*The National Academies of* SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

#### TRB WEBINAR PROGRAM

#### Springtime Damage to Roads and Seasonal Load Limits

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:00-3:30 PM ET

## Note About Today's Webinar

Today's webinar discusses commercially available products. Inclusion in this webinar does not imply an endorsement by the Transportation Research Board or the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

#### Purpose

Discuss the background of seasonal thaw and load restrictions. The presenters will also demonstrate some of the websites transportation agencies use to allow users to check local road thawing conditions.

#### **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- Understand the reasons for thaw weakening
- Understand the need to predict a window in time during which the road will be most susceptible to damage from heavy loads.
- Understand how to predict when to restrict or limit heavy loads to reduce pavement damage to asphalt surfaced roads and to prevent resource damage caused by non-paved roads

#### **All Attendees Are Muted**

	File View Help		_ 0 @ ×	
	- Questions		51	
	Questions Log		<u> </u>	
	[Enter a question for staff]			
	- Audio			
	Audio Mode:	◯ Use Telephone ● Use Mic & Spea	akers	
	MUTED	4) 0000	00000	
	Audio Setup			
	GoToWebinar Test 2 Webinar ID: 745-284-455			
	Go	ToWebinar™		

### **Questions and Answers**

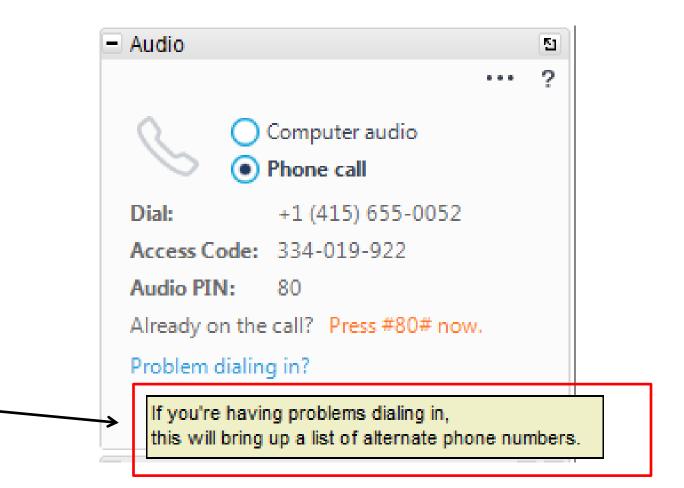
- Please type your questions into your webinar control panel
- We will read your questions out loud, and answer as many as time allows

-	File View Help	16 16	_ 0 Ø ×	
••	<ul> <li>Questions</li> </ul>		5	
•	Questions Log		•	
	[Enter a question	for staff]		
			Send	
	- Audio			
	Audio Mode:	OUse Telep ⊙Use Mic &	0.42	
	MUTED	4)	000000000	
	Audio Setup			
	GoToWebinar Test 2 Webinar ID: 745-284-455			
	<b>GoTo</b> Webinar™			

## Can't locate the GoToWebinar Control Panel?

	File View Help - C	
	Questions Log	
	[Enter a question for staff]	
Ē	- Audio	
	Audio Mode: OUse Telephone	
(	MUTED      O0000000      Audio Setup	
	GoToWebinar Test 2 Webinar ID: 745-284-455	
	<b>GoTo</b> Webinar™	

# Having Trouble Logging On?



#### **Panelists Presentations**

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/webinars/170222.pdf

After the webinar, you will receive a follow-up email containing a link to the recording

# **Today's Participants**

- David Orr, Cornell Local Roads Program NYS LTAP Center, <u>david.orr@cornell.edu</u>
- Maureen Kestler, USDA Forest Service, <u>mkestler@fs.fed.us</u>
- Tim Andersen, *Minnesota Department of Transportation*, <u>timothy.lee.andersen@state.mn.us</u>
- Gregg Larson, Applied Research Associates, glarson@ara.com



# Get Involved with TRB

- Getting involved is free!
- Join a Standing Committee (<u>http://bit.ly/2jYRrF6</u>)
  - AFP50 (Committee on Seasonal Climatic Effects on Transportation Infrastructure)
- Become a Friend of a Committee (<u>http://bit.ly/TRBcommittees</u>)
  - Best way to become a member
  - Ultimate networking opportunity
- For more information: www.mytrb.com
  - Create your account
  - Update your profile

#### 97<sup>th</sup> TRB Annual Meeting: January 7-11, 2018

#### Seasonal Load Restrictions on Low-Volume Roads; A Toolkit of Practical Low-Cost Methods for Road Managers



Maureen A. Kestler – USDA Forest Service

Review a few diagnostic techniques for placing and removing seasonal load restrictions (SLRs)

# Acknowledgments

- Gordon Hanek
- Mark Truebe
- Heather Miller
- Bob Eaton
- Dick Berg
- Chris Cabral
- Charlie Smith
- Edel Cortez
- Luke Johanneck
- Rebecca Embacher
- Bryan Steinert
- Dana Humphrey
- Gregg Larson
- David Orr
- Jo Daniel
- Rajib Mallick
- USDA Forest Service National Forests, & National Technology & Development Program
- FHWA
- USACE-ERDC-CRREL
- Cornell Local Roads Program

- UMass-Dartmouth
- UNH
- WPI
- Univ. of Maine
- NH
- ME
- VT
- MA
- CT
- RI
- AK
- ID
- WA
- MT
- IA
- MI
- ND
- WI
- MN
- MN Local Roads Research Board
- Ontario, Canada

### Outline

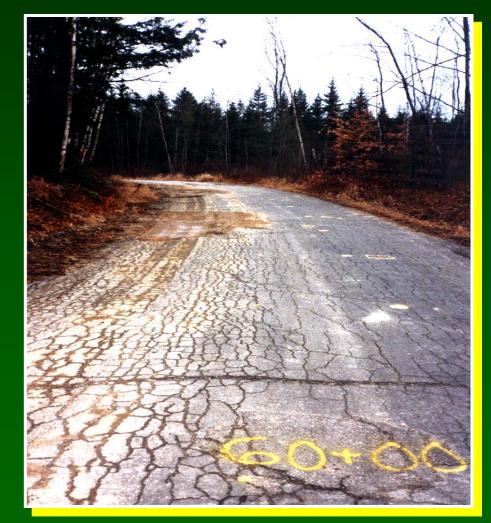
- Objectives
- Introduction / Background
- Methods for Determining Seasonal Load Restriction (SLR) Placement & Removal
  - 1. Subsurface Instrumentation
  - 2. Falling Weight and Lightweight Deflectometer (FWD, LWD)
  - 3. Mathematical Models Degree days, thaw index, numerical
  - 4. Length of Time for Duration of SLR
  - 5. Combinations
- Summary

### Introduction

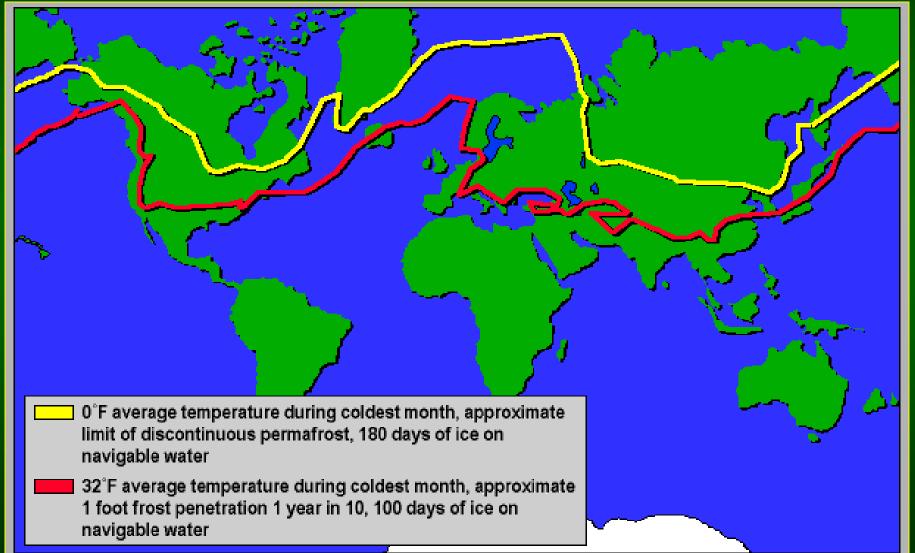
- Objectives of using SLRs
  - Asphalt-surfaced
    - Extend pavement life
    - Reduce maintenance cost
  - Gravel-surfaced and unsurfaced
    - Environmental: enhance stream quality / sediment reduction
    - Reduce maintenance cost
- Optimize timing of SLR placement and removal to strike a balance between reducing road damage and maximizing local economies

#### Introduction

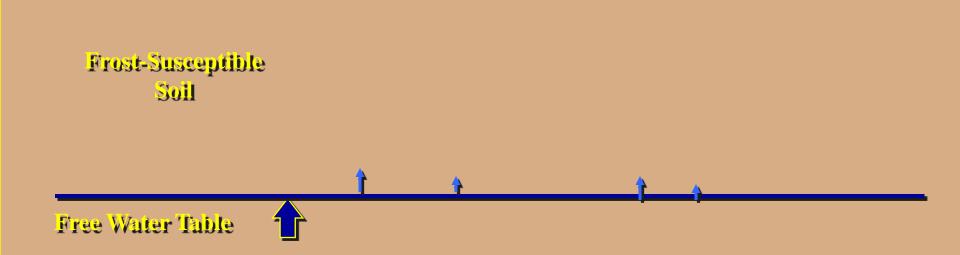
Approximately half of the low volume roads in the U.S. are in seasonal frost areas

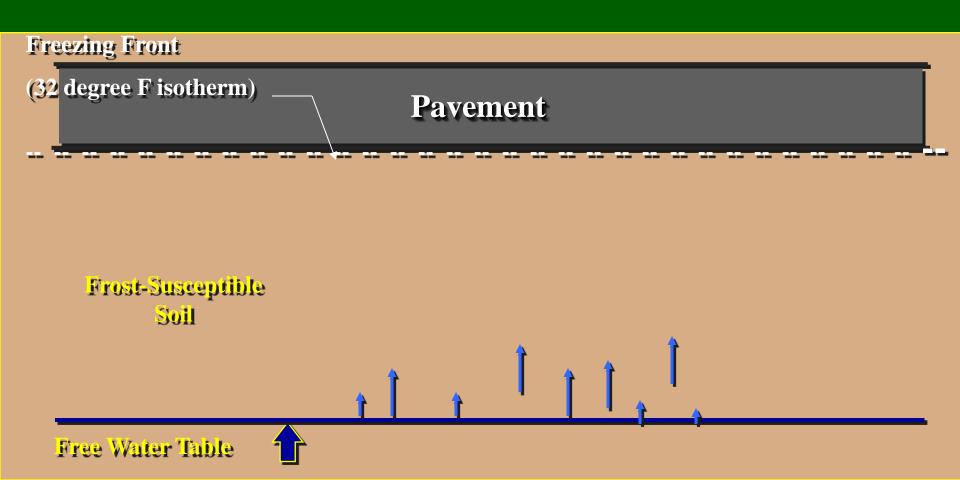


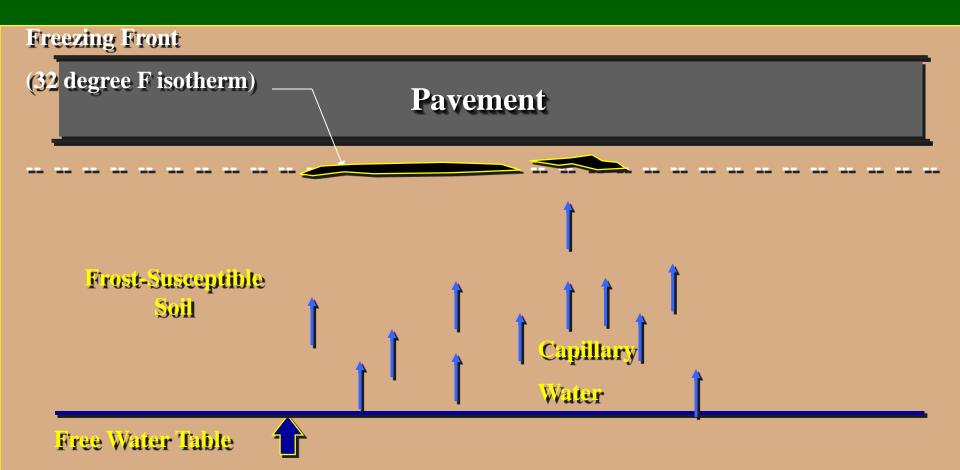
# Introduction – Seasonal Frost Areas

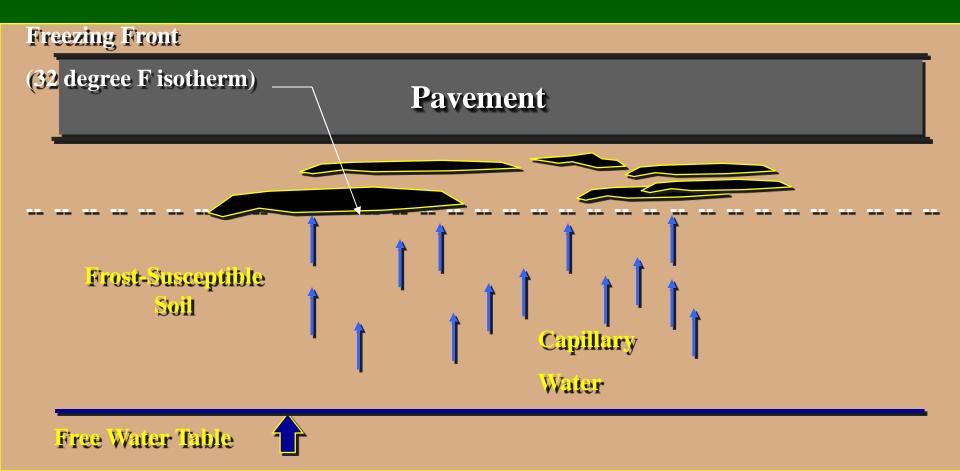


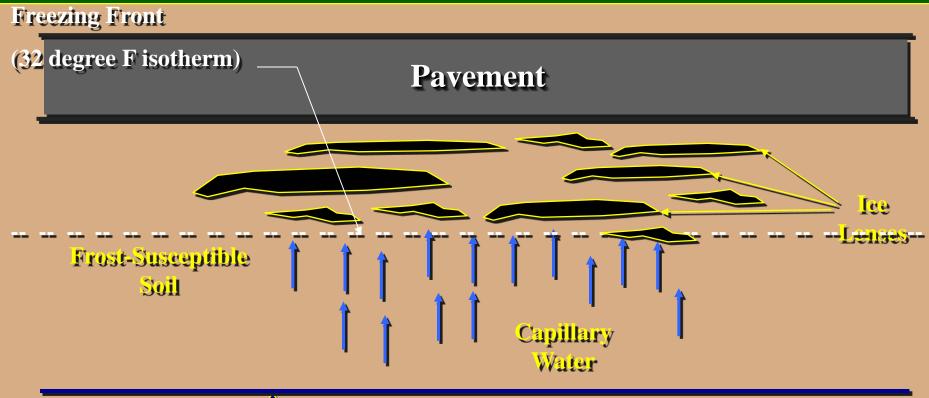






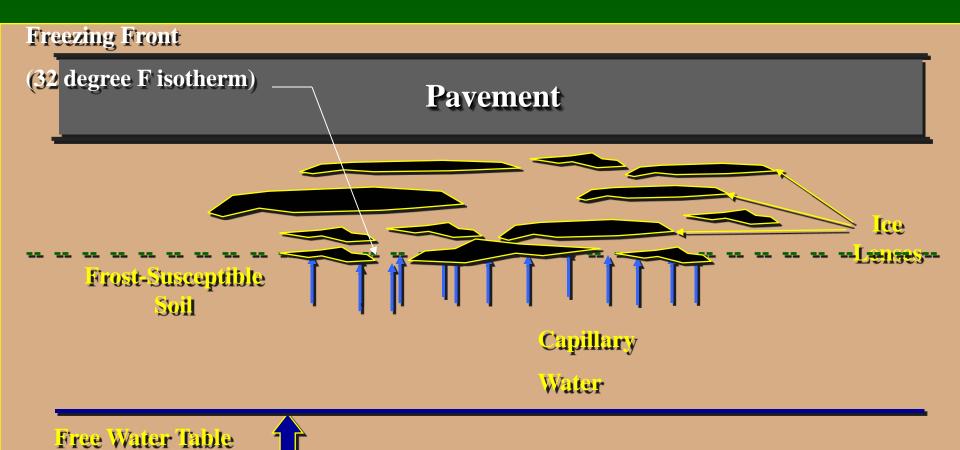






Free Water Table





### **Introduction** Frost Action



# Introduction Frost Action

#### Frost Action Video

- Original: USACE-ERDC-CRREL
- Revised: MN Local Roads Research Board, AK DOT&PF, ASCE, USACE-ERDC-CRREL, FHWA, Forest Service, etc.
- Video shows techniques for new construction; first portion describes frost action

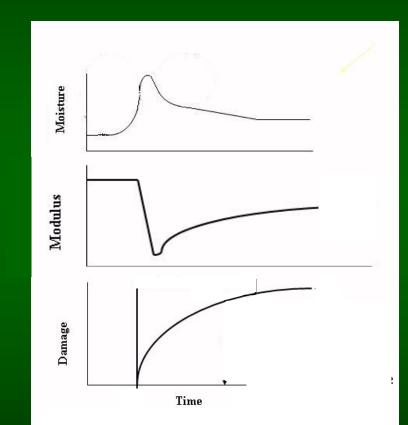
#### http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkrrSys03qQ

# **Introduction** Seasonal Load Restrictions

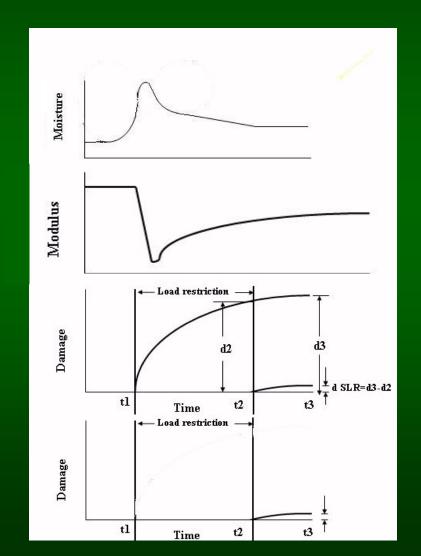




## Introduction Load Restrictions



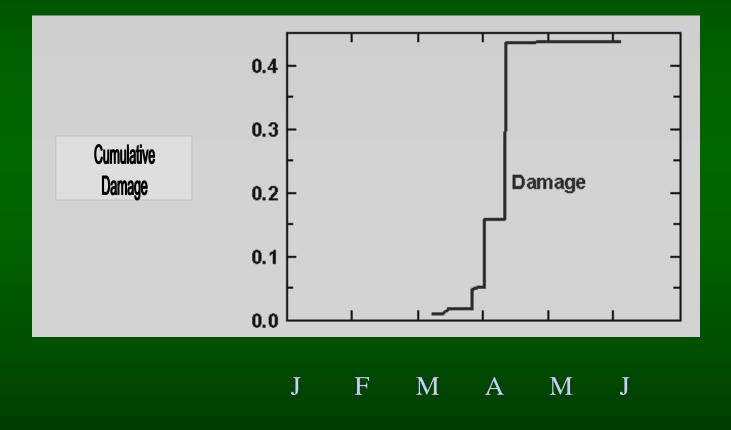
### Introduction Load Restrictions



### Introduction

- SLRs do keep damage to a minimum, but adversely affect companies whose livelihoods depend on trucking
- Optimize SLR placement & removal to strike a balance between reducing road damage & maximizing local economies
- Numerous studies & publications MN, AK, UMass-Dartmouth, Waterloo, Lakehead Univ., WA, Forest Service, etc.
- The Forest Service is currently compiling a toolkit of low-cost methods for determining when to place & remove SLRs
  - Past and current projects typically conducted in partnership with one or more other agencies with mutual interests

#### Introduction



Time

### Outline

- Objectives
- Introduction / Background
- Methods for Determining SLR Placement & Removal
  - 1. Subsurface Instrumentation
  - 2. Falling Weight & Lightweight Deflectometer (FWD & LWD)
  - 3. Mathematical Models
  - 4. Length of Time for Duration of SLR
  - 5. Combinations
- Summary

 Temperature is most commonly measured by thermistors or thermocouples. These aid in SLR placement, but not removal.





 Soil moisture sensors can serve as a surrogate measurement of pavement stiffness, so can aid in SLR removal.



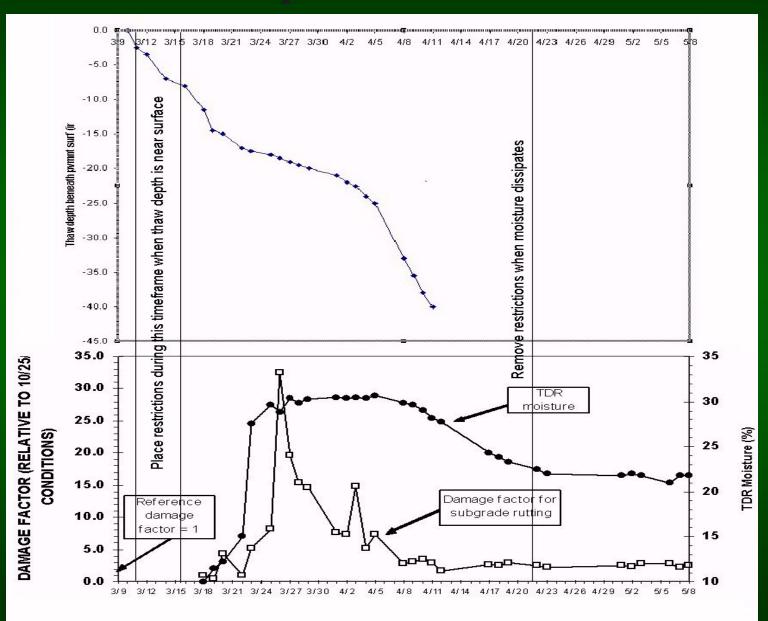


#### • Data acquisition

- Manually read at discrete times
- Automated datalogger

#### • Transmittal of data

- Manual collection/downloading not transmitted
- Telemetric
  - Satellite
  - Cell
  - Radio

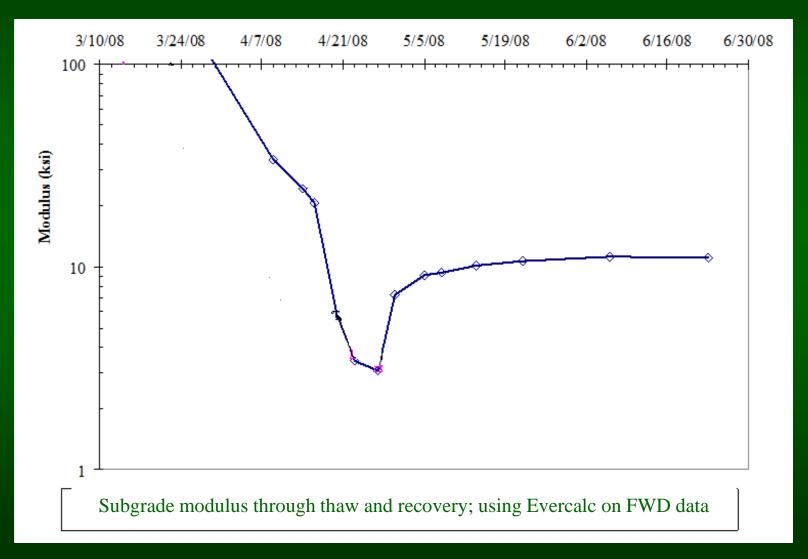


- Observations from project for which results were just shown
  - Moisture Peaks when Drainage Impeded by Frozen Layers
  - Subgrade Min. Modulus  $\rightarrow$  18 in. Thaw Depth
  - Moisture Content: Surrogate Road Strength Indicator
- System to Minimize LVR Damage
  - Thermistors  $\rightarrow$  Determine Start of Thaw
  - Moisture Sensors  $\rightarrow$  Determine Recovery
- Drawback: Site specific

#### **2. Falling Weight & Lightweight Deflectometer** Conventional Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD)



#### 2. Falling Weight & Lightweight Deflectometer Conventional Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD)

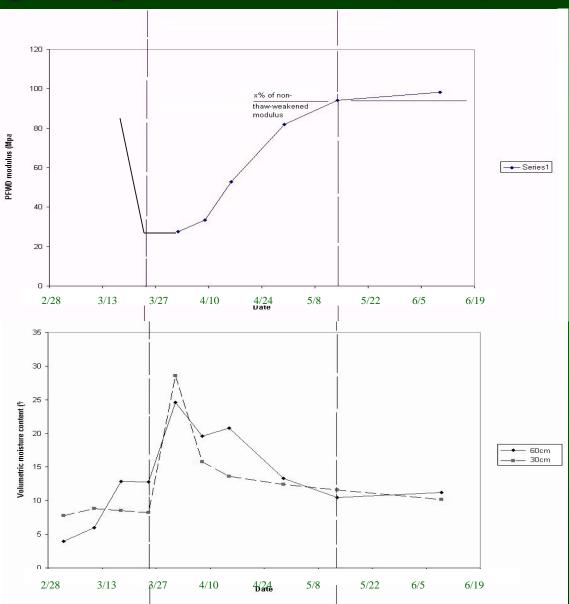


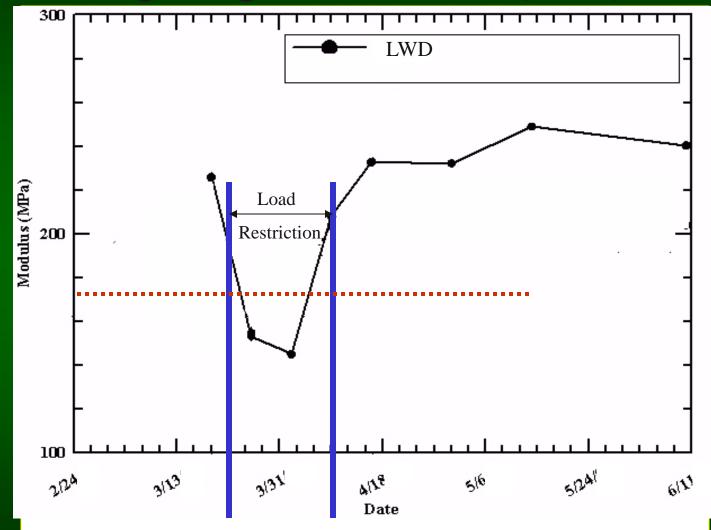
**UMass-Dartmouth** 



Modulus from LWD

#### Moisture Content





Not site specific, and can be used to place or remove SLRs

- LWDs being increasingly accepted in US
- There are ASTM standards for LWD
- Cost: Approx. \$10K-\$20K
- Can track seasonal stiffness variations
- Correlations improve with decreasing asphalt thickness
  - Reasonable comparison for up to 5 in asphalt thickness



#### **3. Models** a. Thaw Index

#### • Past Studies

- State of Washington
- Minnesota
- Canada

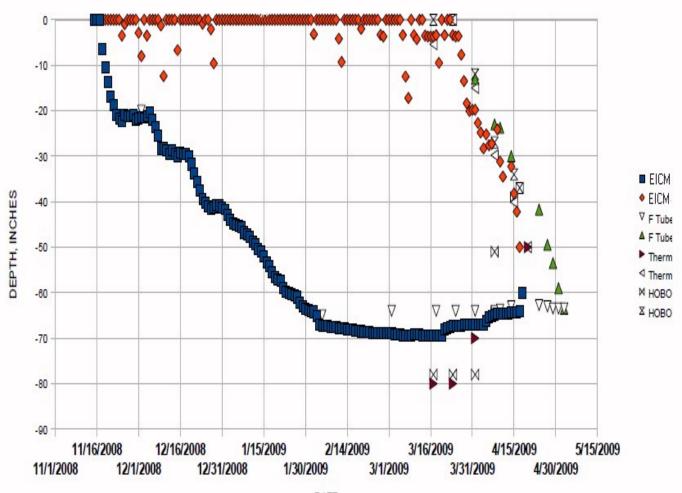
#### • Determine Dates for Load Restrictions by a Simple Index

- No special skills or equipment
- Anywhere, not site specific
- Parameters Daily Air Temperature
- WA and MN use specific reference temp
- FROST Assoc. Dick Berg Sinusoidal pavement temp with season
- Etc.
- Works well for placing restrictions. Not as good for removal.

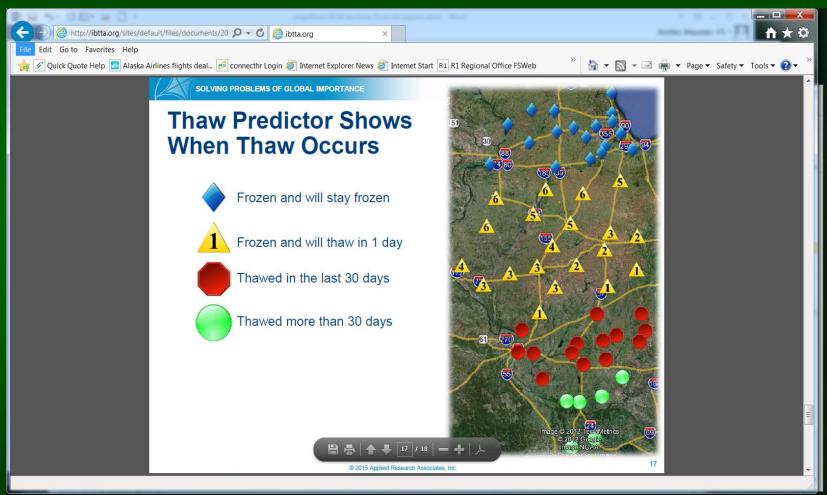
#### **3. Models** b. Numerical

- Enhanced Integrated Climatic Model Thaw Forecast Model
  - 1-D heat and moisture flow climatic model incorporated in the current AASHTO pavement design procedure
  - Computes changes in behavior and characteristics of unbound materials as a function of environmental conditions over time (temp, pore water pressure, frost & thaw depth, frost heave, etc.)
  - A few thaw predictor variations
    - ARA EICM vRWIS frost, thaw (& icing)
    - FHWA/Clarus, SLR tool frost, thaw
- Other numerical models

#### **3. Models** b. Numerical



#### **3. Models** b. Numerical



x∎

S

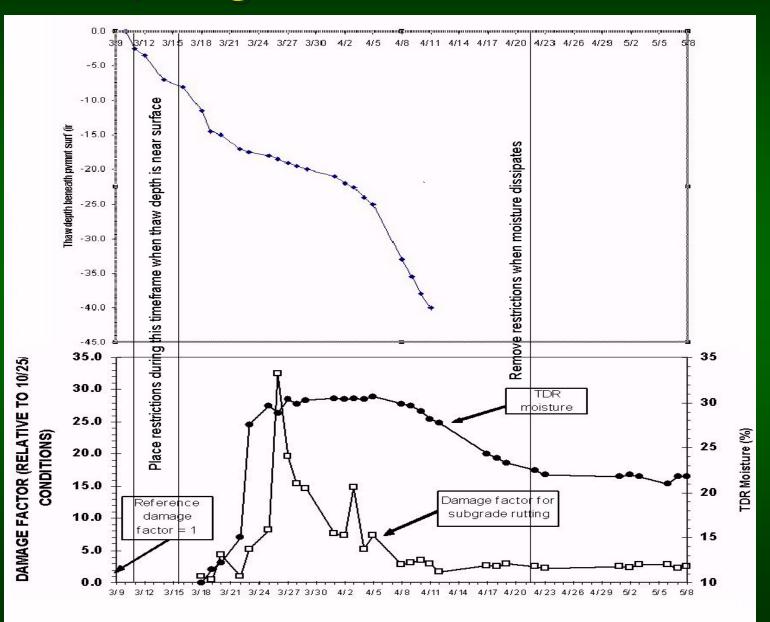
12:09 AM

4/30/2016

Desktop

Federal Lan... Quick Conn..

#### 4) Length of Time for Removal



#### 4) Length of Time for Removal

- Sites analyzed by the Forest Service have shown in the range of 5-8 weeks for recovery, but data is too limited.
- MN's recommendations are based on a larger database than FS, so recommendation is to use MN's 8 or so weeks for asphalt, and approx. 10 weeks for gravel.

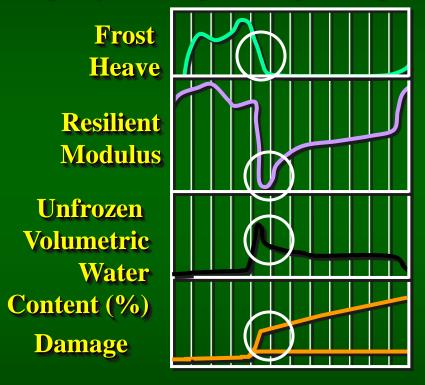
### 5) Combinations of Techniques for Placing and Removing SLRs

If Spring Load Restriction is <i>Placed</i> Using this Method:	<b>Recommended method</b> (s) for <i>Removing</i> <b>Spring Load Restriction,</b> <b>in order of recommendation:</b>				
Subsurface temperature sensors	Subsurface moisture sensors				
	Lightweight Deflectometer				
	Length of time				
Lightweight Deflectometer	Lightweight Deflectometer				
	Length of time				
Thaw Index	Lightweight Deflectometer				
	Length of time				
EICM Thaw Predictor	Lightweight Deflectometer				
	Length of time				





- Existing Pavements:
  - Reduce damage by limiting hauling during damage susceptible period



Winter Spring Summer Fall

 Timing of SLR placement & removal can be determined via any one or combination of methods



 Subsurface Instrumentation
 Falling Weight & Lightweight Deflectometers
 Mathematical Models
 Length of Time for Duration of SLR
 Combinations

Technique	Strengths/Advantages	Weaknesses / Disadvantages
Subsurface sensors	<ul> <li>Can be fairly simple.</li> <li>Coupling of temp &amp; moisture sensors predict when to place &amp; remove SLRs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Site specific.</li> <li>Requires field visits unless a remote automated data acquisition system.</li> <li>Difficult to install (drill) if rocky.</li> </ul>
FWD or LWD	<ul> <li>Anywhere – not site specific.</li> <li>Good for placement &amp; removal.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>FWD: \$\$\$. Agencies have limited no.</li> <li>FWD: Travel required, not near all sites.</li> <li>LWD: Modulus is for just near-surface.</li> <li>LWD: 4-5 in. max asphalt thickness.</li> <li>LWD: Composite modulus; near surface.</li> </ul>
Thaw Index	<ul> <li>Does not require field visit; can be used from office.</li> <li>Simple to use.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Initial setup may require additional time.</li> <li>Mountainous location issues.</li> <li>Better for SLR placement than removal.</li> </ul>
EICM Thaw Predictor	<ul> <li>Does not require ongoing field visits.</li> <li>Accounts for materials/road structure.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Better w/ temp sensor in road for calibration.</li> <li>Good for determining start, needs work for predicting completion of thaw.</li> <li>Requires a lot of input for good output.</li> </ul>
Length of Time	• Very simple to use.	• Good for standard season, but not for out-of-the-ordinary seasons.



# Seasonal Load Limits

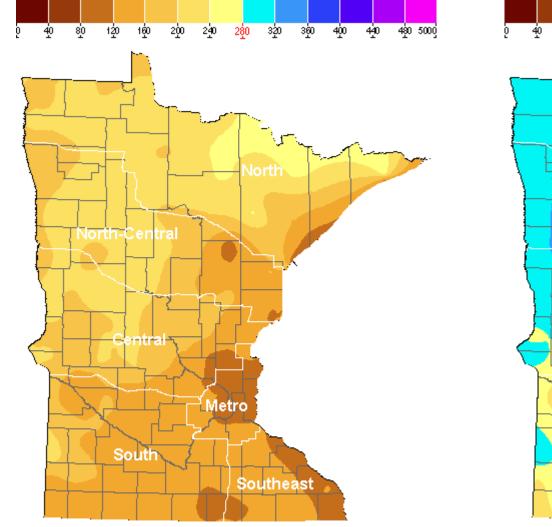
Tim Andersen Minnesota Department of Transportation April 22, 2017

## Seasonal Load Limits (SLL)

- What is Seasonal Load Limits?
  - Setting load limits for the winter and spring months
- Tech Memo: 14-10-MAT-02 Process for Seasonal Load Limit Starting and Ending Dates
  - https://techmemos.dot.state.mn.us/techmemo.aspx
- Winter Load Increases (WLI)
  - <u>Increase GVW by ten percent</u> for each frost zone based on freezing index model each winter
  - When the 3-day weather forecast indicates a cumulative freezing index (CFI) for a frost zone will exceed <u>280°F-days</u> and the extended forecast predicts continued freezing temperatures

• 
$$\operatorname{CFI}_{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( 32^{\circ}F - \frac{T_{maximum} + T_{minimum}}{2} \right)$$

- $CFI_n = cumulative freezing index calculated over 'n' days (°F-day)$
- T<sub>maximum</sub> = Maximum daily air temperature (°F)
- T<sub>minimum</sub> = Minimum daily air temperature (°F)

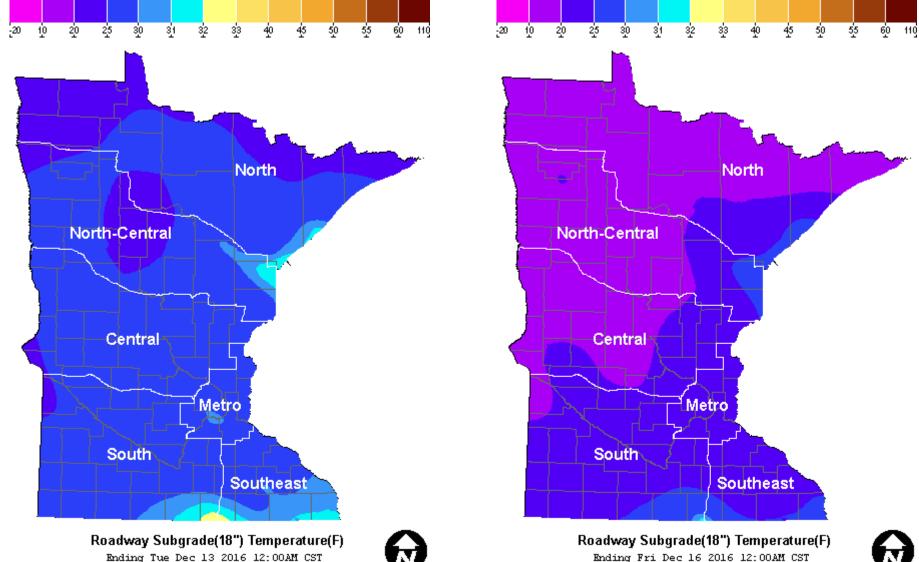


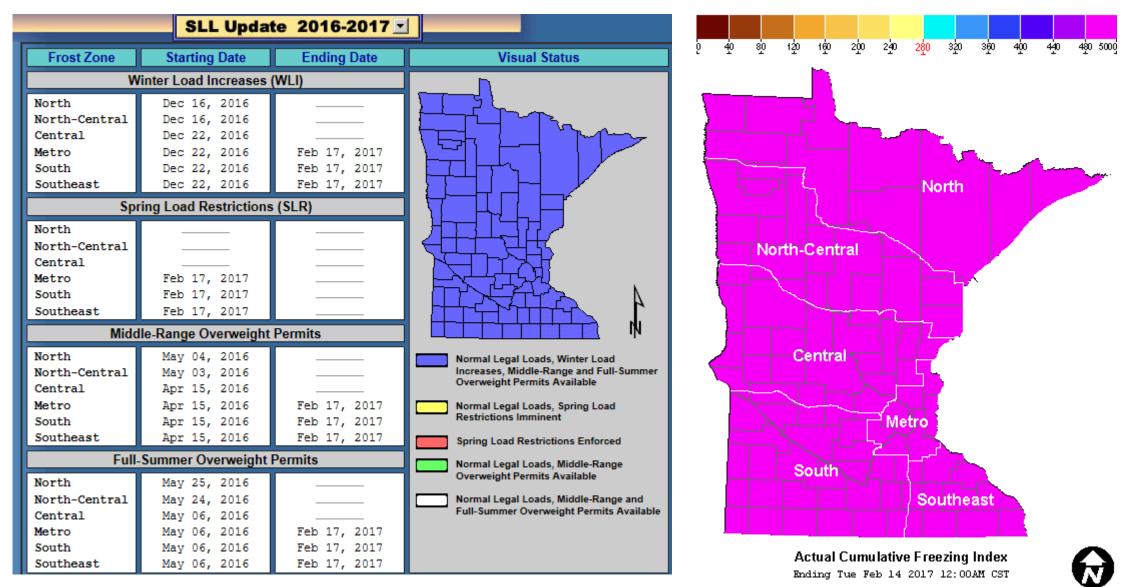
ιģ 200 240 360 4<u>0</u>0 440 490 5000 ŝŌ 120 280 320 North North-Central Centra

> 3-Day Forecasted Cumulative Freezing Index Ending Fri Dec 16 2016 12:00AM CST



Actual Cumulative Freezing Index Ending Tue Dec 13 2016 12:00AM CST





- MN used SLR since 1937
- A preservation strategy for weak roads in the spring
- Allows trapped water to drain and allow the pavement to recover

- Improved Spring Load Restriction Guidelines using Mechanistic Analysis
  - http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/research/pdf/200018.pdf
- Found SLR were being placed 7 to 10 days to late under current method

 Found by adjusting the reference temperature in the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) thawing index equation based on air temperatures to fit Minnesota conditions.

•  $CTI_n = \sum_{i=1}^n (Daily Thawing Index - 0.5 * Daily Freezing Index)$ 

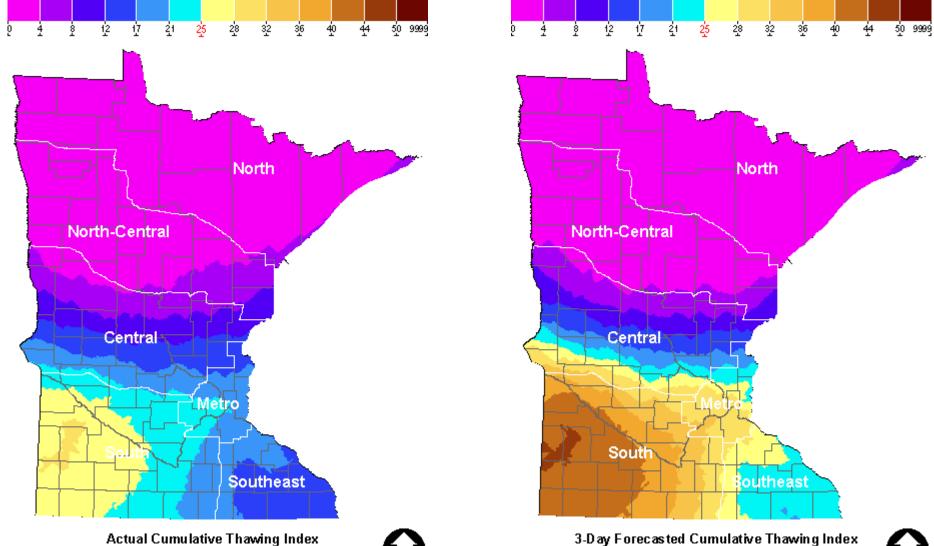
• 
$$\operatorname{CTI}_{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \left[ \frac{T_{maximum} + Tmi_{nimum}}{2} - Tre_{ference} \right] - 0.5 * \left[ 32^{\circ}F - \frac{T_{maximum} + Tmi_{nimum}}{2} \right] \right)$$

- CTI<sub>n</sub> = cumulative thawing index calculated over 'n' days (°F-day)
- T<sub>maximum</sub> = Maximum daily air temperature (°F)
- T<sub>minimum</sub> = Minimum daily air temperature (°F)
- T<sub>reference</sub> = Reference air temperature (°F)

Date*	Reference Temperature (°F)
January 1 – January 31	32.0
February 1 – February 7	29.3
February 8 – February 14	28.4
February 15 – February 21	27.5
February 22 – February 28	26.6
March 1 – March 7	25.7
March 8 – March 14	24.8
March 15 – March 21	23.9
March 22 – March 28	23.0
March 29 – April 4	22.1
April 5 – April 11	21.2
April 12 – April 18	20.3
April 19 – April 25	19.4
April 26 – May 2	18.5
May 3 – May 9	17.6
May 10 – May 16	16.7
May 17 – May 23	15.8
May 24 – May 30	14.9
June 1 – December 31	32.0

- When the 3-day weather forecast indicates a cumulative thawing index (CTI) for a frost zone will exceed <u>25°F-days</u> and longer-range forecasts predict continued warmth
- Based on FWD testing across the state, a typical period for the pavement base and subgrade layers to regain sufficient strength to support heavy truck loads was <u>eight weeks</u>.

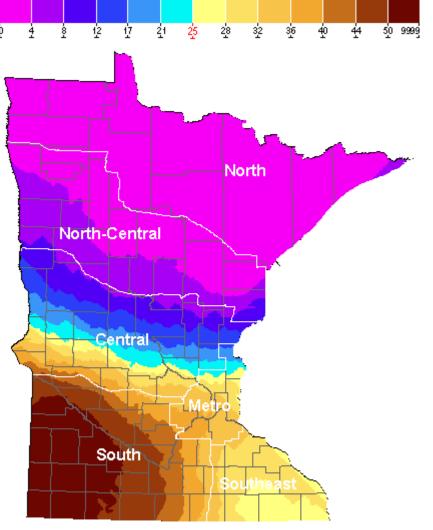
- Adopted in the spring of 1999
- Starting in spring of 2000 the state statue specified that local government will begin and end SLR in common with MnDOT, unless the roads are posted otherwise.
- In 1999 it was estimated that a 10 percent reduction in roadway life cost the Minnesota taxpayers \$10,000,000 a year.

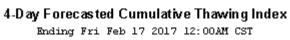


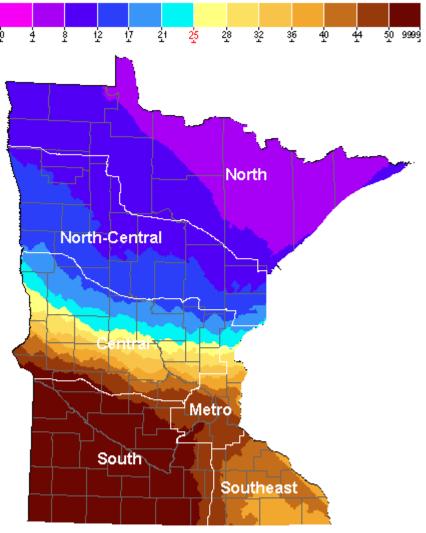
3-Day Forecasted Cumulative I hawing I Ending Thu Feb 16 2017 12:00AM CST



Actual Cumulative I having Index Ending Mon Feb 13 2017 12:00AM CST







5-Day Forecasted Cumulative Thawing Index Rnding Sat Feb 18 2017 12:00AM CST



#### • Rochester, MN

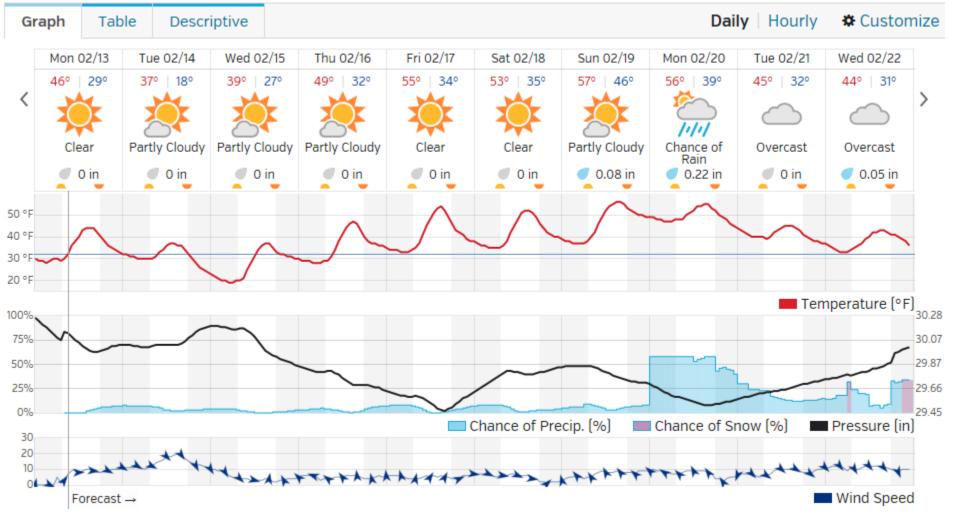
Forecast  $\rightarrow$ 

#### 10-Day Weather Forecast Daily Hourly Graph Table Descriptive Customize Mon 02/13 Tue 02/14 Wed 02/15 Thu 02/16 Fri 02/17 Sat 02/18 Sun 02/19 Tue 02/21 Wed 02/22 Mon 02/20 54° | 37° 45° | 35° 45° 29° 39° 20° 34° 26° 46° | 33° 53° 37° 58° 50° 58° 46° 50° | 36° < 1.1.1 Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Clear Chance of Rain 🖉 0 in 0 in • 0 in 🖉 0 in 🖉 0 in 🖉 0 in 🔵 0.03 in 🔵 0.25 in 1 0 in 0.04 in 60 °F 50 °F 40 °F 30 °F 20 °F Temperature (°F) 100% 30.34 75% 30.14 29.94 50% 25% 29.73 0% 29.53 Chance of Precip. (%) Chance of Snow [%] Pressure (in) 30 20 10 0

Wind Speed

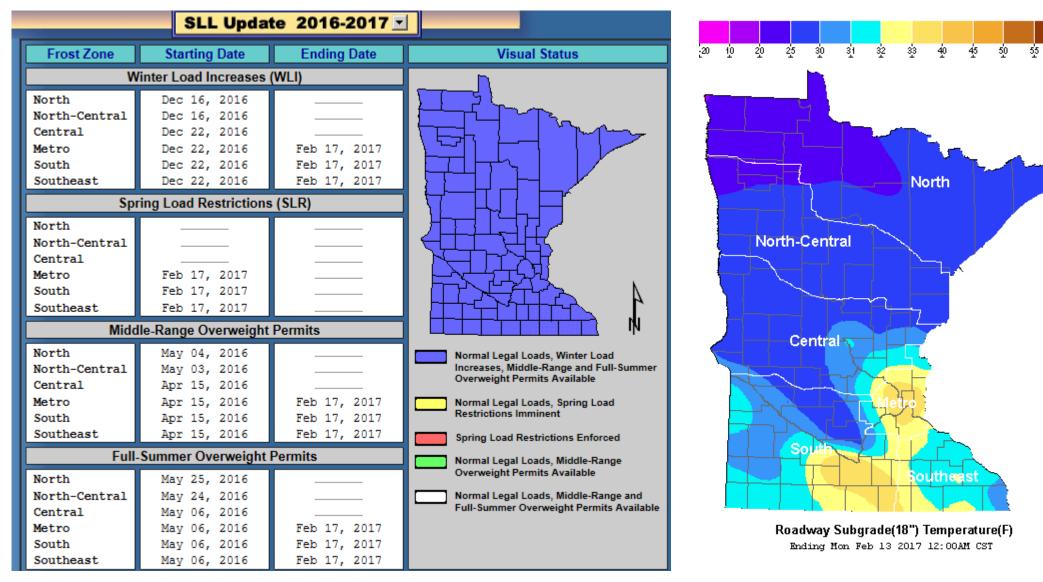
#### • Willmar, MN

#### 10-Day Weather Forecast



60

- 110



 In 2002, Spring Load Restrictions were placed in late February in most of the state. March was really cold that year. The North Zone didn't get restricted until over 4 weeks later.

	20	06	2005		2004		2003		2002		
_	ON	OFF									
North	25-Mar	15-May	26-Mar	20-May	8-Mar	3-May	15-Mar	10-May	27-Mar	22-May	
North-Central	24-Mar	15-May	26-Mar	20-May	8-Mar	3-May					
Central	10-Mar	5-May	25-Mar	12-May	1-Mar	26-Apr	15-Mar	10-May	19-Feb	16-Apr	
Metro	8-Mar	22-Apr	23-Mar	4-May	27-Feb	19-Apr	15-Mar	2-May	18-Feb	15-Apr	
South	8-Mar	22-Apr	23-Mar	4-May	27-Feb	19-Apr	15-Mar	2-May	18-Feb	15-Apr	
Southeast	8-Mar	22-Apr	23-Mar	4-May	27-Feb	19-Apr	15-Mar	2-May	18-Feb	15-Apr	

## Seasonal Load Limits (SLL)

- <u>http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/research/seasonal\_load\_limits/sllind</u>
   <u>ex.asp</u>
- Use browser to search for "seasonal load limits mn"

# VIRTUAL ROADWAY WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR SPRING THAW AND WINTER ICING PREDICTIONS

TRB WEBINAR: SPRINGTIME DAMAGE TO ROADS AND SEASONAL LOAD

LIMITS

FEBRUARY 22,2017

## GREGG LARSON PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

#### PAVEMENT CLIMATE MODELING BACKGROUND

- DEVELOPER OF THE INTEGRATED CLIMATIC MODEL AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS IN THE 1980S.
- DEVELOPER OF THE NCHRP MECHANISTIC EMPIRICAL PAVEMENT DESIGN GUIDE.
- DEVELOPER OF AASHTOWARE ME-DESIGN SOFTWARE
- DEVELOPER OF THE ARA'S VRWIS SOFTWARE

#### WHAT IS VRWIS

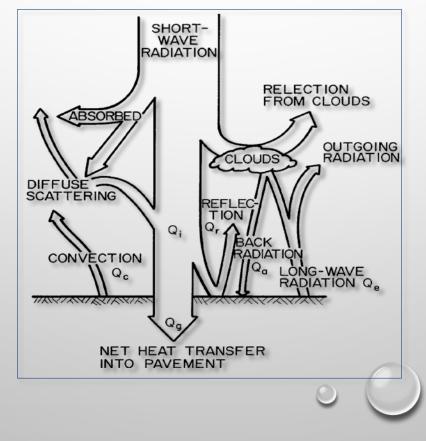
- VIRTUAL ROADWAY WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM (VRWIS) IS A WEB-BASED SYSTEM THAT TELLS YOU THE PAVEMENT TEMPERATURE AND FROST CONDITIONS IN REAL TIME AND IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- VRWIS DOES NOT USE IN-PAVEMENT SENSORS, RATHER USES PAVEMENT PROPERTIES AND WEATHER DATA TO MODEL THE TEMPERATURES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PAVEMENT SECTION
- THE VRWIS FREEZE-THAW FEATURE PROVIDES THE FROST PENETRATION AND THAWING IN THE PAVEMENT SECTION, WHICH IS USEFUL INFORMATION FOR DETERMINING LOAD RESTRICTIONS DURING SPRING THAWS
- THE VRWIS SYSTEM USES THE SAME INTEGRATED CLIMATIC MODEL FOR TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE PREDICTIONS AS THE AASHTOWARE ME-DESIGN SOFTWARE.

#### **VRWIS FEATURES**

- ONLY COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE **ROADWAY ICING** AND
   **SUBGRADE FREEZE-THAW** PREDICTIONS.
- INTUITIVE GRAPHICS TO SIGNAL THE NEXT ICING OR FREEZE-THAW EVENT
- POWERFUL ZOOM AND VISUALIZATION FEATURES USING GOOGLE EARTH<sup>®</sup> AND GOOGLE MAPS
- CURRENT AND FORECASTED WEATHER DATA FROM WEATHER UNDERGROUND, A FORECASTING SYSTEM THAT LEVERAGES DATA FROM 42,000 WEATHER STATIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY
- HOURLY UPDATES OF ALL DATA, INCLUDING FORECASTS OF PAVEMENT SURFACE TEMPERATURES, ROADWAY ICING EVENTS, AND SUBGRADE FROST AND THAW DEPTHS.

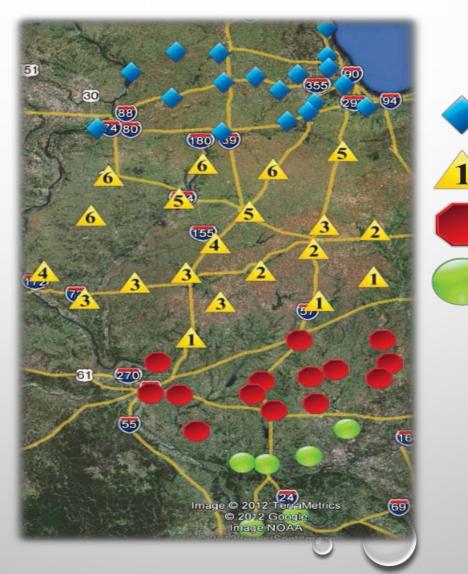
## INTEGRATED CLIMATIC MODEL (ICM)

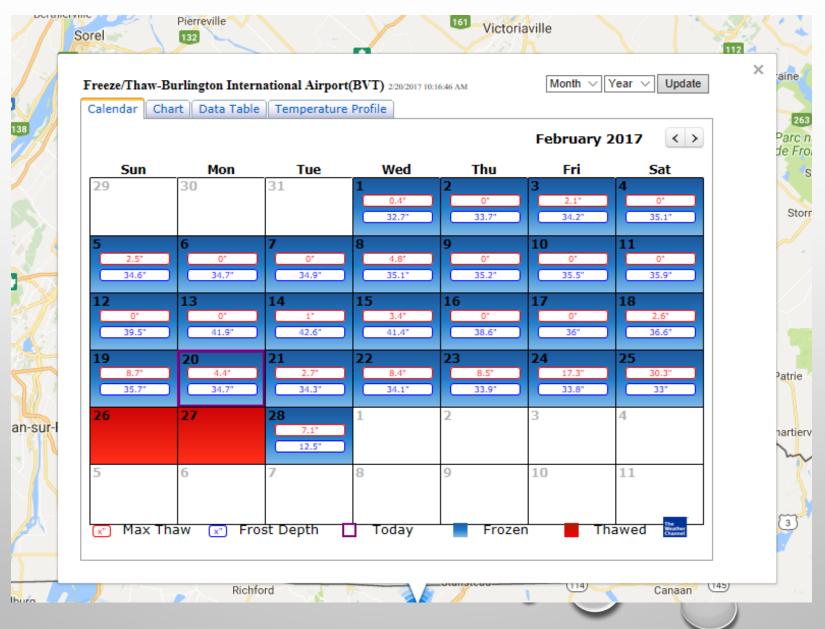
The EICM is a one-dimensional forward finite difference heat and moisture flow model that simulates changes in pavement and subgrade properties. At the pavement surface it incorporates patterns of rainfall, solar radiation, cloud cover, wind speed, and air temperature.



#### WHAT TURNS THE ICM INTO VRWIS

- USE OF THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND DATABASE OF HISTORICAL AND FORECAST DATA.
- HOURLY WEATHER FORECAST FOR 3, 7 AND 14 DAYS.
- ABILITY TO RUN 1000S OF ICM ANALYSES ON AN HOURLY BASIS.







riotoriurine

112

(145)

Canaan

×



Alburg

Sorel

132

Richford

AC N

Highgate

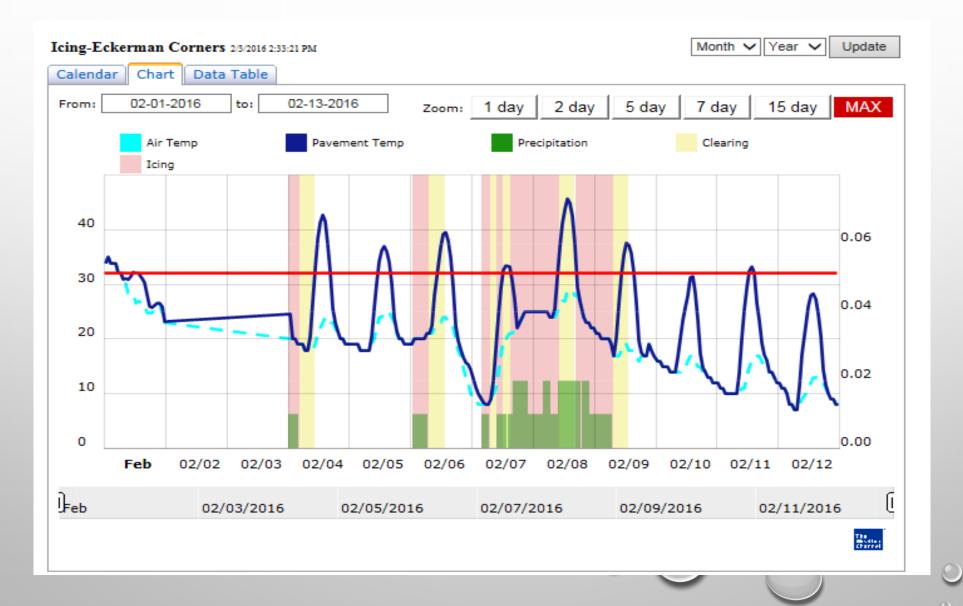
κ.

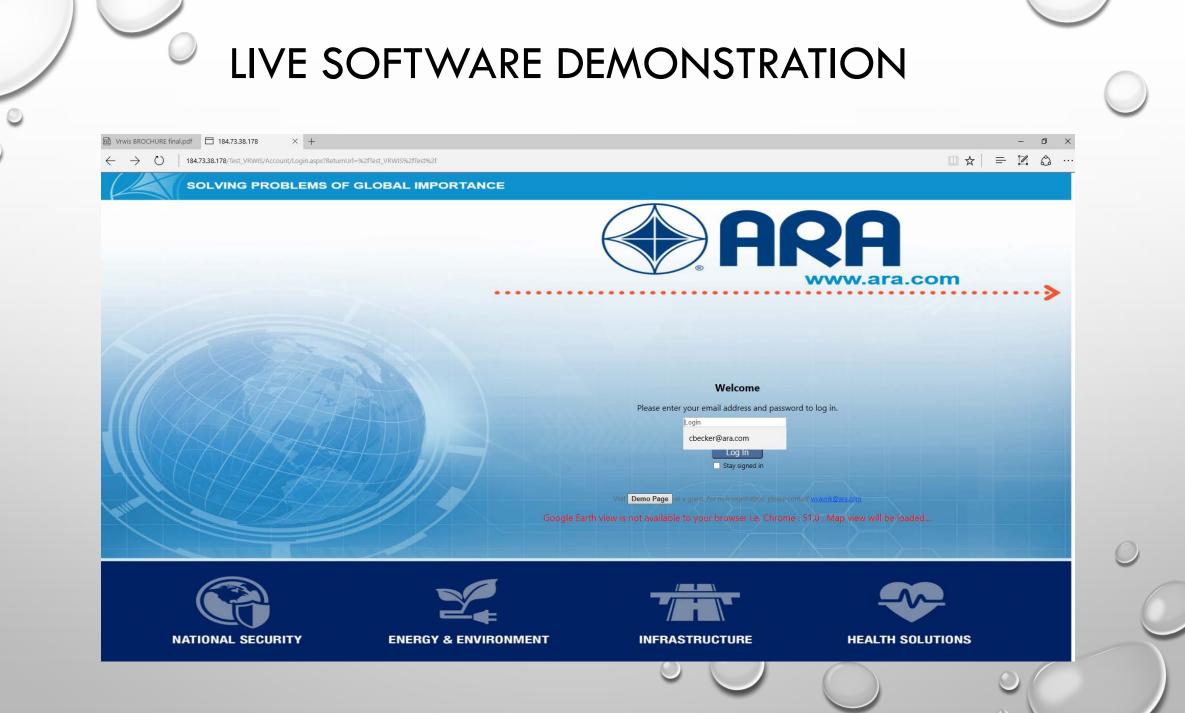
Jay

epth	Picture	2/1/17	2/2/17	2/3/17	2/4/17	2/5/17	2/6/17
12"		23.9	27.3	25.2	24.3	25.5	26.1
14"		24.8	27.6	25.7	24.9	25.8	26.6
16"		26.6	28.2	26.8	26.1	26.6	27.4
18"		28.4	28.9	28	27.2	27.4	28.2
20"		30.2	29.6	29.1	28.2	28.3	28.8
26.07"		30.6	30.2	30.2	29.1	29.1	29.5
32.14"		31	30.8	30.8	30.2	30.2	30.2
38.21"		31.9	31.8	31.7	31.5	31.7	31.7
44.29"		32.8	32.7	32.6	32.5	32.5	32.5
50 36"		33.7	33.5	33.5	33.4	33.3	33.3
10°	6° - 20° - 19° 23° om Date		8° - 32° - 1° 35°	36° - 40° - 39° 43°	44° - 48° 47° 51		> 56° - 60° >60°

Derby

#### **VRWIS ICING PREDICTIONS**







CLICK THE DEMO BUTTON AT

# HTTP://V-RWIS.COM/TEST\_VRWIS/TEST/