

	Department of Design and Construction	SPECIFICATION BULLETIN	SB 26-002
Title: Concrete Base for Pavement			
Prepared: 4/16/2026		Approved: 4/16/2026	
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APPLICABILITY:

- This Specification Bulletin (SB) is effective for projects advertised on or after 4/25/2026.

SUPERSEDEENCE:

- This SB supersedes the following SBs: **None.**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Section 4.04 (4 pages)*

REVISIONS TO THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STANDARD HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS, DATED 5/16/2022:

All references contained below are to the New York City Department of Transportation Standard Highway Specifications, Dated May 16, 2022. Said Standard Specifications are hereby revised as follows:

- a. **Refer** to Section 4.04 – Concrete Base for Pavement
Delete in its entirety Section; **None.**
Substitute the revised Section in Attachment 1 (4 pages)

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Richard Jones, jonesri@ddc.nyc.gov.

SECTION 4.04 - Concrete Base for Pavement

4.04.1. INTENT. This section describes construction of Concrete Base for Pavement and Pavers.

4.04.2. DESCRIPTION.

(A) **CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT.** Concrete base for pavement shall consist of a course of concrete of a specified thickness and type except for a space eighteen (18") inches wide around manhole heads and similar structures where it shall be two (2") inches thicker than the surrounding concrete.

(B) **CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVERS.** Concrete base for pavers shall consist of a course of concrete of a specified thickness and type, which shall be keyed into the adjacent base for pavement when used in roadway areas or keyed into the adjacent concrete sidewalk when used in sidewalk areas.

4.04.3. MATERIALS. Concrete must comply with the requirements of **Section 3.05**, Class B-32, Type IA, unless otherwise specified. Classes A-40 or High Early Strength Concrete, must be used when specified or directed.

Concrete cylinders shall be taken at each location of work, as directed by the Engineer, to be tested for 3-day and 28-day strengths.

Fine aggregate shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.21**, Type 1A.

Coarse aggregate shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.02**; Size No. 57; Type 1, Grade B, or Type 2.

Curing compound must meet the requirements of **Section 2.14**, Type 1D or Type 2.

Preformed expansion joint filler, Type IV, 1/4" thick, shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.15**.

Asphaltic joint filler, blown type shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.16**.

Concrete reinforcement shall comply with the requirements of the following sections:

Steel Bars—**Section 2.23**

Welded Steel Wire Fabric—**Section 2.25**

Kind of reinforcement, size and placement shall be as specified or as shown on the Contract Drawings.

4.04.4. METHODS.

(A) **EARTH SUBGRADE**

The earth subgrade, immediately before the concrete base is laid, shall be compacted with an approved roller weighing not less than two hundred and twenty-five (225) pounds per inch width of main roll. It shall be smooth, parallel to and at the required depth below the finished pavement surface, and be dampened with water sufficient only to be absorbed by the subgrade. The subgrade shall not be in a muddy or frozen condition, and unsuitable material shall be removed and replaced with acceptable material thoroughly compacted to obtain a minimum of 95% standard Proctor maximum density.

(B) **DEPOSITING, COMPACTING, AND FINISHING CONCRETE**

Concrete shall be placed, spread, internally vibrated, consolidated and struck off using methods and equipment approved by the Engineer. Spreading by shovels will be permitted.

Concrete shall be deposited before the initial set has taken place, crosswise of the street, in as nearly a continuous operation as practicable, and with approved tools which will prevent segregation. It shall not be deposited in standing water and shall be thoroughly compacted to the required depth and against rails and structures. Concrete shall have its top surface parallel to and at the required depth below the finished pavement surface.

The Contractor shall be required to furnish a minimum of three (3) hand operated immersion type vibrators to the job site, one of which shall be used as a backup for the other two. Immediately after concrete has

been placed, the Contractor shall use the hand operated immersion type vibrators to thoroughly consolidate the concrete in areas against and along the face of forms, when used, and along curbs, street hardware, and other structures. Vibrators shall not come in contact with forms, shall not be used for moving concrete in the work, and in no case shall any vibrator be operated longer than 4 seconds in any one location.

Where a block pavement is to be laid on the concrete base it shall be finished to a surface that is not rough and where an asphalt pavement is to be laid the surface of the concrete shall be left roughened by transverse brooming, except within one (1') foot of joints which shall be finished smooth for the application of a reflective cracking membrane.

Concrete base in roadways shall be finished three (3") inches below the surface of the new asphaltic concrete wearing course and shall conform to the profile and cross section of finished asphaltic concrete wearing course within a tolerance of $\pm 1/4$ inch throughout. Hand screeding and finishing of the concrete base will be permitted. The finished surface shall be struck uniformly and be free of ruts, depressions, bumps and unevenness, suitable for temporary use as a vehicular riding surface. For the application of reflective cracking membrane under Item 6.91, the surface of the concrete base within one (1') foot of joints shall be finished smooth. No other hand finishing of the pavement will be required except to correct surface irregularities.

(C) CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVERS

When installing concrete base for pavers particular care shall be taken by the Contractor to ensure that the concrete base for pavers be placed to its proper elevation and actual width required to minimize the need for sawcutting pavers during their installation. The Contractor shall layout a sample section of the actual pavers to be installed in the work, to determine the actual width of base for pavers required, prior to installation of the concrete base. Should the Contractor fail to meet the concrete base elevation required to maintain the bituminous setting bed thickness specified under the paver item, it shall be required to remove and replace the concrete base or portion thereof, as required, to maintain the specified bed thickness, at no additional cost to the City. Minimum concrete replacement thickness shall be two (2") inches.

In addition, the Contractor shall be required to install weep holes in the concrete base as directed.

Concrete base for pavers in sidewalk areas shall also include a six (6") inch foundation material, which shall comply with the requirements of **Subsection 4.13.3.(A)** and be placed in accordance with the requirements of **Subsections 4.13.4.(A)** and **4.13.4.(B)**; preformed expansion joint filler, Type IV, one-quarter (1/4") inch thick, which shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.15**; and, asphaltic blown joint filler which shall comply with the requirements of **Section 2.16**. Installation of these materials shall be as shown on the Contract Drawings or directed by the Engineer.

(D) TESTING THE SURFACE

Any surface irregularity of the concrete found when testing the concrete surface prior to initial set, exceeding three-eighth (3/8") inches in ten (10') feet, shall be immediately corrected.

(E) CURING

Curing the Portland Cement Concrete foundation for pavement by the impervious membrane method will not be permitted. Curing shall be done by spraying curing material at the rate specified in **Section 2.14**.

The concrete shall be cured in accordance with the provisions of the specifications, Curing Materials, **Section 2.14**, Type 1D.

The sum of one (1) dollar will be deducted from any moneys due under the contract for each square foot of pavement base which the Contractor fails to cure as specified. Furthermore, the Contractor, pursuant to **Section 5.04**, shall take core borings at the Contractor's own expense to determine the compressive strength of the concrete at any location in which the concrete is not cured as specified.

(F) JOINTS

Transverse and construction joints shall be constructed as per the New York City Department of Transportation's Standard Details of Construction Standard Drawing Nos. H-1040 and H-1034. Construction joints will be required at paving stops and at other locations as directed by the Engineer.

(G) RAIN AND COLD WEATHER

Concrete placement operations may be started when the air temperature is 40° Fahrenheit and rising, or warmer, and when the surface temperature of the area to be paved is 40° F or higher. All temperatures shall be measured in the shade within an accuracy of $\pm 2^\circ$ Fahrenheit. Paving shall be discontinued when the air temperature falls below 40° Fahrenheit unless otherwise permitted in writing by the Engineer. Concrete paving will not be permitted when it is raining, except when permitted in writing by the Engineer.

When the air temperature is expected to fall below 35° Fahrenheit anytime during the curing period of the concrete placement, a sufficient supply of blanketing material approved by the Engineer shall be provided at the work site. Blankets must be from NYSDOT Approved List 711-03. At any time during the curing period of the concrete when the air temperature may be expected to reach 32° Fahrenheit and colder, the blanketing material so provided shall be spread over the pavement and maintained to prevent freezing of the concrete. Concrete damaged by cold weather as determined by the Engineer shall be removed and replaced at the Contractor's own expense.

The placing of concrete during wet or cold weather will not relieve the Contractor of any responsibilities under this contract.

4.04.5. TRAFFIC. No traffic of any kind will be allowed on the concrete base until permitted by the Engineer. Normally that shall be at least seven (7) days or at least seventy-two (72) hours for High Early Strength Concrete.

4.04.6. MEASUREMENT. The volume of concrete in cubic yards and the amount to be paid shall be determined from cores taken by the Contractor after twenty-eight (28) days of curing in accordance with **Section 5.04**. Where concrete is laid upon an existing concrete base, the volume of concrete in cubic yards shall be determined from cross sections.

In determining the volume of concrete to be paid for, the spaces occupied by rails, bases of columns, manhole heads, gate boxes, road boxes and similar structures will be deducted when their superficial areas measure more than one (1) square foot and will not be deducted when they measure one (1) square foot or less.

4.04.7. PRICES TO COVER.

(A) **CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT.** The contract price for Concrete Base for Pavement per cubic yard shall cover the cost of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required to furnish, lay and cure the concrete, of the Class, Type and thickness specified, complete in full compliance with the requirements of the specifications, to furnish such samples and cores for testing and to provide such testing equipment, laboratory space and facilities as may be required, and to maintain the concrete base in good condition as specified in **Section 5.05**.

(B) **CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, WITH REINFORCEMENT.** The contract price for Concrete Base for Pavement per cubic yard shall cover the cost of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required to furnish, lay and cure the concrete, of the Class, Type and thickness specified, with steel reinforcement complete in full compliance with the requirements of the specifications, to furnish such samples and cores for testing and to provide such testing equipment, laboratory space and facilities as may be required, and to maintain the concrete base in good condition as specified in **Section 5.05**.

(C) **CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVERS.** The contract price for Concrete Base for Pavers per cubic yard shall cover the cost of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required to furnish, lay and cure the concrete, of the Class, Type and thickness specified, complete in full compliance with the requirements of the specifications, including, but not limited to, furnishing and placing foundation material, to furnish such samples and cores for testing and to provide such testing equipment, laboratory

space and facilities as may be required, and to maintain the concrete base in good condition as specified in **Section 5.05**.

Payment will be made under:

Item No.	Item	Pay Unit
4.04 B	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, VARIABLE THICKNESS FOR TRENCH RESTORATION, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 H	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, VARIABLE THICKNESS FOR TRENCH RESTORATION, (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 AC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 6" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 BC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 7" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 BCR	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, WITH REINFORCEMENT, 7" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 CC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 8" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 CD	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 8" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 DC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 9" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 DD	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 9" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 EC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 10" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 ED	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 10" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 FD	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 11" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 GD	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 12" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 AP	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVERS, 4" TO 7" THICK, CLASS A-40	C.Y.
4.04 BP	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVERS, 4" TO 7" THICK, CLASS B-32	C.Y.
4.04 HA	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 6" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HB	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 7" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HC	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 8" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HD	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 9" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HE	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 10" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HF	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 11" THICK (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)	C.Y.
4.04 HG	CONCRETE BASE FOR PAVEMENT, 12" Thick (High Early Strength)	C.Y.