The Convergence of Road Profiling and Automotive Design



How will the paths cross?

Road Profiler User Group Conference September 19, 2013

Robert Babcock Director, Certification and Compliance Affairs Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc.



Hyundai-Kia US R&D Operations

Vehicle Durability and Performance Testing





- Admin / HR / ACC.
- Design Engineering
- Laboratory Testing
- Powertrain
- Electronics Dev.
- Planning / Regulations



California Emissions Testing Fuel Cell Fleet

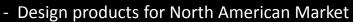




HMMA

- Support Engineering Improvements
- Quality improvement

KMMG



- Separate facilities to differentiate brands

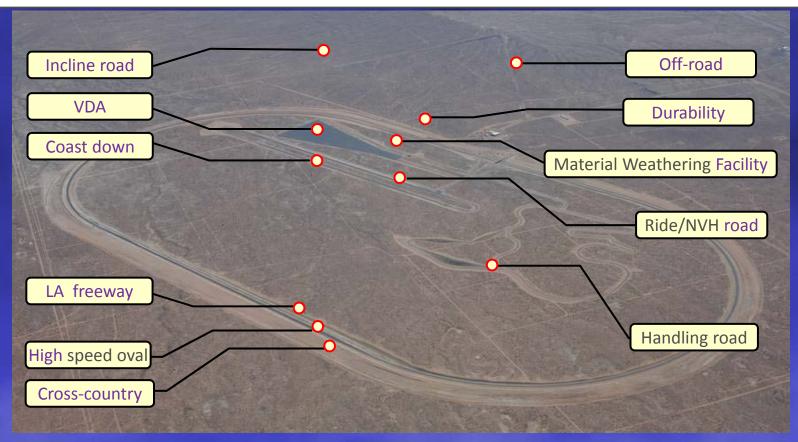


HATCI Road Test Capability



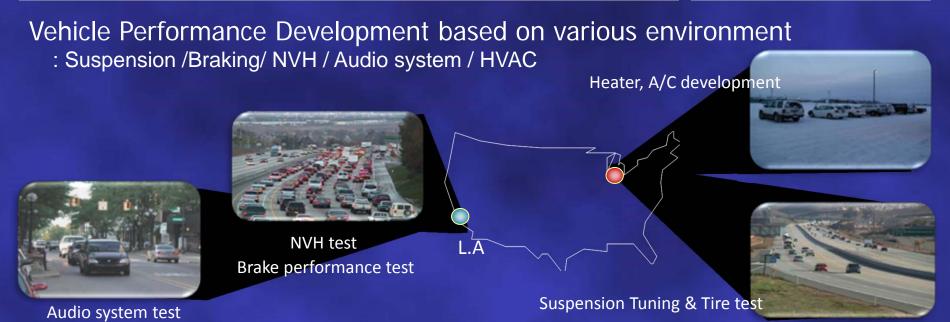
California Proving Grounds (CPG)

- Site: 4,368 acres, approximately 11 square miles, over 40 miles of road and test tracks
- Construction Started: 2003 Opened: 2005
- Primary functions: Vehicle development, safety confirmation, quality & durability testing





Other Places We Test Vehicle Performance





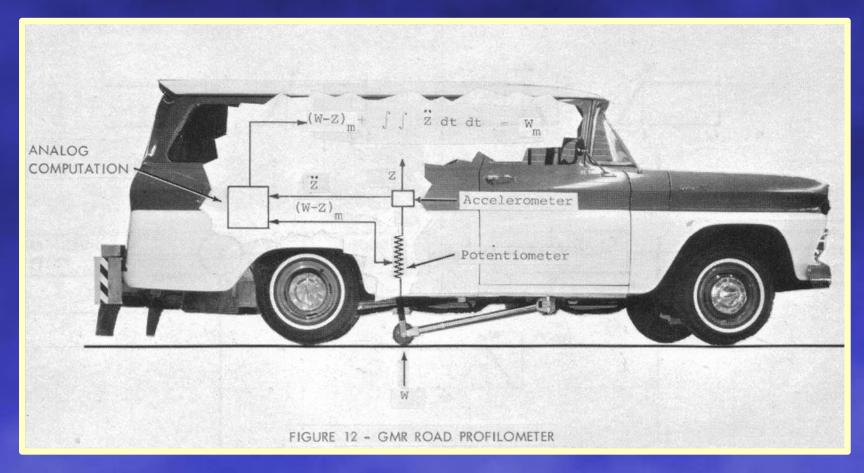


A Little History of Road Profiling

1964:

 Elson Spangler and Bill Kelly of General Motors invent the first internal profiler.







More History

Soon After:

 State DOT's begin using profilers based on the Spangler/Elson design.

Michigan DOT and Texas DOT are among first to

utilize the design.

• FHWA begins pushing more usage.









More History

Eventually:

- Dave Huft builds the "South Dakota Profiler"
- South Dakota hosts the first RPUG meeting in 1986.





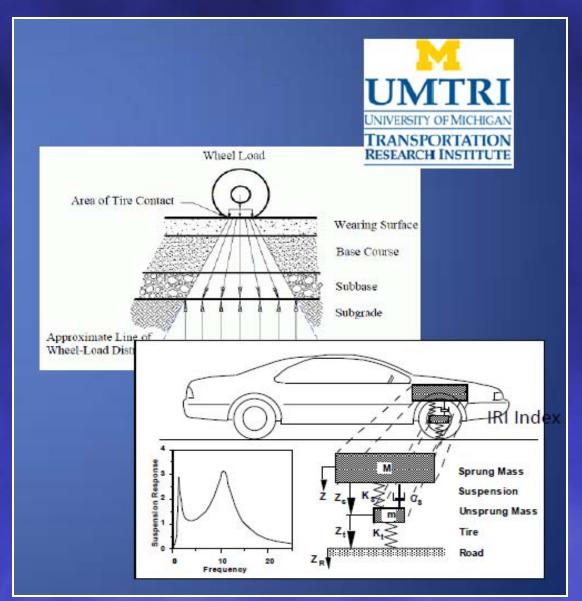
Department of Transportation

Improvements.....

International Roughness Index (IRI)

Definition:

A statistic used to estimate the amount of roughness in a measured longitudinal profile





Where We Are Today

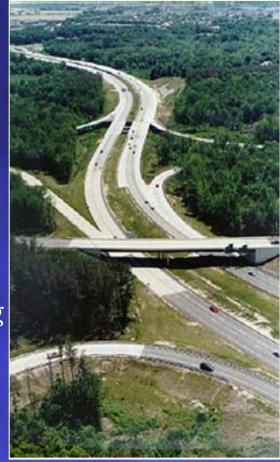


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Now:

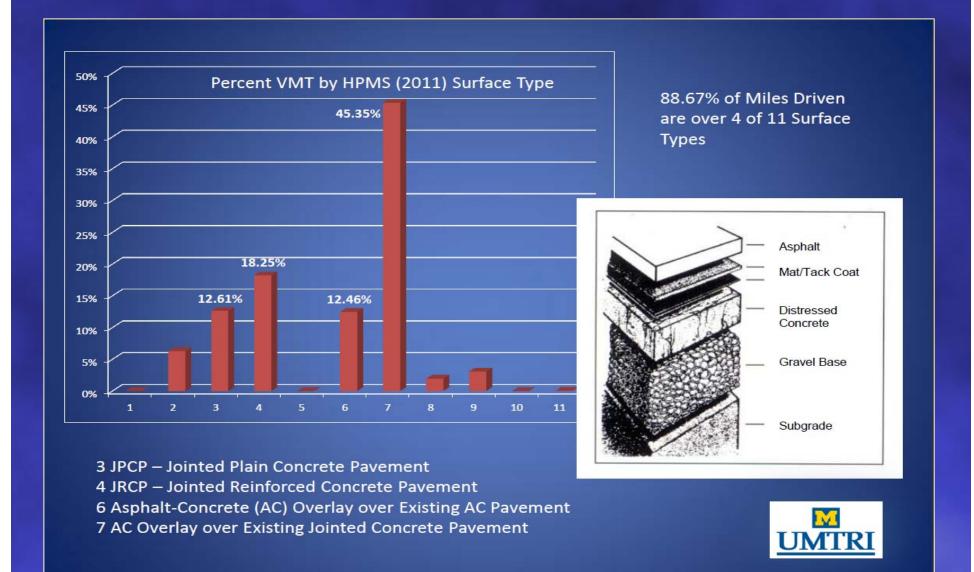
- FHWA produces the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
- Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc. (HATCI) has contracted with the UMTRI to determine the "average road surface" in the United States using HPMS.





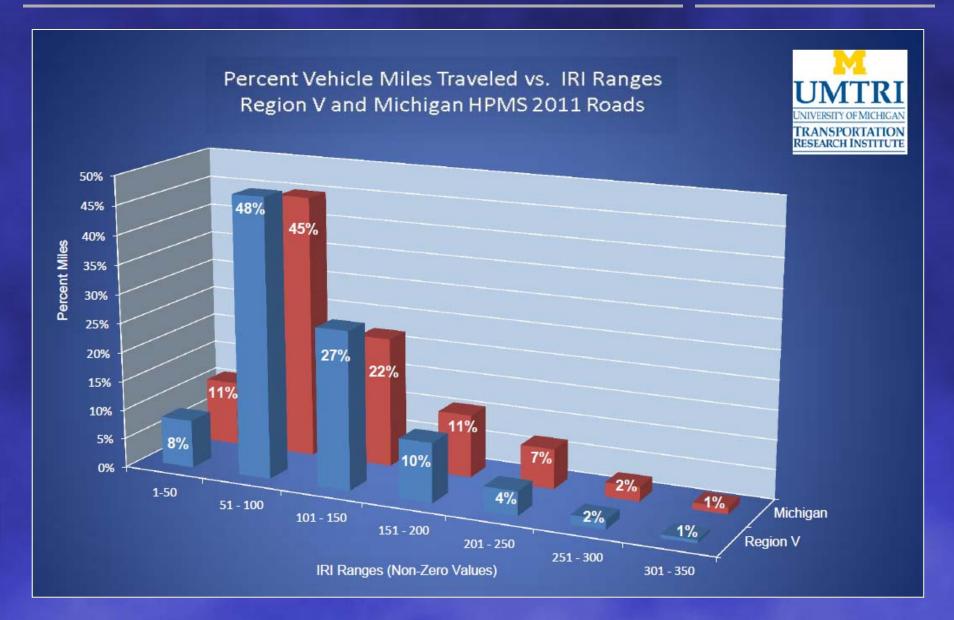


Initial Findings (Region V)





Initial Findings (Region V vs. Michigan)





How Is This Important To The Auto Industry?

Knowing more about road surfaces can dramatically assist vehicle designers

- NVH (Noise, Vibration, Handling)
- Knowing the frequency of operation on road "types" can influence design
- New technologies will depend on road design and infrastructure

The auto and road industries are converging



Major Current Challenges

Road surfaces affect many auto issues

- Ride, handling, and vehicle safety effects are well known
 - > Rain and snow performance
 - > Vibration
 - Braking
 - > General noise effects

But other effects are critical as well



Major Current Challenges

- Road surface has a dramatic effect on fuel economy.
 - Surface composition, structure, wear, expansion joints, tining, etc.
- Voice recognition is a major new technological development
 - Roadway noise interferes with voice recognition
 - > Audio operations are degraded



Major Future Challenges

- Lane departure warning relies on roadway marking and/or embedded infrastructure
- Vehicle to Vehicle communication (V2V)
 - ➤ Will allow vehicle monitoring for intersection crash avoidance and traffic control, but needs infrastructure
- On-road charging for electric vehicles
 - > Will require embedded infrastructure



What Can We Do?

ENHANCING CONVERGENCE

The more we work together now, the quicker that new technologies can be introduced to improve the driving experience, vehicle safety, and the efficiency of the transportation system as a whole



Credits

Special Thanks To:

Steve Karamihas and Michelle Barnes University of Michigan Transportation Institute

