



Florida Department of Transportation

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ROADWAY DESIGN BULLETIN 18-02
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BULLETIN 18-03
(FHWA Approval: 2/21/18)

DATE: March 1, 2018

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Geotechnical Engineers, District Structures Design Engineers, District Maintenance Engineers, District Consultant Project Manager Engineers, District Roadway Design Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers, District Program Management Engineers, District Materials Engineers

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SUBJECT: **Guardrail – Flared Approach Terminals**

This Bulletin provides notice that Flared Approach Terminals for guardrail will temporarily be unavailable as an option on the FDOT Approved Products List (APL). The option will be unavailable beginning with projects let for construction after June 30, 2018. As a result, Pay Item No.: 536-85-22 (Flared Approach Terminal) has been suspended.

REQUIREMENTS

A mandatory plans update is required for projects with construction lettings after June 30, 2018 with Flared Approach Terminals (Pay Item No.: 536-85-22) included. At the locations where Flared Approach Terminals are currently included, update the project design to include Parallel Approach Terminals. The design change may add approximately 25 to 50 feet of length to the overall guardrail installation due to a difference in Length of Need requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Joint AASHTO/FHWA MASH Implementation Agreement calls for all W-Beam approach treatments installed on projects with construction lettings after June 30, 2018 to be compliant with the *AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware, 2016 (MASH-16)* crash testing standards. FDOT has made a commitment to follow this plan, as described in the [MASH-16 Implementation Plan, E&O Memorandum 16-01](#). Unfortunately, Manufacturers of these products have been unsuccessful in crash testing a Flared Approach Terminal to the *MASH-16* to-date, and it may be sometime before products are available. Multiple *MASH-16* compliant Parallel Approach Terminals are already listed on the FDOT APL.

No changes will be made to the *FDOT Design Manual (FDM 215)* or *Standard Plans, Index 536-001* at this time.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective for projects with construction lettings after June 30, 2018.

An additional Bulletin will be issued once Flared Approach Terminals are available on the APL and the suspension is removed.

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