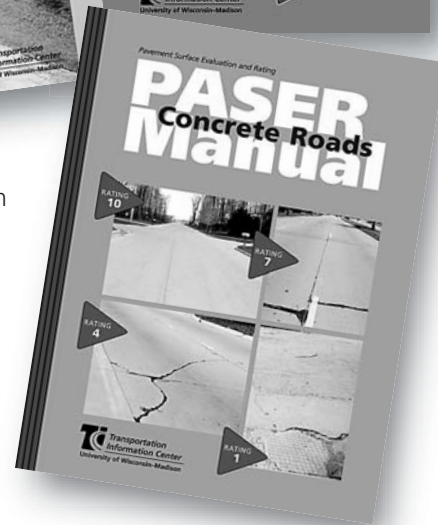
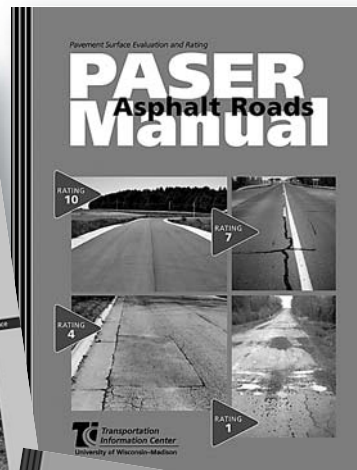
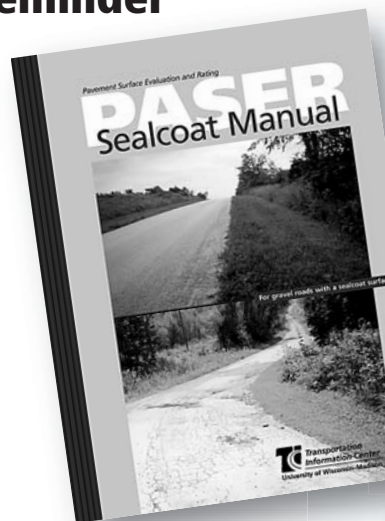


Pavement rating reminder

LOCAL AGENCIES must rate and report the condition of all their pavements again this year. The deadline is December 15, 2005. Details on how to submit the data are in a letter sent to all municipalities after the spring elections. The preferred method is on-line with WEB WISLR. Electronic or paper spreadsheets are other options.

After three rounds of rating roads for WISLR, most localities have a trained inspector or have arranged for inspections by another agency or consultant. The rating process is not complicated and can be learned quickly from booklets and video tapes.

The TIC's manuals for all surface types — asphalt, concrete, gravel, sealcoat, unpaved, and brick/block — are self-explanatory. Booklets are available on request and as PDFs on the TIC Web page.



Videos are loaned free through County Extension offices. (To contact us, see page 10.)

If you need additional training or help, talk with your county highway commissioner or regional planning commission.

PASER Series
TIC 74 min. #18390

Three-part video with PASER training for these road surface types:

Asphalt (46 min.)
Gravel (15 min.)
Sealcoat (13 min.)

Can be used with PASER manuals to learn how to evaluate and rate pavement conditions. Also available separately.

Checking signs for retroreflectivity

NEW ROADWAY SIGNS are easy to see at night. Retro-reflective sheeting picks up light from vehicle headlamps and reflects it back to the driver. Over the years, sunlight, moisture, and

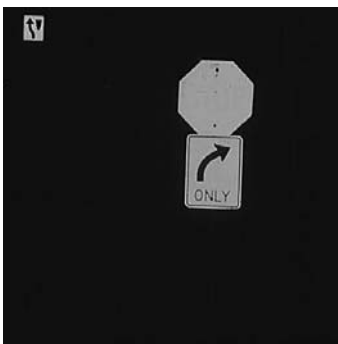
pollutants make them dimmer until drivers can no longer see the warning or message. Vandalism also takes its toll.

Since damage can happen any time, and signs age at different rates, it is important to inspect them regularly. Guidelines for ensuring that signs meet minimum standards for retroreflectivity have been published for comment by the FHWA and will probably be formally adopted soon. Agencies will be required to adopt a method for meeting the requirement and for keeping documentation.

Nighttime windshield surveys and data kept in a basic computer spreadsheet can work well, especially for smaller municipalities. In fact, research has shown that trained observers can adequately determine which signs need to be replaced.

Inspection tips from "Retroreflectivity: Making Sure Signs Measure Up," by Paul J. Carlson, which originally appeared in the Texas LTAP newsletter.

To contact Dennis Premo, e-mail dpremo@co.adams.wi.us or call 608-339-3355.



Use regular nighttime inspection to find failing signs like this.

MORE TIPS FOR EFF

- The inspector must know signing and be at least 50 years old. (Older eyes require more light.)
- Use a sport utility vehicle or pick-up truck because the driver's eye is farther from the headlamps.
- Make sure headlamps are aimed properly; use low beams.
- Drive at normal speeds for the road.

The training approach used in Adams County is basic but effective. "We usually have two people to a team," says Dennis Premo, Sign and Marking Supervisor. "We have them look at old signs we have taken