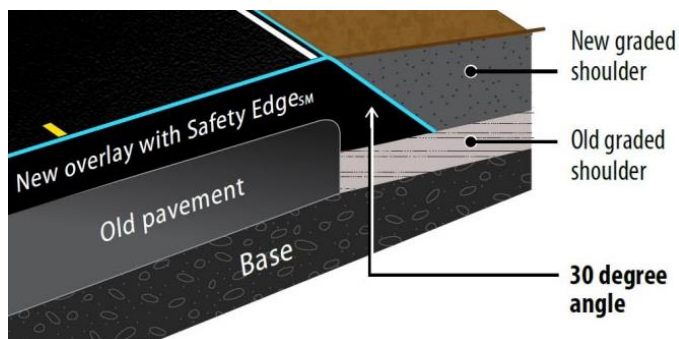


Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Proactive Systemic Initiatives for VDOT-Maintained Roads: Shoulder Wedge



Roadway shoulder paved with a shoulder wedge.



Cross-section view of an overlay with Shoulder Wedge, also known as Safety Edge (source: FHWA-

pavement. Shoulder wedge is typically installed with the resurfacing of the roadway, following VDOT's annual resurfacing schedule.

For any questions on inquiries on VHSIP, please email: hsiprogram@vdot.virginia.gov

Sign up for VHSIP email notifications to be notified of revised guidance, program updates, training opportunities, and more! Listserv Sign-up link: <http://eepurl.com/hY1DSj>

VDOT works hard to provide a roadway network that operates safely, efficiently, and effectively. In 2019, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the deployment of highly effective, low-cost safety improvements to help reduce serious injury and fatal crashes across the Commonwealth. This data-driven strategy focuses on proactively targeting locations with higher crash risk. The goal is not to wait for crashes to occur before we proactively treat high-risk locations on the roadway network!

A **shoulder wedge**, also known as Safety Edge, enables drivers who drift off the paved roadway surface to return to the road safely, reducing run-off-road and opposite direction crashes by 20%.¹ Shoulder wedge is a sloped surface at the edge of pavement that provides a strong, durable transition for drivers to return to the road safely. Shoulder wedge also provides a means of strengthening and stabilizing the pavement edge to aid in reducing maintenance cost and longer-term pavement performance.

Pavement shoulder wedge is required on new construction, mill-and-fill, and straight overlay projects that mill or pave to the edge of

¹ https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/safety_edge.cfm