



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MATERIALS & TESTS DIVISION
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Project Teams

FROM: Matthew Chandler, PE *MWC*
State Materials & Pavements Manager

DATE: April 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Prime Coat

After much consideration and discussion with industry and peer states, the decision has been made to phase out the use of prime coats utilized on asphalt pavement structures greater than 4" in thickness. Details are provided below to address anticipated questions.

New pavement designs from the Pavement Engineering Team will not have prime coats identified in the pavement schedule unless the total asphalt cross section is less than 4" in thickness.

For Pavement Designs that have already been issued make the following modifications:

- The project has already been turned in for letting: **no change**
- For projects that have not been turned in for letting

Pavement	Modification Needed to Issued Pavement Designs
Any asphalt pavement >4" thick	Remove Prime Coat from typical sections
Asphalt pavements <4" thick <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Side Roads• Shoulders wider than 4'• Temporary Pavements	Remove Prime Coat from typical sections
Asphalt pavements <4" thick <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Route	No change from current issued pavement design
Shoulders narrower than 4'	Match mainline pavement design changes as noted above

- Projects that have already been let will continue as bid.

The Pavement Engineering Team will not be issuing revised pavement designs for this change. Keep this memo as project documentation with the original pavement design.

Please note this change does not affect Tack Coat. Tack Coat is still required between all Asphalt layers except between AS and A.