Why do it?
The recycled base will be stronger, more uniform, and more moisture resistant than the original base. The result is a long-term base that can help carry future traffic. FDR conserves virgin construction materials and makes smart, strategic sense by the reuse of past pavement investments.

The Process
FDR is a simple procedure and the process can often be completed in one day.

- **Sampling** - The road should be investigated to understand the existing materials. A laboratory evaluation of the existing pavement, base, and subgrade will help determine the desired amount of cement for the mix.

- **Pulverization** - The existing pavement is pulverized with a machine that resembles a large rototiller, usually to a depth of 6 to 10 inches. After pulverization the material is shaped to the desired cross-section and grade, and is ready for cement application.

- **Spreading** - The cement can be spread in either a dry or slurry form.

- **Mixing** - Water is often applied during the mixing process to facilitate compaction operations. The old road pavement will resemble a ‘black gravel’ and will bond easily to the hydrated cement.

- **Compaction** - The road is then compacted to the required density, usually with vibratory rollers. A pneumatic-tire roller may follow to finish the surface. Final compaction should take place no more than 2 hours after initial mixing of the cement.

- **Curing** - A sealant or water spray is used to keep the new base moist to gain the desired strength.

- **Surface** - A surface consisting of a thin bituminous chip seal, hot-mix asphalt, or concrete completes the rebuilt road.

When to use it
FDR is often the least-expensive strategy, on a first-cost basis, to rehabilitate low to medium volume asphalt roads with moderate to severe deterioration.

Pavements that are candidates for FDR cannot be rehabilitated with simple resurfacing because:

- The problem exists in the base or subgrade, moisture degradation, traffic overloads, or subgrade failure can cause the pavement base to fail.
- The existing pavement requires excess patching.
- The pavement structure is inadequate for current or future traffic.
FDR can be used as a base for:
- High-volume streets and local roads
- Residential streets
- Airport runways, taxiways, and aprons
- Parking lots

**Helps meet environmental goals**
- Recycles used asphalt and conserves virgin raw materials.
- Reduces truck traffic because there is no need to haul in aggregate or haul out old material for disposal.
- Eliminates stockpiling or disposal of recycled asphalt pavement.

**Features**
- **Creates a safer road** - Eliminates rutting in the base layer.
- **Increases the stiffness and load-bearing strength of the base material.**
  - Higher load carrying capacity than granular bases
  - Continues to gain strength with age
- **Stretches budgets by utilizing previously purchased materials**
  - Recycling costs are normally 25 to 50 percent less than removal and replacement of the old pavement.
- **Corrects drainage problems** - Forms a moisture-resistant base that keeps water out and maintains higher levels of strength, even when saturated.