The Iowa DOT has been using the AASHTO Present Serviceability Index (PSI) rating procedure since 1968 to rate the condition of pavement sections. A ride factor and a cracking and patching factor make up the PSI value. Crack and patch surveys have been done by sending crews out to measure and record the distress.

Advances in video equipment and computers make it practical to videotape roads and do the crack and patch measurements in the office. The objective of the study was to determine the feasibility of converting the crack and patch survey operation to a video recording system with manual post processing.

The summary and conclusions are as follows:

Video crack and patch surveying is a feasible alternative to the current crack and patch procedure. The cost per mile should be about 25 percent less than the current procedure. More importantly, the risk of accidents is reduced by getting the people and vehicles off the roadway and shoulder. Another benefit is the elimination of the negative public perceptions of the survey crew on the shoulder.