A good foundation with a relatively thin layer of HMA on the surface has been a winning combination for this section of I-17 between mileposts 256 and 261. The road is located approximately 56 miles north of Phoenix.

When the Arizona Department of Transportation built the road in 1963 it had to take into account the wet/freeze climate and soil in the surrounding area, which drains poorly and can be quite wet during the rainy season. The result was pavement that features an 18-inch sub-base, a 4-inch aggregate base, and a 3-inch HMA surface coat followed with a seal coat.

The road was resurfaced in 1987-88 with 2 to 3 inches of HMA. In 1999, the road was milled 2.5 inches and then paved with a 2-inch HMA course followed by a 0.5-inch HMA friction layer.

Despite 40-plus years of service, the pavement has performed exceptionally well under increasingly heavy traffic and the harsh Arizona climate. It is still in excellent condition with a very smooth ride, very shallow rut depth and a sound structure. It will not require any major rehabilitation or reconstruction in the near future. The section has shown low life-cycle cost advantages, with a long average resurfacing interval of 18 years and relatively low maintenance costs of approximately $500 per lane mile per year.