

Request for Research Funding for FY 2019-2020

Requesting Office	Roadway Design	Priority	# of # (projects may not have the same ranking – no ties)
Proposed Title	Evaluation of Single Column Ground Signs for MASH Compliance		
Justification	The Department needs to evaluate Single Column Ground Signs (Standard Plans, Index 700-010) for compliance with the AASHTO Manual for Assess Safety Hardware, 2016 (MASH)		
Impact	The results of this research would allow FDOT to continue using the single column aluminum pipe ground sign support standards that have been in place for approximately the last 35 years. Based on the Joint FHWA/AASHTO MASH Implementation Plan, breakaway sign supports previously evaluated under older crash testing standards should be reevaluated for MASH.		
Affected Offices	Primarily only affects the Roadway and Structures Design Offices, Standards and Criteria. However, if the research is not conducted, significant changes to past practices would be required which would affect Construction and Maintenance.		
Existing Work	There are currently several NCHRP and Pooled Fund group projects looking at single column ground signs and their compliance to MASH. These projects would help provide supplemental data to this propose project; however, the support structure and sign panel materials used by Florida differ from those included in any ongoing research. Therefore no previous or ongoing research would be applicable to the FDOT Standards for single column ground signs.		
Keywords Used In Existing Work Search (Cannot leave blank)	Breakaway Sign Supports		
Related Contracts (Give contract numbers)	N/A		
Funding Request	\$800k	Anticipated Duration	18-24 months
Project Manager	Derwood Sheppard	Contracting Method	Direct Contract through an existing Pooled Fund Study, as a participating state. (i.e., TTI or MwRSF)
Urgency	1	MASH Implementation is scheduled for completion by Dec. 31, 2019	
Implementability	1	Implementation of the results would not require much time or significant resources. Only small changes to the current Standard Plans would be needed if evaluation proves current design are acceptable.	

Project Benefits (Succinct, complete explanation)

The project would allow the Department to continue using similar, if not the exact same, materials and designs for single column ground mounted signs as have been used for several decades. If the FDOT specific designs are not evaluated to MASH, a significant change would be required to the Department’s Standard Plans, Specifications, and Design Policy to change material types and design considerations. Also, a costly re-tooling and re-education of installers and maintainers would be needed for new designs.

Currently, over 200k single column ground signs exist in the FDOT Roadway Characteristics Inventory (RCI) system. Therefore, changing material standards would significantly affect Maintenance forces and inventory required to maintain old and new designs.

Project Benefits (Select all that apply and explain)	Quantifiable Benefits (units, dollars, etc...if applicable)	Methodology or Data Sources Used to Determine Quantifiable Benefits. If not applicable, please give justification of project benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials Enhancement		
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials Savings		
<input type="checkbox"/> Time Savings		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lives Saved/Injuries Prevented		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain)		

*Comments should explain and support urgency, financial benefit, and implementability scores