

## NCDOT Division 11 Wilkes County, NC

**Location:** North Wilkesboro, NC

**Contractor:** North Carolina Department of Transportation



Surface cracks in asphalt can lead to serious structural damage if not sealed against the intrusion of moisture. There are several ways to seal surface cracking. A thick layer of hot mix asphalt can be applied, or liquid asphalt can be used to fill the cracks. The first option is relatively expensive and liquid asphalt is messy and leaves slick areas. Skin patching is a variation of bituminous surface treatment (BST) where the BST is placed only over the cracked areas, usually in the wheel paths. The drawbacks to skin patching are: loose aggregate can cause vehicle damage, and high traffic leads to loss of the covering aggregate. Using *STALITE* however, eliminates these problems. *STALITE*, because of its rough surface texture, forms a strong bond with asphalt emulsion, and because *STALITE* is very light, if there are loose particles they will not damage vehicles. By strategically skin patching with *STALITE* lightweight aggregate the road is sealed economically and neatly. It is a testament to the high strength of *STALITE* that NCDOT engineers in North Wilkesboro, NC can place *STALITE* in very high traffic applications, such as NC Highway 421, which has an average daily traffic (ADT) count of 14,000 vehicles

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