

# STATUS OF SKID MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN TEXAS

John F. Nixon, Texas Highway Department

•THE Texas Highway Department has recommended consideration of legislation to establish wet-weather speed limits and requirements for a minimum tread depth. In addition, television spots and movies are being prepared to inform the public of the hazards of wet-weather driving.

Highway improvement procedures being made in Texas include the following:

1. A minimum coefficient for use as a guideline for maintenance has been established, but because of liability implications it is not a construction requirement;
2. A method of skid-trailer measurement has been initiated;
3. A statewide inventory system for measuring skid coefficients was started 3 years ago;
4. Specifications that require a minimum polish value of the coarse aggregate as determined by the British accelerated polish procedure and that take into consideration the differential weight of synthetic aggregates by measuring ACP by volume in place are being used experimentally;
5. Although a construction requirement does not exist, more macrotexture is being used in the construction of pavements;
6. Procedures such as grooving, geometric design, and accident-site investigation have been initiated;
7. Stopping sight distance requirements have been increased;
8. Minimum cross-slope requirements may be increased to aid in decreasing water depth;
9. Research is under way regarding hydroplaning, vehicular operation on curves, polishing of asphaltic mixtures, concrete pavement finishing, systematic evaluation of factors affecting vehicle skidding, and cross slope and texture with regard to water depth in various intensity rainfalls;
10. The feasibility of using cost-effectiveness procedures in selecting sites to perform remedial measures directed toward reducing accidents is being studied; and
11. Methods are being studied for improving the inventory system whereby skid resistance, traffic, and accident performance records may be combined, maintained, and analyzed.