete industry;
- Encourages sustainability by allowing byproduct supplementary cementing materials;
- Encourages sustainability by allowing high-fines screenings as aggregate;
- Is progressive and practical by specifying a cylinder capping method superior to current ASTM methods for CLSM.

What are the next steps in CLSM research and development in Tennessee? Can we develop CLSM mixtures that surpass the performance criteria from the new 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification? The following two questions explore that possibility:

1. Can air-entrained and non-air-entrained CLSM mixtures that use materials commonly available in Tennessee, develop compressive strength significantly faster than required by the 2006 TDOT 204.06 ESFF Specification?
2. Can a single CLSM mixture be developed that uses materials commonly available in Tennessee and meets the performance requirements for all three CLSM types in the 2006 TDOT 204.06 Specification?

See Table 1 below.

### RECENT PROGRESS ON CLSM MIXTURE DEVELOPMENT IN TENNESSEE

*Can air-entrained and non-air-entrained CLSM mixtures that use materials commonly available in Tennessee develop compressive strength significantly faster than required by the 2006 TDOT 204.06 ESFF Specification?*

The 2006 TDOT 204.06 ESFF Specifications were developed to minimize traffic delays due to backfilling pavement repairs. More rapid compressive strength development might further reduce traffic delays due to backfilling. Therefore, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sponsored a research project entitled "Rapid Repair of Highway and Airfield Pavement Subgrades with Controlled Low-strength Materials" at TTU. Four types of high-early strength, non-excavatable CLSM mixtures were developed in the laboratory. The first two types were air-entrained mixtures containing only Portland cement (Type I or

**TABLE 1.**  
**2006 TDOT 204.06 PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS**

Performance-Related Property	General Use	Excavatable	Early Strength
Consistency	8" min.	8" min.	8" min.
Load application (ASTM D 6024) (2)	24 hours max.	24 hours max.	6 hours max.
Air content, if air entrained (ASTM D 6023) (3)		30% max.	30% max.
Compressive Strength @ 24 hours (ASTM D 4832)* (4)			30-psi min.
Compressive Strength @ 28 days (ASTM D 4832)*		30-psi min.	
Compressive Strength @ 98 days (ASTM D 4832)*		140-psi max.	

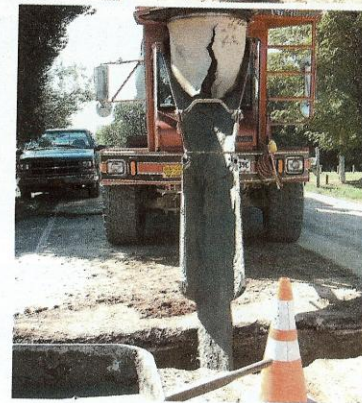
\*May use 4x8 inch cylinder molds; preferred capping method is wet-suit neoprene in rigid retainers.

III) as cementing material modified with chemical admixtures; the third type was a sustainable non-air-entrained mixture that contained only Class C fly ash as the cementing agent modified with chemical admixtures. The final type was identical to the third except that fifty percent of the fine aggregate volume was replaced by ASTM No. 67 coarse aggregate for increased stiffness. Each type was produced with a different primary repair purpose in mind using three different fine aggregates so that the vast majority of PCC producers could make use of the mixtures. The primary purpose of each mixture type is shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2.**  
**FHWA LIGHTNING CLSM MIXTURE PRIMARY PURPOSES**

FHWA CLSM Mixture Type	Primary Purpose
Lightning Versatile	Widely Available Rapid Subgrade Repair
Lightning T3	Cold Weather (Down to 40°F) Rapid Subgrade Repair
Lightning Sustainable	"Green" Rapid Subgrade Repair
Lightning Coarse Sustainable	"Green" Rapid Base Repair

The proportions for FHWA Lightning CLSM Mixtures are shown in Tables 3(a) through 3(d). Plastic properties of the FHWA Lightning CLSM Mixtures and a ZOOM! comparison mixture as well as TDOT 204.06 ESFF requirements are shown in Table 4. Compressive strength development of the FHWA Lightning CLSM Mixtures and a ZOOM! comparison mixture as well as TDOT 204.06 ESFF requirements are shown in Table 5. All FHWA Lightning CLSM Mixtures met 2006 TDOT 204.06 TDOT plastic property requirements and have at least triple the compressive strength of the ZOOM! CLSM Mixture at 6 hours. Lightning is a giant leap forward in CLSM technology.



**TABLE 3(A).**  
**FHWA LIGHTNING VERSATILE LABORATORY CLSM MIXTURES AND ZOOM! COMPARISON MIXTURE**

Component	Lightning Versatile River Sand	Lightning Versatile High-fines Limestone Screenings	Lightning Versatile Limestone Manufactured Sand	TDOT River Sand ESFF (ZOOM!)
Type I PC (lbs/CY)	450	450	450	300
Water (lbs/CY)	315	383	315	317
Fine Aggregate (lbs/CY)	2097	2182	2170	2425
Air-entrainer (oz/CY)	3	3	3	70
HRWR (oz/CY)	7	7	7	30
WR Accelerator (oz/CY)	450	450	450	225

**TABLE 3(B).**  
**FHWA LIGHTNING T3 LABORATORY CLSM MIXTURES**

Component	Lightning T3 River Sand	Lightning T3 High-fines Limestone Screenings	Lightning T3 Limestone Manufactured Sand
Type III PC (lbs/CY)	450	450	450
Water (lbs/CY)	315	383	315
Fine Aggregate (lbs/CY)	2097	2182	2170
Air-entrainer (oz/CY)	3	3	3
HRWR (oz/CY)	7	7	7
WR Accelerator (oz/CY)	450	450	450

**TABLE 3(C).  
FHWA LIGHTNING SUSTAINABLE LABORATORY CLSM MIXTURES**

Component	Lightning Sustainable River Sand	Lightning Sustainable High-fines Limestone Screenings	Lightning Sustainable Limestone Manufactured Sand
Class C Fly Ash (lbs/CY)	1011	1137	1095
Water (lbs/CY)	364	387	383
Fine Aggregate (lbs/CY)	2411	2320	2360
HRWR (oz/CY)	30	34	33
WR Retarder (oz/CY)	20	23	22

**TABLE 3(D).  
FHWA LIGHTNING COARSE SUSTAINABLE LABORATORY CLSM MIXTURES**

Component	Lightning Coarse Sustainable River Sand	Lightning Coarse Sustainable High-fines Limestone Screenings	Lightning Coarse Sustainable Limestone Manufactured Sand
Class C Fly Ash (lbs/CY)	910	1137	1095
Water (lbs/CY)	319	284	328
Fine Aggregate (lbs/CY)	1314	1300	1255
ASTM No. 67 (lbs/CY)	1373	1304	1266
HRWR (oz/CY)	0	34	16
WR Retarder (oz/CY)	18	23	22



*"Serving the South Since 1943"*

[www.southernconcrete.com](http://www.southernconcrete.com)

**Corporate Office: 731-968-8394**  
**PO Box 1090 • Lexington, TN 38351**




*Radio Dispatched GPS Trucks  
For Fast Dependable Service*



Bolivar	(731) 658-6105
Dyer	(731) 692-3462
Humboldt	(731) 784-5696
Henderson	(731) 989-9723
Jackson	(731) 422-3358
Lexington	(731) 968-2537
Milan	(731) 686-2288
Oakland	(901) 465-6611
Paris	(731) 642-6672
Sardis, MS	(662) 487-1635
Union City	(731) 885-7060

*"Building the South with top quality ready mix concrete & masonry products at a reasonable price."*

PORTLAND CEMENT | SLAG CEMENT | BLENDED CEMENTS | MASONRY & MORTAR CEMENTS | FLY ASH | SPECIALTY CEMENTS




## and Sustainability

**Lafarge believes sustainability can be a competitive advantage.**  
A member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Lafarge works with other industry leaders to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible and healthy places to live and work.

Increasingly, Lafarge products, including our recycled content materials and blended cements, are playing a central role in sustainable architecture and construction — projects built under the Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Program (LEED).

We are proud to serve TN, KY, IN, IL, MO, AR and MS. For more information please contact the Mid-South Sales Office @ 1-800-707-0001 or visit us online at [lafarge-na.com](http://lafarge-na.com) Thank you for your business!

**Materials for Building our World**



© 2009 Lafarge North America Inc. Herndon, VA

**TABLE 4.**  
**PLASTIC PROPERTIES OF LABORATORY FHWA LIGHTNING CLSM MIXTURES AND ZOOM! COMPARISON MIXTURE**

Component	Flow (Inches)	Air Content (%)	Unit Weight (pcf)
Lightning Versatile River Sand	9.3	16	118
Lightning Versatile Limestone Screenings	13	20	113
Lightning Versatile Limestone Manufactured Sand	11.3	20	116
Lightning T3 River Sand	9	17	116
Lightning T3 Limestone Screenings	8.3	15	121
Lightning T3 Limestone Manufactured Sand	10.3	16	121
Lightning Sustainable River Sand	15.8	Non-AE	139
Lightning Sustainable Limestone Screenings	10.8	Non-AE	142
Lightning Sustainable Limestone Manufactured Sand	13.8	Non-AE	134
Lightning Coarse Sustainable River Sand	10	Non-AE	146
Lightning Coarse Sustainable Limestone Screenings	8.8	Non-AE	147
Lightning Coarse Sustainable LS Manufactured Sand	10.8	Non-AE	146
TDOT River Sand ESFF (ZOOM!)	8.5	26	105
TDOT 204.06 ESFF Requirements	≥8	≤30	

**TABLE 5.**  
**COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH DEVELOPMENT (IN PSI) OVER TIME OF LABORATORY FHWA LIGHTNING CLSM MIXTURES AND ZOOM! COMPARISON MIXTURE**

Component	4 Hours	6 Hours	24 Hours	28 Days
Versatile River Sand	59	135	537	1145
Versatile Limestone Screenings	44	89	384	846
Versatile Limestone Manufactured Sand	68	129	497	1007
T3 River Sand	61	171	814	1186
T3 Limestone Screenings	66	201	687	1300
T3 Limestone Manufactured Sand	151	359	831	1436
Sustainable River Sand	28	30	293	1125
Sustainable Limestone Screenings	29	36	224	1284
Sustainable Limestone Manufactured Sand	28	31	301	1254
Coarse Sustainable River Sand	39	47	446	1694
Coarse Sustainable Limestone Screenings	50	61	646	3303
Coarse Sustainable LS Manufactured Sand	43	48	426	2310
TDOT River Sand ESFF (ZOOM!)	NA	10	71	299
TDOT 204.06 ESFF Requirements			≥30	

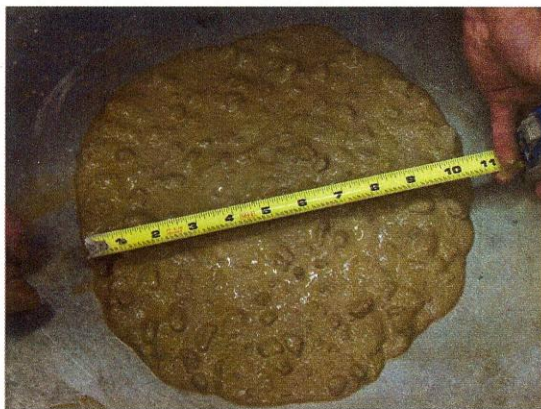
\*Correlations show that compressive strengths greater than 6.1 PSI yields a good chance of passing the suitability for load application test

“Rapid Repair of Highway and Airfield Pavement Subgrades with Controlled Low-strength Materials” was an extensive two year project. Presentation of all the results from this study is beyond the scope of this article; however, listed below are a few of the project highlights. The authors recommend that for additional information the readers refer to “Very Early Strength, Non-excavatable CLSM” by J. D. Self (5). Project highlights include:

- Lightning Versatile CLSM was field tested in Cookeville, TN in August 2007 (with Irving Materials, Inc.’s assistance) and continues to perform well as a subgrade repair.
- Lightning T3 CLSM achieved a compressive strength of 6.2-psi in 4.5-hours at an ambient temperature between 37 and 40°F and a CLSM temperature of 45°F (with pre-cooled ingredients) in the laboratory.

- Lightning Sustainable CLSM showed that ligno-sulfate based retarders could stop flash set of Class C fly ash only binders and still allow high early compressive strengths. Further, CLSM binders could be extremely ‘green’ and need not contain Portland cement.
- Lightning Coarse Sustainable CLSM (see Figure 1) showed that a CLSM containing coarse aggregate could achieve adequate flow without segregation and provide substantially higher California Bearing Ratio and static modulus of elasticity values needed for rapid base repair applications.

**FIGURE 1.**  
**FHWA LIGHTNING COARSE SUSTAINABLE**  
**LABORATORY FLOW TEST**



**CURRENT CLSM MIXTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR TENNESSEE**

*Can a Single CLSM Mixture Design be Developed Using Commonly Available Tennessee Materials that Meets the Performance Requirements for All Three 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Types?*

The 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification correctly recognizes the need for different CLSM mixture types for differ-

ent applications. However, some concrete industry personnel as well as Cookeville and Clarksville municipal officials have expressed a desire for a universal CLSM mixture, a mixture that meets the requirements for all three 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM types. Reviewing Table 1 shows that any CLSM meeting EFF or ESFF requirements also meets ‘General Use’ requirements. Therefore, it is only necessary to develop an ESFF/EFF mixture to meet the requirements of all three CLSM types. An excavatable, rapid-set, early strength CLSM mixture might be ideal for backfilling utility cuts across pavements that may need to be re-excavated for repairs at a later time.

TTU researchers have approached the rapid-set, early strength, excavatable challenge from both directions by:

1. Attempting to increase the early compressive strength development of an EFF mixture;
2. Attempting to limit the later compressive strength of an ESFF mixture.

Walker (6) did the initial work on attempting to increase the early strength of Class C fly ash binder EFF. Subsequent TTU research assistants Ryan Hewitt and Ben Byard continued and refined Walker’s work. Self and Phillips successfully produced a few Class C fly ash binder CLSM mixtures that met both 2006 TDOT 204.06 EFF and ESFF compressive strength and flow requirements in the lab. Self and Phillips also began work on limiting the later compressive strength of air-entrained PC binder ESFF mixture. The air-entrained PC binder CLSM mixture meets ESFF requirements and is close to meeting the 98-day EFF compressive strength requirement of 140-psi maximum. Plastic properties and compressive strength development, as well as 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM performance-related property requirements, are shown in Tables 6(a) and 6(b), respectively. Proportions for the two attempts at ESFF/EFF mixtures are not provided since these mixtures are still in development and unproven in the field.

**TABLE 6(A).**  
**PLASTIC PROPERTIES OF THE BEST TTU LABORATORY ATTEMPTS TO PRODUCE A 2006 TDOT 204.06**  
**ESFF/EFF MIXTURE**

Component	Flow (Inches)	Load Application (Hours)	Gravimetric Air Content (%)
Non-air-entrained Class C Fly Ash / River Sand ESFF/EFF	10.5	Not Available	Not AE
Air-entrained PC / River Sand ESFF/EFF	8.8	Not Available	29.7
TDOT 2006 204.06 General Use Requirements	≥8	≤24	-
TDOT 2006 204.06 EFF Requirements	≥8	≤24	≤30 if AE
TDOT 2006 204.06 ESFF Requirements	≥8	≤6	≤30 if AE

**TABLE 6(B).  
COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH DEVELOPMENT (IN PSI) OVER TIME OF THE BEST TTU LABORATORY  
ATTEMPTS TO PRODUCE A 2006 TDOT 204.06 ESFF/EFF MIXTURE**

Component	6 Hours*	24 Hours	28 Days	98 Days
Non-air-entrained Class C Fly Ash / River Sand ESFF/EFF	19	41	84	68
Air-entrained PC / River Sand ESFF/EFF	8	46	131	155
TDOT 204.06 General Use Requirements	-	-	-	-
TDOT 2006 204.06 ESFF Requirements	-	≥30	-	-
TDOT 2006 204.06 EFF Requirements	-	-	≥30	≤140

Fails to meet TDOT EFF 98-day compressive strength requirement of 140-psi maximum

\*Correlations show that compressive strengths greater than 6.1-psi yield a good chance of passing the suitability for load application test;

#### FUTURE CLSM RESEARCH AT TTU

TTU researchers are also continuing to pursue ESFF/EFF CLSM mixture design research. In April 2008, further development and field testing were proposed to TDOT and TCA; both organizations are currently considering the merit of the proposed research.

#### SUMMARY

The 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM Specification is an excellent example of what can be done when government, industry and academia cooperate. Recent additional progress includes:

1. The development of non-air-entrained and air-entrained CLSM mixtures that use materials commonly available in Tennessee and develop compressive strength significantly faster than required by the 2006 TDOT 204.06 ESFF Specifications;
2. A single CLSM mixture design can be developed using commonly available Tennessee materials that meets the performance requirements for all three 2006 TDOT 204.06 CLSM types.

#### REFERENCES

Tennessee Department of Transportation, **Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction (Section 204.06 and 903.01(f))**, March 1, 2006.

ASTM D 6024-96, "Standard Test Method for Ball Drop on Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM) To Determine Suitability for Load Application," **1998 Annual Book of ASTM Standards**, V.04.09, ASTM, Philadelphia, 1998, pp. 923-925.

ASTM D 6023-96, "Standard Test Method for Unit Weight, Yield, Cement Content, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM)," **1998 Annual Book of ASTM Standards**, V.04.09, ASTM, Philadelphia, 1998, pp. 919-922.

ASTM D 4832-95, "Standard Test Method for Preparation and Testing of Controlled Low Strength Material Test Cylinders,"

**2000 Annual Book of ASTM Standards**, V.04.08, ASTM, Philadelphia, 2000, pp. 896-899.

Self, J. D., **Very Early Strength Non-Excavatable CLSM**, Master of Science Thesis, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN, May 2008.

Walker, Adam C., **Controlled Low Strength Material: Effects of Class C Fly Ash**, Master of Science Thesis, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN, December 2004.

#### DISCLAIMERS

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Highway Administration.

The opinions and assertions contained herein are the private ones of the authors and are not to be construed as reflecting the official views of the Department of Defense or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

#### PROJECT SUPPORT

This material is based upon work supported by the Federal Highway Administration under cooperative agreement No. DTFH61-06-H-00012.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the support and assistance provided by TTU faculty, Dr. Benjamin Mohr and Dr. Sharon Huo. The technical services provided by Tim Dunn, Jeff Holmes, and Perry Melton were a valuable addition to the research project, as was the assistance of TTU students Ryan Hewitt, Ben Byard, and Kristen Hood. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Tennessee Technological University. We sincerely appreciate the materials provided by Rinker Materials, Irving Materials, Inc., Robert C. Fuller of W.R. Grace Admixtures, Larry Clouse and Denny Lind of BASF Admixtures, Inc., Francis Lennox

—Continued on page 31

## NEW TDOT SPECS, Part 5

Continued from page 27—

and Tom Wahl of Buzzzi Unicem, Joe Diedrich of Cemex, and Russell Stapp of Headwaters, Inc. We sincerely appreciate the technical assistance provided by Robert C. Fuller of W.R. Grace Admixtures and Larry Clouse and Denny Lind of BASF Admixtures, Inc.. We also gratefully acknowledge the financial support, financial project management, and computer assistance of the TTU Center for Energy Systems Research.


### AUTHOR INFORMATION

L. K. Crouch, Ph.D., P.E. is a professor of Civil Engineering at Tennessee Technological University.

J. D. Self, E.I. is a structural engineer with Pro2Serve, Inc., and a former TTU graduate research assistant.

Adam C. Walker, E.I. is a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District and a former TTU graduate research assistant.

Jason Phillips, E.I. is a Master of Science candidate in Civil Engineering at Tennessee Technological University.

Alan Sparkman is the executive director of the Tennessee Concrete Association. 

## Info Link

SPRING 2009 VOL. 23, NO. 1

American Geothermal, Inc. ....9	Grace Construction Products ...4
BB&T .....31	IMI .....2
Blalock Ready Mix.....4	Lafarge North America.....24
Blue Star Ready Mix USA .....4	Mid-South Concrete, Inc. ....3
Builders Supply Company.....31	Sicalco, LTD. ....3
Carolina Stalite Company.....9	Southern Concrete .....24
Cemex Knoxville Plant.....4	Systems & Controls .....32
Durafiber, Inc.....3	The SEFA Group.....7
Dusty & Sons Concrete, LLC ...3	

### Builders Supply Company

"Where The Home Begins"

Ready Mix Concrete • Concrete Blocks • Building Materials

(931) 526-9704



50 Scott Avenue, Cookeville TN 3850

Fax (931) 528-8510

There's opportunity here

**BB&T**

**Expertise to help you manage your risk.  
Knowledge to help you do more.**



BB&T Insurance Services

At BB&T Cooper, Love, Jackson, Thornton & Harwell Insurance we are bond and construction insurance specialists who focus exclusively on meeting the contract and commercial insurance needs of our clients. When it comes to road building, we know the business, and your insurance needs. Contact us today to find out how to start minimizing your risk and maximizing your potential.

BB&T COOPER, LOVE, JACKSON, THORNTON & HARWELL - 4400 HARDING ROAD, SUITE 400, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
800-275-9166 OR 615-292-9000

B A N K I N G I N S U R A N C E I N V E S T M E N T S



Insurance services are provided by BB&T Insurance Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Branch Banking and Trust Company. Insurance products may not be available in all states. Insurance products are not a deposit; not FDIC insured; not guaranteed by the bank; not insured by any government agency. BBT.com © 2008 BB&T.