

Research Problem Statement

2024-01-WZLCB

Project Title:	MASH TL-3 compliance of tall precast F-shape concrete median barrier -pinned to asphalt.
	Evaluate MASH TL-3 compliance of tall F-shape precast concrete median barrier. To use in temporary work zone conditions with little to no deflection, it should be evaluated pinned to asphalt (with no barrier embedment). This could also be used as permanent conditions, if embedment is not desirable.
Project Synopsis:	Both 42" and 50" tall barriers should be evaluated. For this project, it is desirable to only crash test the more critical pinned in asphalt design for MASH TL-3. It is desired that a professional opinion evaluation could be obtained on the second design (either the less critical 42" or 50") for MASH TL-3. Crash test will likely be required for one height and the other height could preferably get a Professional Engineering Opinion for MASH compliance.
Project Goal(s):	Determine MASH TL-3 compliance of tall precast F-shape concrete median barrier pinned to asphalt. (Determine MASH TL-3 compliance of <u>the PennDOT tall (42</u> " and 50") temporary precast F-shape concrete median barrier for Work Zone)
Project Background:	MASH compliant precast concrete median barriers used in work zones are mostly 32" high and very few are 42". For permanent installations, PennDOT has a MASH compliant 50" tall F-shape median barrier that is embedded 4" in the pavement. The PennDOT's precast MASH barriers are connected with a pin and loop.
Proposed Work Plan:	 Task 1 – Literature Review Task 2 – Engineering Analysis, possible simulation(s) and crash tests on the critical pinned barrier height in asphalt. Reporting
Deliverables:	A report describing the results of the study and the MASH TL-3 compliance determination.
Urgency and Expected Benefit:	Work zones on freeways frequently involve high traffic volumes with high number of trucks and SUV's. The work zone median is often only the width of the barrier with opposing traffic on each side. Headlights from these vehicles can be blinding and cause safety concerns. Currently there are no 50" tall MASH temporary concrete median barriers. When the current NCHRP 350 temporary tall (52" w/o embedment) median barrier sunsets in 2026 in PA, there will not be any available. This barrier could also be used in permanent conditions, if embedment is not desirable.
Problem Funding and Research Period:	Total Estimated Cost = \$XX,XXX
Developer(s) of the Problem Statement:	Name: Nina Ertel, P.E., PennDOT, Evan Pursel, PennDOT, Brian Crossley, PennDOT Email: nertel@pa.gov Phone: 717-425-7679