New Pavement on Kittitas Highway

Kittitas Highway Grind & Overlay Project

Location:
The Kittitas Highway project is between the city limits of Ellensburg (mile post 1.03) and the city limits of Kittitas (mile post 5.64), a length of 4.61 miles.

Project Description:
This is a grind and overlay project, meaning the existing asphalt pavement was rehabilitated by being ground to receive pavement composite. A paving fabric made of fiberglass and polyester fabrics was laid down and then hot mix asphalt was placed on top.

Paving fabric extends the life of new asphalt-concrete (AC) pavements and AC overlays. When placed between layers of AC pavement, this system becomes an integral part of the roadway section, forming a barrier to water infiltration and absorbing stresses to reduce reflective and fatigue cracking of the new asphalt surface layer. This project used TRUPAVE Engineered Paving Mat.

A future project will include safety enhancements to help meet growing traffic demands in this area. The safety improvement project is in the design phase, with construction planned to start in 2014.

Updated 11/1/2013
Funding:
A variety of funding sources are being used to pay for the Kittitas Highway project: Federal Highway Administration funds (Surface Transportation Program), County Arterial Preservation Program, and Kittitas County road funds.

Schedule:
The call for bids went out on June 4, 2013, and bids were opened on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 10:00am in the Department of Public Works. Bids were received from Granite Construction Inc., and Columbia Asphalt. Granite Construction entered the low bid of $1,282,282. The Engineer's estimate was $1,524,998. Granite Construction was officially awarded the contract on July 2nd. A pre-construction meeting took place on July 30th and construction began the week of September 23rd. The asphalt milling machine used on Kittitas Highway had diamond blades, so the grinding process went quickly. After grinding the road surface off, pure performance graded asphalt heated to around 250º F was applied to the prepared road surface, and the fabric was immediately laid over this hot asphalt. Finally, the road was paved with 3 inches of asphalt overlay and the road striping was applied.

Road History
Kittitas Highway was also known in the past as part of the Sunset Highway, which stretched from King County east towards Spokane, and as the Inland Empire Highway.
Grinding in Progress on Kittitas Highway

Updated 11/1/2013
Trucks Lined Up on Fabric Layer Kittitas Highway, Waiting to Dump Asphalt
Paving Machine Proceeding to Spread Asphalt
Line of Asphalt on Top of Fabric Layer, Waiting for Spreading

Updated 11/1/2013
Close up of Asphalt Spreading Machine
Rolling Fresh Asphalt on Kittitas Highway

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Kittitas Highway Looking West - New Pavement and Striping