

## FRICION TESTING – KJ LAW (DYNATEST) SKID TRAILER

### General Description

Pavement surface friction is regarded as an indicator of safety of vehicles on highways because it is a measure of the force that resists sliding of vehicles tires on a pavement. Friction resistance is the force developed when a tire that is prevented from rotating slides along the surface of the pavement. Although friction resistance is often thought of as a pavement property, it is actually a property of both the pavement surface characteristics and the vehicle tires.



Figure 1. KJ Law (Dynatest) Skid Trailer

The friction of most dry pavements is high. Wet pavements are the problem. Thus, the Friction Number testing process involves application of water to the pavement surface prior to determination of the friction value. Such data allows Mn/DOT to identify potential low friction pavements that in conjunction with accident history and roadway geometrics are used to minimize wet weather skidding accidents.

### COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Surface friction is measured at MnROAD at regular intervals, typically twice per year (spring and fall).

### Specifications

ASTM E-867, "Standard Terminology Relating to Traveled Surface Characteristics," defines friction resistance as "the ability of the traveled surface to prevent the loss of traction."

Mn/DOT uses a KJ Law (Dynatest) 1295 Pavement Friction Tester to conduct testing according to ASTM-E274, "Specification For Skid Resistance Using A Full Scale Tire."

### Field Data Collection Process

Upon arriving at MnROAD, the skid testing technician will fill up the water tank on his/her truck via the well by the polebarn. The technician will then drive out to the Mainline or the Low Volume Road and make a dry run along the road to make other researches aware that testing will begin shortly. The



technician will find a smooth spot on the pavement to calibrate his equipment and set up the software. The software setup includes inputting the proper location (i.e., LVR Inside), tire type (i.e., ribbed), and starting location (i.e., Cell 54 to 40).

It will take four runs to complete an entire testing sequence on each roadway: 2 lanes and 2 tire types. The smooth tire travels in the right wheelpath, and the ribbed tire travels in the left wheelpath. Testing on the Mainline starts at Cell 23 and progresses west to Cell 1. Testing on the Low Volume Road starts at Cell 54 and progresses clockwise around the loop to Cell 40 (inside lane), or from Cell 40 counterclockwise around to Cell 54 (outside lane). The concrete loops on either end (Cell 41-46) are not typically tested.

The technician's role is to safely drive the skid truck at a constant speed of 40 mph throughout each test run. A second person rides along in the truck (typically the engineer in charge of monitoring), and his role is to actually collect the skid data on each cell. This is done by manually clicking a button at each cell to initiate each test. The trailer will spray water under the selected tire, lock the wheel, and measure the vertical and horizontal forces imparted by the pavement. Each test takes approximately 200 ft, so the engineer is challenged to accurately collect data on each cell, especially cells shorter than 500 ft. Where possible, the engineer starts a test near the middle of each cell and away from any patch or distress that could negatively affect the test.

When testing is complete for the day, the technician will shut down the equipment and software properly. A printout of each testing summary is made, and the engineer will mark any notes or comments on the printouts (i.e., missed Cell 53). He will also copy all of the electronic data files collected that day from the laptop computer to a jump stick, and eventually to the R drive.

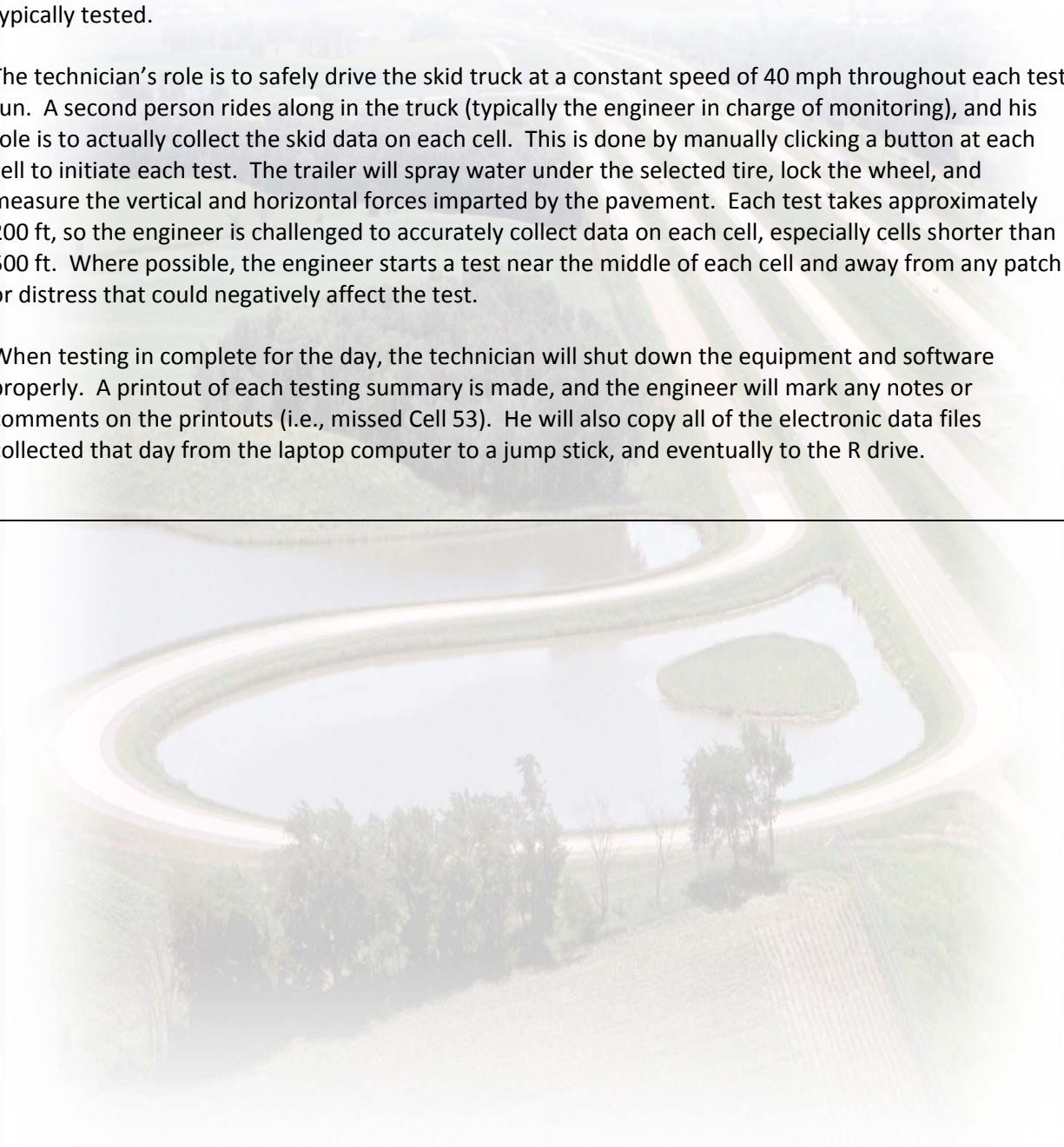




Figure 2. Screenshot of the Friction Testing Software in the Field

## Data Processing

The data files output from the skid trailer come in two forms. \*.skr files contain the horizontal and vertical force measurements for each individual test (each click of the button in the field). See Figure 3. \*.sks files are a summary of all the test results for a given run (i.e. LVR inside lane, ribbed tire). Each of these files can be viewed and edited with a basic text editor program such as Notepad. \*.skr files are not typically used by researchers, but they are stored on the R drive if needed. \*.sks files are manipulated and stored in the database.

```

ML94_leftribR1.SKR - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
5174,R.P.Limits :cells 23-1
5175,Rdwy. (2Ln, 4Ln.Div.UnDiv, Frwy) :Frwy
5176,Surface Type (Conc. Bit.) :Conc/Bit
5177,Surface Texture :varies
5178,Test Tire (Rib, Smooth) :Rib
5179,Laser Tex. Run (Yes, No) :no
5180,weather :cldy
5181>Last Rain Event (Est.Days) :0
5182,Site Comment :MnLn left lane Mnrd
5183,opr./Driver>Trk203254,Trlr.203255 :GWF/TC
5184,Requestor/Contact :Mnrd
5185,Resurface or Construction=Mo.,Yr. :
5186,Avg.Daily Traffic (ADT) :
5232,GPS (Latitude,longitude) :4515.148505N,09341.546871W
-----
5250,
5250, DATA TEST TRACTION LOAD VEHICLE WHEEL FLOW
5250, POINT STATE FORCE FORCE SPEED SPEED RATE
5250, V V V V V V V
5250,V
5501, 1, 1, 36.2842, 1150.3286, 43.0547, 42.7626, 25.9425
5501, 2, 1, 9.3617, 1129.0144, 43.0547, 43.5960, 26.1163
5501, 3, 1, 13.5879, 1146.6702, 43.0547, 42.9210, 26.1916
5501, 4, 1, 10.4573, 1138.8762, 43.0547, 42.7913, 26.1604
5501, 5, 1, 30.8057, 1128.8553, 43.0547, 42.8345, 26.0567
5501, 6, 1, 17.7828, 1140.8167, 43.0547, 42.9955, 26.0696
5501, 7, 1, 15.5914, 1134.2316, 43.0547, 43.0272, 26.0110
5501, 8, 1, 19.6298, 1121.2522, 43.0547, 43.0504, 25.9436
5501, 9, 1, 25.0143, 1109.9907, 43.0547, 42.8126, 25.9057
5501, 10, 1, 19.3793, 1094.2437, 43.0547, 42.8966, 25.9296
5501, 11, 1, 15.5288, 1082.5686, 43.0547, 42.9168, 25.9923
5501, 12, 1, 22.2907, 1082.9503, 43.0547, 42.9197, 26.1132
5501, 13, 1, 19.1915, 1086.8632, 43.0547, 43.0705, 26.2849
5501, 14, 1, 15.9045, 1082.3667, 43.0547, 43.1762, 26.4930

```

Figure 3. Example of a \*.skr File

The engineer will open each \*.sks file in Notepad and delete the unnecessary header information. Each test runs onto two lines, so part of the second line is deleted and moved up to the first line (see Figure 4). The file is then saved as a \*.txt file.

```

Lv_outside_Sm.SKS - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
5178,Test Tire (Rib, Smooth) :Smooth
5179,Laser Tex. Run (Yes, No) :no
5180,weather :clear
5181>Last Rain Event (Est.Days) :5
5182,Site Comment :lv outside cell 40-54
5183,opr./Driver>Trk203254,Trlr.203255 :GWF/tim
5184,Requestor/Contact :Tim
5185,Resurface or Construction=Mo.,Yr. :
5186,Avg.Daily Traffic (ADT) :
-----
5250,
5250, W E A M M % S P T E V F
5250, H / G N X A P S P T E V F
5250, E D S S S E L E E M E L O
5250, S T I N S S S A I E E M N T W
5250, T E R E MP/S TIME LY N N N K P D P T W
-----
5500, 1, LVout,V, 0, 0.000,10:57,R,W, 50.4, 44, 56, 82.90, 6, 40.0, 68,C40, 27,88.5,4515.543214N,09342.222968W
5500, 2, LVout,V, 0, 0.091,10:57,R,W, 45.2, 39, 52, 74.46, 38, 40.6, 68, 28,97.8,4515.590328N,09342.309734W
5500, 3, LVout,V, 0, 0.191,10:57,R,W, 49.2, 40, 39, 74.90, 19, 40.5, 68, 28,92.0,4515.644450N,09342.408920W
5500, 4, LVout,V, 0, 0.288,10:57,R,W, 53.7, 50, 58, 82.07, 14, 40.5, 68, 28,90.8,4515.692069N,09342.496865W
5500, 5, LVout,V, 0, 0.394,10:57,R,W, 50.2, 43, 58, 67.34, 16, 40.6, 68, 28,93.8,4515.752055N,09342.606890W
5500, 6, LVout,V, 0, 0.513,10:58,R,W, 40.2, 39, 48, 64.62, 19, 40.4, 68, 28,106.2,4515.811965N,09342.716785W
5500, 7, LVout,V, 0, 0.616,10:58,R,W, 40.2, 36, 46, 61.43, 12, 40.6, 68, 28,108.2,4515.865602N,09342.815545W
5500, 8, LVout,V, 0, 0.725,10:58,R,W, 39.5, 34, 47, 60.19, 8, 40.4, 68, 28,108.7,4515.925254N,09342.925545W
5500, 9, LVout,V, 0, 1.211,10:59,R,W, 65.2, 52, 72, 76.99, 9, 39.4, 68, 27,104.0,4516.000669N,09343.097572W
5500, 10, LVout,V, 0, 1.322,10:59,R,W, 61.3, 54, 68, 92.42, 10, 40.3, 68, 28,97.3,4515.941352N,09342.988588W
5500, 11, LVout,V, 0, 1.364,10:59,R,W, 46.7, 43, 50, 86.85, 12, 40.4, 68, 28,
5500, 12, LVout,V, 0, 1.409,10:59,R,W, 42.6, 35, 48, 42.82, 31, 41.2, 68, 28,
5501, 12,106.2,4515.900168N,09342.912688W
5500, 13, LVout,V, 0, 1.452,10:59,R,W, 47.8, 45, 51, 88.74, 10, 40.7, 68, 28,
5501, 13,110.4,4515.876090N,09342.868476W
5500, 14, LVout,V, 0, 1.494,10:59,R,W, 55.0, 50, 61, 82.58, 4, 40.6, 68, 28,
5501, 14,103.0,4515.852309N,09342.824754W
5500, 15, LVout,V, 0, 1.555,10:59,R,W, 38.5, 35, 42, 65.54, 13, 41.1, 68, 28,
5501, 15,109.7,4515.822401N,09342.769906W
5500, 16, LVout,V, 0, 1.658,10:59,R,W, 40.4, 37, 45, 65.21, 17, 40.4, 68, 28,
5501, 16,97.5,4515.762565N,09342.659460W
5500, 17, LVout,V, 0, 1.767,11:0,R,W, 54.3, 48, 60, 81.04, 5, 40.3, 68, 28,

```

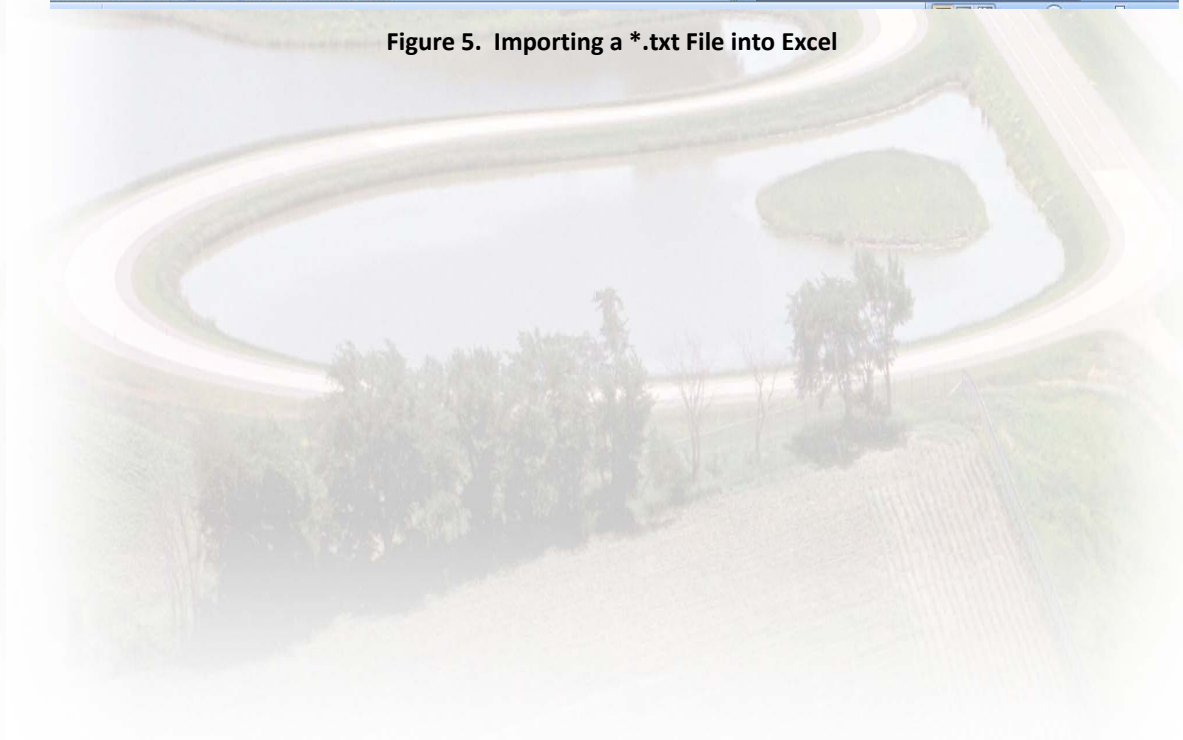
Figure 4. Editing a \*.sks File



Each \*.txt file is imported into Excel as a comma delimited file, and the headers from the \*.sks file are retyped. See Figures 5 and 6.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q			
1																				
2		LVR outside rib																		
3		5500	1	L Vout	V	O		0	10:46	L	W		61.7	52	74	87.27	17	39	68	C40
4		5500	2	L Vout	V	O		0.114	10:46	L	W		43.9	40	49	73.41	10		40.4	68
5		5500	3	L Vout	V	O		0.206	10:47	L	W		61.2	58	63	84.81	31		40.1	68
6		5500	4	L Vout	V	O		0.298	10:47	L	W		51.4	45	58	79.92	12		40.5	68
7		5500	5	L Vout	V	O		0.407	10:47	L	W		60.2	59	62	86.49	14		40.1	68
8		5500	6	L Vout	V	O		0.52	10:47	L	W		58.5	57	61	80.04	13		40.1	68
9		5500	7	L Vout	V	O		0.628	10:47	L	W		58.1	56	60	79.94	17		40.2	68
10		5500	8	L Vout	V	O		0.735	10:47	L	W		58.8	56	61	79.8	14		40.1	68
11		5500	9	L Vout	V	O		1.22	10:48	L	W		64.9	63	67	79.91	14		39.2	68
12		5500	10	L Vout	V	O		1.333	10:48	L	W		52.4	44	59	88.51	13		40.3	68
13		5500	11	L Vout	V	O		1.377	10:48	L	W		44.3	41	47	82.49	11		40.3	68
14		5500	12	L Vout	V	O		1.419	10:49	L	W		57.7	55	60	73.29	12		40.8	68
15		5500	13	L Vout	V	O		1.462	10:49	L	W		46.5	41	52	85.86	13		40.9	68
16		5500	14	L Vout	V	O		1.505	10:49	L	W		57.6	50	63	93.54	11		40.6	68
17		5500	15	L Vout	V	O		1.559	10:49	L	W		61.6	59	64	89.98	21		40.8	68
18		5500	16	L Vout	V	O		1.671	10:49	L	W		61.5	58	65	89.35	13		40.1	68
19		5500	17	L Vout	V	O		1.774	10:49	L	W		57.9	55	63	82.7	18		40.3	68
20		5500	18	L Vout	V	O		1.836	10:49	L	W		59	56	62	84.47	13		40.7	68
21		5500	19	L Vout	V	O		1.925	10:49	L	W		58.1	55	61	82.36	11		40.5	68
22		5500	20	L Vout	V	O		1.994	10:49	L	W		54.3	53	56	79.46	11		40.7	68
23		5500	21	L Vout	V	O		2.092	10:50	L	W		58	54	62	84.68	17		40.2	68
24		5500	22	L Vout	V	O		2.177	10:50	L	W		56.9	52	61	77.22	31		40.7	68
25		5500	23	L Vout	V	O		2.228	10:50	L	W		52.3	34	66	97.66	14		40.3	68
26		5500	24	L Vout	V	O		2.266	10:50	L	W		52.2	37	58	85.42	12		40.6	68
27		LVR outside smooth																		
28		5500	1	L Vout	V	O		0	10:57	R	W		50.4	44	56	82.9	6	40	68	C40
29		5500	2	L Vout	V	O		0.091	10:57	R	W		45.2	39	52	74.46	38		40.6	68
30		5500	3	L Vout	V	O		0.191	10:57	R	W		49.2	40	59	74.9	19		40.5	68
31		5500	4	L Vout	V	O		0.288	10:57	R	W		53.7	50	58	82.07	14		40.5	68
32		5500	5	L Vout	V	O		0.394	10:57	R	W		50.2	43	58	67.34	16		40.6	68
33		5500	6	L Vout	V	O		0.513	10:58	R	W		43	39	48	64.62	19		40.4	68
34		5500	7	L Vout	V	O		0.616	10:58	R	W		40.2	36	46	61.43	12		40.6	68

Figure 5. Importing a \*.txt File into Excel



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "Example distress\_friction\_data (oct08).xls" in Compatibility Mode. The spreadsheet has a header row (row 1) with columns A through U. The data starts from row 2. The headers are: A (empty), B (Test Route), C (Direction), D (Lane), E (MP/S), F (Time), G (Wheel), H (Wet/Dry), I (AVG SN), J (Min SN), K (Max SN), L (Peak), M (% Slip), N (Speed), O (Air Temp), P (Cell), Q (Flow), R (Pvmt Temp), S (Lat), T (Long), U (empty). The data rows contain numerical and text values for these parameters. For example, row 2 has "LVR outside rib" in column B, "V" in C, "O" in D, "0" in E, "10:46" in F, "L" in G, "W" in H, "61.7" in I, "52" in J, "74" in K, "87.27" in L, "17" in M, "39" in N, "68" in O, "40" in P, "27" in Q, "98.2" in R, "4515.538506N" in S, and "09342.213999W" in T. The spreadsheet also shows the Excel ribbon with tabs for Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, and View.

Figure 6. Putting Headers on the Imported Data

A template file is then opened, in the same format as the database table. The imported \*.txt files are then rearranged to fit into the appropriate database columns. Unnecessary data is deleted, and pertinent information such as cell, lane, tire type, date, etc. is inserted into the appropriate columns. See Figure 7. The Skid Number (SN) is calculated as the average coefficient of friction across the test interval. Skid Numbers could theoretically range from 0-100, with higher SN values meaning greater friction.

Once the spreadsheet is complete, the engineer will email it to the database administrator, who will then add the data to the database. The raw data files continue to be stored on the R drive.

### February 2010 Update

In late 2009 a macro was written in Excel (see Figure 8) that took all of the above steps and ran them automatically with a few simple mouse clicks. The program still goes through this process of rearranging the data inside each file and adding data to the appropriate columns, and it allows the engineer to note if any cells were skipped during the field data collection. This macro made data processing much more efficient by taking what used to be a 2-3 hour process and instead processing the data in under one minute.



CELL	CONSTRUCTION_NUMBER	LANE	DAY	TIME	FN	PEAK	SPEED	AIR_TEMP	PVMT_TEMP	TIRE_TYPE	EQUIPMENT	STA	DATE
117	62	3 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	10:46	51.9	77.75	40.3	68	70.6	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
118	62	3 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	11:09	17.5	28.59	41.4	68	69.3	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
119	63	3 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	11:09	19.6	33.52	40.6	68	71.3	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
120	77	1 LVR-102K-OL	31-Oct-08	9:14	61.9	86.03	39.7	68	65.6	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
121	77	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:5	61.3	83.52	40.1	68	63.8	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
122	77	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:29	58.6	79.28	39.8	68	66.3	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
123	78	1 LVR-102K-OL	31-Oct-08	9:14	61.5	86.47	39.7	68	65.1	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
124	78	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:5	60.7	84.57	40.3	68	63	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
125	78	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:29	54.5	75.64	39.9	68	65.1	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
126	79	1 LVR-102K-OL	31-Oct-08	9:14	62.4	83.88	39.8	68	64.8	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
127	79	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:5	60.6	84.34	39.8	68	62.6	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
128	79	1 LVR-80K-IL	31-Oct-08	9:29	56.3	76.23	39.5	68	63.8	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
129	92	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	10:46	53.2	80.46	39.9	68	70	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
130	92	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	11:09	40.4	61.8	39.7	68	70.1	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
131	96	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	10:46	52.9	82.8	39.8	68	69.5	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
132	96	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	11:09	41.1	66.93	40	68	69.1	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
133	97	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	10:46	53.3	84.49	39.1	68	69.5	Ribbed	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		
134	97	2 ML-Driving-RL	31-Oct-08	11:09	35.9	48.53	39.4	68	68.8	Smooth	Mn/DOT - 1295 Pavement Friction Tester		

Test	Route	Direction	Lane	MP/S	Time	Wheel	Wet/Dry	AVG SN	Min SN	Max SN	Peak	% Slip
137	LVR outside rib											
138	5500	1 LVout	V	0	10:46	L	W	61.7	52		74	87.27
139	5500	2 LVout	V	0	0.114	10:46	L	W	43.9	40	49	73.41
140	5500	3 LVout	V	0	0.206	10:47	L	W	61.2	58	63	84.81
141	5500	4 LVout	V	0	0.298	10:47	L	W	51.4	45	58	79.92
142	5500	5 LVout	V	0	0.407	10:47	L	W	60.2	59	62	86.49
143	5500	6 LVout	V	0	0.52	10:47	L	W	58.5	57	61	80.04
144	5500	7 LVout	V	0	0.628	10:47	L	W	58.1	56	60	79.94
145	5500	8 LVout	V	0	0.735	10:47	L	W	58.8	56	61	79.8
146	5500	9 LVout	V	0	1.22	10:48	L	W	64.9	63	67	79.91
147	5500	10 LVout	V	0	1.333	10:48	L	W	52.4	44	59	88.51
148	5500	11 LVout	V	0	1.377	10:48	L	W	44.3	41	47	82.49

Figure 7. Merging the Imported Data into the Database Format

**Friction Analysis Macro - For MnROAD Testing**

This macro will analyze the .SKS files that are created from the Pavement Friction Tester from MnROAD  
 The data for each cell will be exported into Excel  
 The resulting Excel document will be database-ready  
 Click the correct button below to analyze only the grind strips (cell 37)  
 Author is not responsible for any errors that may occur

Click one of the buttons below to Start the Macros

MnROAD Testing:  
Mainline and Low  
Volume Road

Grind Strips  
Analysis on Cell  
37

Changes need to made to program if:  
 Cell Numbers Change  
 Construction Issues  
 Order of Testing Changes  
 Error in the Program

Version 2      Mn/DOT      Created on 11/25/2009      Modified on 2/5/2010      Created by Tim Nelson

Figure 8. Macro to Process Skid Data



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## Database Tables

Friction data is stored in the table MNR.DISTRESS\_FRICION\_DATA. See the table below for a description of the data.

### DATABASE TABLE – DISTRESS\_FRICION\_DATA

Name	Null?	Type
CELL		NUMBER (3,0)
CONSTRUCTION_NUMBER	NOT NULL	NUMBER (3,0)
LANE		VARCHAR2 (15)
DAY		DATE
TIME		VARCHAR2 (5)
FN		NUMBER (3,1)
PEAK		NUMBER (5,2)
SPEED		NUMBER (3,1)
AIR_TEMP		NUMBER (5,2)
PVMT_TEMP		NUMBER (5,2)
TIRE_TYPE		VARCHAR2 (10)
EQUIPMENT		VARCHAR2 (50)
STA		VARCHAR2 (10)
DATE_UPDATED		DATE
LATITUDE		VARCHAR2 (14)
LONGITUDE		VARCHAR2 (14)
MINFN		NUMBER (2,0)
MAXFN		NUMBER (2,0)
SLIP		NUMBER (2,0)
COMMENTS		VARCHAR2 (80)

---

### For more information:

Tim Clyne  
Office of Materials & Road Research  
Phone: 651-366-5473  
E-mail: [Tim.Clyne@state.mn.us](mailto:Tim.Clyne@state.mn.us)

Ben Worel  
Office of Materials & Road Research  
Phone: 651-366-5522  
Email: [Ben.Worel@state.mn.us](mailto:Ben.Worel@state.mn.us)

[www.dot.state.mn.us/mnroad](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnroad)



MnROAD is a state of the art cold weather pavement and transportation testing facility located in Minnesota