### **Comparative Analysis of Pavement Marking Material based on**

### **Retro-Reflectivity**

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**Abstract** - *This research presents a comparative study* pavement markina materials includina of thermoplastic and water based glowmark compound based on the performance evaluation parameter. The performance evaluation parameter that is to be considered in the proposed work is retro-reflectivity,. The factors affecting the performance evaluation parameter of pavement marking material were also evaluated. The pavement marking material were selected from seven different test sites located in Chandigarh region of India. These test sites were selected on the basis of type of material and further age of marking material. The performance evaluation results shows the effectiveness of particular material used in terms of age of the marking materials. In addition, it is also predicted which material is economic or cost effective for the particular roads.

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Key Words: Thermoplastic, Glowmark.

Retroreflectivity, Luminance, Durability.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**Road surface marking** is a type of material or device which is used on a surface of road so as to convey driving information. These material can also be applied in other facilities used by vehicles to mark parking spaces or designate areas for other uses.

The markings assist the driver in detecting geometric changes downstream, support passing and merging maneuvres and delineate safe travel boundaries for the driver. These markings play a critical role in the driving task under short, medium and long-range detection distances [4].

Road surface markings are used on paved roadways to provide guidance and information to drivers and pedestrians [27] . Uniformity of the markings is an important factor in minimizing confusion and uncertainty about their meaning, and efforts exist to standardize such markings across borders [27]. However, countries and

\_\_\_\_\_ areas categorize and specify road surface markings in different ways.

#### **1.1 Types of Pavement Marking material**

To meet the objective of proposed work it is desirable to understand the types of pavement marking materials that are used on the roads of India and that are considerd in the proposed work.

#### **1.1.1 Thermoplastic**

One of the most common types of road marking based on its balance between cost and performance longevity, thermoplastic binder systems are generally based on one of three core chemistries: hydrocarbons, rosin esters or maleic modified rosin esters (MMRE). Thermoplastic is composed of four main ingredients: binder, glass beads, titanium dioxide, and calcium carbonate (or filler). The binder is used to hold the mixture together as a rigid mass, the glass beads are used to provide reflectivity, the titanium dioxide is used for reflectivity enhancement, and calcium carbonate or sand is used as an inert filler material. Typical thermoplastic markings are 15 to 33 percent binder, 14 to 33 percent glass beads, 8 to 12 percent titanium dioxide, and 48 to 50 percent filler [24]. Thermoplastics have excellent durability on asphalt surfaces, which can be attributed to the thermal bonding mechanism between the heated thermoplastic and the asphalt surface upon installation, resulting in bond strengths equivalent to that of the cohesive strength within the asphalt. On the other hand, thermoplastics have poor durability on concrete surfaces due to the inferior mechanical bond between these two materials during installation, leading to premature failure on concrete surfaces [11].

Thermoplastics generally have more retroreflectivity than that of the traffic paints especially under night and wet conditions. They have an average service more than that of the paints [23].

#### 1.1. 2. Glow mark Water based road marking compound

Is a water based road marking compound intended to meet the growing needs of traffic engineering and to provide improved safety measures in modern control systems[16].

#### **1.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PARAMETERS**

#### 1.1.2 Retro Reflectivity:

For markings to be visible at night they should be retroreflective unless ambient illumination ensures adequate visibility [22]. Retro reflectivity makes pavement markings visible to drivers at night. Measurement of retro reflectivity assesses the ability of an object to reflect light to a source in the same direction from which the light originally struck the object [10].

#### **1.2.2Durability:**

Durability refers to the amount of material remaining on the pavement surface over time. Durability affects both the day time and night time appearance of markings. Durability performance is often measured either by determining the percentage of material remaining on the surface or by directly testing the bond strength of a material to the surface.

#### 1.2.3Luminance:

Luminance is the luminous intensity or brightness of any surface in a given direction, per unit of projected area of the surface as viewed from that direction, independent of viewing distance. The SI unit is candela/m<sup>2</sup>. Pavement marking luminance is directly proportional to the amount of the light energy that is retroreflected by the marking toward a driver's eyes.

#### 2.DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

From literature review carried out it has been revealed that numerous factors affect pavement marking reteroreflectivity and Luminance such as traffic, thickness, marking age, type of material used for road marking and environmental conditions. This study uses pavement marking data collected in the north region of India , to analyze factors effecting the performance of pavement marking material on the roads of Chandigarh which are pre selected based on age and type of marking material used.

Data is collected in terms of night time reflectivity and thickness from the various roads of thermoplastic and water based paint that were preselected based on age and type of material.

The value of reflectivity and thickness were recorded from various pre selected test sites for thermoplastic and are plotted against each other. In this section, the data is analysed in terms of the tables are drawn showing the value of reflectivity at particular thickness and graph are plotted in between two for each test site individually towards central verge, at centre Line and Opposite central Verge for thermoplastic.

**Water based paint** have thickness in microns so it is considered to negligible approx. so there is only reflectivity reading is collected from the site where water based paint were laid.

### 3.1 Reflectivity Vs Thickness at sector 42 (Newly Laid Thermoplastic)

At sector 42, the pavement marking material were newly laid and the value of thickness and reflectivity are shown in table 1, table 2 and table 3 and their related plots are shown in figure 1, Figure 2 and in figure 3 for towards centre line, centre line and edge line towards shoulder individually.

Table 1	Reflectivity vs. Thickness towards central
	verge measured at Sector 42

RL, towards central verge	Thickness
365	3.9
360	3.87
358	3.81
334	3.77
312	3.65
305	3.62
287	3.4



Figure 1 Reflectivity vs Thickness plot of Sector 42 towards central Verge

Table 2	Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measured
	at central line at sector 42

RL, Central Line	Thickness
360	3.88
354	3.85
350	3.8
330	3.76
322	3.65
320	3.65





Figure 2 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot of sector 42 at Centre Line

# Table 3Reflectivity Vs Thickness Valuesmeasured on edge line towards shoulder at sector42

RL , edge line towards shoulder	Thickness
368	3.82
364	3.76
362	3.66
360	3.64
356	3.6
334	3.52
295	3.4

At Hallomajra Road, the pavement marking material were laid six monts ago and the value of thickness and reflectivity are shown in table 4, table 5 and table 6 and their related plots are shown in figure 4, Figure 5 and in figure 6 for towards centre line, centre line and opposite centre line individually

**Table-4** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Valuesmeasured Towards central Verge at HallomajraRoad

RL, Towards Central	Thickness
Verge	
240	2.7
230	2.61
215	2.43
210	2.3
208	2.24
206	2.2
200	2.14



Fig- 4 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Hallomajra road Towards Central verge

NOTE: The specific thickness was 2.5mm .however it is observed that freshly laid material is of higher thickness .Gradually when the traffic is made open the thickness reduces and approaches to specific thickness value of 2.5mm.



Figure 3 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot of sector 42

**3.2 Reflectivity Vs Thickness at Hallomajra Road on which Thermoplastic were laid Six month ago** 

**Table 5** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measured atcentral Verge at Hallomajra Road

RL,Central Line	Thickness
202	2.63
181	2.55
175	2.53
170	2.52
165	2.5
80	2.45
70	2.4

3.3 Reflectivity Vs Thickness at Transport Chowk to Panchkula Road on which Thermoplastic were laid One Year ago:

At Transport Chowk to Panchkula Road, the pavement marking material were laid One Year ago and the value of thickness and reflectivity are shown in table 7, table 8 and table 9 and their related plots are shown in figure 7, Figure 8 and in figure 9 for towards centre line, centre line and opposite centre line individually.



Fig-5 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Hallomajra road at Central Line

Table 6Reflectivity Vs Thickness Valuesmeasured opposite central Verge at HallomajraRoad

RL, edge line towards shoulder	Thickness
240	2.67
230	2.63
225	2.62
210	2.58
205	2.55
200	2.54
198	2.43



Fig-6 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Hallomajra road Opposite Central verge

# **Table 7** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measuredTowards central Verge at Transport Chowk toPanchkula Road

RL, towards central	Thickness
verge	
180	2.39
178	2.37
177	2.36
174	2.34
170	2.31
167	2.26
160	2.22



Fig-7 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Panchkula road towards Central verge



**Table- 8:** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Valuesmeasured at central Verge at Transport Chowk toPanchkula Road.

RL,Central Line	Thickness
172	2.64
158	2.54
152	2.48
132	2.42
110	2.33
106	2.24
98	2 23

200 150 100 50 2.2 2.4 2.6 2.8 Thickness

**Fig-8** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Panchkula road at Central verge

Table- 9:Reflectivity Vs Thickness Valuesmeasured edge line towards shoulder at TransportChowk to Panchkula Road

RL, edge line towards shoulder	Thickness
260	2.67
256	2.54
230	2.44
217	2.37
211	2.34
209	2.33
187	2.23



Fig-9 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Panchkula road edge line

## **3.4 Reflectivity Vs Thickness at Industrial Area to Panchkula Road on which Thermoplastic were laid Two Year ago:**

At Industrial Area to panchkula road, the pavement marking material were laid two year ago and the value of thickness and reflectivity are shown in table 10, table 11 and table 12 and their related plots are shown in figure 10, Figure 11 and in figure 12 for towards centre line, centre line and opposite centre line individually.

Table 10 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values
Measured Towards central Verge at Industrial area to
Panchkula Road

RL, Towards Central Verge	Thickness	
	2.24	
94	2.24	
92	2.22	
90	2.16	
84	2.15	
83	2.13	
82	2	
81	1.98	



- Fig-10 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Industrial area to Panchkula road towards Central verge
  - **Table 11** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measured atcentral Verge at Industrial area to Panchkula Road

RL,Central Line	Thickness
92	2.16
90	2.15
85	2.11
82	2.1
74	2.05
44	1.95
35	1.93





Fig-11 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Industrial Area to Panchkula road at Central verge

**Table 12** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measured edgeline towards shoulder at Industrial Area to PanchkulaRoad

RL, edge line towards shoulder	Thickness
94	2.31
93	2.29
90	2.23
84	2.15
82	2.14
81	2.1
50	2





#### 3.5 Reflectivity Vs Thickness at Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk Road on which Thermoplastic were laid Three Year ago:

At Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk , the pavement marking material were laid Three years ago and the value of thickness and reflectivity are shown in table 13, table 14 and table 15 and their related plots are shown in figure 13, Figure 14 and in figure 15 for towards centre line, centre line and opposite centre line individually. **Table 13** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measuredtowards central Verge at Transport Chowk to TribuneChowk Road

RL, Towards Central Verge	Thickness
93	1.66
90	1.66
85	1.65
84	1.62
83	1.62
81	1.51
44	1.28



Fig-13 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk road towards Central verge

**Table 14** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measured at

 central Verge at Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk Road

RL,Central Line	Thickness
74	1.96
61	1.95
58	1.87
53	1.82
52	1.76
49	1.7
48	1.68



**Fig-14** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk road at Central verge

**Table 15** Reflectivity Vs Thickness Values measuredOpposite central Verge at Transport Chowk to TribuneChowk Road

RL, edge line towards	Thickness
shoulder	
94	1.95
91	1.9
87	1.83
85	1.8
82	1.76
70	1.74
54	1.66



## Fig-15 Reflectivity Vs Thickness Plot at Transport Chowk to Tribune Chowk road opposite Central verge

From all the plots drawn above based on data analysis, between reflectivity and thickness it has been shown that as the thickness of pavement marking material decreases the reflectivity also reduces.

#### 3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Retroreflectivity, and thickness data collection was performed on selected locations (sites) on highways in the Chandigarh. The data collection was performed approximately after period six months, one year, 2 years and upto 3 years. Data analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel Data Analysis tool.

In the analysis, the following factors were considered that is traffic, pavement marking age, thickness, pavement marking material type and colour.

In this section the percentage change in the value of thickness and reflectivity with the age will be shown individually for each test site on which thermoplastic were laid towards centre line, at centre line and opposite centre line. Then the reflectance will be plotted against the age of material.

#### 4.1 Variation in Reflectivity for thermoplastic

The variation in the value of reflectivity for each test site has been shown individually.

#### Difference in Reflectance after six months

 
 Table 16 Difference of reflectance towards central verge after Six Month

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>		%	Average	
Zero	6months	Difference	Reduct	Reduction
days			ion	%
365	240	125	34.2465	
360	230	130	36.1111	
358	215	143	39.9441	34 7005
334	210	124	37.1257	54.7905
312	208	104	33.3333	
305	206	99	32.4590	
287	200	87	30.3135	

 Table 17 Difference of reflectance at central verge after

Six Month

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>		%Reduction	Average reduction	
Zero	6 months	Difference		%
2(0	months	150	42.00000	
360	202	158	43.88889	
354	181	173	48.87006	
350	175	175	50	55.71451
330	170	160	48.48485	
322	165	157	48.75776	
320	80	240	75	
280	70	210	75	

 Table 18 Difference of reflectance at edge line towards

#### shoulder after Six Month

Refl	Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>		% reduction	Average
Zero	6	difference		reduction%
days	months			
368	240	128	34.78261	
364	230	134	36.81319	
362	225	137	37.8453	38.07495
360	210	150	41.66667	
356	205	151	42.41573	
334	200	134	40.11976	
295	198	97	32.88136	

#### **Difference of Reflectance after One Year:**

Table 19 Difference of reflectance towards centre verge

#### after one year

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>		%	Average	
Zero	One	difference	Reduction	reduction
days	Year			%
365	180	185	50.68493	
360	178	182	50.55556	
358	177	181	50.55866	47.81613
334	174	160	47.90419	
312	170	142	45.51282	
305	167	138	45.2459	
287	160	127	44.25087	

 Table 20 Difference of reflectance at centre verge after

#### one year

Reflecta	ance lux/	mcd/m <sup>2</sup>	%	Average
Zero days	One Year	Difference	Reduction	reduction%
360	172	188	52.22222	
354	158	196	55.36723	
350	152	198	56.57143	60.26777
330	132	198	60	
322	110	212	65.83851	
320	106	214	66.875	
280	98	182	65	

**Table 21** Difference of reflectance edge line towards

shoulder after one year

Refle	Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			Average
Zero	1year	Difference	%	Reduction
Days			Reduction	%
368	260	108	29.34783	
364	256	108	29.67033	
362	230	132	36.46409	35.71002
360	217	143	39.72222	
356	211	145	40.73034	
334	209	125	37.42515	
295	187	108	36.61017	

#### Difference of Reflectance after Two Year:

 Table 22 Difference of reflectance towards centre verge

after two year

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%Reduction	Average
Zero Davs	2 year	differenc e		Reduction %
Days				
365	94	271	74.24658	
360	92	268	74.4444	
358	90	268	74.86034	73.81298
334	84	250	74.8503	
312	83	229	73.39744	
305	82	223	73.11475	
287	81	206	71.777	

**Table 23** Difference of reflectance at centre verge aftertwo year

Reflectancelux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%	Average
Zero Days	2 years	Difference	Reduction	Reduction %
360	92	268	74.4444	
354	90	264	74.57627	
350	85	265	75.71429	78.66502
330	82	248	75.15152	
322	74	248	77.01863	
320	44	276	86.25	
280	35	245	87.5	

<b>Table 24</b> Difference of reflectance at edge line
towards shoulder after two year

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%	Average
zero	2 years	difference	reduction	reduction%
368	94	274	74.45652	
364	93	271	74.45055	
362	90	272	75.13812	76.63964
360	84	276	76.66667	
356	82	274	76.96629	
334	81	253	75.7485	
295	50	245	83.05085	

#### **Difference of Reflectance after Three Year**

**Table 25** Difference of reflectance opposite centre
 verge after three year

Reflectancelux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%	Average
Zero	<b>3years</b>	Difference	Reduction	Reduction
Days				%
365	93	272	74.52055	
360	90	270	75	
358	85	273	76.25698	76.01955
334	84	250	74.8503	
312	83	229	73.39744	
305	81	224	73.44262	
287	44	243	84.66899	

Table 26 Difference of reflectance at centre verge after

#### three year

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%	Average
Zero	<b>3years</b>	Difference	Reduction	Reduction
Days				%
360	74	286	79.44444	
354	61	293	82.76836	
350	58	292	83.42857	82.99662
330	53	277	83.93939	
322	52	270	83.85093	
320	49	271	84.6875	
280	48	232	82.85714	

**Table 27** Difference of reflectance edge line towards

shoulder after three year

Reflectance lux/mcd/m <sup>2</sup>			%	Average
Zero	<b>3years</b>	Difference	Reduction	Reduction
Days				%
368	94	274	74.45652	
364	91	273	75	77.07363
362	87	275	75.96685	
360	85	275	76.38889	
356	82	274	76.96629	
334	70	264	79.04192	
295	54	241	81.69492	

#### Discussion regarding the variation in Retroreflectivity:

- From table 16, table 17 & table 18, it has been shown that the average decrease in the value of reflectance is 34.79% towards centre verge, 55.71% at centre line and 38.074% opposite centre verge after six month of marking material applied.
- From table 19, table 20 & table 21, it is determined that the average decrease in the value of reflectance is 47.81% towards centre verge, 60.26% at centre line and 35.71% opposite centre verge after one year of marking material applied.
- From table 22, table 23 & table 24, it has been shown that the average decrease in the value of reflectance is 73.81% towards centre verge, 78.66% at centre line and 76.6396% opposite centre verge after two year of marking material applied.
- From table 25, table 26 & table 27, it has been shown that the average decrease in the value of reflectance is 76.0195% towards centre verge, 82.99% at centre line and 77.073% opposite centre verge after three year of marking material applied.

#### 4.2 Age of Pavement Marking Material

From the data collected from various preselected test sites the average reflectivity of thermoplastic material and age (in number of days) has been determined and the plot between the age and reflectivity has been drawn individually for towards centre line, at centre line and opposite centre line as shown below:

**Table 28** Average Reflectivity Vs Age towards centre line

Average Reflectance	Age (in days)	
Towards Centre Verge		
331.5714	0	
237.8571	30	
215.5714	180	
172.2857	365	
86.5713	730	
80	1460	



Fig-16 Average Reflectivity Vs Age towards centre line.

**Table 29** Average Reflectivity Vs Age at Centre Line

Average Reflectance at	Age (in days)
Centre	
330.8571	0
175.7143	30
149	180
132.5714	365
71.71429	730
56.42857	1460



Fig-17 Average reflectivity Vs Age at Centre line

## Table 30 Average Reflectivity Vs Age opposite Centre Line

Reflectance at edge line towards shoulder	Age (in days)
348.4286	0
294.42	30
215.42	180
224.2857	365
82	730
80.42857	1460



Fig-18 Average Reflectivity Vs Age opposite Centre Line

## Discussion regarding Average Reflectance Vs Age of Thermoplastic:

- From figure 16, figure 17 and figure 18 it has been clearly indicated that as the time span of the applied material increases the reflectance decreases correspondingly.
- It affects more at centre line as compare to side lines as the time span increases as shown in table 28, table 29 and table 30.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the performance evaluation results and the data analysis performed. The following conclusions are made :

- The value of retroreflectivity for water based paint was found to be less than the thermoplastic paint for same age.
- It was seen that the retero reflectivity of pavement marking decreases with age. For normal paints there is considerable decrease in the retero reflectivity within one year of application.
- Reflectivity of water based paint reduces more as compared to thermoplastic paint with time.
- It was also examined that the age of water based paint is approximately 15 months whereas thermoplastic paints have age more than three vear.
- It is also concluded that water based paint should be applied on low traffic volume roads whereas thermoplastic should be applied on high traffic volume roads.
- On comparing reteroreflectivity with thickness, analysis were performed by making XY plots which clearly shows that as the thickness decreases with time the reflectivity also decreases.
- The value of reflectivity decreases more at centre line as compare to side line because all the traffic plying at centre line. Thus it reduces thickness of marking material which in turn reduces the reflectivity.
- The average reduction in the value of reflectivity derived from data analysis in the time span of three years is approximately 77 % at side lines and 82.9 % at centre line for thermoplastic. And for water based paint it reduces almost 100%.
- It is also examined that the appearance of thermoplastic is excellent during initial time and its reflectivity is sustained throughout the service life and in case of water based paint its appearance is excellent during initial time but degrade after 14 to 18 months approx.
- It is also was seen that most of of the reduction occurs in one year after the application of the material after that there is some reduction in second year and almost negligible in third year.

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