
Index 536-001 Guardrail

ORIGINATION

Date: 2/24/2026

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COMMENTARY

The Department has historically required safety considerations for steel guardrail posts when placed within 4 feet of sidewalks or shared use paths. This has included the use of steel "pipe rail" to shield the sharp corners of steel posts. Alternatively, timber posts may be used instead. This revision now adds a third option, where proprietary "post caps" may be placed over steel post tops to shield the sharp corners. For this, updates have been made throughout the Index to allow the contractor the option of using "post caps" as listed on the APL. Corresponding updates have been made to the Standard Specifications to explain the payment and APL approval process.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

BLACK = Industry Review Comments **BLUE** = Standard Plans Response **GREEN** = Change Made to Index

Name: Bryan Covell

Date: 7/2/2026

COMMENT: General Note 7 is being modified to allow post caps on standard guardrail steel posts, is it also acceptable to use a steel post end treatment within 4' of the sidewalk if post caps are used on the posts within the end treatment?

RESPONSE: This is not permitted. Per General Note 7, "When End Treatment posts are within 4'-0" of a sidewalk or shared use path, steel posts are not permitted within the End Treatment segment". As a result, post caps for steel posts could not be used within End Treatment segments.

CHANGE MADE TO INDEX: No

Response Date: 7/13/2026