When the deterioration of the service road carrying incoming freight, outgoing garbage, and the zoo’s fleet of shuttle buses became unbearable, the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro didn’t “monkey” around. Instead of repeating the same old fixes, they picked a repair method that is a “horse of a different color” – Full-Depth Reclamation with Cement (FDR).

The North Carolina Zoo, which had its grand opening in 1980, is the largest natural habitat zoo in the United States, located on 2,600 acres of which 500 are developed. It is one of only two state-supported zoos, housing 1,800 animals from 250 species and welcoming 860,000 visitors per year. The infrastructure maintenance demands for such a large zoo require substantial effort.

“The service access road had deteriorated to the point that the NC Zoo wisely recognized that patching and overlay of their existing road was not economical or feasible. We were able to come in and reclaim the whole thing in a day,” said Ruston Paving’s Pavement and Soils Specialist Tim McConnell.

The original pavement was approximately 2 inches of asphalt over 8 inches of aggregate base. This provided the basis for 10 inches of reclamation using 60 pounds of cement per square yard. This was then overlaid with 2 inches of new asphalt to provide a wearing surface. The entire project was approximately 1,400 feet long and 20 feet wide, for a total of 3,100 square yards.

“It was important that the road stayed open at all times. We are quite pleased with the results,” said North Carolina Zoo’s General Maintenance Superintendent Josh Graham. Graham identified several other areas at the zoo that might be suitable for the process, including the extensive network of paved walkways that carry trams and people.

FDR meets the “koala-fications” of this policy. Instead of doing the same old fixes, they used the modern way to repair worn out pavement. The existing pavement was completely reused and energy was saved by reducing the amount of virgin material needed to complete the project. Additionally, the newly reclaimed pavement should provide decades of service with only light pavement surface preservation.

If you have worn-out pavements, you should consider FDR with Cement. Visit www.secement.org to contact your local Southeast Cement Promotion Association representative to learn about the full range of cement-based pavement solutions. Then say “Hakuna matata!” to your pavement problems.