



# APPLICATION OF A POROUS INTERLAYER FOR ROAD TEMPERATURE CONTROL

---

## Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Schacht

Dep. head of test centre / research engineer

Institute of Highway Engineering Aachen, RWTH Aachen University

[schacht@isac.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:schacht@isac.rwth-aachen.de) – [www.isac.rwth-aachen.de](http://www.isac.rwth-aachen.de)

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Markus Oeser

Dipl.-Ing. Christian Busen

Institute of Highway Engineering Aachen, RWTH Aachen University

Dipl.-Ing. Maximilian Munk

Stadtwerke München (SWM)



## 0. CONTENT

---

1. Introduction
2. Concept “porous interlayer”
3. Key issues of the investigation
4. Experimental work
5. Demonstrator – thermal effectiveness
6. Conclusions

# 1. INTRODUCTION

During the winter months, the weather-related decrease in road skid resistance affects traffic safety – especially at neuralgic areas

- increased risk of accidents due to glaze ice or packed snow
- Travel time losses due to weather-related stagnation of traffic flow (traffic jam)
- extensive use of gritting material and de-icing salt is required

► Possible solution: Road temperature control during the winter months



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Negative aspects of previous approaches:

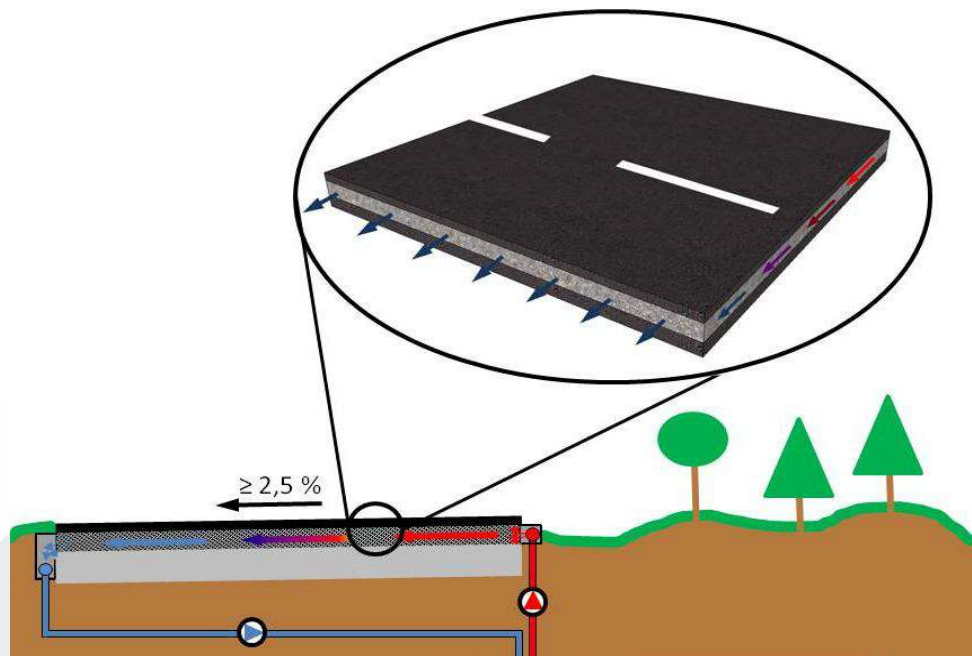
- The pipes can have a negative influence on the durability/stability of the asphalt
- Fixation of the pipe register is required
- Higher costs due to additional materials and additional installation
- Increased demands on the installation process of the asphalt – higher costs

▶ Development of a new concept without pipes is necessary ....



## 2. CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

The concept of a „porous interlayer“ for temperature control



Main ideas:

- Using a porous asphalt for the transmission of warmed water (no pipes)
- arrangement of the porous interlayer under the topcoat
- Possible installation with normal asphalt pavers

### 3. KEY ISSUES OF INVESTIGATION

The concept requires the investigation of the following questions:

1. Is the porosity of a porous interlayer adequate for the continuous transmission of water?

→ Investigation of the hydraulic properties of the concept

2. Will the overall construction be affected by the porous interlayer (resistance to deformation and rutting)?

→ Investigation of the mechanical properties of the concept

## 4. EXPERIMENTEL WORK

---

### Investigation variants:

- Using of two investigation variants with interlayer and one reference variant without interlayer

1. Reference variant: SMA 8 S + AC 16 B S
2. PUR-variant: SMA 8 S + PA 8 S (PUR bounded)  
+ AC 16 B S
3. PA -variant: SMA 8 S + PA 8 S (Bitumen bounded)  
+ AC 16 B S

- The taste plate preparation was carried out with the roller compactor according to TP Asphalt / DIN EN 12697-33

## 4. EXPERIMENTEL WORK

### Investigation variants – Interlayer variants:



#### Properties of the PUR-layer:

Thickness: 40 mm  
void content : 32 – 33 Vol.-%

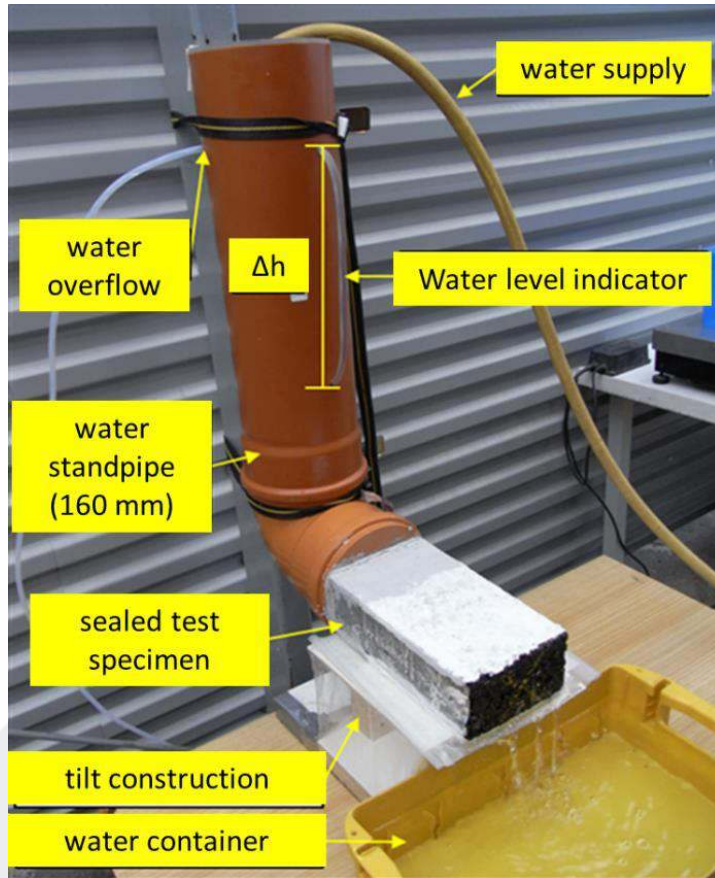


#### Properties of the PA-layer:

Thickness: 40 mm  
void content : 22 – 24 Vol.-%



## 4.1 HYDRAULIC PROPERTIES



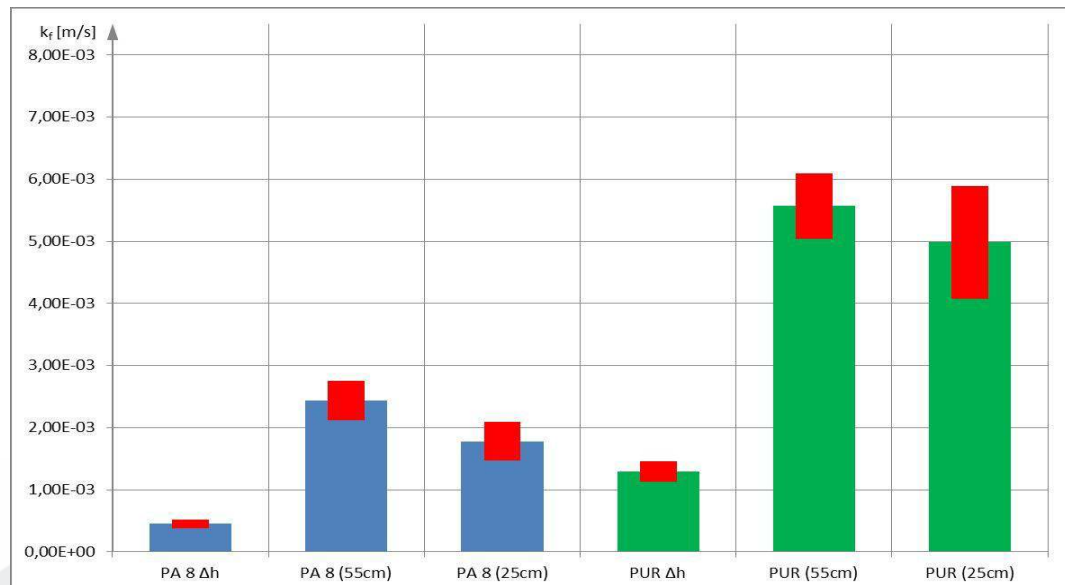
Test set-up

### Test parameters:

- Testing of the horizontal flow with a slope of 2,5 %
- Test plates sealed at all sides (only horizontal flow)
- Test with decreasing water level (decreasing water pressure)
- Test with a water column of 55 cm and 25 cm (constant water pressure)

## 4.1 HYDRAULIC PROPERTIES

### Results:



► Suitability of the PUR variant is given from the hydraulic perspective

- the PUR variant shows greater permeability compared to the PA variant
- Higher flow with water pressure
- After a short test-duration decreasing water flow at the PA variant (adhesion?)

## 4.2 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Step 1:  
Wheel-tracking-test  
(TP Asphalt / DIN EN 12697-22)



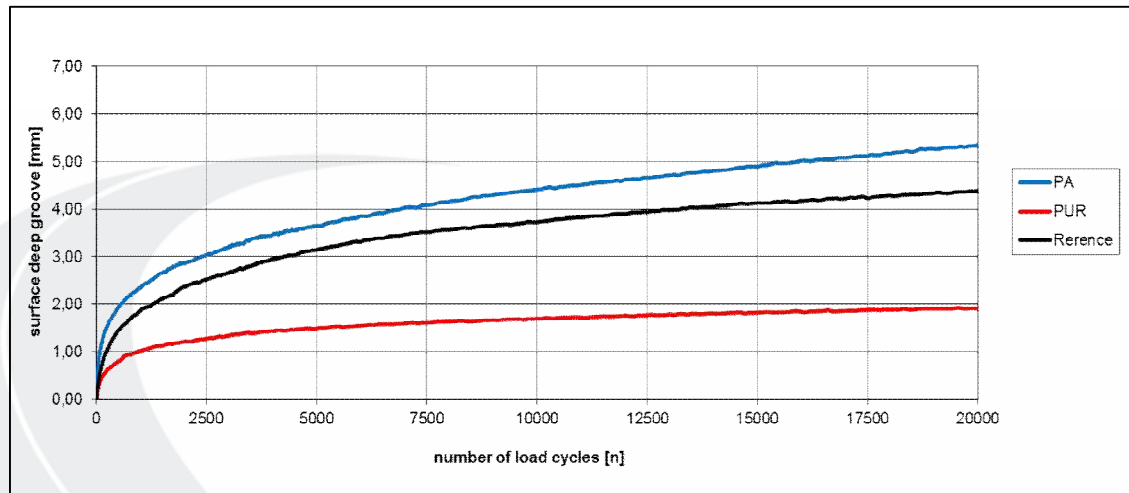
Step 2:  
Cycling-compression-test  
(TP Asphalt / DIN EN 12697-25)



## 4.2 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

### Results: Wheel-tracking-test

Test parameter	PUR	PA	Reference
Expansion after 10.000 load cycles [mm]	2,3	6,8	4,6
Relative rut depth after testing [%]	11	34	23



PA-variant



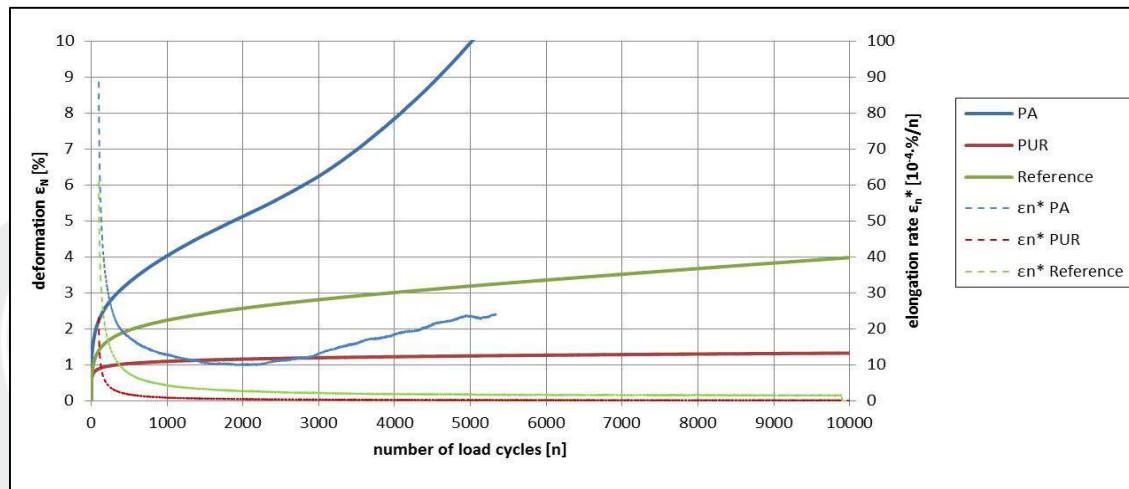
PUR-variant

## 4.2 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

### Results: Cyclic-compression-test

Test parameter	PUR	PA	Reference
Expansion after 10.000 load cycles [%]	1,3	*	4,1
Deformation after 10.000 load cycles [mm]	1,2	*	3,7

\* Testing after ~1500 load cycles cancelled – Expansion 5,0 mm



PA-Variante



PUR-Variante

## 4.2 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

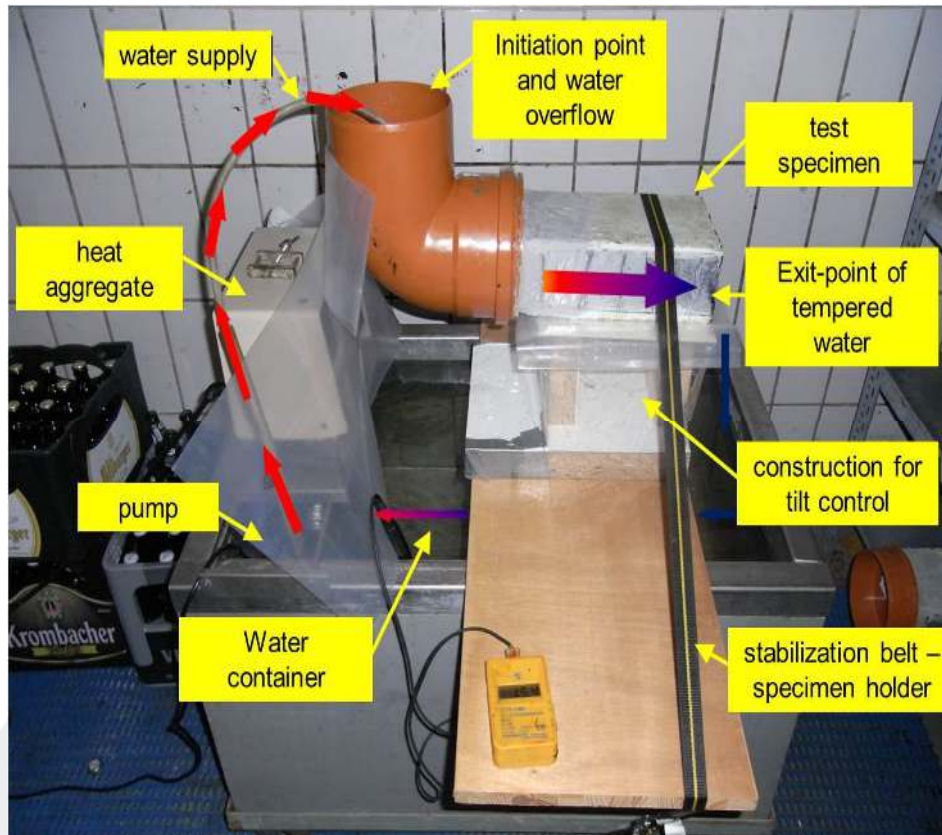
---

### Results:

- The PUR variant shows the best results for both the wheel-tracking-test and the cyclic-compression-test - high resistance to rutting and deformation
- The PA variant shows the worst results – low resistance to rutting and deformation
- The PUR variant exceeds the zero variant regarding the tested properties

► Suitability of the PUR variant is given – the investigation of thermal effectiveness is therefore carried out with the PUR variant

## 5. DEMONSTRATOR - THERMAL EFFECTIVENESS



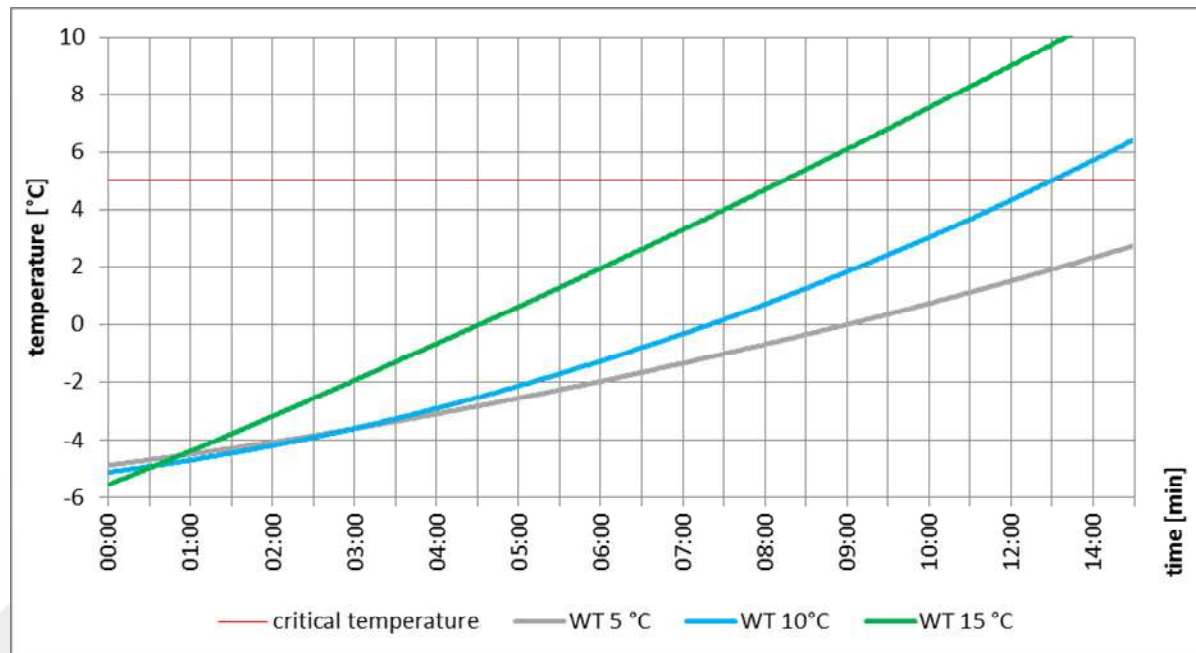
Test set-up

### Test parameters:

- Horizontal flow at a slope of 2,5 %
- Air temperature during test = - 5°C
- Core temperature of the test plate at the beginning of the test = - 5°C
- Testing with three water temperatures (5, 10 and 15°C)

## 5. DEMONSTRATOR - THERMAL EFFECTIVENESS

### Results: Thermal effectiveness



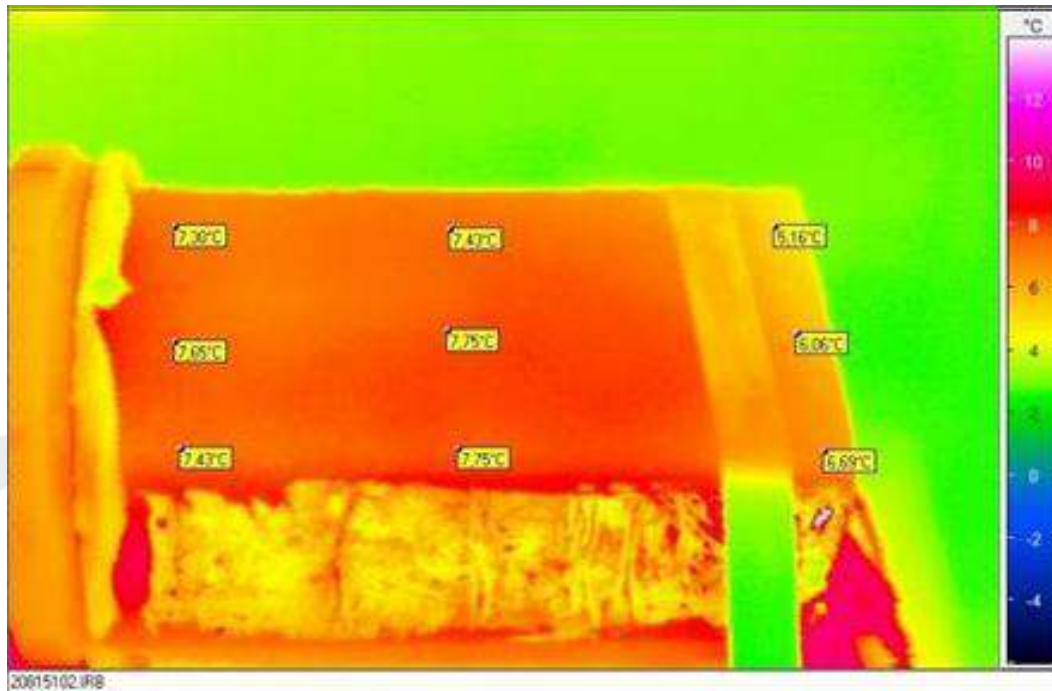
- A sufficient surface temperature of 5°C is already reached after 8 minutes at a water temperature of 15°C
- lower water temperatures lead to a slower rise

► The thermal effectiveness of the concept could be demonstrated in the laboratory for small specimens



## 5. DEMONSTRATOR - THERMAL EFFECTIVENESS

Thermal effectiveness – results (water temperature = 15°C):



after 15 minutes

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

---

- The thermal effectiveness of the PUR variant could be demonstrated in small scale in the laboratory
- The overall construction of the road was strengthened by the PUR interlayer - no negative influence was detected
- Possibilities of water discharge need to be further investigated
- Examination of low-temperature behavior is required - failure of water flow is possible
- Large-scale testing of the system is to be sought

# Thank you for attention

**Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Schacht**  
Institute of Highway Engineering Aachen  
RWTH Aachen University

[schacht@isac.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:schacht@isac.rwth-aachen.de)  
+49 (0)241- 80-25-229



China-Europe Workshop  
on Functional Pavement

功能性路面中欧学术研讨会

[www.cew.isac.rwth-aachen.de](http://www.cew.isac.rwth-aachen.de)