



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***PERFORMANCE OF STONE MASTIC ASPHALT MIXTURE
REINFORCED WITH NEWLY DEVELOPED INTERLOCKING
CHAINED PLASTI-BEADS***

NADZROL FADZILAH BINTI AHMAD

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By

NADZROL FADZILAH BINTI AHMAD

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

PERFORMANCE OF STONE MASTIC ASPHALT MIXTURE REINFORCED WITH NEWLY DEVELOPED INTERLOCKING CHAINED PLASTI-BEADS

By

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February 2014

Chair : Ratnasamy Muniandy, PhD
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Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) is a gap-graded hot mixture consisting of a coarse aggregate skeleton and high binder content. Typical standard and specification of void in mineral aggregate (VMA) for this type of mixture range between 16 to 18%. Aggregate with 3 to 8mm diameter size found to be the largest portion that form a matrix skeletal in SMA mixture. The objective of this study is to develop and design Chained Plasti-beads (CPB) that utilize the VMA existence in SMA mixture as an interlocking mechanism and to evaluate their potential in resisting fatigue failure of Stone Mastic Asphalt.

The research was undertaken in four stages. The first stage of the study was carried out on develop Chained plasti-beads (CPB); this includes designing the shape configuration and dimensions (bead size, shape, chained spacing and thickness) to suit the void spaces in asphalt mixture. The second stage was to evaluate and analysis the CPB physical and mechanical properties. The third stage was to determine and justify the suitable quantity of CPB to be replaced for some portion of aggregate in mixture on volume bases, while the fourth stage devoted to fabrication and testing of fatigue beam specimens using Repeated Flexural Beam Fatigue in accordance with AASHTO TP8-94 321 to investigate the potential prospects to enhance asphalt mixture fatigue cracking properties by means of flexural beam fatigue test.

In this study, CPB of 4mm and 6mm diameter diamond shaped beads with 0.5mm and 1.0mm thick chained beads link (M4/0.5, M4/1.0 and M6/0.5, 6M/1.0) with spacing between beads set at 20mm interval was developed and designed mainly to act as reinforcement to increase the tensile strength when pavement subjected to traffic loading. The interlocking mechanism through VMA concept was adopted using replacement strategy of some portion of aggregate sizes (2.3 – 4.75mm) by CPB on volume bases as

such three different contents (0.5%, 1.0% and 1.5%) of CPB were selected and used throughout the study.

SMA beam specimens were prepared with the above CPB sizes and proportions and tested to simulated loading and temperature conditions in accordance with ASTM and AASHTO Standards. Laboratory repeated flexural fatigue bending beam tests were conducted at five different strain levels (350 to 650 μm) represents low, medium, and high traffic loading to evaluate the incorporation of CPB in SMA to assess mixture fatigue cracking performance. Two new concepts of analysis; Stress Loss Ratio (SLR) and Fatigue Resistance Ratio (FRR) along with stiffness reduction and energy ratio concepts were used to determine the significant CPB combinations that serve as an interlocking mechanism through VMA concept and to evaluate fatigue cracking potential.

At 350 micro-strain ($\mu\epsilon$) loading; CPB M4/0.5, M4/1.0 and M6/0.5 specimens showed significant improvement in terms of fatigue resistance and stiffness compare to control specimens. In general, most analyses approaches used in this study revealed, as the strain level increased, the fatigue resistance trend of CPB mixture decreased gradually and the performance showed almost the same trend at higher strain level of 650 $\mu\epsilon$. M6/1.0 specimens performed the worst compared to the other CPB specimens.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PRESTASI CAMPURAN BATUAN ASFALT MASTIK YANG DIPERKUATKAN
DENGAN PEMBANGUNAN BARU RANTAIAN KEKUNCI MANIK-PLASTI**

Oleh

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Batuan Asphalt Mastik (SMA) adalah campuran panas bahan turapan yang mempunyai jurang juzuk gradasi terdiri daripada skeletal batu kasar dengan kadar kandungan asphalt yang tinggi. Menurut tipikal standard dan spesifikasi bagi keperluan ruang dalam campuran batuan kasar dan halus (VMA) untuk campuran bahan turapan jenis ini adalah diantara 16 hingga 18%. Batuan dengan diameter bersaiz 3 hingga 8mm adalah diantara kelompok saiz yang paling besar membentuk skeletal didalam campuran SMA. Lanjutan daripada itu, objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk merekabentuk dan membangunkan rantai manik plastic (CPB) yang akan mengunapakai konsep VMA sebagai mekanisma kekunci seterusnya menilai potensi CPB terhadap kebolehpayaan dalam mengurangkan kadar kegagalan rintangan keletihan didalam campuran SMA.

Kajian ini dilaksanakan dalam empat peringkat. Peringkat pertama adalah menjalankan kerja-kerja pembangunan CPB termasuk kerja-kerja merekabentuk rupabentuk, konfigurasi dan dimensi CPB (saiz manik, rupabentuk, jarak dan ketebalan rantai CPB) yang sesuai dengan keadaan VMA didalam campuran bahan turapan sediaada. Peringkat kedua pula adalah untuk menilai dan menganalisis sifat fizikal dan mekanikal CPB. Peringkat ketiga adalah untuk mengenalpasti dan justifikasi kuantiti yang paling sesuai bagi CPB untuk menggantikan sebahagian daripada jumlah batuan dalam basis isipadu yang setara manakala peringkat keempat menumpukan fabrikasi dan ujian rintangan keletihan spesimen rasuk dengan menggunakan kaedah Ulangan Rintangan Keletihan Lenturan Rasuk berdasarkan standard AASHTO TP8-94 321 untuk menyiasat prospek dan potensi bagi sifat kebolehrintangan keretakan didalam campuran bahan turapan SMA oleh CPB.

Dalam kajian ini CPB bersaiz 4mm dan 6mm diameter berupabentuk berlian dengan ketebalan rantaian 0.5mm dan 1.0mm (M4/0.5, M4/1.0 and M6/0.5, 6M/1.0) pada jarak 20mm diantara manik telah dibangun dan direkebentuk untuk bertindak sebagai mekanisme kekunci mengunakan konsep VMA dengan strategi penggantian CPB kepada sebahagian daripada saiz batuan (2.3 – 4.75mm) dalam basis isipadu setara dengan memilih tiga kandungan berbeza (0.5%, 1.0% dan 1.5%).

Spesimen rasuk SMA mengikut saiz dan kadar CPB seperti diatas telah disediakan dan diuji menurut simulasi bebanan dan kondisi suhu berdasarkan standard ASTM dan AASHTO. Ujian makmal ulangan lenturan rasuk terhadap rintangan keletihan telah dijalankan pada lima kadar regangan yang berbeza (350 to 650 $\mu\epsilon$) mewakili keadaan trafik rendah, sederhana dan tinggi bagi SMA yang mengandungi CPB bagi menilai kebolehpayaan bahan turapan terhadap keretakan keletihan. Dua konsep baharu telah diperkenalkan bagi tujuan analisis; Kadar Kehilangan Stres (SLR) dan Kadar Rintangan Keletihan (FRR) dengan mengambilkira konsep pengurangan kekuatan dan kadar tenaga telah digunakan untuk mengenalpasti signifikan kombinasi CPB yang menyumbang sebagai mekanisme kekunci menerusi konsep VMA sekaligus berpotensi mengurangkan keretakan.

Pada kadar 350 $\mu\epsilon$, campuran SMA CPB M4/0.5, M4/1.0 dan M6/0.5 telah menunjukkan prestasi yang signifikan yang mempengaruhi tren rintangan keletihan dan kekuatan berbanding dengan campuran SMA konvensional. Secara amnya, keseluruhan pendekatan analisis yang dilakukan dalam kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa, sekiranya kadar regangan ditingkatkan maka tren kadar rintangan keletihan campuran bahan turapan CPB berkurangan secara berkadar dan pada kadar regangan tinggi 650 $\mu\epsilon$, prestasinya menunjukkan tren yang sama bagi kesemua campuran CPB mahupun tanpa CPB.

Akhirnya, berdasarkan kepada analisis statistik, M4/1.0 didapati campuran CPB yang paling bagus berbanding campuran CPB yang lain. Campuran CPB menunjukkan pengaruh yang hebat terhadap rintangan keletihan dan seterusnya meningkatkan kitaran hidup keletihan melebihi 100% berbanding dengan SMA konvensional pada kadar 350 $\mu\epsilon$.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

VMA	Void in Mineral Aggregate
VTM	Void in Total Mix
G_{sb}	Bulk Specific Gravity
G_{mb}	Bulk Specific Gravity of Compacted
G_{se}	Effective Specific Gravity of Asphalt mix
G_{mm}	Theoretical Specific Gravity
P_b	Percentage of Asphalt
W_{dry}	Weight of Specimen in Air
W_{sub}	Weight of Specimen Submerged in Water
W_{SSD}	Weight of Saturated Dry Specimen
P_b	Percent of Asphalt
SSD	Saturated Surface Dry weight
TMD	Theoretical Maximum Density
MQ	Marshall Quotient
Mpa	Megapascal
HDPE	High Density Polyethelene
LDPE	Low Density Polyethelene
PP	Polyproplene
N_f	Number of Load Cycles to Failure
N_1	Failure Point
N_{50}	Number of Cycles to Failure at 50% Stiffness Reduction
R_n	Energy Ratio
SLR	Stress Loss Ratio
FRR	Fatigue Resistance Ratio
σN_f	Stress at Number of Cycles to Failure
σ_i	Initial Stress
ϵ_0	Initial Strain
S_0	Initial Stiffness

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Plastic has been well recognized by its versatile usage. Despite their tremendous success story on their versatile usage, plastics were also created a negative story on their waste management. This is mainly because of their non-biodegradable properties. Plastic wastes have been viewed as a serious solid waste problem to many municipal authority all over the world as its demand to provide more landfill area. In addition, the most concerned being raised up recently is on their contribution to global warming issues. Many countries encourage researchers to explore innovative way to recycle or reuse plastics.

World statistics of 2010, clearly shown that waste plastic recycling rate was still very minimal as out of 24.7 million tones plastics waste being generated, only 6 million tones or equivalent to 24% of total waste being recycled (Plastics Europe Market Research Group, 2010). Malaysia was not excluded from this scenario. It was reported that plastic industry growth at 20% of Malaysian economy. On the other hand it was also reported that 7 to 12% by weight or 18 to 30% by volume of solid waste generated daily is a plastic waste (Sapan Agarwal, 2007). The concern goes to municipal authority when less than 5% being recycled and this will definitely create a landfill problems. Malaysia has been introduced a policy to ban a plastic bag uses at every Saturday in the week. This is mainly to retain a green environment as plastics are non-biodegradable which is believed partly as contribution factors to global warming issues.

Virgin or recycled plastics that are being used currently in highway industry were also not a new discovery. Various types of plastic were used in roads furniture manufacturing. However, the most popular was on its' usage as an additives in asphalt binder from a group of polymers. Styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA), polyethylene (PE) is among the famous plastic or polymer group being used as asphalt modifier. As for example, Mustafa T. et al., (2003) used discarded plastic grocery bags, dry cleaning and household plastics in single size as a modifier that significantly increased the softening point and decreased the penetration and ductility of asphalt cement. In addition, plastics were also being used in pallet formed to replace a quantity of aggregates been studied by Zoorob (2000). The details of plastics usage in highway industry will be discussed in review of literature in Chapter 2.

To further utilize on the versatility of plastic usage, this study will execute a research to develop a special plastics product purposely to be incorporated in asphalt mixture composition as an interlocking mechanism namely Chained Plasti-beads (CPB). Chained plasti-beads were design and fabricate such a way to be an interlocking mechanism between aggregate specific sizes through void in mineral aggregate (VMA) approach. Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) with 9.5mm Nominal Maximum Aggregate size (NMAS) in accordance to

Malaysian Public Work Department (JKR) specifications was adapted throughout the entire analyses.

Voids in Mineral Aggregate (VMA) is defined as the volume of intergranular void space between the aggregate particles of a compacted paving mixture that includes the air voids and the effective asphalt content, expressed as a percentage of the total volume of the compacted paving mixture (Asphalt Institute Manual Series MS-4 2007). Incorporation of CPB in SMA is expected to provide better aggregate interlock and increasing the tensile strain through its chained interlocking mechanism. The chained of CPB has a tendency to increase pavement tensile strength especially for fatigue resistance while resist the repeated traffic load. CPB interlocking mechanism concept can be illustrated in Figure 1.1.

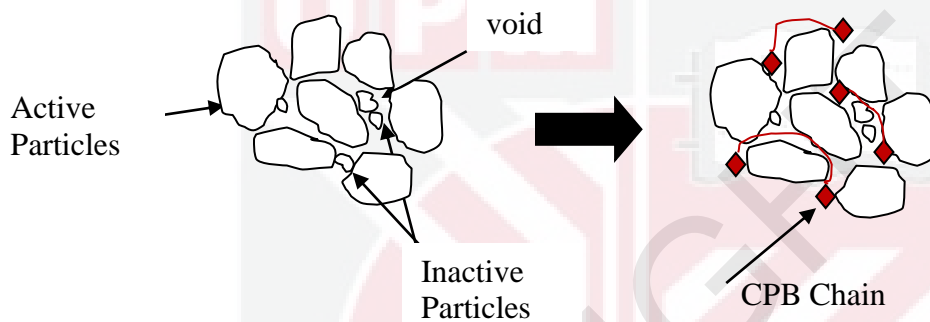


Figure 1.1 SMA Aggregate Skeleton Interlock with CPB through VMA concept

The material, size, dimensions and shape configuration of CPB was determined with rationale and justification to meet the compatibility requirement in asphalt mixture. Nylon 66 Mapex AT0110GN was chosen to fabricate the CPB as this type of plastic met the melting point temperature of 200 °C. This is very important criteria to be considered as CPB was developed with intention to be permanently and physically functioning as interlocking mechanism during pavement service life.

Based on SMA 9.5mm NMAS, aggregate with size between 3mm to 8mm formed the largest portion of typical matrix aggregate to aggregate skeleton. Therefore, the size of CPB will also be recommended in this range. Another concern is on the determination of CPB's shape and texture that should be rough and angular to provide better interlock condition. Aggregate interlock was highly depends on rough and angular particles which are desired for providing the rut resistance (Kandhal and Mallick, 2001; Sousa et al., 1991; Brown and Bassett, 1990; Button et al., 1990). Diamond shape found to be the most suitable in the current study in order to fulfill the aggregate angularity criteria as well as for convenience of fabrication works.

Since the density of plastic is much lower than the aggregate, a strategy of replacement of certain portion of aggregates by CPB based on volume rather than weight was adopted for further assessment.

1.2 Problem Statement

It becomes worst and bad experience when sometimes the occurrence of surface-initiated cracking in new asphalt surface and overlays are widely reported just after a few months of opening to traffic. With respect to these circumstances, researchers or roads engineers were continuously making attempts to enhance pavement performance. Material variability was favorite area that getting much attention and interest among researchers which directly influenced the pavement performance. Over the years and all over the world, researchers performed extensive research on materials through new technologies and innovation to produce a pavement that could perform double durability with desired performance. A wide variety of additives and modifiers have been used for asphalt modification properties including the study on types and grading of aggregates, angularity and surface texture which were among effort that been carried out to improve the existing asphalt mixtures.

One of the prominent enhancements made was to modify the asphalt properties by adding various types of polymer, fibers and other additives. All these efforts purposely being carried out to increase the tensile strength on asphalt properties. However, according to X. Lu et al., (2001), despite increased interest, modified bitumen will probably never be able to replace conventional bitumen to any great extent due to economic reasons. Reliable statistics showing the present volumes of modified bituminous binders are difficult to obtain. In most countries, only a small proportion of the total bitumen volume used is modified in one way or another. The main reason for the low fraction of modified bitumen is most probably the price, which may exceed twice that of conventional bitumen (D'Angelo, J). Instead of that, the evidence of the effect of using additives or modifier is not often obvious. There are several reasons for this situation. In addition, laboratory test methods do not always simulate behavior on the road and field tests are generally time-consuming and too expensive. In this connection, it is also worth mentioning that the mechanisms of action for most of the additives are insufficiently understood. Besides, the possible problems with modified bitumen are mainly in the storage of the bitumen, mixing temperatures and the length of time the material is held at elevated temperatures before laid on.

Fibers have gotten much attention of their excellent improvements effect. A multitude of fibers materials were continuously being introduce in the market as new applications such as from a group of polyester, polypropylene, asbestos, glass, carbon, cellulose and many others (Serfass et al., 1996). However, past researched reported that fiber reinforced bituminous mixtures has shown mixed results. Consequently, fiber reinforcement is considered as a coin with two sides. One side includes the randomly direct inclusion of fibers into the matrix, i.e. asphalt concrete and/or Portland Cement Concrete slabs. Another side comprises the oriented fibrous materials, e.g. Geo-synthetics family. It is emphasized that the former concept is not as well-known as the second, not only in optimizing fiber properties, fiber diameter, length, surface texture etc., but also in reinforcing mechanism. Obviously, if the fibers are too long, it may create the so called “balling” problem, i.e. some of the fibers may lump together, and

the fibers may not blend well with the asphalt. In the same way, too short fibers may not provide any reinforcing effect. They may just serve as expensive filler in the mix (Mahrez A. et al., 2005). In conclusion, only fiber that have high tensile strength relative to bituminous mixtures, showed the potential to improve the cohesive and tensile strength of bituminous mixes.

Another area that always been studied in research and development of pavement activities was on the main component of asphalt mixture; an aggregate. Instead of aggregate types, grading and physical properties such as surface texture and angularity, sources of aggregate were also play an important role in order to ensure asphalt concrete performance. Besides, based on exploration of aggregate gradation, varieties of new mix design were proposed. Superpave, Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) and porous asphalt were typical example being introduced towards this finding. In addition, a lot of studies by using recycled materials such as plastic, glass, steel slag, ceramic and etc. being used to replace a portion of aggregate quantity. This effort was mainly to utilize waste material that created landfill problem and one way to overcome the shortage of natural materials in the future.

Both asphalt and aggregate that been studied for improvement reported various stories of their successfulness. However not many of the findings can be proceeded to improve the asphalt pavement. Therefore, until to-date researchers had never been stopped from looking forward to find the loop hole in this area. In general, most of the efforts go to single improvement either on asphalt or aggregate. However, some can be done but incurred a higher capital cost and totally in-economic to be considered.

Moreover, beside many kind of asphalt mixture design that have been established such as Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), Porous Asphalt and etc., SMA mixture design was selected since this mixture is design for rut resistance. Most of the reports by the researchers highlighted the mixtures great potential in resisting permanent deformation or rutting, but ignored any potential fatigue resistance of the SMA (Ratnasamy M. and Bujang BK., 2006). Therefore, incorporated of CPB in SMA mix design is aimed to act as a reinforcement agent through interlocking mechanism. CPB was developed as a mix composite to increase a tensile strength in asphalt mixtures through interlocking mechanism between specific aggregate sizes by using void in mineral aggregate (VMA) approach. This attempt is purposely made to enhance the performance of both in asphalt and aggregate composition of asphalt mixture. Moreover, the availability of various type of plastic material is very encouraging towards producing the innovative material to be used in highway pavement industry.

1.3 Objectives

This study was mainly emphasized on investigating the effectiveness of the newly developed of chained plasti-beads (CPB) as an interlocking mechanism which is incorporated in Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) mixtures by using void in mineral aggregate (VMA) approach. The comparison between SMA with and without CPB mixtures was evaluated for further assessment on their performance in resisting of tensile strain. Hence, the research objectives of an effect of CPB existence in SMA mixture were structured up as follows:

- a) To develop appropriate interlocking chained plasti-beads configuration using the VMA concept.
- b) To characterize the physical and mechanical properties of CPB and determine the optimum chained plasti-beads for SMA mixture design.
- c) To establish a relationship between interlocking chained plasti-beads system and fatigue life of SMA mixture.

1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of this study was divided into four main work activities. The first activity was to develop Chained plasti-beads (CPB) that are compatible to be incorporated in asphalt mix composition. This includes on designing the shape configuration and dimensions which is to suit with the void spaces in asphalt mixture. Therefore, determination of void in mineral aggregate (VMA) of intended mixes was initially analyzed for the selection of appropriate bead size, chained spacing and thickness in order to get ultimate strength for mixes to resist fatigue and deformation. The fabricated CPB then will be evaluated and analyzed on its physical and mechanical properties at different condition especially in tensile strain test by using Universal Instron Machine in the second activity. In this activity, the aggregate and asphalt was also being tested on their physical and mechanical properties for its suitability to meet the specifications.

The satisfactory CPB properties that met the requirement of melting point more than 200 °C were used in mix design in the third activity. The main challenge in this stage was to justify the suitable or reasonable quantity of CPB to be replaced for some portion of aggregate in mixture as both CPB and aggregate has obvious differences in density range. Replacement by volume strategy found to be more suitable and realistic to overcome the density differences. The ultimate objective for the mix design analysis was to obtain an optimum asphalt content for each matrix mixes with and without CPB. The ranking system was employed to find the best performing mixture based on CPB matrix combinations for preparation of beam specimens in the next activity.

The fourth or final activity covers a preparation of slab fabrication in order to obtain adequate number of beam specimens in accordance with AASHTO TP8-94 321 Repeated Flexural Beam Fatigue Test requirement. The four point bending beam test was carried out as to compare the performance between the mixture with and without CPB. Further analysis on fatigue resistance was conducted as to find out the significant of CPB employment in SMA mixtures. Overall results, analyses and discussions will be the ultimate scope of this study and will be presented comprehensively.

1.5 Limitation of Study

The evaluation and investigation of this study has their limitation in terms of:-

- i) Performance of new invention CPB in SMA mixture to be analyzed in laboratory test only with no further evaluation on actual field condition.
- ii) CPB are developed in single diamond shape and single spacing between the beads. As shape was one of criteria that determined the performance in terms of contact area, no comparison could be made for other geometric shape. The single spacing between the beads may also influence and limit the chances aggregate particles to interlock each other.
- iii) In addition, the limited of two different diameters of 4mm and 6mm beads size and two different thickness of chain size might not be sufficient to evaluate the overall significant of CPB incorporated in mix composition.

1.6 Significance of Study

As mentioned earlier, in the recent past, investigators and researchers attempted to enhance the mechanical properties of asphalt mixture through single improvement either on asphalt or aggregate. Most of mechanical properties enhancement such as stiffness and modulus of elasticity that may increased the fatigue resistance was done through asphalt modifying or by adding various types of fibers or polymers to increase tensile strength. Various types of polymers and fibers are believed to be a reinforcing agent in asphalt pavement.

New develop and manufactured of chained plasti-beads (CPB) was totally a new invention to be part of asphalt mixture composition by tapping on aggregate skeletal matrix through void in mineral aggregates (VMA) approach. Suitable shape and configuration with appropriate dimensions could be developed once VMA of the selected gradation is determined. VMA matched with the right CPB size and configuration results in optimum strength in terms of fatigue or stability. Therefore, a replacement strategy by volume approach between some portion of aggregate and CPB of 4mm and 6mm diameter size was adopted. These two sizes is expected to be formed partly of 3mm to 8mm aggregate size which was found to be a large portion of the skeletal matrix for SMA 9.5mm NMAS gradation.

Hence, by proving that CPB is workable as a reinforcement agent through interlocking mechanism that increase tensile strength in asphalt mixtures can be considerable interest in the future study. In addition, the new develop CPB will provide significant data and information to be diversified on the plastics waste usage as an alternative to CPB manufacturing in future. On the other hand, it will be part of the mitigation measures to environmental problem where the creation of non-decaying waste materials, combined with a growing consumer population led to be utilized and benefited in highway industry.

1.7 Research Hypothesis

The hypothesis for this study was that, within the practical ranges, incorporating of chained plasti-beads (CPB) as an interlocking mechanism in Stone Mastic Asphalt mixture through void in mineral aggregate concept may increase the tensile strength as well as to enhance the Stone Mastic Asphalt fatigue resistance.

1.8 Thesis Outline

The goal of this report is to answer the research objectives. This report is organized into six chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 : This chapter consists of the introduction of study field, the research problem statement, research objectives, research hypothesis and significance of the research.

Chapter 2 : Literature review covers the previous research conducted with correspond to VMA concept and many kind of improvement been done to asphalt mixture. The exploration of fatigue analyses behavior in many kind of approach adopted by other researchers was also presented.

Chapter 3 : This chapter explains the research methodology involved in this research inclusive discussions of materials characterization and type of testing that being carried out for physical and mechanical properties assessment. Addition to that, preparations of specimens and selection of performance test with justify parameter and variables also discuss in this chapter.

Chapter 4 : The new develop and manufactured of Chained plasti-beads (CPB) was discussed in details in this chapter. This chapter briefed regarding the determination of appropriate shape, size and configuration of entire CPB interlocking system. An assessment on the compatibility of CPB to be included in asphalt mixture was also presented in this chapter.

Chapter 5 : This chapter presents the experimental results, analyses and discussions of the compatibility and its performance of chained plasti-beads under various stage from mix design to performance test. Results and discussions of physical and mechanical properties for aggregate and asphalt as well as mix design analysis were also included in this chapter.

Chapter 6 : This chapter presents a comprehensive conclusions and proposes some recommendations on the possible research opportunities that could carried out in the future on chained plasti-beads as a reinforcement through an interlocking mechanism. In addition, the contribution to knowledge was also included in this chapter.

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