

Washington



2001

Washington Department of Transportation Interstate 90, Full Depth Asphalt Sections

Constructed from 1964 to 1967, I-90 was designed to withstand two very different climate zones. In western Washington, near Seattle, where climate and temperatures are moderate, the original thickness of the asphalt base and wearing surface courses was 14.5 inches. However, in eastern Washington, where the climates are more severe and prone to freeze-thaw cycles, the original thickness was 9.5 inches.

Even with these very different climate zones, however, none of the I-90 sections paved with full-depth hot-mix asphalt (HMA)—a total of 13.3 miles—have needed reconstruction.

For the first section of original construction, the first overlay did not occur until 20 years later. This consisted of milling approximately 0.75 inches of the asphalt surface and replacing it with approximately 2 inches of HMA. Some sections received similar milling and overlay treatments in the late 1970s and then in the early 1990s.

The yearly equivalent single axle load (ESAL) count on the various HMA portions of I-90 range from 430,000 to 1,040,000.