



A Unique “Slab Lifter”

In the US they replace some 70,000 PCP slabs every year. This is mainly due to the 25 year design life they used for most of the early Interstates. (The FHWA now recommends 40 years and some States have already adopted 50 year design lives). The pictures here depict a novel attachment to a conventional excavator bucket that supposedly makes the work a lot easier and eliminates the need to attach temporary lifting hooks into the slabs. The first slab may still need them.



Figure 6. Removal of old pavement.



As our 10 year Maintenance periods are starting to expire, we will be faced with some slab replacements whether we like it or not. On the assumption that this gadget works and saves some money, Richard French' people might look at developing a “Company Hook” for all to use on as required basis. The first likely user should arrange that.