Index 404 Guardrail Transitions - Existing Post & Beam Bridge Railings (Narrow & Recessed Curbs)

Design Criteria

NCHRP Report 350; ***Plans Preparation Manual***, Volume 1, Chapter 25

Design Assumptions and Limitations

This index is applicable for retrofitting existing approach and trailing end guardrail treatments that are adjacent to existing structurally continuous Post and Beam Concrete Handrails (traffic railings) as shown on the following and other similar obsolete Indexes:

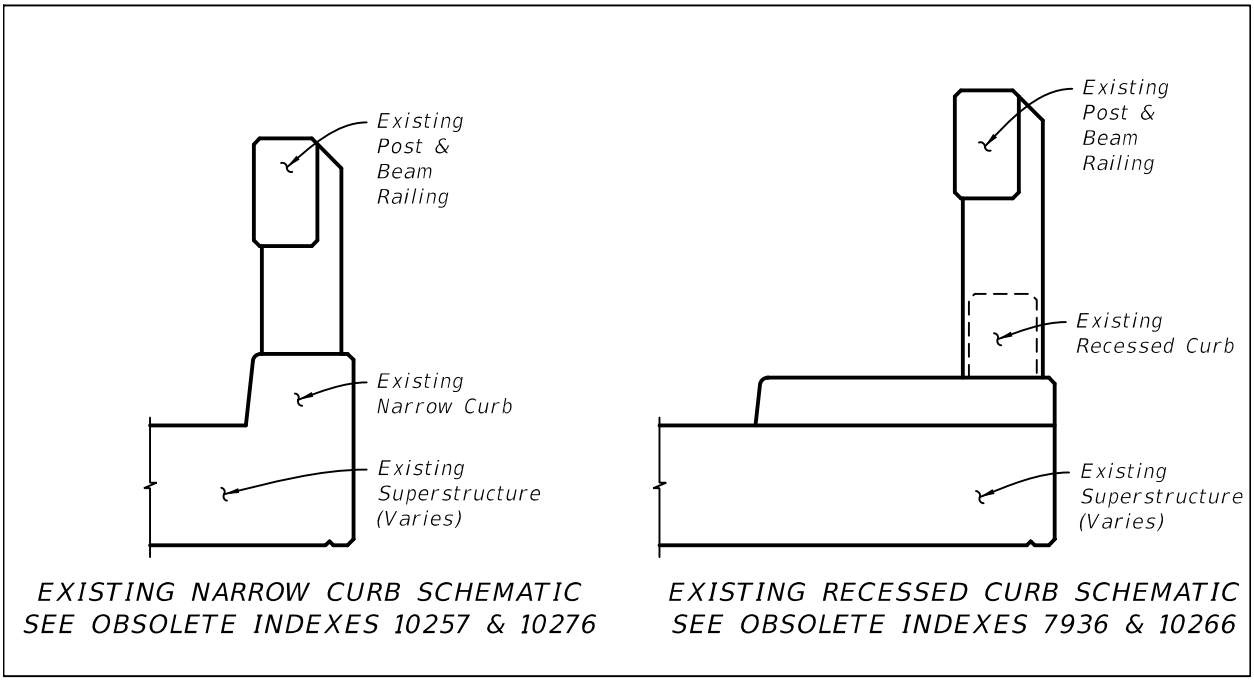
Index 7936 Handrail for Sidewalk Type B (1963 with 1967 Revisions)

Index 10257-MOD Concrete Handrail (1970 with 1971 and 1973 Revisions)

Index 10266 Concrete Handrail (1969 with 1973, 1974 and 1975 Revisions)

Index 10276 Concrete Handrail and Light Standard Pilaster Details (1969 with 1973 Revisions)

For the purposes of Index 404, the railings shown on these obsolete indexes are identified as having narrow or recessed curbs as follows:



Neither a new load rating nor an evaluation of the structural adequacy of the existing bridge deck or wingwalls are required to use this index.

Index 404 depicts six different schemes for installing the approach or trailing end guardrail transitions. The applicability of the individual schemes to different curb configurations and approach or trailing ends is described as follows:

Scheme 1 - Applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with beam or girder type superstructures and narrow curb post and beam railings (obsolete Indexes 10257, 10276 or similar). A section of the existing post and beam railing along the wingwall must be removed and replaced with a new vertical face railing to facilitate connection of the new Thrie Beam Guardrail Approach Transition.

Scheme 2 - Applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with flat slab type superstructures and narrow curb post and beam railings (obsolete Indexes 10257, 10276 or similar). Also applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with beam or girder type superstructures, narrow curb post and beam railings and curved wingwalls. A section of the existing post and beam railing at the end of the bridge must be removed and replaced with a new vertical face railing to facilitate connection of the new Thrie Beam Guardrail Approach Transition.

Scheme 3 - Applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with beam or girder type superstructures and recessed curb post and beam railings (obsolete Index 10266 or similar). A section of the existing post and beam railing along the wingwall must be removed and replaced with a new vertical face railing to facilitate connection of the new Thrie Beam Guardrail Approach Transition.

Scheme 4 - Applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with flat slab type superstructures, recessed curb post and beam railings and parallel wingwalls (obsolete Index 10266 or similar). Also applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with beam or girder type superstructures, recessed curb post and beam railings and curved wingwalls (obsolete Index 7936 or similar). A section of the existing post and beam railing at the end of the bridge must be removed and replaced with a new vertical face railing to facilitate connection of the new Thrie Beam Guardrail Approach Transition.

Scheme 5 - Applicable for approach ends of existing bridges with beam, girder or flat slab type superstructures and either narrow or recessed curb post and beam railings that have solid sections (i.e. no openings) of railing along the wingwalls a minimum of 5'-0" long (obsolete Indexes 10257, 10266, 10276 or similar). No new section of concrete railing is necessary, the new Thrie Beam Guardrail Approach Transition is bolted to the end of the existing solid section of railing along the wingwall.

Scheme 6 - Applicable for trailing ends of existing bridges with beam, girder or flat slab type superstructures and either narrow or recessed curb post and beam railings for which no new section of concrete railing is necessary to attach the trailing end guardrail (obsolete Indexes 10257, 10266, 10276 or similar). The new trailing end guardrail is bolted to the end of the existing railing along the wingwall.

The limiting stations of the guardrail transitions must be specified in the plans. Determine the attachment point for the guardrail Terminal Connector based on the retrofit scheme being used.

On approach ends, a Transition Block or Curb is required if the existing Approach Slab does not have a curb. The appropriate treatment on trailing ends shall be determined by the Roadway Engineer. A Transition Block is not required on trailing ends with no opposing traffic, however, a Curb may be required due to drainage needs. An Index 300, Type D Concrete Curb is generally suitable for this application. Show the appropriate site specific approach and trailing end treatments in the Plans.

The Utility Adjustment Plans, if required, shall contain all necessary utility adjustment information required for the construction of the retrofit. Utilities and/or conduits may exist in or adjacent to the existing post and beam railings and will vary in size, number and location. The presence, size, number and locations of existing utilities and/or conduits shall be determined by a review of existing Plans and confirmed by field verification. Utility and/or conduit installations may vary by location on a single bridge. Thus, a field verification shall be conducted for each individual installation of the retrofit. Existing utilities and/or conduits that conflict with the retrofit shall be relocated if possible or placed out of service. The required field verification work should be completed as early in the evaluation phase as possible.

The Traffic Control Plans for the construction of the retrofit shall be prepared in accordance with Index 600 Series. The Plans shall address all aspects of the construction of the retrofit. Generally, the use of this index will require traffic control consisting of temporary shifting, narrowing and/or closing of travel lanes and/or shoulders. Removal of a portion of the existing post and beam railing is required for Schemes 1 through 4. In these cases, the use of crash tested Precast Concrete Temporary Barriers will also be required to protect the drop-off exposed by the removal of the portion of the existing post and beam railing.

This index does not address retrofitting of the existing post and beam railings or sidewalks for pedestrian use. The potential need to retrofit the existing bridge for pedestrian use shall be evaluated on a project by project basis and the necessary Plans developed accordingly. Generally, the potential effects on pedestrian use of the bridge will be confined to bridges with sidewalks. The potential reduction in clear width of the sidewalk caused by the installation of the retrofit shall be considered.

The existing post and beam railing and/or guardrail end transitions may have been previously retrofitted utilizing a scheme presented in ***Roadway and Traffic Design Standards*** Indexes 400 or 401 (2000 and earlier Editions) or other retrofit schemes. In this event, the requirements for removal, modification or replacement of the prior retrofit shall be evaluated and addressed in the Plans as required. Payment for the removal of the prior retrofit, if required, must be evaluated on a case by case basis depending on the type of retrofit that is present.

In the event that the details presented in this index do not closely match the existing conditions, the Structures and/or Roadway Engineer(s) shall prepare a customized project specific retrofit design using this index as a guide. Contact the Structures Design Office and Roadway Design Office for guidance in this event.

Plan Content Requirements

In the Roadway Plans:

The Roadway Plans shall include all of the sheets necessary to define and detail the retrofit of the existing guardrail transitions. Generally, this index can be used without any modifications being made to it. If project specific details are required, use this index as a guide for developing general notes and details to be included in the plans.

Supplement this index as required with project specific details that may be deemed necessary to complete the installation of the retrofit. These details may include locations and details of any existing utilities, conduits, drainage structures, sign structures and luminaire supports and any other needed information not included in this index.

Show the Design Standards Index number, Scheme number, Limiting Station of Guardrail and whether or not a Transition Block is required for each retrofit location on each bridge. An example of a plan note containing the required information as it would appear on a Plan or Plan-Profile sheet is as follows:

> "Construct Guardrail Approach Transition Retrofit, Index 404, Scheme 1 with Transition Block. Limiting Station of Guardrail Transition is XX+XX.XX"

For projects with multiple bridges, a tabular format may be used to convey the necessary information. A separate Plan and Elevation sheet of the type used in Structures Plans is generally not required.

The Utility Adjustment Plans, if required, shall contain all necessary utility adjustment information required for the construction of the retrofit.

The Traffic Control Plans for the construction of the retrofit shall address all aspects of the construction of the retrofit.

Payment

Schemes 1 thru 4 only:

Item number	Item description	Unit Measure
521-5-11	Concrete Traffic Railing - Bridge, Retrofit - Post & Beam Railing	EA
536-8-1 and 536-8-3 or 536-8-6 where appropriate	Guardrail Bridge Anchorage Assembly	EA

Schemes 5 and 6 only:

Item number	Item description	Unit Measure
536-8-1 and 536-8-3 or 536-8-6 where appropriate	Guardrail Bridge Anchorage Assembly	EA