

# Motor-Grader Maintenance Presentation

NDACE Convention  
Jan.22-23, 2015

Corey Uhrich 701-740-2308

**MOTOR GRADER  
OPERATOR  
TRAINING**



**NDSU**

UPPER GREAT PLAINS  
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE  
NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Knowledge You Will Acquire – Classroom Session

Operation/maintenance costs

Road shape/shoulders

Cutting edges

Grading techniques

Percentage of slopes/check

# Knowledge You Will Acquire – Classroom Session

When to reshape

Compaction

Good gravel

# Knowledge You Will Acquire – Classroom Session

Materials & testing

Stock piles

Quantities and spreads

Why water is important

Soil composition

Attachments

# Hands On

Check wear components and edges

Mark circle @ 12'

Pull center pin for changing edges and vertical grading

2 pass Straight blade with no windrows for bits

2 pass Blade down for float on road with good crown and shoulders

2 pass feather to crown for road with high traffic pounding down crown

# Hands On

4 pass down and up to cut out washboards, mix gravel

5 pass to equalize lanes for uniform %

4 or more passes for spot repairs

4 or more to repair segregation or placing gravel ( windrow and leave 1" each pass)

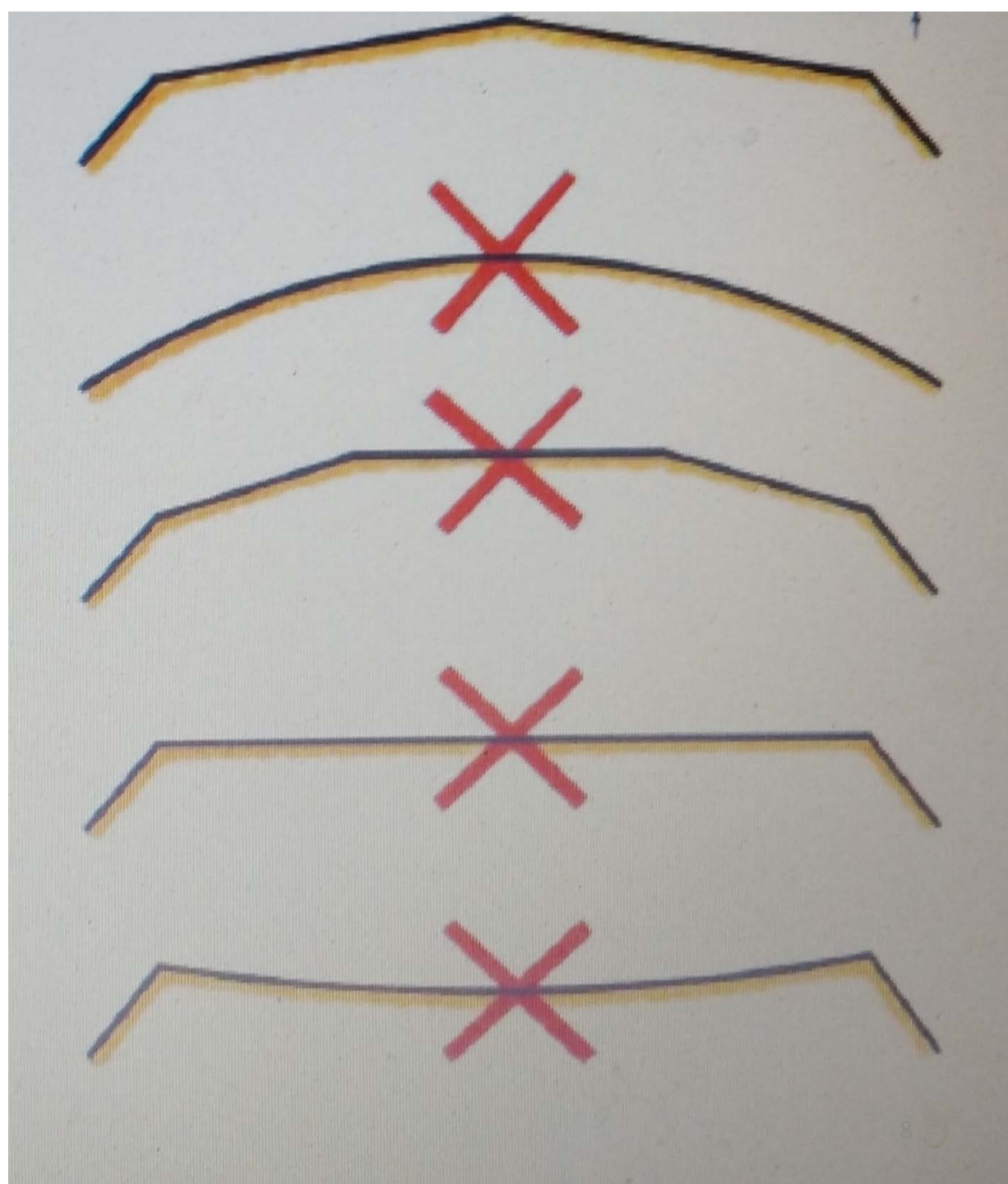
# Hands On

Blade position for windrow inside tandems down to 2' pass

Repair a super, high shoulder, or ditch

If your newer, we will focus on machine control

Proper Shape





# When and when not to have a crown

The primary road  
should retain its  
crown

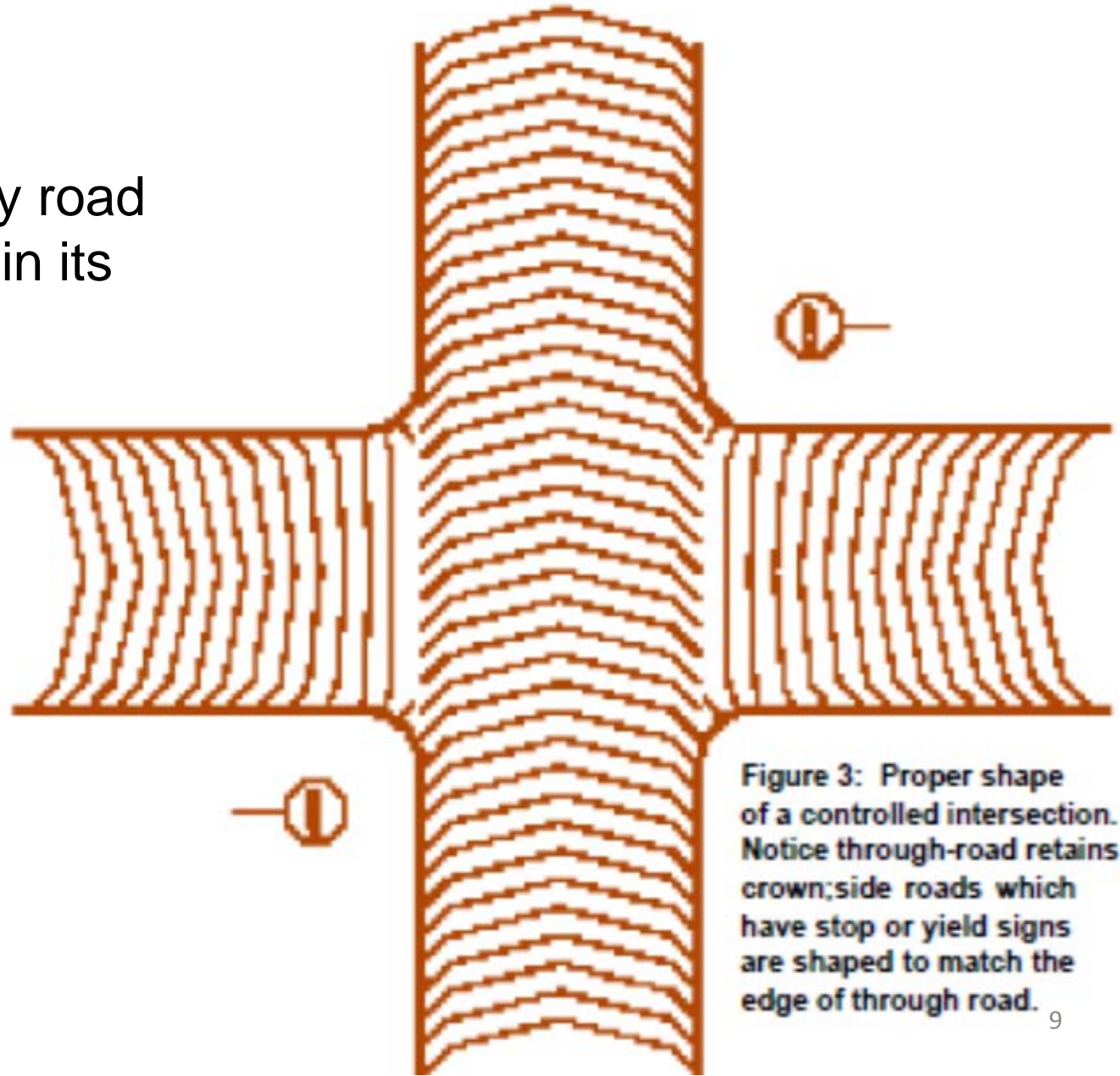


Figure 3: Proper shape of a controlled intersection. Notice through-road retains crown; side roads which have stop or yield signs are shaped to match the edge of through road.

# 1.6 million miles of unpaved roads in the US (53%)

1 vehicle

1 year

1 ton dust per mile

Each mile with 100 cars per day  
= 100 tons of fines per year!

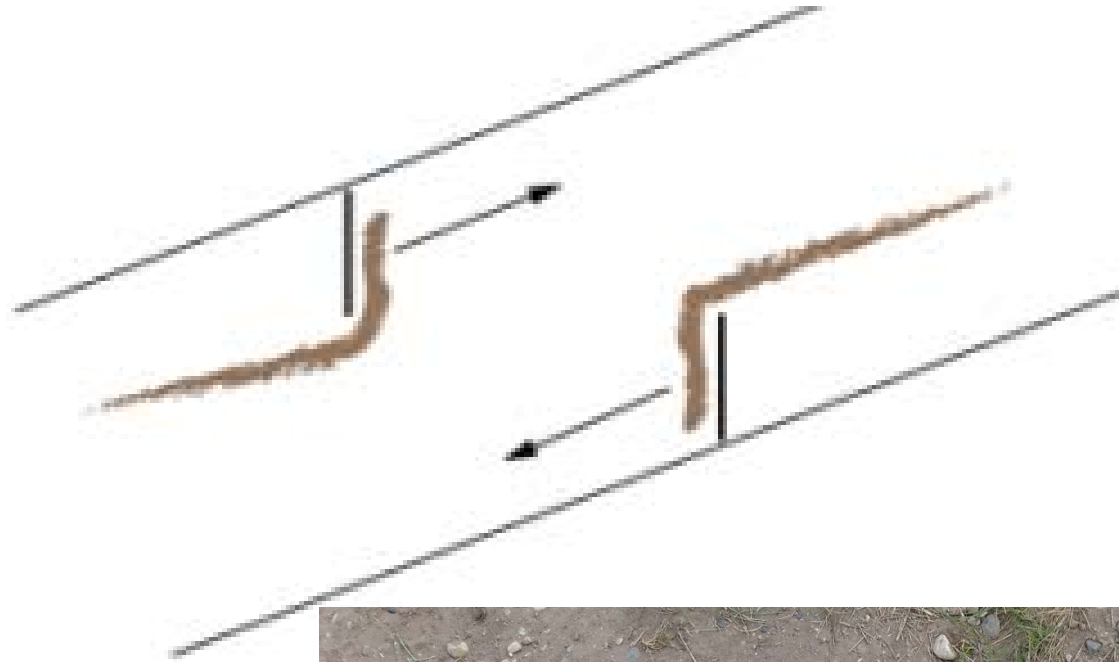
Segregation/float



4 pass – try it for cutting out and mixing gravel

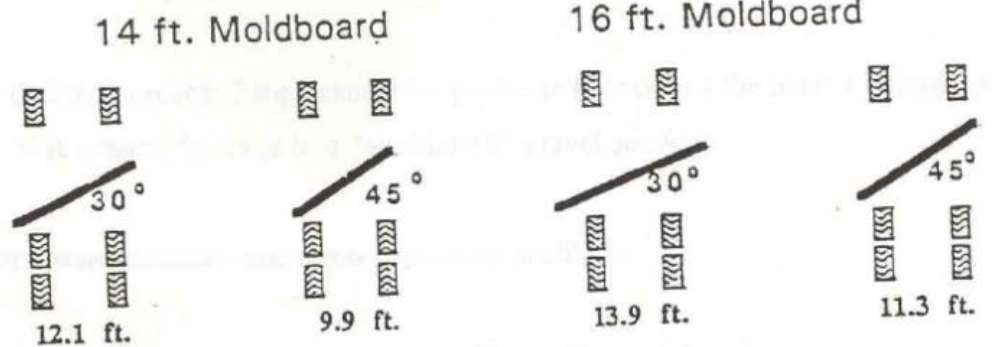
Road better last at least twice as long as 2 pass method

Never blade down middle (unless?)



# Compare equipment with your road width design

Width of bladed surface of  
14 ft. and 16 ft.  
moldboards set at 30° and 45°



Notch circle at 12'



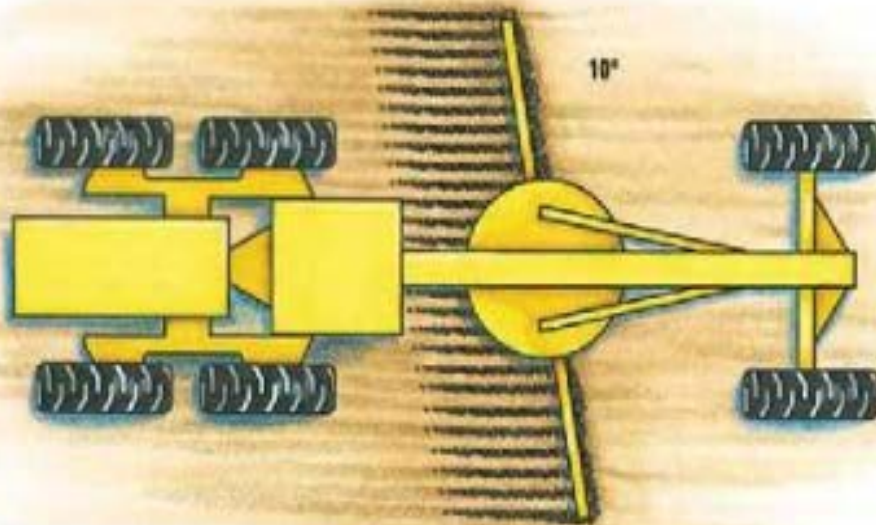
No windrows with bits

If you have a windrow, you have cut through too much crust!

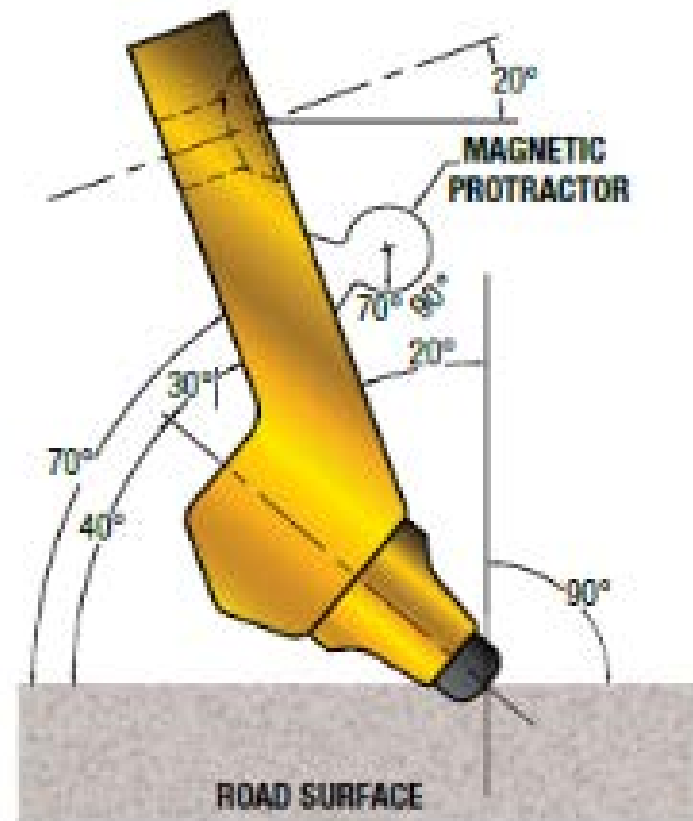
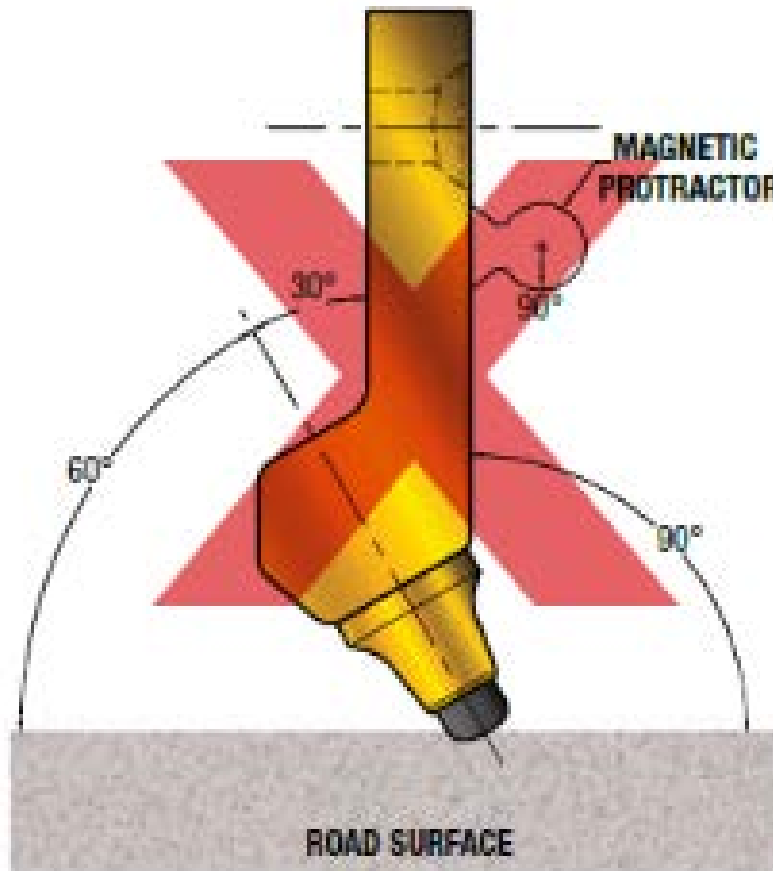
## Blade Angle

To help determine proper blade angle, here are a few rules of thumb that apply:

- Use the widest pass width.
- Increase the blade angle if material begins to flow around the leading edge of the moldboard.
- Use a 10 percent blade angle when using a Grader Bit System or serrated blade edge.



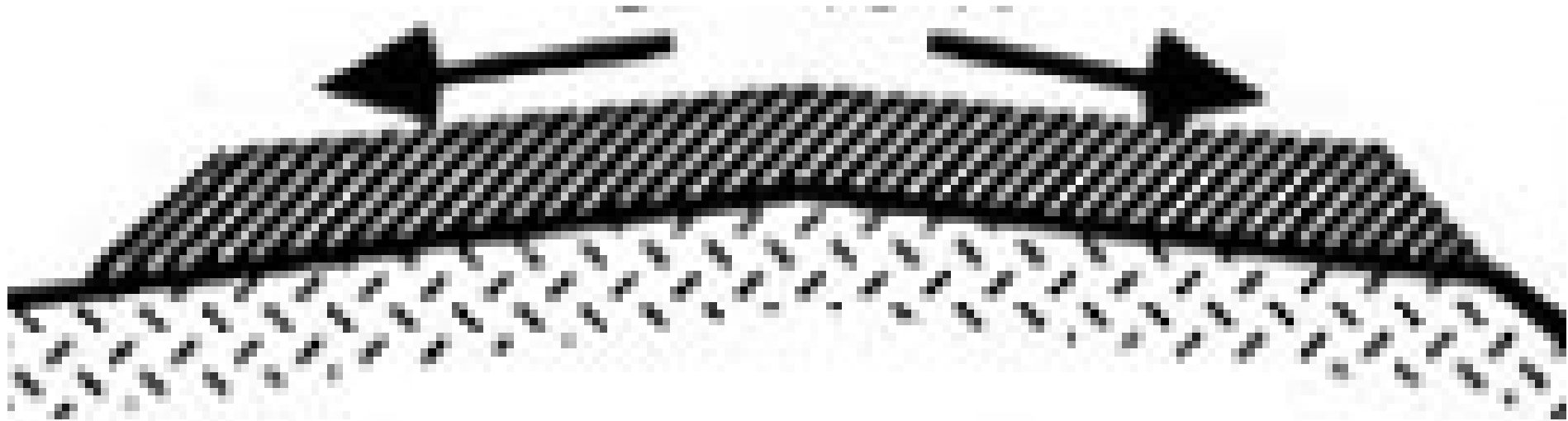
Use magnetic protractor



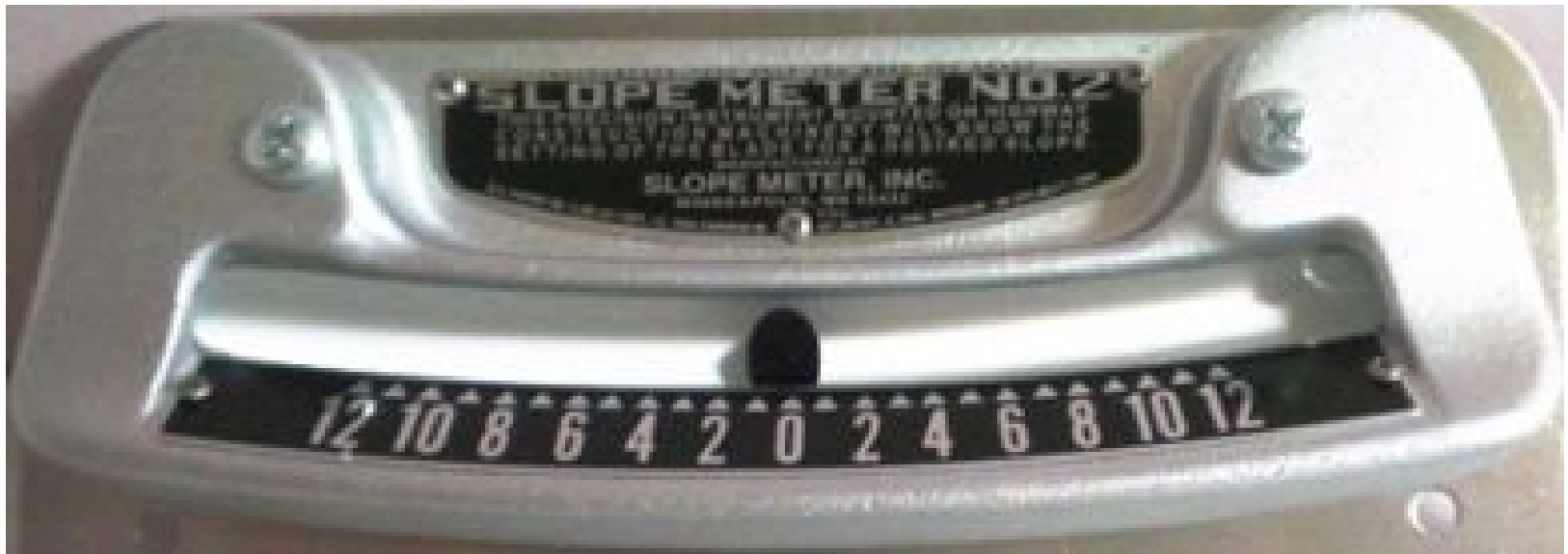
**2% for future pave 4% for unpaved**

2% is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot 4% is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " per foot

**Gravel at or near 4%**



# Use Slope Meter





**High shoulders  
“berms”  
“curbs”**

**The engineering term is “secondary ditch”**



# Recovering & Spreading

If there is little or no vegetation on the shoulder, simply extend the moldboard out into the shoulder material and begin to pull it onto the roadway

The material recovered is often good gravel that needs to be returned to the roadway surface





$5280 \times 0.6 \times 16 / 27 \times 1.2 = 2,253 \text{cy}$   
@ \$10/cy = **\$22,253 per mile!**



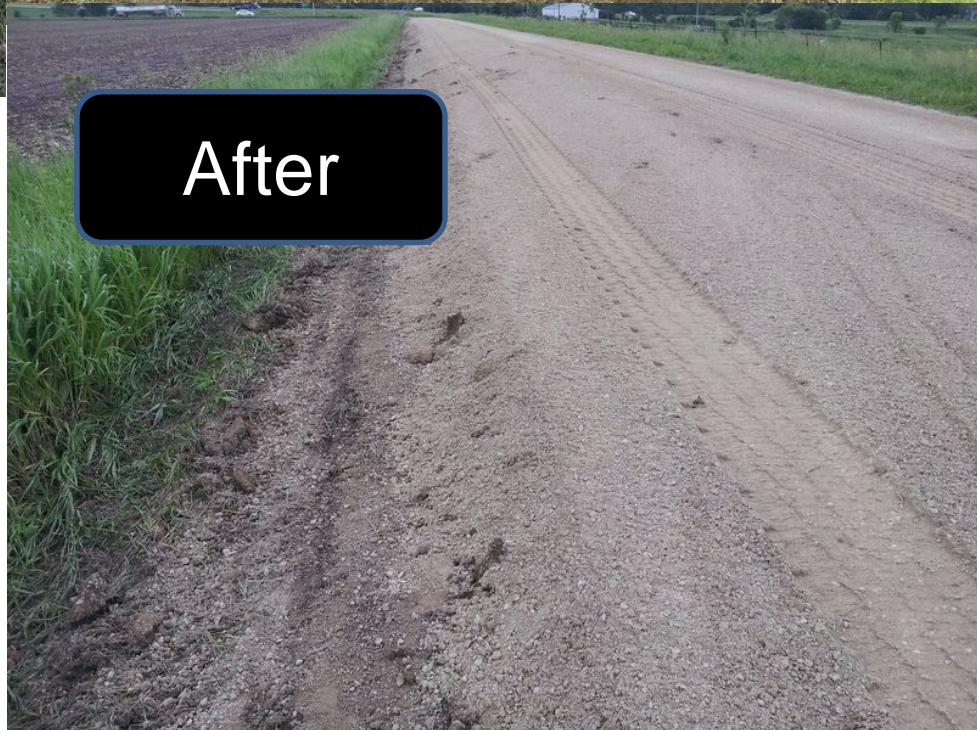
Before



During



After



Wrong time of year  
Use shoulder disc 1<sup>st</sup>

# When to do Gravel Road Rehabilitation

- Spring is the best time for this as there is minimal vegetative growth and moisture is present
- The use of a roller for compaction will greatly improve the finished surface
- This will leave a denser, stronger, smoother surface that will be easier to maintain.

# What is Good Gravel?

The answer to this question will vary depending on the region

Local sources of aggregate available and other factors

Some regions of the country do not have good sources of gravel

No gravel surface will perform like pavement! \$ controls quality!

# Reasons for testing

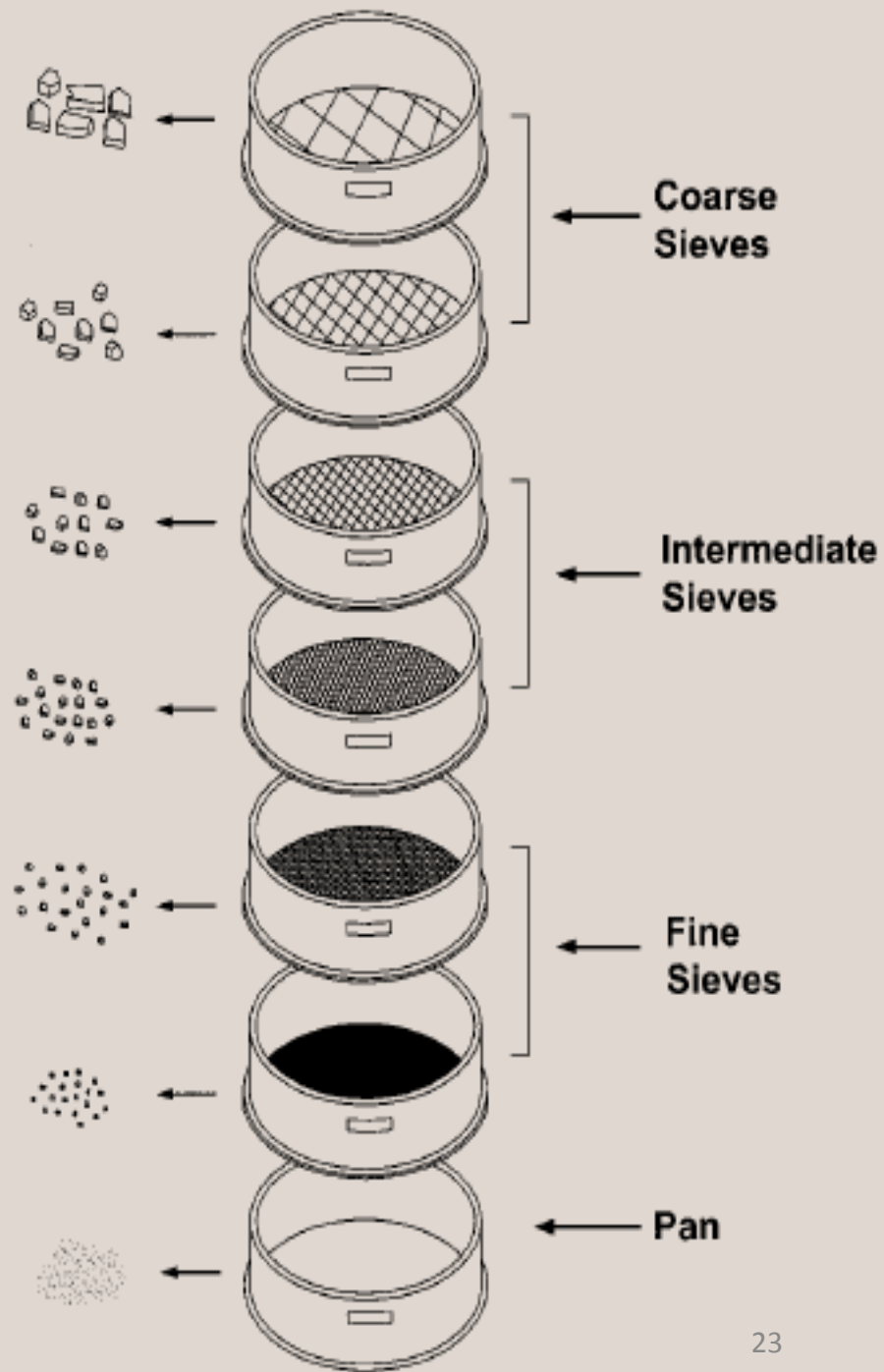
You get what you pay for!

I will sell you reject gravel

Single gradation test \$135

Do not accept gradations from piles

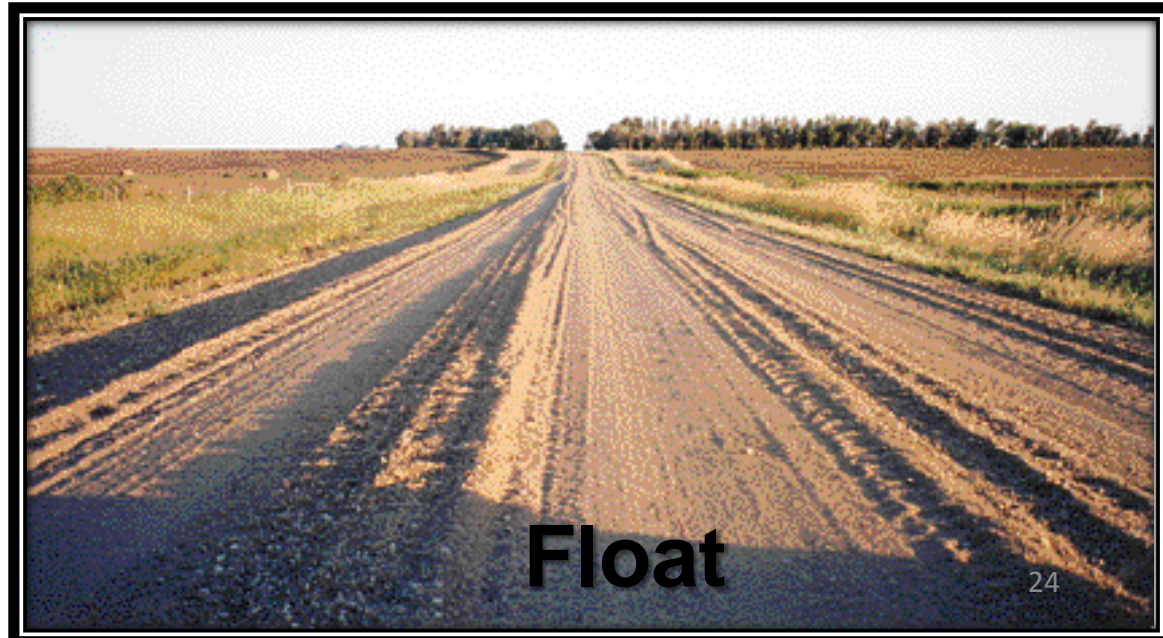
#4, #200



**These two roads show remarkable contrast in surface condition due to the quality of gravel**

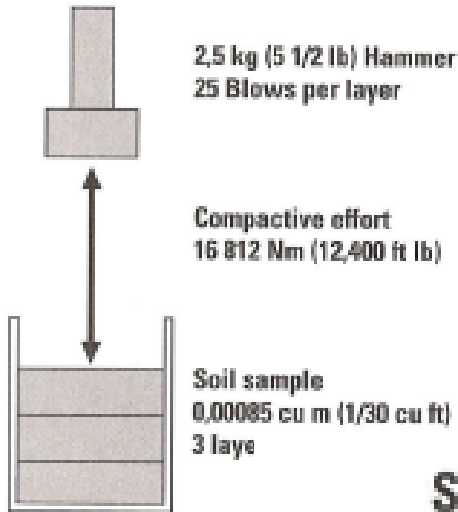
**The bottom photo shows a road surface that has too much stone and sand in proportion to the fine material**

**The gravel remains loose and is hard to maintain**





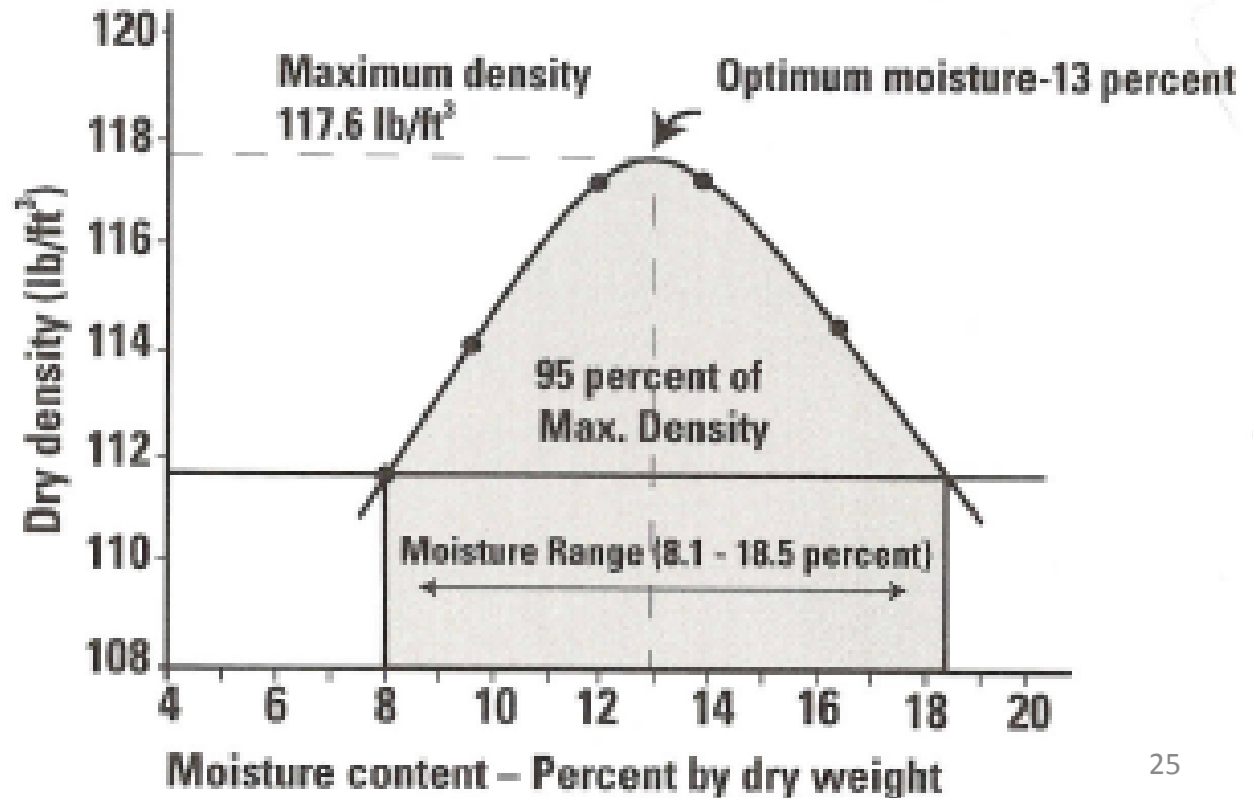
# LABORATORY TESTS



Standard AASHTO or Proctor (T-154)

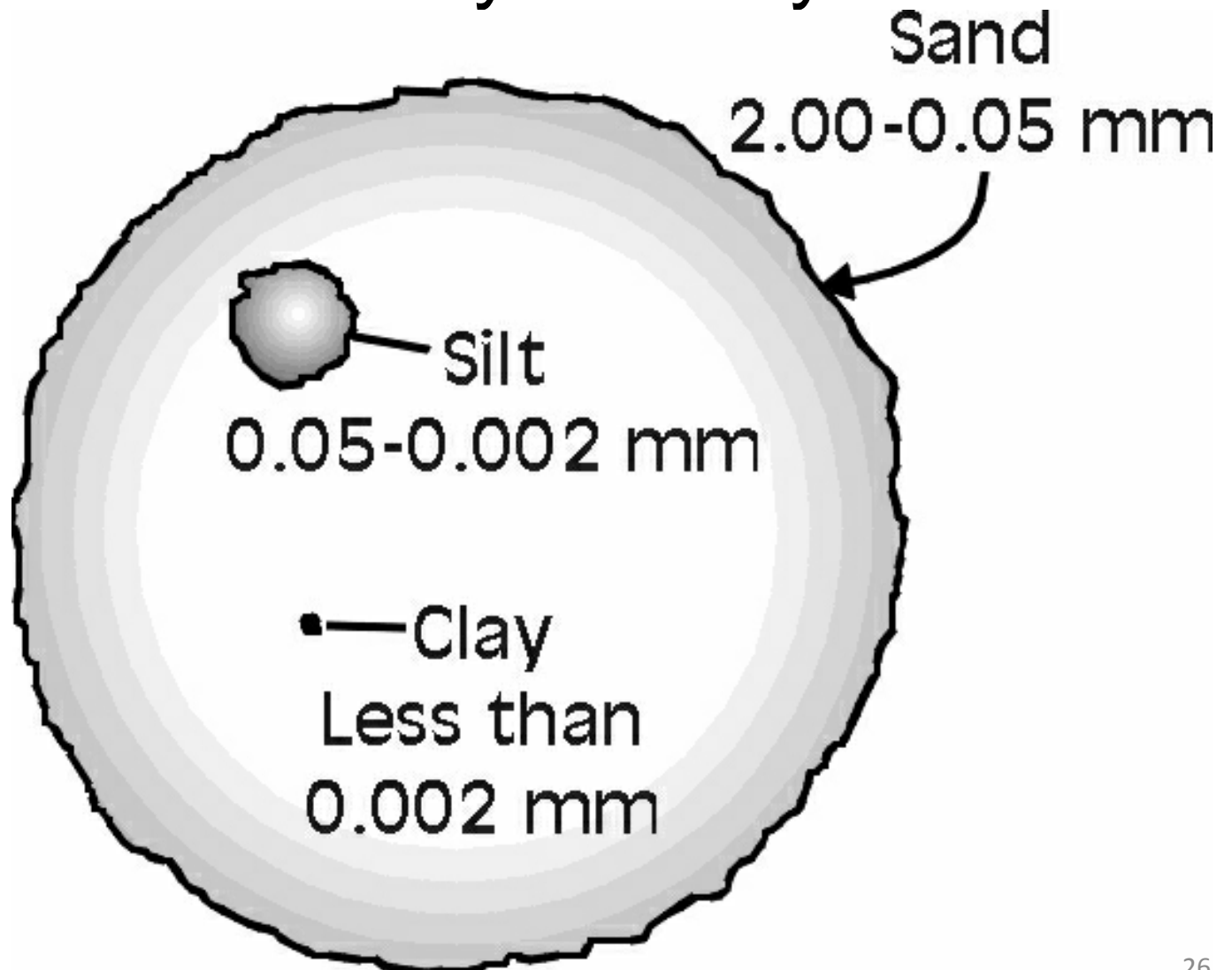
## 5 point proctor

### STANDARD AASHTO MOISTURE-DENSITY CURVE



Silt and clay is #200

Silt = dusty or slimy



The use of a shouldering disk helps mulch up the sod and vegetation before it is pulled onto the roadway either to be removed or recycled on the road as reusable gravel





Apply what we learn!



# Questions?

Contact Information:

Corey Uhrich

701-740-2308

[CUhrich@clcmn.edu](mailto:CUhrich@clcmn.edu)

