The Garden State Parkway extends north and south along the length of New Jersey on the eastern side of the state. It travels through 50 municipalities in ten counties, from the New York state line in Montvale in the north to Cape May in the south. The road goes through many different soils, and is subjected to a freeze-thaw climate.

Construction of the 173-mile Parkway began in 1946, but the bulk of the Parkway was built in a three-year period from 1952 to 1955. A typical pavement section from that time consisted of an 8-inch gravel subbase, a 5-inch penetration macadam base, and a 2.5-inch surface coat of HMA.

Since the Parkway’s official opening in October 1954, it has been widened in several areas. A separate inner roadway was built in the early 1970s to widen the road between mileposts 125.8 and 104.0.

A pavement management program has helped extend the pavement’s life. Each year the engineering department evaluates all 17 sections of the Parkway and, depending on its findings, either maintains the road with crack sealing and pothole repairs or overlays it. To date, no section of the Parkway has required pavement reconstruction.