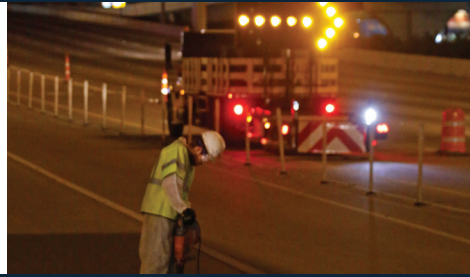


NCFI's TerraThane™ Helps Improve Houston's Busy Highways



PROBLEM

Erosion beneath the highways causes the concrete highway slabs to drop, roadway depressions, uneven bridge approaches, and uneven joints that make driving bumpy and uncomfortable, dangerous, and causes severe wear and tear on automobiles.

Highways around Houston, TX are known for their traffic, only lagging behind other metropolises like Los Angeles, D.C., and Atlanta. This means the roadways need constant repair, but they also can't be closed while the work is done. Extensive repairs were needed on one of the city's busiest corridors in the NE quadrant where I-10, 610 Loop, I-59, and I-69 feed millions of cars daily to, from, and around Harris County. In the past, one of the only options available was mudjacking, which uses a mix of mud, sand, cement, crushed limestone, and water hydraulically pumped into large holes drilled into the concrete slabs to fill voids and level the slabs. It uses more and much larger equipment, and requires larger holes to be drilled. It also typically requires the roadway to be closed for a long period of time and clean up time is considerable.

SOLUTION

The Texas Department of Transportation contacted Nortex to complete the repairs for the half million pound project using a relatively new technology called "foamjacking." Foamjacking uses high-density polyurethane foam to fill the subterranean voids, and lift the concrete slabs to proper level. "We've been lifting a with polyurethane foam since we got

"TXDOT have asked for a better solution or product to do the highly specialized job."

into the business back in 2003," says Casey Derosa, Assistant General Manager of Nortex. "It's a far superior method versus the old way of mudjacking." According to Derosa, Nortex started in January working to complete the 150 plus location project. They went about standard operations by drilling 5/8-inch holes in the concrete slabs and pumping TerraThane™ polyurethane foam made by the US company, NCFI Polyurethanes, into the voids, filling then lifting the slabs to the proper level. On some locations the slabs were lifted as much as eight inches to ensure the highway was level and a smooth driving surface.

RESULTS

Derosa says he used TerraThane because they've worked with NCFI Polyurethanes' Geotechnical Division on formulations since 2003. "We love the specialized TerraThane material. It's a four-pound foam system with very high compression strength, ideal cell structure, and low tolerance for water absorption. Day in and day out, it's consistently the best product on the market." He also added that, "State DOTs are looking for products that meet or exceed expectations and this product certainly does that. We never worry when we use TerraThane™. We trust the consistency and quality of each set we buy and use. NCFI has proven to be a great partner in this growing business."

Learn more at
geotechservicesgroup.com
216.990.1561



785 Lakeshore Blvd., Unit C
Cleveland, OH 44077
Phone: 216.990.1561
Email: info@geotechservices.com
geotechservices.com