



Texas Department of Transportation

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

September 25, 2008

Mr. Robin Stallings
Executive Director
Texas Bicycle Coalition
P.O. Box 1121
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Stallings:

Thank you for your letter requesting research into options for road surfacing to more effectively accommodate bicyclists. You identified three areas of concern that I will address below:

Consistency of Final Surface

I have asked our Research and Technology Implementation Office to review the existing research on this subject. There has been considerable research on the various types and methods for seal coating roads. We will compare various recommended practices to determine which practice may be more compatible with cycling.

Options to Affect Post-Construction Transition Phase

We will review our procedures for mechanically sweeping the shoulder at one to two weeks post-construction following the seal coat. We will also consider a second mechanical sweeping if appropriate.

Options to Preserve Smoother Surfaces on Shoulders

We will consider resurfacing the main lanes while leaving the shoulders as they are where appropriate to do so. This is common practice in some of our districts.

After we complete our review of research, we will forward a letter to our district engineers recommending best practices for seal coat projects including the items I have mentioned above. We look forward to working with bicyclists across Texas to improve shoulders for use by the cycling community.

If you have any further comment or questions, please contact Paul Douglas by telephone at 486-5112 or by email at pdouglas@dot.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

John A. Barton, P.E.
Assistant Executive Director
Engineering Operations

cc: James L. Randall, P.E., Director, Transportation Planning & Programming Division, TxDOT
Jennifer Moczygemba, P.E., Transportation Planning & Programming Division, TxDOT
Paul Douglas, Transportation Planning & Programming Division, TxDOT

THE TEXAS PLAN

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