GENERAL NOTES

- I. The illustrations for guardrail applications are standard configurations; adjustments are to be made as required by site specific conditions to attain optimum design for function, economy and serviceability.
- 2. The beginning of guardrail need shall be at the greatest of the upstream distances from the hazard, as determined from Figures I and 2. and other application details of this Index.
- 3. One Panel (i.e. panel length) equals 12'-6". Guardrail shall be constructed with rail elements 12'-6" in length except where 25'-0" elements are called for by this and other standards (indexes) or specifically called for in the plans.

Post spacings shall be 6'-3" except that reduced spacings shall be used for (a) transitions to anchorages at rigid structures such as bridges (See Detail J and Index No. 402) and transitions to redirective crash cushions, (b) the conditions in Note No. 7 below, (c) special post applications, (d) reduced post spacing required for specific end anchorage assemblies, and, (e) specific spacings called for in the plans.

- 4. Guardrail mounting height for the W-beam without rubrail and for thrie-beam is I'-9" to the center of beam, and for W-beam with rubrail $2'-0^{ii}$ to center of beam. Modified thrie-beam shall be mounted at a height of 2'-0'' to center of beam. The height is critical and shall be attained in all cases; a tolerance of 3" above and I" below the standard mounting heights is permissible over necessary surface irregularities (e.g., across shoulder gutters, inlets and roadway surface break lines).
- 5. All guardrail panels, end sections and special end shoes shall be lapped in the direction of adjacent traffic.
- 6. Flared end anchorage assemblies providing 4' offset are the standard end treatments for single face free standing guardrail approach ends. Parallel end anchorage assemblies for augrdrail approach end treatments will be constructed only when restraints prevent construction of flared end anchorages.

Guardrail end anchorage assemblies shall be of the type called for in the plans. If the plans call for end anchorage assembly "flared" and does not identify the specific system(s) to be used, the contractor has the option to construct any FDOT approved flared assembly provided in this Index or identified on the Qualified Products List (QPL), subject to the conditions identified in the approved Index drawings, or QPL drawings if applicable.

If the plans call for end anchorage assembly "parallel" and does not identify the specific system(s) to be used, the contractor has the option to construct any FDOT approved parallel assembly provided in this Index or identified on the QPL, subject to the conditions identified in the approved Index drawings, or QPL drawinas if applicable.

If the plans call for a specific end anchorage assembly, substitutions with other end anchorage assemblies will not be permitted unless approved by the Engineer. Approved substitutions will not be eligible for VECP consideration.

Proprietary end anchorage systems must be identified on the QPL. Manufacturers seeking approval of proprietary end anchorage systems for inclusion on the QPL must submit application along with design documentation showing the end anchorage system is crash tested to NCHRP Report 350 Test Level 3 criteria, is accepted by FHWA for use as a guardrail end anchorage system, and is compatible with FDOT guardrail systems. System approvals will be contingent on FDOT's evaluation of crash test performance results for consistency with FDOT guardrail application and use. If approved, installation drawings signed and sealed by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Florida will be required.

- 7. At above ground rigid hazards where the face of guardrail is offset from the hazard less than the 4' minimum for standard W-beam, other guardrail configurations may be applicable; see General Note No. II and the minimum offset table on Sheet 17. For guardrail with post spacing less than 6'-3" the reduced spacing should extend a minimum of one panel in advance of the hazard. When minimum offset cannot be attained safety shape concrete barrier shall be used unless other shielding is approved by the Engineer of Record. See Index No. 410 for safety shape concrete barriers and typical applications, and the plans for special barrier shapes and applications.
- 8. In addition to use at roadside hazards or other areas where the Engineer has deemed guardrail necessary, guardrail should be considered on flush shoulder sections where fill slopes are steeper than 1:3 within the clear zone and fill heights are areater. Curbed sections where fill slopes are steeper than 1.3 and fill heights are 6' or areater within 22' of the traveled way should be evaluated for installation of guardrail. Additional guidance for evaluating the need for guardrail can be found in the Plans Preparation Manual.
- 9. The auardrail to bridge connections contained in this Index are for bridges with Test Level 4 traffic railing barriers. For guardrail to concrete barrier wall connections see Index No. 410. For existing bridges receiving retrofit traffic railing barriers see Index No. 402.
- 10. The W-beam guardrail system in this index is the standard system to be used on the State Highway System where a Test Level 3 semi-rigid barrier is required.
- II. Thrie-beam guardrail panels shall be used in guardrail transitions to bridge traffic railing barriers, to concrete and certain water filled safety shaped barriers, certain crash cushions and as a continuous barrier when called for in the plans. For additional information on rail attachment, post spacings, nested rails, location of thrie-beam transition panels and offset block configurations see details elsewhere in this Index, and Index Nos. 402, 410 and 414. The use of thrie-beam guardrail with standard offset blocks (Test Level 3 semi-rigid system) may be considered where one or more of the conditions listed below or similar conditions are anticipated or exist:
 - a. W-beam deflection is marginal,
 - b. W-beam with rubrail considered functionally deficient, continued ...

continued ...

- (c) Vehicle overriding W-beam is probable,
- High frequency of repairs to W-beam, (e)
- (f) Spandrel beam with low deflection needed around unrelocatable structure,
- (g) Accommodating passenger vehicles heavier or larger than the standard passenger car (e.g., passenger vans
- and small buses).

The modified thrie-beam guardrail is a Test Level 4 semi-rigid system and may be used where a Test Level 4 guardrail is required.

- 12. Single face median guardrail for bridges located on divided roadways shall be constructed the same as outer roadway guardrail under the following conditions:
 - (a) Wide medians where approach end anchor is located outside of opposing roadway clear zone,
 - (b) Medians of uniform width that are occupied by other transportation and joint use facilities,

 - installations.
 - (d) Medians of bifurcated roadways.
- 13. Straight rail sections may be used to construct radii of 125' or greater. For radii less than 125' the rail must be fabricated (shop-bent) to fit.
- 14. Crash cushions may be required in lieu of or in conjunction with auardrail at locations where space does not permit development of sufficient quardrail length, offset or crashworthiness at terminals. Crash cushions shall be constructed at or in lieu of Type II assemblies located in the approach clear zones.
- 15. Corrugated sheet steel beams, end shoes, end sections and back-up plates shall conform to the current requirements of AASHTO MI80, Class A, Type II (zinc) coating. All other metallic components, hardware and accessories shall be in conformance with the appropriate current AASHTO requirements.

Recycled beams: Used Class A auardrail beams that have been refurbished to condition new (AASHTO MI80) may be used for both construction of new guardrail and maintenance of existing guardrail. Refurbishing shall include stripping of the existing galvanizing, restoration of the base metal in section and straightness free of warp and deformation, and, regalvanizing to AASHTO Type II specifications. Refurbished beams that retain ruptured holes, gashes or tears will not be accepted.

- 16. Steel offset blocks other than modified thrie-beam offset blocks are not permitted for new auardrail construction. Existing steel offset blocks may remain throughout the service life of the existing guardrail. Permissible post and offset block combinations are tabulated on Sheet 15.
- 17. Where necessary to enlarge or add holes to galvanized guardrail, the work will be done by drilling or reaming. Damaged galvanized quardrail will be metalized in accordance with Sections 562 and 971 of the Standard Specifications. No burning of holes will be permitted.
- 18. For guardrail reflector details see Sheet 15.
- 19. Any run of guardrail with existing concrete posts that is being reset under a construction or maintenance contract shall be reset using timber or steel posts. Repair within a run of guardrail with existing concrete posts can be made with either steel, timber, sound salvaged concrete posts; replacement in kind of damaged posts is to be made when like posts are on hand at time of repair.
- 20. Substitutions between thrie-beam guardrail and concrete barrier wall are not eligible for VECP consideration.
- 21. On roadways designated for reverse laning, all downstream ends of guardrail that are not shielded or that are not designed as approach end terminals shall be marked with post-mounted Type 3 Object Markers. Trailing bridge ends and trailing shoulder concrete barrier wall ends shall be marked with Type 3 Object Markers except where there is trailing end guardrail. Object markers to be installed facing reverse laning traffic. The cost of the object marker shall be included in the cost of the quardrail.



GUARDRA

(d) Drainage will be impeded or blocked by the use of concrete barrier wall (subject to deflection space requirements),

(c) Medians of uniform or variable widths with independent vertical alignments not suited to normal median guardrail

itandards	Last Revision	Sheet No.	
	07/01/05	1 of 23	
<i>IL</i>			



Design Speed mph	X (Length Of Advancement) Ft.
<i>≤</i> 45	= 16 (D-d)
≥ 50	= 13 (D-d)

Length of advancement determined from the diagram and equations above establishes the location of the upstream beginning length of need for guardrail, however, the length of advancement can be no less than that required by other details of this index.

The flared end anchorage with 4' nose offset is shown in the diagram above, however, the diagram applies to other configurations that may occur at the beginning of length of need, such as, other flare designs; upstream returns; and, other upstream deflected, tangent and curvilinear conditions.

Equation Variables:

D = Distance in feet from near edge of the near approach traffic lane to either (a) the back of hazard, when the hazard is located inside the clear zone or horizontal clearance or (b) the clear zone or horizontal clearance outer limit, when the hazard extends to or goes beyond the clear zone or horizontal clearance limit. For left side hazards on two-way undivided facilities, D is measured from the inside edge of the near approach traffic lane (see Figure 2).

d = Distance in feet from the near edge of the near approach traffic lane to the face of guardrail at its intersection with the departure line. For left side hazards on two-way undivided facilities, d is measured from the inside edge of the near approach traffic lane (see Figure 2).

LENGTH OF ADVANCEMENT - FIGURE I



2006 FDOT Design St

GUARDRA

Approach End Anchorage

Standards	Last Revision	Sheet No.	
	00	2 of 23	
N/L			
		••	









Approach End Anchorage Assembly (Flare Shown) Varies 2.5 Panels Transition Section (See Detail J) Installation When Other Hazards Or Shoulder Gutter Are Present

Notes For Details 0 & P:

DIVIDED ROADWAY - DETAIL P

See General Notes Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. See Detail J for approach connections to bridges. For end anchorage assemblies see sheets elsewhere in this Index and the plans.

Shoulder gutter in itself does not require the installation of guardrail.

GUARDRAIL APPLICATIONS FOR BRIDGES WITH FULL WIDTH SHOULDERS AND SAFETY SHAPE TRAFFIC RAILING BARRIER EXTENDING FULL LENGTH OF APPROACH SLAB



2006 FDOT Design Standards

GUARDRAIL







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TAPER TURNOUTS

Note: The guardrail application shown on this sheet are for highways with flush shoulders and no restraints for constructing flared end anchorages and minimum lengths of guardrail. For highways with flush shoulders and restraints to constructing flared anchorages, see General Note No. 6.

Where openings in guardrail are required in close proximity to bridge traffic rails or ends of concrete barrier walls, and minimum length guardrail with flared end anchorages can not be applied, either controlled release returns or energy absorbing terminals are to be applied.

GUARDRAIL APPLICATIONS FOR INTERSECTING DRIVES AND SIDE ROADS ON RURAL FACILITIES



2006 FDOT Design St

GUARDRA

RADIAL GUARDRAIL							
	Normal Turnouts						
	Taper			Simple Curve			
R _I	R ₂	Panels Required	Z	7	R2	Panels Required	\bigtriangleup
15'	25'	3	85°	56'	25'	3	85° 56'
20'	25'	3	85°	56'	25'	3	85° 56'
25'	25'	3	85°	56'	25'	3	85° 56'
30'	25'	3	85°	56'	25'	3	85° 56'
35'	25'	3	85°	56'	25'	3	85° 56'
<i>10'</i>	40'	5	89°	3/'	40'	5	89° 3/'
! 5'	40'	5	89°	3/'	40'	5	89° 31'
50'	40'	5	89°	3/'	40'	5	89° 31'
te, Oply 25' and 40' radius papels are to be used							

SIMPLE CURVE TURNOUTS

tandards	Last Revision	Sheet No.	
	04	11 of 23	
IL			

