



# The Asphalt Report - Smoothness Matters!

**May 18, 2010**

- [Smoothness Matters](#)
- [Easy to use Life-Cycle Cost Software](#)

Welcome to "The Asphalt Report", bringing you the most up-to-date information on the design, construction and maintenance of asphalt pavements. This monthly report will highlight the many benefits of asphalt pavements in terms of Engineering, Economics, and Environmental Sustainability. We hope you find this information helpful.

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) has developed a new web site full of useful information for agency personnel, consultants, contractors, policy makers and the general public. The information on the site is organized into the general subject areas of Economics, Environment, Engineering, and Policy. The new website is [www.AsphaltRoads.org](http://www.AsphaltRoads.org)

## • Smoothness Matters



Smooth pavements increase vehicle fuel efficiency and decrease fuel consumption.

Asphalt pavements are the smooth, quiet pavement choice.

Asphalt roads tend to start out smooth and stay smooth throughout their service life. Typical maintenance and rehabilitation activities are usually in the form of overlays, which give the traveling public a smooth, quiet surface that's just as good as new.

It has been documented that a road maintenance program that increases pavement smoothness only slightly could reduce annual vehicle fuel consumption by up to 10 percent on those roads. Improving pavement smoothness over a typical roadway network can have dramatic effects, there is potential for saving about 7 billion gallons of fuel annually in the U.S. This would be equivalent to taking over 10 million vehicles off the road every year.

[Click here to find out how smooth asphalt pavements can decrease fuel consumption.](#)

## • Easy to use Life-Cycle Cost Software

## LCCAEXPRESS SOFTWARE

Asphalt

### QUICK, EASY, AND UNBIASED

New software called LCCAExpress is helping engineers and pavement users perform the most important LCCA for pavements. The new software, LCCAExpress, was developed by the Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to compare the economics of alternative designs for a given road project.

LCCAExpress is a simplified version of the FHWA's original LCCA software. Based on the "Practical Guide to LCCA" published by FHWA, LCCAExpress is fast and easy to use.

Download LCCAExpress for free at [www.apa-mi.org](http://www.apa-mi.org). While you're there, check out the other LCCA software available for other pavement projects.

APA

### THREE EASY STEPS TO GOOD LCCA ANALYSIS

#### 1. Discount Rate

The Real Deal

When rates are applied to the cost of a project, the value of the project is reduced. The discount rate of the project is the rate used to calculate the present value of the project.

#### 2. Inflation

The Real Information

When inflation is taken into account, the value of the project is increased. The inflation rate is the rate used to calculate the future value of the project.

#### 3. Include All the Costs

The Right Cost

When all the costs are included, the value of the project is increased. The total cost of the project is the sum of all the costs.

New software called LCCAExpress is making life easier for engineers who perform life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA) for pavements. The new software, available free from the Asphalt Pavement Alliance (APA), uses the principles recommended by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to compare the economics of alternative designs for a given road project.

[Click here to find out how easy LCCAExpress is to use.](#)

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*For more information on Asphalt Pavements, click on the following links:*

[APAM](#)

[APA](#)

*Or call us at 1-800-292-5959, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.*