

Department of Public Works

Engineering Division

719-520-6460
Chuck Brown Transportation Complex
3275 Akers Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80922
www.ElPasoCo.com

Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1
Carrie Geitner, District 2
Stan VanderWerf, District 3
Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., District 4
Cami Bremer, District 5

To: El Paso County Developers, Contractors, Consultants, and Vendors

From: Joshua J. Palmer P.E., County Engineer, ECM Administrator

Date: July 31, 2024

Re: Use of CTS for Paving Season 2024 - UPDATED

El Paso County is committed to providing clear and consistent engineering criteria that encourages and supports responsible development while protecting the health and safety of County residents and users of our infrastructure. We are constantly looking for opportunities to improve the services we provide. While we continue to research innovations and best practices related to the use of Cement Treated Subgrade (CTS) as a substitute for typical base course in pavement design, the use of CTS for the 2024 paving will need to follow appropriate controls.

The attached specifications “Section 305 – Chemically Treated Subgrade” and all items within will be required throughout the design and construction process including the following additions:

1. Prior to paving, it must be demonstrated that the treated soil has achieved a Plasticity Index (PI, aka Atterberg Limits) of less than 6.
2. If micro fracturing is to be used, the Engineer of Record will indicate which method of monitoring noted in City Specification 305, will be utilized.
3. All engineering and materials testing, and inspections shall be performed by a laboratory with demonstrated history and experience performing respective work.
4. All laboratory testing results for design shall be provided to the County and show conformance to material property requirements prior to the start of construction.
5. Developers will submit a plan to provide Quality Control (QC) testing and/or inspection throughout the application of CTS, by qualified personnel.

6. All daily field material testing and inspection results shall be documented and provided to the County. Any issues with compliance identified during construction, whether by QC personnel or County inspectors, may require pause to construction until a resolution is defined and implemented.
7. All conditions and construction best practices outlined in the HBA CTS Subcommittee memo “CTS Best Construction Practices/Industry Response” dated May 16, 2024, will be followed.
8. Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) will not be placed on the constructed CTS layer until it has been demonstrated that the required compressive strength has been met.
9. A formal Deviation Request shall be submitted, including identifying the development filing (if applicable) and roads that are being constructed using this method.

This memo serves to identify the conditions under which CTS will be used for the 2024 paving season but does not supersede the requirements of the ECM to properly document deviations from the County’s criteria or the need to document justifications for future reference.

Regular Review Meetings: Regular review meetings will be held with developers, contractors, and County inspectors to ensure continuous improvement and address any issues promptly.

The above conditions and requirements are consistent with the efforts of the CTS Subcommittee, Infrastructure Research Group recommendations, engineering and construction best practices, and specifications within the Engineering Criteria Manual.

Contact Information: For further details or questions, please contact Joshua Palmer, County Engineer, at 719-520-6806.



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