

Virginia



2006

Virginia Department of Transportation Interstate 81, Mile Posts 318.4 to 324.9

The award-winning pavement is the northbound portion of Interstate 81 just north of Winchester in Frederick County. It was paved between June and September 1965 and completed in November 1965.

The original paving consisted of three layers of hot-mix asphalt (0.7 inches, 1.3 inches and 7.5 inches) placed over a 6-inch compacted aggregate base and a 12-inch aggregate subbase. The first rehabilitation was in 1991, more than a quarter century after the road opened to traffic. Contractors milled 2 inches of the original surface and binder courses and replaced them with a 1.8-inch hot-mix overlay. They also placed vertical fin drains to remove excess moisture from the pavement structure. The second rehabilitation came in 2004, when contractors added a 1.5-inch stone-matrix asphalt (SMA) surface course.

Although the road carries approximately 24,800 vehicles a day, with 26 percent truck traffic, the ride quality is still excellent.