It was 1966 when the Mississippi Department of Transportation opened this 8.4-mile expanse of I-59 in Lauderdale County; it was almost a quarter-century later before the road required any maintenance.

The award-winning road extends north from the Clarke County line to a point 1.4 miles south of I-20. When it was opened to traffic in 1966, the 23.5-inch-thick pavement structure included 12.5 inches of HMA placed on a 6-inch lime-treated subgrade and a 5-inch sand clay base course.

In 1990, the road’s 1.5-inch HMA surface was recycled in place, providing a smoother pavement for the traveling public. It was not until fifteen years later, in 2005, that the state had to do more maintenance on the road, removing two inches of the road’s surface and placing a 6-inch HMA overlay.

The road was designed for an average daily traffic count of 15,000, with 26 percent of that number trucks. Although the traffic has increased significantly since that time, the road continues to perform well.