

OPENING REMARKS

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The Canadian experience in measuring road roughness began as early as 1950 for some agencies. In 1958, a special committee on pavement design and evaluation was formed under the auspices of the Canadian Good Roads Association (CGRA), which is now the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada (RTAC). All of the provincial and federal highway or transport agencies were represented on the original committee, which is still the case today. The terms of reference of the special committee in 1958 were basically concerned with developing design and performance evaluation procedures for Canadian conditions.

The special committee began by establishing a large number of inventory sections across the country and periodically measuring a variety of performance and behavior factors. A procedure for measuring present serviceability, called present performance rating (PPR), was developed. This was all going on in parallel with the AASHO Road Test, and a considerable amount of useful information was acquired from the test. In fact, CGRA had a full-time observer at the site at Ottawa, Illinois.

The studies culminated in 1965 with the publication of "A Guide to the Design of Flexible and Rigid Pavements in Canada," but the special committee continued to be very active and embarked on a series of special studies. This subsequent work, and of course much of the previous work, indicated that there was a real need for a comprehensive system of pavement design and management. As a consequence, in 1967 the development of our pavement management system was begun.

A key part of this system was the performance evaluation phase, and a subcommittee on pavement outputs measurements was formed. One of its major initial tasks was to investigate methods for acquiring mass inventory data on pavement serviceability, and of course the PCA and Mays road meters were studied.

The goal is to produce a pavement management guide for Canada that incorporates the best available practices not only in design but also in the planning, construction, and maintenance of pavements. In addition, one of the major parts of the guide will be recommended techniques for performance evaluation.