

GUIDELINES FOR BASE THICKNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
(PIEDMONT/VALLEY & RIDGE PROJECTS ONLY)

SOIL SUPPORT VALUE

MINIMUM GAB THICKNESS

Less than 2.0*	12-16 inches*
2.0-2.5	12-8 inches
2.5- 3.0	10-6 inches

Other factors affecting base thickness selection are:

1. Projected traffic volumes
2. Percent truck traffic
3. Type of roadway (major arterial with heavy industry nearby; low-volume rural road with little industry; county road vs. state route/US route, etc.)

The minimum GAB thicknesses shown may be reduced (but not less than 6") for projects with low traffic volumes and/or low percent trucks, and for off-system county or city roads. However, use the following:

1. Use minimum 8" GAB on state routes
2. Use minimum 12" GAB on Interstates and Interstate ramps

*Projects with soil support values less than 2.0 may need cement or lime stabilization. When soils are treated with lime, the SSV can be increased to a minimum of 3.5 and the base thickness correspondingly reduced. When soils are treated with cement, increase the SSV to 2.0. Only consider using the additional 4" GAB (for a total of 16") on short sections of roadway with poor soils and/or high groundwater when lime or cement may not be justified for the entire project.