Scratch and Chip

**Description**
The Northwest District developed plans to cover more miles of low-volume minor roads via a turn-key STIP contract that is cheaper than the standard one-inch Contract Level Course, yet still addresses the preventive maintenance needs of many low-volume routes. The first step is to tack and scratch the existing roadway with a minimum ¼-inch thickness of asphalt and then seal the surface with a chip seal. A scratch course corrects most areas that would require maintenance patching at a cost comparable to what maintenance would pay for the material. All traffic control and temporary and permanent striping are included in the contract.

**Benefit**
Producing these plans takes the same time and effort as producing our standard Contract Level Course contracts, with no reoccurring costs. Scratch and Chip is typically 25 percent less expensive than traditional Contract Level Course, allowing more miles to be treated. In addition, no cold milling for depth transitions are required with Scratch and Chip.

**For More Information Contact:**
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Additional photos can be seen by accessing the Innovations Challenge homepage at: http://wwwi/intranet/cr/SolutionsAtWork/Innovations.htm.