



Connecticut DOT

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Office of Engineering

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ENGINEERING BULLETIN

Engineering Administrator

INTERIM GUIDANCE: MASH IMPLEMENTATION, ROADSIDE BARRIERS

This bulletin provides background and interim guidance related to implementation of the *AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware* (MASH) requirements for projects administered by the Department and Local Public Agencies.

Background

To be eligible for Federal-aid reimbursement, roadside safety devices must meet certain testing requirements. The current test criteria are published in the MASH, which superseded the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 350 (NCHRP 350) criteria. However, as in the past, the Department will only use a limited number of the devices meeting applicable testing requirements. The identification of Department-approved, MASH-compliant roadside safety hardware will take place in three phases, corresponding to categories of devices. This bulletin only addresses the specific requirements of the first phase, which involves w-beam and cast-in-place concrete barriers along with barrier end terminals. This first phase requirement applies to all projects with bid opening dates after December 31, 2017. Typically, submission of Final Design Plans (FDP) by September 20, 2017 will result in a bid opening by December 31 but the bid opening date is the actual control.

The second implementation phase will address cable barriers and the third relates to all other temporary and permanent barrier systems.

Interim Guidance

Projects with bid openings prior to December 31, 2017 are not affected by this bulletin. Designs should be guided by the *Highway Design Manual*, Chapter 13. Current Department-approved w-beam barriers, cast-in-place concrete barriers and barrier end terminals may be included.

Conclusive direction and guidance related to w-beam barriers, cast-in-place concrete barriers and barrier end terminals for projects with bid openings after December 31, 2017 depends on future developments. However, near-term design decisions for those projects should be guided by the *Highway Design Manual*, Chapter 13 subject to:

- Weak-post w-beam barrier systems should not be specified;
- Strong-post w-beam systems, similar but not identical to, Metal Beam Rail Type R-B 350 and Type MD-B and with assumed similar performance, (provisionally designated as “Type RB-MASH” and “Type MD-B MASH”) will be approved by the Department and may be specified;
- Current Department-approved concrete barrier systems may be specified;
- Barrier end terminals should be specified using current designations.

Follow-up Information

It is recognized that this bulletin is not sufficient to complete designs and contract documents for projects with bid openings after December 31, 2017. Subsequent information will be provided via directive or bulletin and may include barrier selection guidance and policy, new contract items, Standard Drawings and future implementation phases.