Technical Note No: 8

- **Sub:** APRRP-CC Pavements Early age Cracks in CC pavements Repair and Rehabilitation- Reg.
- Ref: 1) Inspection of works in 12 Districts by PMC Team.
 - 2) IRC: SP:83-2018- Guidelines for Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of Cement Concrete Pavements (First Revision).

Background: During inspection of APRRP works by PMC Team it was observed that the CC roads are experiencing cracks in some of the panels of CC pavements executed by PIUs in the field. (Fig-1).

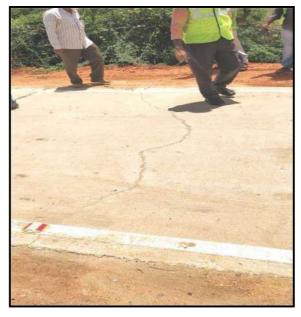




Fig1. Cracks observed in APRRP CC roads

1. Introduction:

The concrete pavement slab expands with the rise in temperature and contracts with fall in temperature. The changes in temperature and relative humidity causes concrete pavement to crack at regular intervals. To take care of the expected cracking contraction joints are provided to ensure that cracking in concrete slab doesn't take place randomly, at other locations.

2. Factors influencing the uncontrolled (random) Cracks:

- i) Deficiencies like inappropriate selection of materials
- ii) Lack of timely and adequate curing
- iii) Delayed joint cutting
- iv) Other constructional deficiencies etc.,

Cracks are not un common to concrete construction and therefore minor shallow cracks need not be viewed as a serious problem. Many cracks can be restored easily to a condition that will serve for the design life of the pavement. In some cases, no repair may be required, while in others some preventive repairs like resealing, retexturing will be sufficient.

3. Types and causes of defects:

3.1 Distress Types:

Distress in concrete pavements is either structural or functional. Structural distresses are primarily affecting the pavement's ability to carry traffic load. Functional distresses mainly affect the riding quality and safety of the traffic.

3.2 Common Defects and Distresses in Concrete Pavements

These could be due to poor quality of materials/workmanship/design defects and environmental causes.

3.2.1 Cracking

- a) Plastic shrinkage cracks
- b) Crow foot or "Y" shaped cracks
- c) Edge cracks
- d) Corner cracks breaks
- e) Transverse cracks
- f) Longitudinal cracks
- g) Diagonal Cracks
- h) Durability" D" cracking
- i) Punchouts

3.2.2 Surface defects

- a) Pop- outs/Small holes
- b) Animal/Wheel impressions
- c) Scaling
- d) Raveling
- e) Deep abrasion
- f) Polished aggregates/glazing/smooth surface

3.2.3 Joint Defects

- a) Spalling
- b) Sealant failure and/or loss
- c) Faulting at joints
- d) Separation at joints

3.2.4 Other miscellaneous Defects

- a) Blowups
- b) Pumping
- c) Patch Deterioration
- d) Drop off

3.3 Causes of common Distresses

3.3.1 Plastic shrinkage cracking

It is important not to confuse cracks arising due to restraint of the concrete at early age due to improper joint spacing and timing of joint cutting with plastic shrinkage cracks. Plastic shrinkage cracks are tight, about 0.3 m to 0.6 m long formed in parallel group's perpendicular to the direction of wind, at the time of paving. The cracks normally extend down to a depth of about 20mm-30mm. These cracks normally do not influence the overall performance of the pavement and can be repaired.

3.3.2 Drying shrinkage cracking

Wide/deeper cracking is usually attributable to the drying shrinkage and restraint developed in the concrete due to inadequate joint spacing, improper saw cutting. The broad causes for common type of defects are given in Table 3.1.

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes		
1	Cracking			
	a) Plastic Shrinkage Cracks	 i. Drying shrinkage stresses in surface ii. Poor curing iii. Hot windy conditions iv. Excessive water at surface (bleeding 		
	b) Longitudinal Cracks	 i. Excessive drying shrinkage stresses ii. Inadequate depth of joint or late joint sawing iii. Excessive joint spacing iv. Sudden/abrupt thermal and moisture gradient changes v. Downhill paving; cracks perpendicular to the direction of super elevation vi. Channelized or static heavy loading, viz. truck parking vii. Loss of sub-grade support, for instance poorly compacted sub grade viii. Settlement of embankment which leads to subsequent settlement of slabs ix. Different sub-base/sub-grade types having different modulus of elasticity and or moisture regime across the width of the cross-section x. "Vibrator trails" caused by malfunctioning or improper adjustment of vibrators on the paving machine 		

Table3.1 Type of Defects and Causes

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes		
	c) Transverse Cracks	 i. Tensile stresses developed in concrete are more than tensile strength of concrete ii. Excessive drying shrinkage stresses iii. Inadequate depth and/or late initial joint groove sawing iv. Excessive joint spacing or length I width ratio of slab More than 1.5 or length of unreinforced slab exceeds normal range 4.5-6.1 m. v. Misaligned, corroded, locked, burred on ends dowel bars vi. Crack at the end of the dowel bars; or locking of dowel bars, loose dowel bar sleeves, sleeves of poor quality. vii. Delays or interruption of concrete placing for more than 30 minutes viiii. Excessive overloading ix. Sudden/abrupt thermal and moisture gradient stress changes x. Excessive sub base restraint xi. Settlement/poor sub-base support at localized area xii. Incorrect location of transverse joints at/over cross drainage structure/utility duct 		
	d) Diagonal Crack	 i. Excessive drying shrinkage stresses ii. Excessive thermal and moisture gradient stresses iii. Excessive joint spacing iv. Unstable sub-grade or loss of sub-base support (settlement of ulility trench, etc) v. Excessive over loading vi. Frost action 		

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes		
S. No.	Class and Type of Defects e) Corner Breaks Image: Corner Breaks Image: Corner Breaks Image: Corne Breaks Image: Corner Breaks </th <th> i. The same as diagonal cracks ii. Poor load transfer iii. Dowel bar restraint iv. Curling, thin slabs are particularly susceptible to this cause i. Coarse aggregate expansion ii. Chemically reactive aggregate </th>	 i. The same as diagonal cracks ii. Poor load transfer iii. Dowel bar restraint iv. Curling, thin slabs are particularly susceptible to this cause i. Coarse aggregate expansion ii. Chemically reactive aggregate 		
		iii. Weak concrete iv. Improper curing		
	g) Multiple Structural Cracks	 i. Lack of sub-grade support ii. Excessive over loading iii. Weak concrete iv. End of service life 		
2.	Surface Defects			
	a) Ravelling Scaling	 i. Segregation at surface ii. Crazing or fine alligator cracks iii. Frost iv. Unsound or dirty aggregates v. Weak concrete (too much water, too much fine aggregate) vi. Inappropriate curing vii. Excessive Abrasion 		

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes		
	b) Popout (Small Hole), Pothole	 i. Loss of contaminated or non-durable concrete pockets at surface ii. Lack of homogeneity, uniformity and consistency of the mix iii. Loss of aggregate from concrete surface: thermal expansion, freeze-thaw iv. Inadequate compaction 		
	c) Loss of surface Texture, polished surface/Glazing/Smooth Surface	 i. Movement of construction traffic at an early age ii. Wear and tear under high volumes of traffic particularly under wet or uncleaned surface iii. Poor texturing during construction iv. Soft and mono-mineral aggregates v. Frequent braking and turning sections vi. Non-durable concrete 		
3	Joint Defects			
	a) Joint separation	 Insufficient or incorrect tie bar installation in longitudinal joints Shoulder movement Downhill slipping of slabs on a steep gradient/super elevation Slippage of tie-bars at sharp curves High Embankment/black cotton soil 		
	b) Joint Seal Defects	 i. Hardening (oxidation) or softening by ultra violet radiations ii. Stripping of joint sealant iii. Extrusion of joint sealant: overfilled groove, lack of incompressible caulking strip in bottom of groove, incorrect groove dimensions iv. Adhesion failure/loss of bond between walls of groove and sealant due to: inadequate preparation of groove, inadequate priming, inappropriate sealing material, semi-set/inadequately cured "cold" concrete, moisture in groove; slurry generated due to widening of groove sticking to the walls of groove 		

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes
		 v. Pressing of small stones and othe incompressible matter into the sealant of cohesion failure due to inappropriate sealing material, incorrect grooved dimensions, lack of bond breaking strip beneath the seal vii. Inadequate or no tooling to remove air bubbles viii. Inadequate curing before opening to traffic ix. Lack or absence of sealant
		x. Weed growth in the joints
	c) Spalling at cracks or joints	 i. Ingress of stones and other incompressible material into joint ii. Dynamic traffic loads at slab ends, mechanical damage iii. Weak concrete, poorly compacted or non-durable, particularly at construction joints iv. Failure or defects of dowel load transfer system v. Joints intersection vi. Slab overstressing
	d) Faulting (or Stepping) in cracks or Joints	 Along transverse joints or cracks: buildup of material under the approach slab or slab piece; ingress of water internal erosion and pumping Warping or curling following either moisture or temperature gradients Along longitudinal joints: settlement of sub-grade or shoulder drop off caused by heavy traffic Differential settlement/support due to inadequate foundation/or growth of tree roots Reduction in/or lack of load transfer due to separation of slabs

S. No.	Class and Type of Defects	Common Causes		
4.	Deformation			
	a) Blow Up or buckling	 Accumulation of incompressible material in the joints Excessive expansion resulting from combined adverse thermal and moisture conditions Wrong spacing of joints 		
	b) Drop-off (Lane shoulder)	 i. Wear and tear from stray and parked vehicles ii. Poor quality of shoulder material i.e. not suited for the purpose iii. Settlement of shoulder iv. Erosion of unpaved shoulder due to surface run-off in rainy season 		

4. Distress Rating System

4.1 A 5-Level distress rating system is recommended in these guidelines and given in Table 4.1

Distress Rating	Slab Condition	Severity(Defects) Rating
0	Excellent	Not Discernible
1	Very Good	Minor
2	Good/Average	Moderate
3	Fair	Major
4	Poor	Extreme
5	Very Poor	Unsafe/Unserviceable

5. Timing of Distress Repair

5.1 New Construction

The acceptance criteria for new construction shall be governed by IRC: SP:62 "Guidelines for design and construction of Cement Concrete pavements for Low Volume Roads". The acceptance criteria prescribed for cracked slabs is in line with the MoRD 2014 specification Clause 1501.26. In case where the contract clauses do not provide any specific acceptance criteria for new construction then for such cases it is recommended that acceptance criteria should be that all distresses of low severity (2 or less) vide Table 4.1 shall be accepted with minor repair as per the Discretion of the Engineer-in- Charge. In case severity of 4 and 5, it should not be accepted. For severity 3 the client may apply its discretion depending upon the nature/type of distress and considering that certain types of repairs like partial depth repairs etc. are likely to last 6-8 years only.

Extract of MoRD 2014: Clause 1501.26

14	1501.26	Acc	eptance Criteria in Quality and Distress
N. SS	Tolerance for		e Regularity, Level, Thickness and Strength:
		i)	Surface Regularity: \pm 6 mm in transverse direction and \pm 7 mm in longitudinal direction when measured with 3 m straight edge.
		ii)	Tolerance Level : +5 mm and - 6 mm (upto - 8 mm at 0 to 0.3 m from the edge)
		iii)	Thickness : ± 10 mm
		iv)	Acceptance Criteria for distress/cracked slabs :
			a) The length of single crack in any panel shall be not more than 1500 mm, even though its depth is less than half of the slab depth.
			b) The cumulative length of cracks with depth of crack less than half the depth of slab in a panel shall be not more than 2000 mm.
			c) Slabs with cracks which are penetrating to more than half of the slab depth shall not be accepted. The same shall be removed and replaced by the Contractor at his cost.

6. Distress to be Repaired

Single, shallow fine/hair cracks do not require repair. Fine plastic shrinkage cracks are believed to be self-healing. Fine interconnecting cracks (crazing) should be considered as surface distress and repaired with low viscosity epoxy resigns as shown in figs 6.1 and 6.2 before propagating further and developing ravelling.

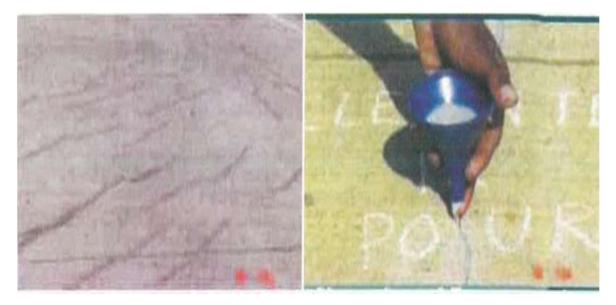


Fig.6.1 Plastic Shrinkage cracks repaired Fig.6.2 Close up view of Epoxy Sealing With low viscosity Epoxy.

7. Repair material & Repair Techniques:

The Table 7.1 gives a guide to the selection of suitable patching material according to the size and depth of patch contemplated. Photographs illustrating the typical repair techniques is also enclosed as Appendix A for guidance. Repair actions for different degrees of severity of Distress in Concrete Pavements shall be based on the procedures mentioned in Table 4.5.

SI. No	Type of Defect	Extent of Damage		Type of Product
		Maximum Surface Area	Minimum Depth	Recommended for Trial
1	a) Full Depth Repair b) Partial Depth repair	All All	Full Depth >100 mm	Conventional Cement Concrete modified with additives or polymers
2	Small Popouts	< 0.12m ²	30 mm	Epoxy Mortar (1:3)
	Spalled Joints,	< 0.12m ² , Longest	65 mm	Epoxy Mortar (1:3)
3	Scaling	Dimension not Exceeding 600 mm	75 mm	Epoxy Concrete (1:8)
4	Large Spalled Areas, Scaling	 > 0.12 m², or Longest Dimension Exceeding 600 mm 	30 mm	Elastomeric Concrete
		> 0.5 m ²	100 mm	Polymer Modified Cementitious Concrete
		< 0.12 m ²	30 mm	Epoxy Mortar
5	Corner Breaks	> 0.12 m ²	65 mm	Elastomeric Concrete/Epoxy Mortar

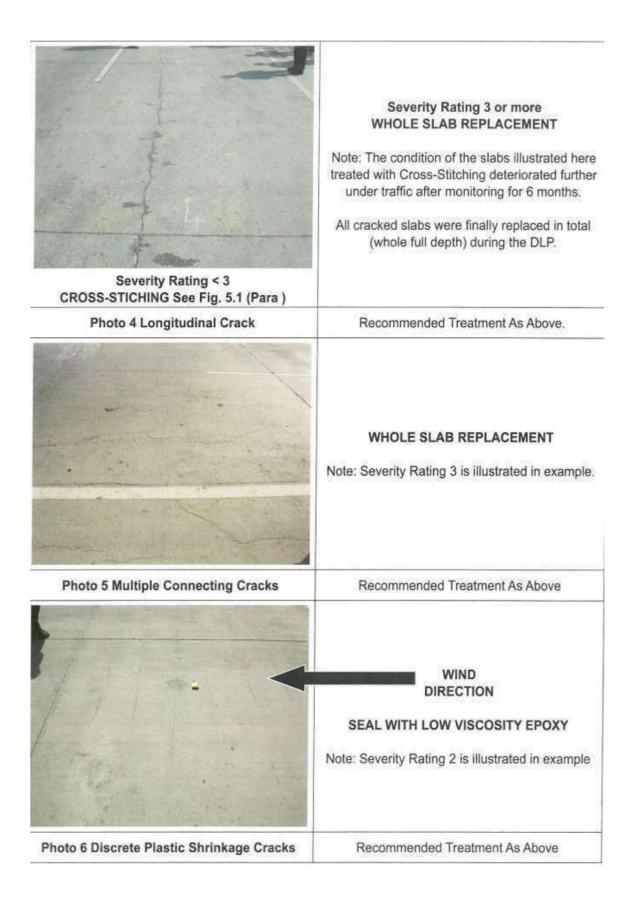
Table 7.1 Guidelines for selection of Type of product for repair of CommonDefects in Concrete Pavement.

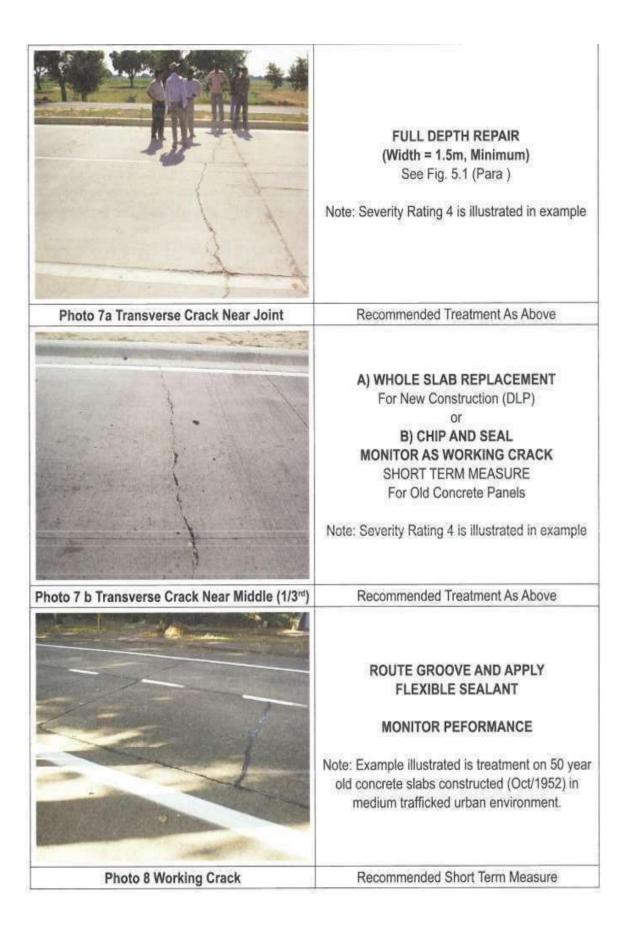
Appendix

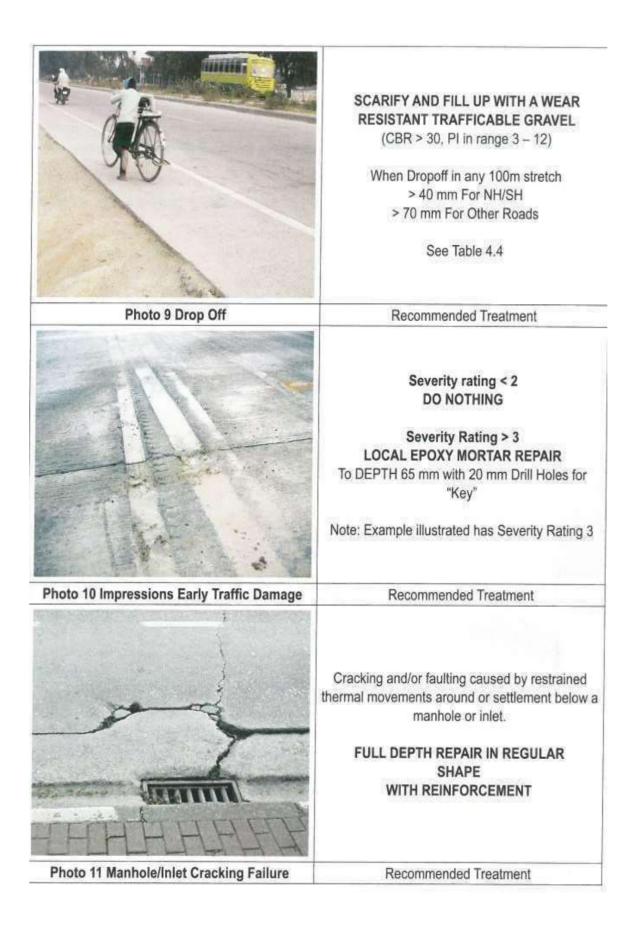
PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING COMMON TYPES OF DEFECTS AND SUGGESTED TYPICAL REPAIR TECHNIQUES AS PER THE DISTRESS SEVERITY

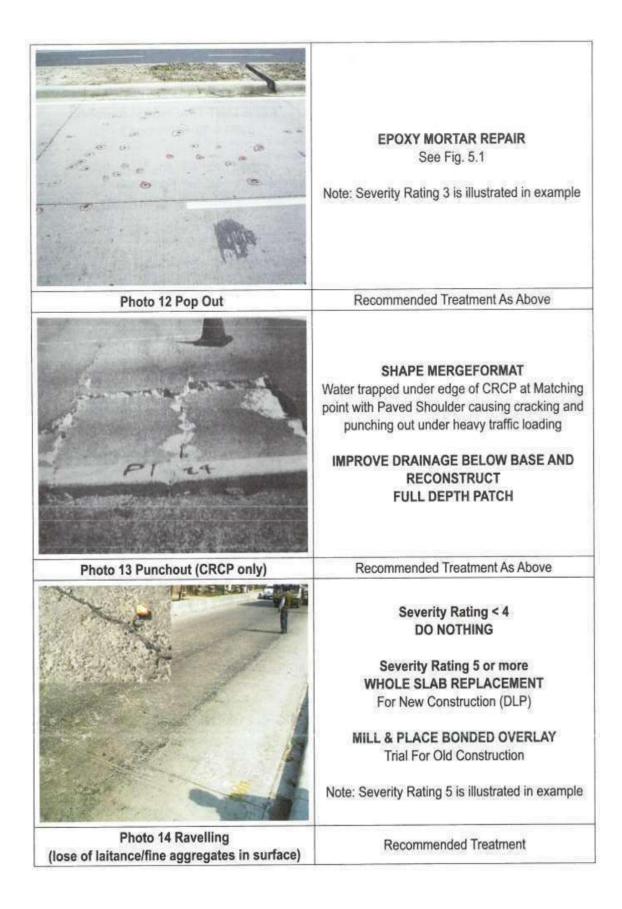


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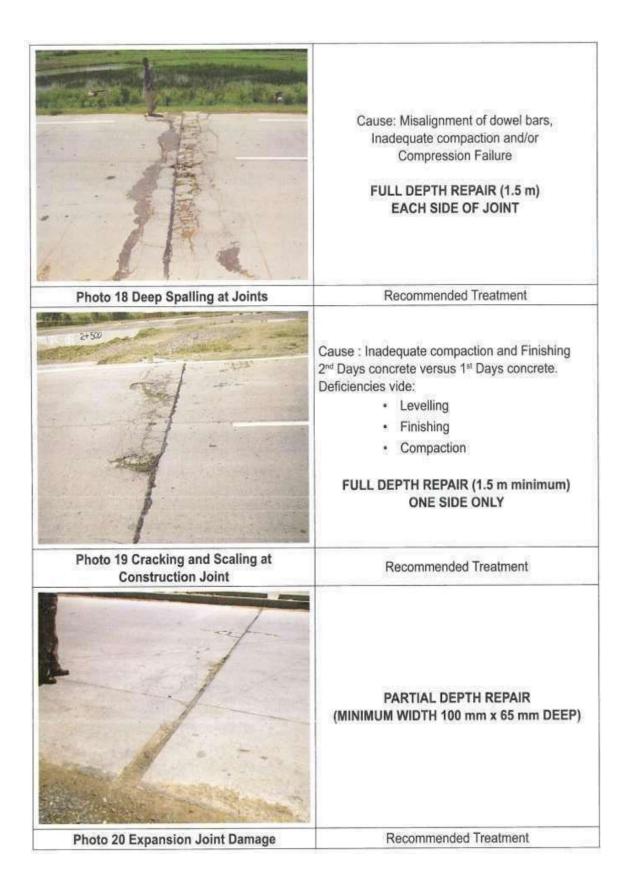


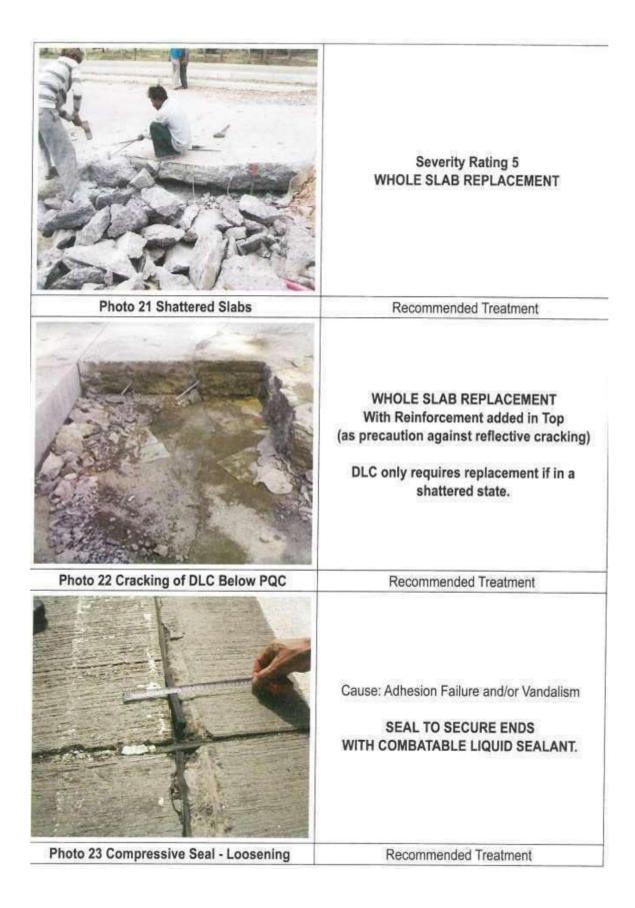


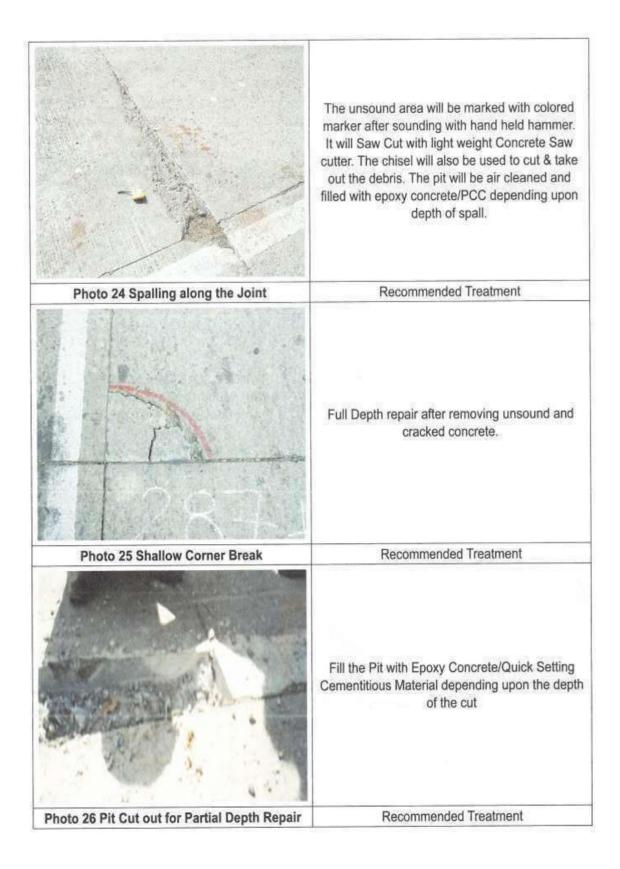


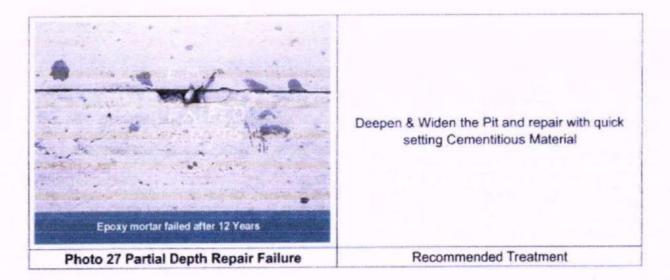


	PART Sever WHOLE	everity Rating 4 IAL DEPTH RE ity Rating 3 or SLAB REPLAC ating 3 is illustr	PAIR
Photo 15 Scaling	Recor	mmended Treat	ment
	Cause of adhesion failure : loss of sealant bond adhesion to sides caused by separation of slabs Severity rating < 2 DO NOTHING Severity Rating > 3 RESEAL WHERE FAILURE/DAMAGE EXCEEDS 25% OF JOINT LENGTH Note: Example illustrated is Severity Rating 4 at Longitudinal Joint		
Photo 16 Joint Sealant Failure	Recor	nmended Treati	ment
	PARTIAL DEPTH REPAIR Note: Severity Rating 4 is illustrated in example (> 60 x 10 cm)		
the Martin Contraction	Maximum Surface Area	Minimum Depth	Patch Material
	< 0.5 m²	30 mm	Elastomeric Concrete
	> 0.5 m ²	100 mm	Epoxy Concrete
Photo 17 Shallow Spalling at Joint	Recon	mended Treatn	nent









8. Conclusion:

Many types of cracks such as uncontrolled transverse partial depth cracks, plastic shrinkage cracks, etc., have been observed on the APRR Project roads that have been completed recently. All such cracks can be prevented or minimized by making aware the site staff about the precautions to be taken during concrete paving. Due care during construction can reduce the troubles which otherwise would be very difficult and costly to remove after the concrete has set.

These types of repairs are carried out within the panel. If the crack wider than 1.5 mm is experienced within 1-1.5 m at the transverse or longitudinal joint it is always necessary to carry out full depth repairs.

The sealing of all kind of cracks in PQC must be done instantly with approved material to avoid/arrest the further development; however final repair and rectification may be taken up subsequently.

Encl! Table 4.5

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Encl: Table 4.5

Table 4.5

Table 4.5 Repair Actions for Different Degrees of Severity of Distress* in Concrete Pavements

*According to the 5 level severity rating system : 0 - Not Discernible, 1 - Minor, 2 - Mor	derate,
3 - Major, 4 - Extreme and 5 - Unsafe/Unserviceable	

S.No.	Type of Distress	Degree of Severity	Assessment Rating	Repair Action	
				For the case d < D/2	For the case d > D/2
	CRACKING				101010 0000 0 - 012
1	Single Discrete Cracks	0	Nil. not discernible		
	Not intersecting with any joint	1	w < 0.2 mm. hair cracks	No: Action	
	-2211	2	w = 0.2 - 0.5 mm, discernible from slow-moving car	Real without datas:	E II Death Death
		3	w = 0.5 - 1.5 mm. discernible from fast-moving car	Seal without delay	Full Depth Repair Dismantle and reconstruct affect
		4	w = 1.5 - 3.0 mm	Seal, and stitch if L > 1m.	portion - See Para 5.4
		5	w > 3 mm	osal, and allour in C > mi.	
2	Single Transverse (or Diag	0	Nil, not discernible	No Action	
	intersecting with one or more joints	1	w < 0.2 mm, hair cracks	Route and Seal	Seal and Cross-stitch or staple
		2	w = 0.2 - 0.5 mm, discernible from slow vehicle		
		3	w = 0.5 - 3.0 mm, discernible from fast vehicle	Seal, and stitch if L > 1m	Full Depth Repair Dismantle and reconstruct affected portion - Ser Fig 5.5 and Refer Chapter 9
		4	w = 3.0 - 6.0 mm	Not applicable	Staple or Dowel Bar Retrofit
		5	w > 6 mm, usually associated with spalling, and/or slab rocking under traffic	Not applicable (Full Depth Crack)	Staple or Dowel Bar Retrofit
3	Single Longitudinal Crack	0	Nil. not discernible	No Action	
	intersecting with one or more joints	1	w < 0.5 mm, discernable from slow moving vehicle	Seal, and stitch if L > 1m.	Seal and Cross-stitch or staple
	-	2	w = 0.5 - 3.0 mm, discernible from fast vehicle		
		3	w = 3.0 - 6.0 mm	Seal and Staple	Partial Depth Repair with or
		4	w = 6.0 - 12.0 mm	Not applicable	without dowel bar retrofit, or
		5	w > 12 mm, usually associated with spalling, and/or slab rocking under traffic	Not applicable (Rocking/Spalling indicates Full Depth Crack)	Full Depth Repair Dismantle and reconstruct affect portion - See Fig 5.6 and Chapt 9
4	Multiple Cracks	0	Nil. not discernible	No Action	
	intersecting with one or more joints or cracks	1	w < 0.2 mm. hair cracks	Seal, and stitch if L > 1m.	
		2	w = 0.2 - 0.5 mm, discernible from slow vehicle		Dismantle and reconstruct whole slab
		3	w = 0.5 - 3.0 mm, discernible from fast vehicle	Full depth repair	Stab
		4	w = 3.0 - 6.0 mm panel broken into 2 or 3 pieces		
		5	w > 6 mm and/or panel broken into more than 4 pieces		Reinstate subbase. Reconstruct whole slab
				For the case d < D/2	For the case d > D/2
5	Corner Break	0	Nil, not discernible	No Action	
		1	w < 0.5 mm; only 1 comer broken	Seal with low viscosity epoxy	
		2	w < 1.5 mm; L < 0.6 m, only one corner broken	to secure broken parts	
		3	w < 1.5 mm, L < 0.6 m, two corners broken		E. B. de . B. and .
		4	w > 1.5 mm, L > 0.6 m or three corners broken	Partial Depth Repair - See Fig. 8.3	Full depth repair
		5	three or four corners broken	rig. c.s	Reinstate subbase
6	Punchout	0	Nil. not discernible	No action	
	(Applicable to CRCP only	1	w < 0.5 mm, L < 3 m / m ²		Seal with low viscosity epoxy to
		2	either w > 0.5 mm or L < 3 m / m^2	Not applicable	secure broken parts
		3	w > 1.5 mm and L < 3 m / m ²	(Punchout is Full Depth Distress)	ansare monen para
		4	w > 3 mm, L < 3 m / m ² and deformation		Full depth repair - Cut out and
		5	w > 3 mm, L > 3 m / m ² and deformation		replace damaged area taking car not to damage reinforcement

7	Ravelling or Honeycomb type surface	0	Nil, not discernible	No action.	
	tere puridee	1	r < 2 %	Local repair of areas	
		2	r = 2 - 10 %	damaged and liable to damage	Not Applicable
		3	r = 10 - 25%	Bonded Inlay if affecting	The Applicable
		4		2 or 3 slabs	
		5	r > 50% and h > 25 mm	Reconstruct slabs if affecting 4 or more slabs	
8	Scaling	0	Nil. not discernible	No action.	
	and a second	1	1 < 2 %	No action. Local repair of areas	
		2	r = 2 - 10 %	damaged and liable todamage	Not Applicable
		3	r = 10 - 20%	Bonded Inlay	Hat reportance
		4	r = 20 + 30 % r > 30 % and h > 25 mm	Reconstruct slab	
_					
9	Polished Surface / Glazing	0		No action.	
		1	t > 1 mm		
		2	t = 1 - 0.6 mm	*	100202020
		3	1 = 0.6 - 0.3 mm	Monitor rate of deteriotion	Not Applicable
		5	t < 0.3 mm	diamond Grinding'if affecting 50% or more slabs in a continuous stretch of minimum 5 km	
10	Popout (Small Hole).	0	d < 50 mm; h < 25 mm; n < 1 per 5 m2	No action	
	Pothole	1		Partial depth repair 65 mm	
		2		deep	
			d = 50 - 100 mm; h > 50 mm; n < 1 per 5 m2	Partial depth repair 110 mm	Not Basefrahls
		3	d = 100 - 300 mm; h < 100 mm n < 1 per 5 m2	. i.e 10 mm more than the	Not Applicable
		4	d = 100 - 300 mm; h > 100 mm; n < 1 per 5 m2	depth of the hole	
		5	d > 300 mm; h > 100 mm ; n > 1 per 5 m2	Full depth repair	