



SECTION 209

SUBGRADE PREPARATION

209.1 Description. This work shall consist of preparing the subgrade upon which a base course is to be constructed or a surfacing placed as shown on the plans or as directed by the engineer. After a base course has been constructed, the top of the completed base course will be considered the subgrade for the next operation. In surfacing contracts involving only incidental grading, the contractor shall complete subgrade compaction in accordance with [Sec 210](#) before proceeding with this work.

209.2 Construction Requirements. The subgrade shall be substantially uniform in density throughout the entire width of the subgrade. The subgrade shall be constructed to drain surface water to the side ditches and all ditches shall be kept open by the contractor. Where hauling results in ruts or other objectionable irregularities, the contractor shall reshape and reroll the subgrade before the base or surfacing is placed. If an old roadway comprises any part of the roadbed, the contractor shall loosen the compacted portions to a depth of at least 6 inches and shall reshape the roadbed.

209.2.1 All subgrade shall be rolled. The subgrades shall be checked after rolling and, if not at the proper elevation at all points, sufficient material shall be removed or added and compacted to bring all portions of the subgrade to the required elevation and density. The moisture content of the top 6 inches of the finished subgrade at the time the base is placed, or at the time pavement is placed if no base is provided under the pavement, shall be no less than the minimum specified for compacting in [Sec 203.5.3](#). If the moisture content has not been maintained, the subgrade shall be scarified, wet to the required moisture content and compacted. A maximum deviation of 1/2 inch, plus or minus, from the required elevation will be permitted on the surface of the finished subgrade.

209.2.2 Soft spots shall be removed to a maximum depth of 24 inches and backfilled with approved stable material. Unsuitable material shall be removed and backfilled in accordance with [Sec 203.4.5](#).

209.2.3 The subgrade shall be compacted and brought to true shape. Any material added shall be satisfactorily incorporated and compacted. Care shall be taken in forming the crown and shaping the subgrade to ensure that the specified thickness of pavement will be attained. The finished concrete pavement subgrade at the time of paving shall be moist, but sufficiently firm to resist rutting or deforming under construction traffic.

209.3 Basis of Payment. No direct payment will be made for subgrade preparation.