

Tennessee



2004

Tennessee Department of Transportation Interstate 181, Mile Marker 11.56 to 19.71

This scenic route winds its way between Johnson City and Kingsport in Tennessee, in the northeastern corner of the state. The section of the road honored as a Perpetual Pavement extends from mile marker 11.56 to 19.71.

I-181 was constructed of 8 inches of crushed limestone base, which has served as a conduit to get water out of the pavement. This layer was followed by 10.5 inches of bituminous base, 1 inch of binder course and 1 inch of surface course. The state overlaid one 3-mile section with a 1.25-inch layer of HMA in 1977 and spot-milled and overlaid the same section with a 3.25 HMA layer in 2002. A different five-mile section was milled and overlaid with 2.75 inches of HMA in 1989.

In 1969, when the road opened, the ADT was 8,400 vehicles per day. In 2002, the average daily traffic (ADT) was approximately 39,900 vehicles per day. Since its construction, this stretch of Interstate has withstood an estimated 29 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) without any sign of structural failure.