

Research Problem Statement

Project Title:	Investigation and Testing of the Shallowest Embedment or Footing Required for a Cast-In-Place Concrete Median Barrier at MASH TL-5 Conditions
Project Synopsis:	Using the results of past successful MASH TL-4 tests, this project will develop a design for a minimum embedment depth in ACP and/or the minimum footing dimensions required for a TL-5 concrete median barrier.
Project Goal(s):	Through testing or engineering analysis, identify minimum embedment depth in ACP and/or footing depth required to satisfy MASH TL-5 testing on a concrete median barrier, including the minimum barrier length required.
Project Background:	MASH TL-5 designs for single-slope concrete median barriers typically have a moment slab, a continuous shallow footing, and/or deep footings located at the ends of the barrier. Construction constraints, such as buried utilities or bridge pier footings, can make some footing designs impractical. TTI has successfully tested a MASH TL-4, single-slope, cast-in-place concrete median barrier with a 1" ACP embedment depth for both 75' and 40' long segments. TTI has also completed simulation analysis for the design of structurally independent foundations for a 54" barrier as part of TxDOT Project 0-6948, but the designs developed in that project have drilled shaft footing, a continuous moment slab footing, and a continuous concrete beam footing. Data from these past tests can be used to determine what the minimum embedment depth and/or footing size that would be required to accommodate the lateral impact loads that need to be contained in order to satisfy a TL-5 test. However, full-scale simulation and crash testing may be required to arrive at the new design since previous designs for MASH TL-5 did not have the asphalt key-in. Furthermore, the recent TxDOT Project 0-6948, which was more restrictive in terms of barrier deflection, required larger footing than the simpler ACP constraint desired.
Proposed Work Plan:	Following work plan is expected to meet the objectives of this project. Task 1: Simulation Analysis – In this task, full scale model of the barrier keyed into asphalt will be developed and impact simulations with MASH Test 5-12 with tractor-van trailer vehicle will be performed to determine the acceptable minimum barrier segment length and ACP embedment depth. Task 2: Construction – In this task a full scale test installation of the concrete barrier embedded in ACP will be constructed Task 3: Testing and Reporting – In this task MASH Test 5-12 of the test installation will be performed and a final report will be prepared for the project.

Deliverables:	Design drawings for minimum embedment depth and/or footing size to accommodate a MASH TL-5 concrete median barrier.
Urgency and Expected Benefit:	With the release of NCHRP Report 892, TL-5 pier protection is likely to be a more commonly used design component. Reducing or eliminating some or all of the footing required for a TL-5 concrete barrier design will have an immediate cost reduction benefit.
Problem Funding and Research Period:	Estimated Costs: Task 1 – \$35,000 Task 2 – \$78,000 Task 3 – \$57,000 Estimated Project Period: 12 months
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