



Fibers for Life.

# Durable Pavements for Urban Environments

SMA (**ABS**) – **S**ustainable **M**ultipurpose **A**sphalt

Swedish Asphalt Days 2024

# Current Traffic Situation



# The Challenges of Planning the Modern Road Network

- Increasing traffic volume
- Higher axle loads
- Noise reduction
- Use of recyclable materials
- Safety aspects
- Durability
- Drivers' comfort
- Need for economical technologies
- **Budget constraints**

# Budget Constraints

- Stagnating or even decreasing funding for maintenance of existing road network
- Urgently needed maintenance activities are postponed
- Need for making the most out of the existing budget – stretch the \$\$\$\$

 Build it cheap

 **BUILD IT CHEAP AND YOU BUILD IT TWICE!**

## Budget Constraints

**A trend away from ABS towards ABT  
because  
ABS is more expensive than ABT mixes  
Valid for the initial costs only!**

# The Concepts



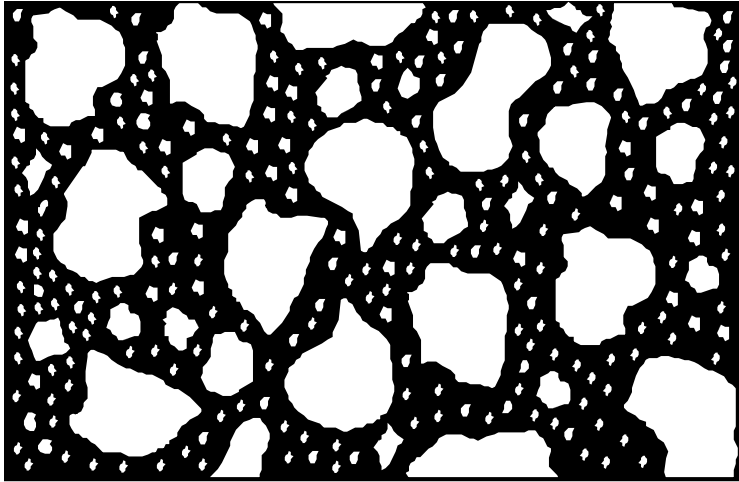
**ABT**



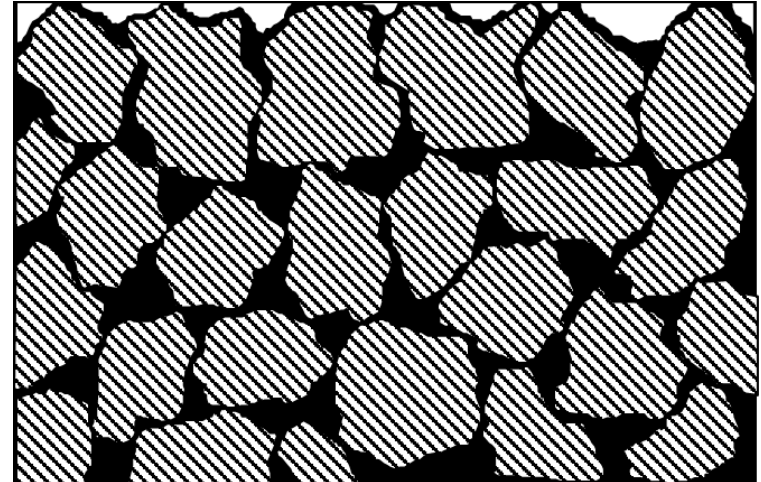
**ABS**

# The Concepts

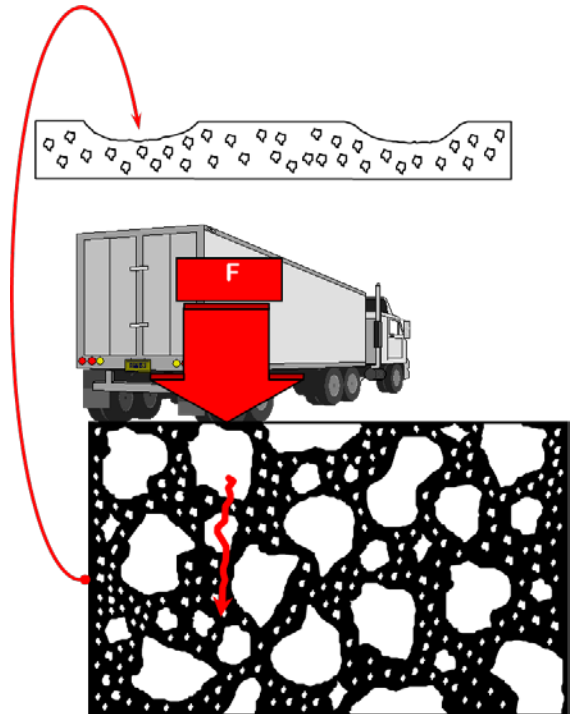
## Dense Graded Mix ABT



## Gap Graded Mix ABS



# Stability in Dense Graded Asphalt Mixes



## Better performance by:

- **The Mortar**

Dryer mortar - higher stability

- **The Aggregate Composition**

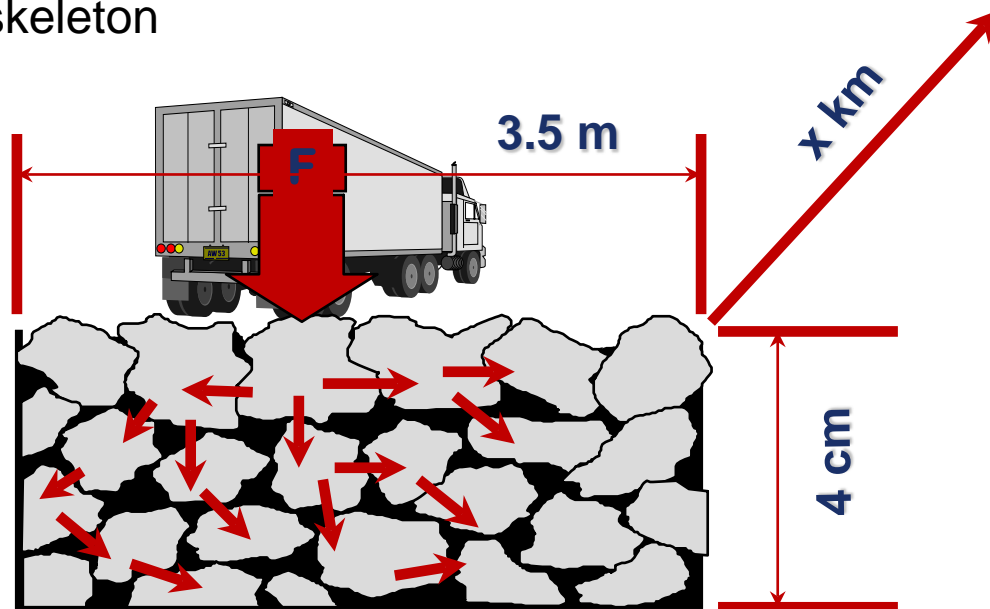
Increase the amount in the biggest fraction - higher stability



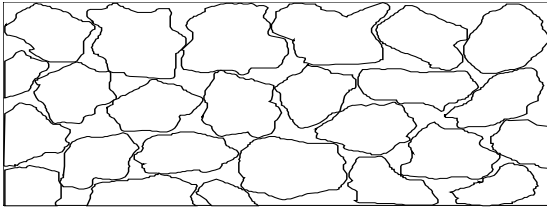


# ABS – The Concept

The stability in an ABS mix is obtained through the **internal friction** in the self-supporting stone skeleton



# ABS – The Concept

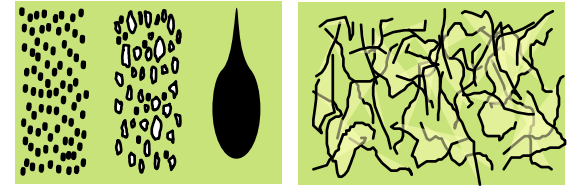


**Stones**



**ABS**

**Sand / Filler / Fibers  
Bitumen**



**Mastic**

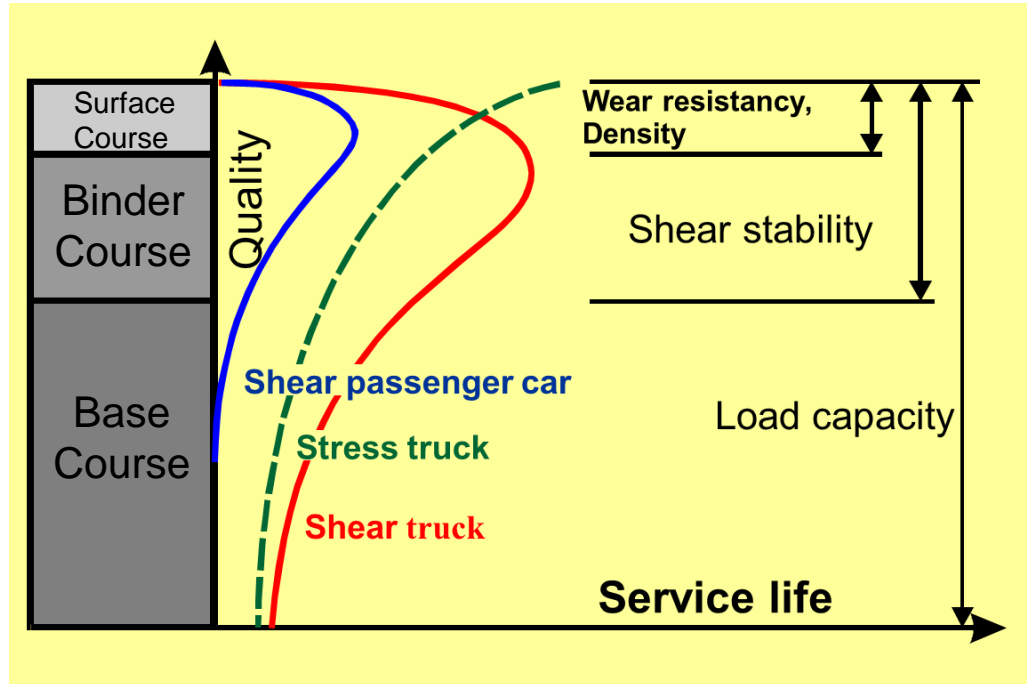
# ABS – The Concept

- A self-supporting stone skeleton of crushed high quality coarse aggregates
- A binder rich mastic mortar
- Thicker binder films covering the aggregates
  - Reduced aging sensitivity – **extended service life**
- Low air voids, which make the mix practically impermeable
  - Less surface area for oxidation/aging – **extended service life**
- An efficient stabilization of the mastic in order to prevent its segregation from the coarse particles

## ABS – The Benefits

- High resistance to permanent deformation
- Excellent skid resistance
- Reduced waterspray
- Elimination of aquaplaning
- Increased visibility of road markings
- Incorporation of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) is possible
- Superior durability
- Low noise level
- Decreased life-time-costs

# Load Distribution on a Pavement

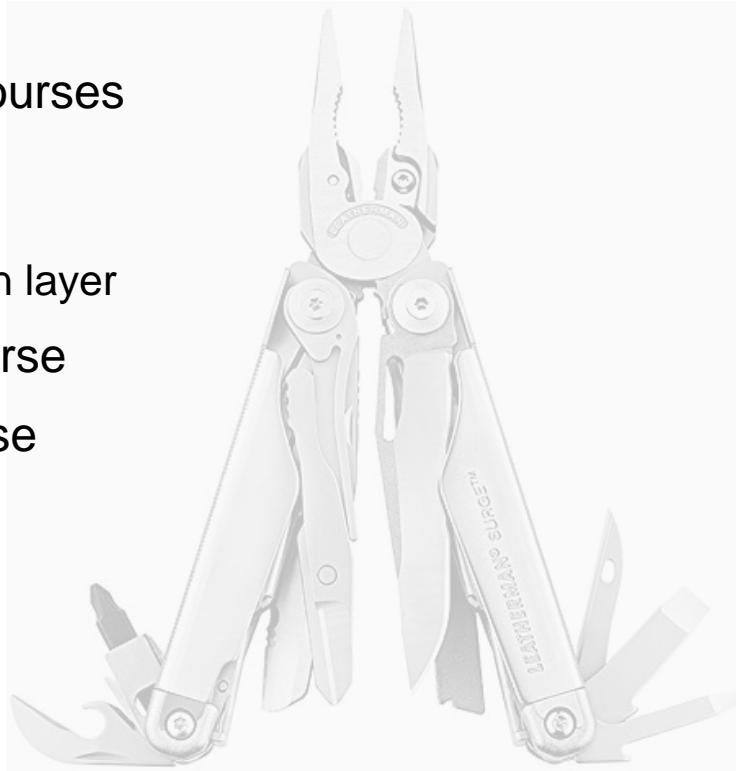


# ABS – A Multi Tool



# ABS – A Multi Tool

- ABS wearing courses
  - ABS
  - ABS plus
  - ABS (ultra) thin layer
- ABS binder course
- ABS base course
- ABT Duopave
- (PA)



# ABS – A Multi Tool



**ABS surface course**



**Noise reducing ABS plus**



**ABS binder course**



# „Standard“ Road Applications



# Bus Lanes & Industrial Areas



# Container Terminal Bremerhaven





# A9/A99 Allianz Arena, Munich



# Frankfurt Airport – 3 x Runways



# Buckingham Palace - London





# Formula 1 Racetrack Hermanos Rodriguez – México



# Urban Road Network





# Urban Road Network – The Challenges

- Limited funding
- Noise reducing surfaces
- Long durability
- Minimize traffic disturbance

# Urban Road Network – The Solution



**ABS 8**



**ABS 5**

# The Solution – ABS Thin Layers

- Limited Funding
  - Paving thickness 1,5 to 3,0 cm
  - With one ton of asphalt mix up to 25 m<sup>2</sup> of surface course can be paved
  - Initial costs similar to ABT mixes

# The Solution – ABS Thin Layers

- Noise reducing surfaces
  - Coarse texture „captures“ rolling noise
  - Reduction of up to 5 dB(A)
- Extended durability
  - No to minor rutting due to thin layer. Burden is carried by the binder/base layers
  - Good relaxation properties due to high binder content – no cracking
  - Reduced aging due to thick binder films covering the aggregates

# The Solution – ABS Thin Layers

- Minimize traffic disturbance
  - Faster paving – even possible during night
  - Compaction-friendly asphalt mix
  - Ease of manual paving
  - Earlier opening to traffic due to faster cooling, hence reduced down time

# Projects



# Projects



**Berlin / Germany - ABS 8; Year of construction: 2012**



# Projects



**Hamburg / Germany - ABS 8**

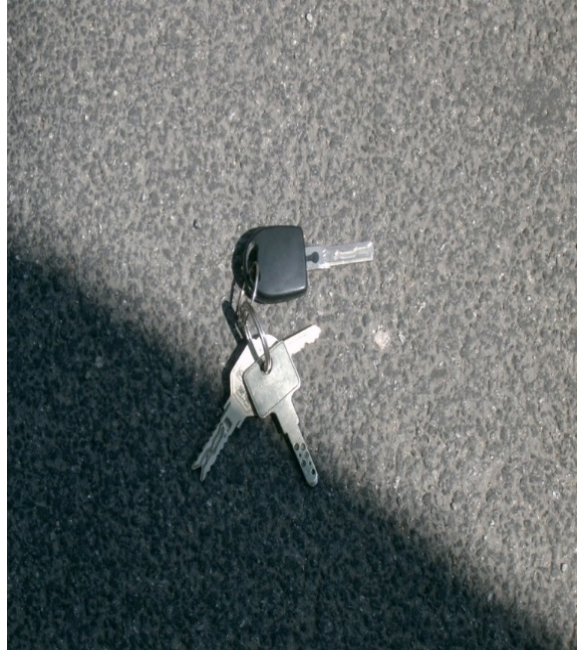


# Projects



**Hannover / Germany - ABS 5**

# Projects



**Munich / Germany - ABS 5**

# Projects



**Denmark - ABS 6**

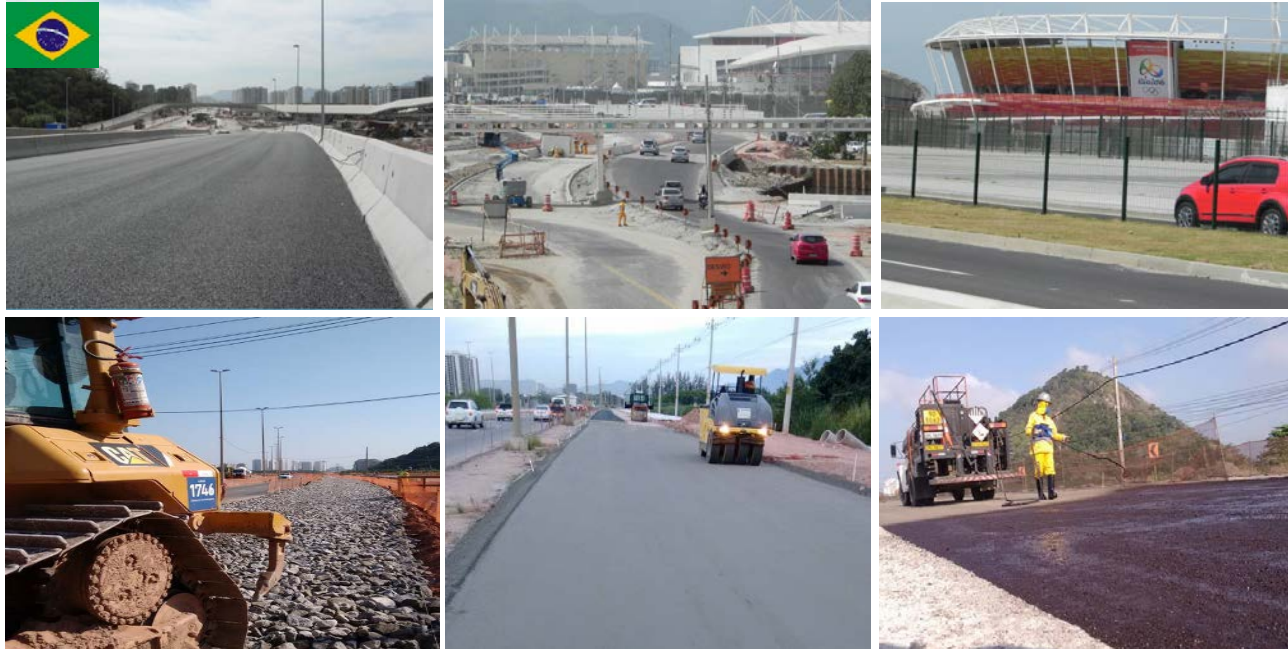
# Projects



**Heerenveen / Netherlands - ABS 5**



# Projects



**Olympic Village – Rio de Janeiro – Olympic Games 2016**

## Economical Situation

**A trend away from ABS towards ABT  
because  
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# Economical Situation

## Life Cycle Cost Analysis

	ABS	ABT
Initial costs	Higher	Lower
Maintenance	Late	Early
Rehabilitation	Late	Early
User delay costs	Lower	Higher
Life-time	Higher	Lower
Life-time-costs	Lower	Higher

# Economical Benefits - Durability

Secondary roads			
Type	15% Low level	European average	85% Higher level
<b>ABT</b>	10	15	20
AC-TL	10	15	20
AC-VTL	10	12	14
2L-PA <sup>1)</sup>	10	11	12
<b>ABS</b>	16	20	25
HRA	20	25	30
Mastic-A	18	24	30
Soft-A	8	12	25

Source: EAPA



# Economical /Ecological Benefits – The Proof of Life

## Two test sections

- First in 2002, 1.500 m long, ABS with pen bitumen; reference mix ABT with pen bitumen
- Second in 2013, 1000 m long, ABS with PMB; reference mix ABT with PmB

# Section I

## Description

- Highway: Autopista central
- Year: 2002 (milled and repaved in 2021)
- Stretch: from km 17+500 to km 16+000
- Asphalt mix:
  - 5 cm ABS 11
  - Reference mix: 6 cm ABT 11
- Traffic: 12,000 heavy vehicles/day



# Economical Aspects of Section I: Maintenance

## HDM4 vs. Real data (section I)

[Highway Design and Maintenance Standards Model – PIARC]

Reference Mix: ABT 11																					
VOLUME OF WORK																					
Actividades	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Crack sealing [ml]				240				180		340			130		410			130		380	1.810
Milling & repaving [m²]						2.265			906		3.172			906						453	7.702
Repaving [m²]																9.062					9.062

ABS 11																					
VOLUME OF WORK																					
Actividades	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Crack sealing [ml]					92		184			290	310	156		210				250			1.492
Milling & repaving [m²]															703						703
Repaving [m²]																			9.062		9.062

**Crack sealing: -18 %; Milling and repaving: -91%!!!**

# Economical Aspects of Section I: One Full Cycle

Initial construction plus maintenance

HDM4 vs. Real data (segment I)

[Highway Design and Maintenance Standards Model – PIARC]

Tabla 70. Coste de construcción y conservación de tramo en estudio (9.000 m<sup>2</sup>)

Tipo Mezcla Rodadura	Total construcción,	Total	Total, USD
6 cm ABT 11	86.798	223.476	310.274
5 cm ABS 11	113.399	82.057	195.456
Diferencia %	+31%	-63%	-37%
	Initial construction	Maintenance	Total

## Section II

### Description

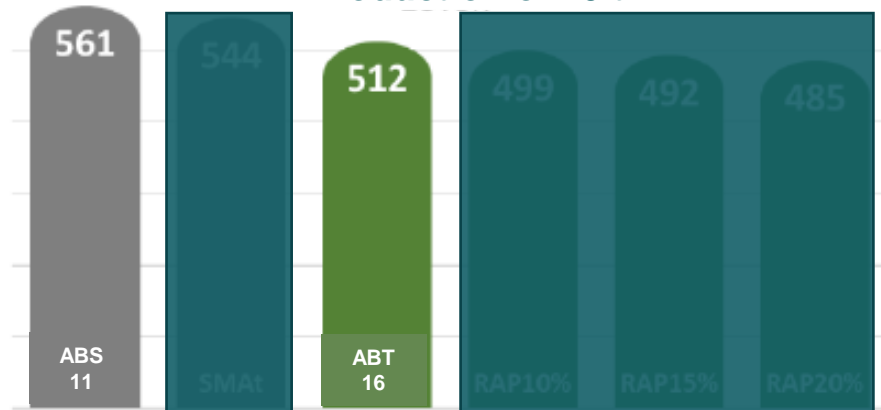
- Highway: Autopista central
- Year: 2013
- Stretch: from km 1+600 to km 0+600
- Asphalt mix:
  - 3 cm ABS 11; bitumen content 6,8 % (PmB)
  - Reference mix: 5 cm ABT 16; bitumen content 5,3 %
- Traffic: 12.000 heavy vehicles/day

# Ecological Aspects - Sustainability

## Assessment of the environmental impact with Eurovia's GAIA II software

Green House Gas Emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq)

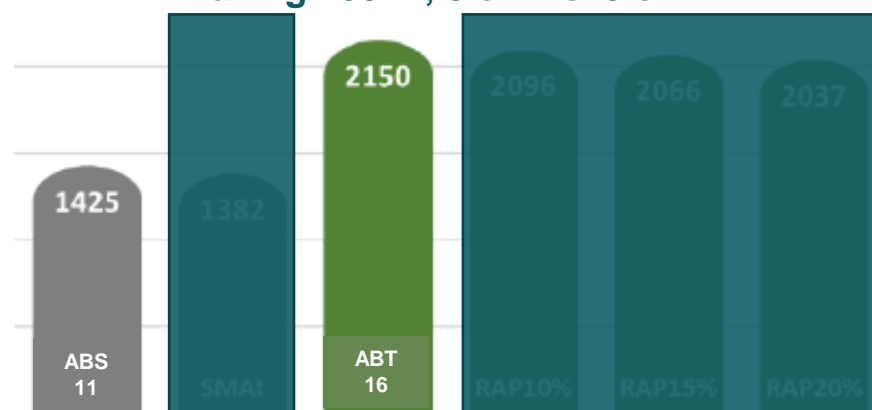
Production of 10 t



**Production: +10 %**

Green House Gas Emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq)

Paving 100 m; 3 cm vs. 5 cm



**Paving: -34 %!!!**

# Ecological Aspects - Sustainability

## Assessment of the full life cycle environmental impact with Eurovia's GAIA software

Green House Gases Emissions (kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq)

3 cm vs. 5 cm; double lifespan



## Conclusions

- ABS mixes offer great savings

# ABS - The Multi Tool

## Durable – Sustainable – Environmentally Friendly

- Incorporation of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) is possible
- ABS represents the most sustainable option for asphalt paving





Thanks a lot for  
your kind  
attention