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■ V&S UPDATE

Couple injured on slick road settles with highway department



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A husband and wife injured when their motorcycle hit a slick patch of highway added more than \$400,000 to their recovery, following an earlier settlement with a construction contractor for nearly \$1.5 million.

The plaintiffs were traveling through Perryville when they lost control in a construction zone on Interstate 55. The couple alleged that the recently resurfaced asphalt-oil cement had flushed and bled, making the road slippery when wet, but that the dangerous condition wasn't marked.

In June, the couple settled with the contractor for \$1.47 million after alleging it had previously corrected similar

problems on a different section of the same highway, and that the highway department had complained about the quality of the contractor's work. The confidential settlement was reported in the Aug. 3 edition of Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

The separate claim against the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was headed to arbitration before Glenn Norton, James Virtel and Jack Garvey when it resolved in November for \$409,123, the amount of Missouri's sovereign immunity cap. The plaintiffs' attorneys, Antoinette Schlappizzi and Craig Schlappizzi of Schlappizzi Attorneys at Law, said in total the plaintiffs recovered \$1,882,378. MO