

Executive Report



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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

For South Carolina County, FDR Paves the Way to Fame, Fortune, and Better Roads

Like many rural areas, Fairfield County, S.C., faced ongoing problems with its unpaved roads. They were a costly, dusty nuisance.

The county's 220 miles of gravel roads required frequent maintenance, consumed \$200,000 worth of surface aggregate each year, and provided motorists with dust and other problems with unpaved roads.

The answer was full-depth reclamation (FDR) with cement, a process in which the existing gravel roads are blended with cement to form a stabilized base then paved with a thin asphalt surface. Cost evaluation showed that the FDR process would save the county more than \$70,000 dollars per mile compared to the alternative of a standard asphalt pavement with a 2 in. surface and 6 in. aggregate base. This cost savings would allow the county to upgrade 3 miles of road using the FDR with cement process for every 2 miles of asphalt pavement that could be constructed at the same cost.

In September 2006, the county paved 13.5 miles of roads with FDR, saving the taxpayers \$1.5 million while improving quality of life for local residents by paving the gravel roads. The Southeast Cement Association featured the project in a demonstration and seminar in October. The county plans to upgrade 16 more miles this year.



The Fairfield County FDR project is being recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of South Carolina. As a winner of an Engineering Excellence Award, the project is eligible for the association's highest honor, the Palmetto Award. In addition, the Fairfield County project will be considered for a national ACEC award. The regional awards will be presented February 8, 2007.

PCA has published a two-page case history report on the project, "County Uses FDR with Cement to Upgrade Unpaved Roads."

[View or download the case history \(PDF\)](#)