As we continue to look at the various mix types used in Texas, this month we will look at the typical use and advantages of Thin Bonded Permeable Friction Course (TBPFC).

Thin Bonded Permeable Friction Course (TBPFC) are used as a surface course on high-speed roadways to optimize the safety and comfort characteristics of the roadway. TBPFC is a pavement preservation treatment on high-volume (high-demand) roadways that are used to improve skid resistance and ride quality on high speed roadways.

Here are some advantages of Thin Bonded Permeable Friction Course:

- Is a pavement preservation treatment
- Improves skid resistance
- Improves ride quality
- Lower noise generated by tires compared to dense graded mixes
- High permeability as a PFC mix
- Porous nature allows for surface water to drain off reducing the risk of hydroplaning
- Improves wet weather visibility

Additional Information

- TBFC compacted lift thickness is typically between ¾” and 1 ½”
- Includes an application of a polymer modified emulsion membrane ahead of the placement of the mix
- Is recommended in lieu of PFC when placed as an overlay on an existing concrete pavement or when placed as an overlay on a pavement that has a high amount of cracking
- Asphalt content range from 6% to 8%

Questions or comments? E-mail us at cschwarz@texasasphalt.org