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 Permeable Friction Course (PFC).

Permeable Friction Course (PFC) mixtures are used as a surface course on high-speed roadways to optimize the safety and comfort characteristics of the roadway. Its primary purpose is to provide enhanced safety in wet weather by significantly reducing splash and spray and increasing skid resistance. These mixtures are open-graded which allows water to drain through the surface during a rain storms.

Here are some advantages of Permeable Friction Course:

- High asphalt content results in a thick binder film
- Improves wet weather visibility and safety
- High permeability
- Porous nature allows for surface water to drain off reducing the risk of hydroplaning
- Improves skid resistance
- Improves and restores ride quality
- Lower noise generated by tires
- Resistance to rutting and cracking
- Improves the quality of storm water runoff

Additional Information:

- Best applied in areas of fast, continuous traffic with minimal stops and sharp turns
- Typically contain approximately 20% air voids