The two sections of I-80 in Iowa that won the Perpetual Pavement designation are similar in design, carry a similar traffic load (1.4 million equivalent single axle loads) and are subjected to the same wet/freeze climate conditions.

The first section of roadway was constructed in 1962 and is located in Cedar County, running from milepost 225.9 east to milepost 239.9. It consists of 16 inches of asphalt-treated hot mix base placed directly over a fine grained subgrade, then topped with a 4.5-inch HMA surface course. The road was resurfaced in 1976 with 3 inches of HMA. In 1991, the road was milled 1.5 inches and overlaid with 4 inches of HMA.

The second section of pavement is located in Iowa and Johnson Counties, from milepost 257.7 east to milepost 265.8. Built in 1964, this road included a 6-inch soil-aggregate subbase, 14 inches of asphalt-treated base, 1.5 inches of HMA binder and 1.5 inches of HMA surface coat. Two inches of HMA were placed in 1968. In 1991, the road was milled 1.5 inches and overlaid with 4 inches of HMA.

The pavements have performed well beyond expectations and have operated with very low user and maintenance costs. Despite their age and the loads they have carried, their basic structures are still sound.