

# Performance Evaluation-WMA with Glass and Plastic as aggregate Replacement

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**Abstract.** This paper explores the utilization of waste materials—specifically plastic and glass—in road construction to mitigate environmental impact and enhance sustainability. Highlighting projects from India, Indonesia, and Pakistan, where plastic and glass are replacing traditional aggregates, the study examines their effectiveness in reducing resource consumption and ocean pollution. Additionally, the adoption of Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) technology is discussed for its environmental benefits, including lower emissions and improved asphalt performance. Performance tests reveal enhanced rut resistance and moisture tolerance in plastic and glass-modified asphalt mixtures compared to Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA). Economic evaluations underscore potential cost savings, supporting the viability of integrating these materials into mainstream road construction practices.

**Keywords:** Waste Management; Glass and Plastic; Warm Mix Asphalt; Cost Reduction;

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## 1. Introduction

Pakistan's construction industry faces challenges due to economic constraints and unstable conditions, leading to suboptimal practices. To address these issues and ensure a cost-effective transportation system, innovative technologies such as Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) have emerged.

WMA reduces asphalt mixing temperatures by 20-40°C, cutting energy consumption and emissions significantly. High traffic demands and limited funds necessitate the development of economically viable and high-performance asphalt solutions. Despite global advancements in utilization of waste materials like plastic and glass in pavements, Pakistan has yet to adopt these sustainable practices effectively [1-6].

This study explores integrating plastic and glass waste into WMA for asphalt pavements in Pakistan, aiming to enhance performance while reducing environmental impact and costs.

## 2. Literature Review

Pakistan's economic growth hinges on well-developed transportation networks, primarily focusing on highways and motorways due to inadequate railway infrastructure. Major projects like the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are pivotal in enhancing connectivity and economic progress across the country [7].

Glass, composed mainly of silica, lime, and soda ash, is indispensable in various applications due to its transparency, durability, and thermal resistance. However, its widespread use leads to significant

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environmental challenges when not recycled properly, as seen in Pakistan and globally [8].

Research has explored using recycled glass in asphalt mixtures to enhance stiffness modulus and fatigue life, emphasizing the importance of proper particle size and bonding agents to optimize performance [10-12]. Plastic's versatility and low cost have made it ubiquitous in consumer goods, but its disposal leads to severe environmental pollution, affecting marine life and terrestrial ecosystems. In Pakistan, unregulated plastic production exacerbates these issues [14-15]. Studies indicate that incorporating recycled plastic in asphalt improves fatigue behavior and mechanical properties while reducing rutting when used in optimal proportions [16-18].

WMA technologies, such as Sasobit additives, lower asphalt mixing temperatures, reducing energy consumption, CO2 emissions, and improving asphalt workability and longevity compared to traditional Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) [19-23]. Studies show that optimal Sasobit usage enhances asphalt performance by reducing rutting and improving binder flexibility at lower production temperatures, offering significant environmental and economic benefits [24-25].

**3. Research Methodology**

Experimental investigation was adopted to evaluate the performance potential of waste modified asphalt concrete, major comparing rutting potential and moisture susceptibility. Rutting is the most common pavement failure and moisture results in lowering the tensile strength of asphalt. Material Characterization: Aggregate tests including Impact Value, Shape Test, Specific

Gravity, and Los Angeles Abrasion Test. Bitumen tests such as Penetration Test, Softening Point Test, Ductility Test, Flash Point, and Fire Point Test. Asphalt Mixture Preparation: Marshall Mix Design procedure was used to obtain optimal bitumen content for asphalt concrete as per table 1.

Table 1. Samples for Optimal Bitumen Content Table

Plastic (%)	Glass (%)	Bitumen	No. Of Samples
0	0	3	3
		3.5	3
		4	3
		4.5	3
0.5	2	5	3
		3	3
		3.5	3
		4	3
1	4	4.5	3
		5	3
		3	3
		3.5	3
		4	3
		4.5	3
		5	3
		3	3

Table 2. Samples prepared for rutting potential evaluation and moisture susceptibility test

Sr. no	Plastic (%)	Glass (%)	Sasobit (%)	Indirect Tensile Strength		Hamburg Wheel Tracker
				Conditioned	Unconditioned	
1	0	0	0	3	3	3
			3	3	3	3
2	0.5	4	0	3	3	3
			3	3	3	3
3	1	4	0	3	3	3
			3	3	3	3

The samples were prepared as per NHA specs for heavy traffic with 75 blows on each side of the sample. Then the samples were tested for flow and stability, to determine OBC at 4% air voids as per table 1.3. After finding OBC for each mix ratio as per table 1. The samples were prepared for wheel tracking test and indirect tensile strength test.

Table 3. for OBC at 0% Plastic and Glass

Asphalt Content (%)	AIR VOIDS	Flow(mm)	Stability (KN)	VMA%	VFA%	Gmb	Gmm
3	8.04243295	3.07	8.13	15.90731	49.44189	2.245361	2.441736
3.5	5.775168961	3.18	8.69	15.35567	62.39065	2.271801	2.411042
4	4.167451102	3.27	9.47	16.10482	74.12295	2.246653	2.344353
4.5	2.387423437	3.46	10.3	15.65866	84.75334	2.324588	2.381443
5	1.979030479	3.55	8.8	14.15122	86.01513	2.340508	2.387763

**4. Results and Discussions**

The rutting potential of asphalt pavement and moisture susceptibility was evaluated at various percentages of glass and plastic.

**4.1. Results**

The results were analyzed and compared with controlled samples to identify deviations.

Hamburg Wheel Tracker test: The wheel tracking (rutting) test was conducted to evaluate the resistance of the asphalt specimens against deformation under dry conditions. A total of 18 samples were tested, including

control samples and samples with various percentages of glass and plastic as aggregate replacements. Each sample underwent 10,000 passes under controlled conditions at 25°C, with a failure criterion set at a rut depth increase exceeding 12mm (Graph 1 & Table 4).

Moisture Damage (ITS Test): After completing the mix design, moisture susceptibility tests were performed on the asphalt concrete samples according to ASTM D 6931-07. Samples were conditioned using ALDOT 361 procedures, with a total of 36 samples prepared at 4% air voids for testing moisture susceptibility (Table 5).

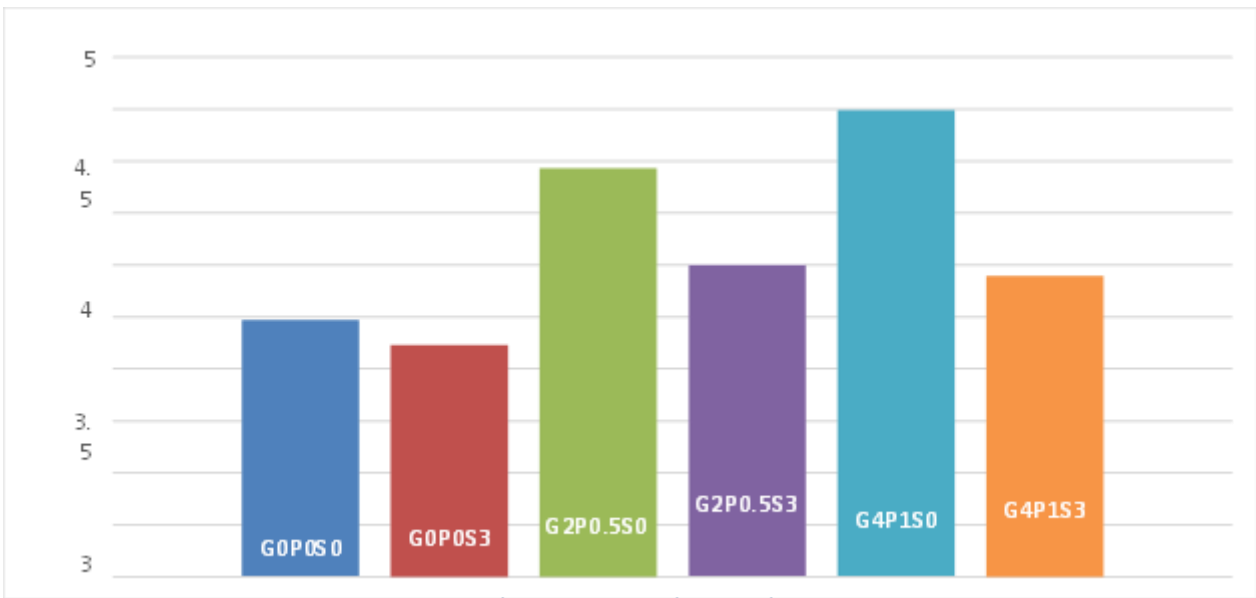


Table 4. Test Results for Hamburg Wheel Tracker Test

Sr. no.	Plastic (%)	Glass (%)	Sasobit (%)	AVG. Rutting Depth (mm)	Remarks
1	0	0	0	2.44	Ok
			3	2.23	Ok
2	0.5	2	0	3.93	Ok
			3	3.04	Ok
3	1	4	0	4.46	Ok
			3	2.90	Ok

Table 5. for ITS Test Results

Specification	Codes	Unconditioned Strength, S1 (kN)	Conditioned Strength, S2 (kN)	TSR=S2/S1 (%)
0% Glass, 0% Plastic,0% SASOBIT	<b>G0P0S0</b>	3.731	3.448	92.709
0% Glass, 0% Plastic,3% SASOBIT	<b>G0P0S3</b>	3.881	3.684	93.335
2% Glass, 0.5% Plastic,0% SASOBIT	<b>G2P0.5S0</b>	2.637	2.238	85.139
2% Glass, 0.5% Plastic,3% SASOBIT	<b>G2P0.5S3</b>	2.917	2.352	89.12
4% Glass, 1% Plastic,0% SASOBIT	<b>G4P1S0</b>	1.885	1.694	90.15
4% Glass, 1% Plastic,3% SASOBIT	<b>G4P1S3</b>	2.077	1.901	91.81

**4.2. Discussion of Results**

From the results, it can be observed that the addition of sasobit for WMA significantly improves rut resistance, and moisture susceptibility compared to the control samples. This indicates that the WMA (Warm Mix Asphalt) samples generally exhibited good resistance against rutting, possibly due to the improved properties of WMA. Currently, plastic roads are being constructed in Pakistan for locations i.e., F-9 Park which are not under heavy loadings as the performance potential is not comparable to virgin asphalt concrete. However, the use of WMA technology considerably improves the properties which can be used for construction of major traffic streets.

Previously the researches were conducted with HMA and waste glass or plastic. However, the study explains incorporation of WMA technologies to improve performance of waste modified asphalt concrete. WMA is a new technology and therefore several aspects are yet to be analyzed. The study can be conducted with higher percentages of glass and plastic or increase the percentage of Sasobit.

**5. Conclusions**

In conclusion, WMA technology combined with glass and plastic additives shows promise for sustainable asphalt solutions in Pakistan’s transportation sector. It not only meets performance and volumetric criteria but also contributes to resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Continued research and implementation of WMA are essential steps toward achieving sustainable infrastructure goals.

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