

Bridge Railing Manual



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Manual Notice 2018-1

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Manual: *Bridge Railing Manual*

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Purpose

This manual summarizes current policies governing the use of bridge railing in Texas, and it provides information on acceptable Texas bridge railing types.

Contents

The revisions in this version add new railing types T2P, C2P, T222, PR11, and PR22; updated the test level (TL) for railing types T551 and T552; moved railing types T77, PR1, and PR2 from current to existing; and updated combination railings acceptable for high-speed use.

Contact

For more information about this update, contact the Bridge Division.

Archives

Past manual notices are available in a [pdf archive](#).

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Chapter 1 — About This Manual

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[Section 1 — Overview](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Purpose

This manual documents policy on the use of bridge railing in Texas and provides guidance on selection of railing. The manual is intended for use by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) District and Division personnel and consultants employed by TxDOT.

Updates to the manual are summarized in the following table.

Table 1-1: Manual Revision History

| Version | Publication Date | Summary of Changes |
|---------|------------------|---|
| 2001-1 | December 2001 | New manual. |
| 2002-1 | February 2002 | Revision adding information on acceptability of T6 railing types for use limited to low speed applications. |
| 2003-1 | August 2003 | Revision adding information about acceptability of in-place railing that complies with NCHRP-230 requirements, adding information about railing on culverts, adding information about railing on bridges scheduled for maintenance overlays, adding information about the T502 and C502 railing types, adding profile sketches and information about minimum heights after maintenance overlays for specific railing types, and clarifying bridge slope requirements. |
| 2005-1 | June 2005 | Revision removing references to C101 metal railing, adding references to the Rail Anchorage Curb Retrofit standard drawing, and adding descriptions of the following new railings: T401, T402, C402, and T77 metal and concrete railing, and T221, C221, and B221 concrete railing. |
| 2006-1 | May 2006 | Revision updating state policy on railing for bridge-class culverts, identifying railings that are acceptable but no longer used for new construction, adding an index, and making minor editorial corrections. |
| 2012-1 | April 2012 | Represents a rewrite of a majority of the previous version. As a result, it is not practical to highlight the changes. Generally, revisions to incorporate provisions of the AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware; include an expanded list of acceptable rail types; and clarify treatment of existing bridge railing based on type of project. Please consult this version in its entirety as the prevailing TxDOT bridge railing policy. |
| 2013-1 | May 2013 | Revision updating FHWA policy on railing, updating state policy regarding rail on retaining wall, adding new rail type T131RC, updating state policy on existing rail, identifying railings that are acceptable but no longer used for new construction, and updating combination rails acceptable for high speed use. |

Table 1-1: Manual Revision History

| Version | Publication Date | Summary of Changes |
|---------|------------------|---|
| 2014-1 | December 2014 | The revisions in this version add new rail types T1P, T631, T631LS, and C66; clarify measuring railing height; define speed; add policy for bridge railing ends; add policy for railing on retaining walls; add heights to Table 4-2; add requirements for upgrading pedestrian railing; certify reimbursement eligible safety hardware; and add railing placement figures. |
| 2016-1 | June 2016 | The revisions in this version add new railing types T221P and T224; update the test level (TL) for select railings; add the AASHTO/FHWA joint memo for MASH implementation; add steel barriers for temporary use; update combination railings acceptable for high-speed use. |
| 2018-1 | June 2018 | The revisions in this version add new railing types T2P, C2P, T222, PR11, and PR22; updated the test level (TL) for railing types T551 and T552; moved railing types T77, PR1, and PR2 from current to existing; and updated combination railings acceptable for high-speed use. |

Organization

The information in this manual is organized as follows:

- ◆ Chapter 1, "About this Manual." Introductory information on the purpose and organization of the manual.
- ◆ Chapter 2, [Policies on the Use of Bridge Railing for Vehicular Traffic](#). Current federal and state policy on use of bridge railing for vehicular traffic.
- ◆ Chapter 3, [Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing](#). Policies for selecting bridge railing that meets needs of non-vehicular traffic.
- ◆ Chapter 4, [Treatment of Existing Railing](#). Policy and recommendations for upgrading existing bridge railing to current standards.
- ◆ Chapter 5, [Temporary Bridge Railing](#). Policy for selecting bridge railing for use during widening or other construction on existing bridges.
- ◆ Appendix A, [Current Standard Bridge Railings in Texas](#). Descriptions and profile drawings of approved bridge railings for use in new construction in Texas.
- ◆ Appendix B, [Acceptable Placement of Bridge Railing for Vehicular and Non-vehicular Traffic](#). Descriptions and drawings of bridge railing placement.

Feedback

Direct any questions or comments on the content of the manual to the Director of the Bridge Division, Texas Department of Transportation.

Chapter 2 — Policies on Use of Bridge Railing for Vehicular Traffic

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[Section 2 — FHWA Policy on Bridge Railing](#)

[Section 3 — Texas Policy on Bridge Railing](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

This chapter describes the federal and state policies for using bridge railing on bridges, bridge-class culverts carrying vehicular traffic, and on roadways elevated by retaining walls, including:

- ◆ Crash-testing requirements
- ◆ Approval of bridge railing
- ◆ Rail type selection
- ◆ Allowable uses of bridge railing for specific installations

When a structure includes non-vehicular traffic, either alone or in combination with vehicular traffic, other requirements must be satisfied. See Chapter 3, "Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing," for these requirements.

Definitions

Bridge railings are classified for use according to the following definitions:

- ◆ **Traffic Railing** - a railing that has been successfully crash-tested to current test criteria, which is used adjacent to vehicular traffic.
- ◆ **Pedestrian Railing** - a railing used adjacent to a pedestrian walkway, which has specific height and opening requirements. Railings in this Manual and the TxDOT Bridge Division Bridge Standards that are titled "Pedestrian" (a "P" prefix) have not been crash-tested and cannot be used adjacent to vehicular traffic.
- ◆ **Combination Railing** - a traffic railing that also satisfies the height and opening requirements of a pedestrian railing.

This chapter addresses bridge railings that are classified as traffic railing and combination railing, when used with vehicular traffic. See Chapter 3, "Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing," for use of pedestrian and combination railing with non-vehicular traffic.

Section 2 — FHWA Policy on Bridge Railing

Overview

On August 28, 1986, Mr. R.D. Morgan, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Executive Director at that time, issued a policy memorandum that stated highway bridges on the National Highway System (NHS) and the Interstate Highway System (IHS) must have crash-tested railing.

Since then, there have been numerous policy memorandums and reports issued by FHWA, the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO) and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) regarding bridge railing safety. Federal laws have also been passed that include measures to enhance the crash worthiness of roadside features. Current policy is stated in the following documents:

- ◆ MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), was signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first highway authorization enacted since 2005.
- ◆ FAST Act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94), was signed into law by President Obama on December 4, 2015. The first federal law in over a decade, the FAST Act authorizes \$305 billion over Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs.
- ◆ National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) [Report 350](#), Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features. Provides guidance for testing highway features to assess safety performance of those features, replacing guidance defined in NCHRP Report 230. Guidance includes definitions of crash-test levels with specified vehicle, speed, and impact angle for each level.
- ◆ "[Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges](#)." Report No. FHWA-PD-96-001, p. 69. Clarifies that "safety feature replacement or upgrading (for example, bridge rail...)" is a type of work eligible for funding under any of the Federal aid categories but not considered as reconstruction and, therefore, not activating the FHWA's "[Ten Year Rule](#)". The Ten Year Rule disqualifies a bridge for additional federal aid funds for a period of ten years after any federal funds have been used on a new bridge, reconstructed bridge, or major bridge rehabilitation.
- ◆ May 30, 1997, memorandum from Dwight Horne on the subject of "[Crash Testing of Bridge Railings](#)." Identifies 68 crash-tested bridge rails, consolidating earlier listings and establishing tentative equivalency ratings that relate previous testing to NCHRP Report 350 test levels. Ten of the 68 crash-tested rails were developed and tested in Texas.

- ◆ July 25, 1997, memorandum from Donald Steinke on the subject of “[Identifying Acceptable Highway Safety Features](#).” Clarifies and summarizes policies on bridge railing, points to authorities for requiring testing of bridge railing, and identifies methods for submitting new rails for testing. This document also identifies exceptions, one of which is the replacement or retrofitting of existing bridge railing unless improvements are being made on a stretch of highway that includes a bridge with obsolete railing.
- ◆ August 28, 1998, memorandum from Henry Rentz on the subject of “[National Cooperative Highway Research Program \(NCHRP\) Report 350 Hardware Compliance Dates](#)” (with attachments). Extends implementation dates and adds caveats for use of safety hardware in new installations and 3R projects. Explicitly assigns responsibility to transportation agencies for defining “...when extensions, relocation, adjustments or major repairs to a feature constitute a new installation” and whether “...features that meet the acceptance requirements recommended in NCHRP Report 230...may remain in place.”
- ◆ May 16, 2000, memorandum from Frederick Wright on the subject of “[Bridge Rail Analysis](#).” Allows responsible transportation agencies to request FHWA acceptance of a specific bridge railing type that has not been crash tested based on analysis showing its similarity to a design that has been crash-tested and found compliant with NCHRP-350 requirements.
- ◆ *AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware* (2009). Provides guidance for testing permanent and temporary highway safety features to assess safety performance of those features, replacing guidance defined in NCHRP Report 350. Guidance includes definitions of crash-test levels with specified vehicle, speed, and impact angle for each level.
- ◆ *AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware* (2016). (Available on the AASHTO website at https://bookstore.transportation.org/Item_details.aspx?id=2707.) Provides guidance for testing permanent and temporary highway safety features to assess safety performance of those features, replacing guidance defined in NCHRP Report 350. Guidance includes definitions of crash-test levels with specified vehicle, speed, and impact angle for each level.
- ◆ November 20, 2009, memorandum from David A. Nicol on the subject of “[Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware \(MASH\)](#).” This AASHTO manual supersedes NCHRP Report 350 for the purposes of evaluating new safety hardware. It sets guidelines for crash testing and evaluation criteria for assessing test results. The joint AASHTO/FHWA implementation plan states that all highway safety hardware accepted under the criteria in NCHRP Report 350 does not need to be retested to MASH criteria; may remain in place; and may continue to be manufactured and installed. However, all new hardware that is developed must be tested and evaluated according to MASH.
- ◆ May 21, 2012, memorandum from Tony Furst on the subject of [Roadside Safety Hardware - Federal-Aid Reimbursement Eligibility Process](#) and related Frequently Asked Questions. Establishes that States can certify that roadside safety hardware has been tested by an accred-

ited crash test laboratory and meets MASH criteria, and can thus be eligible for reimbursement.

- ◆ January 7, 2016 memorandum from Thomas Everett on the subject of “[AASHTO/FHWA Joint Implementation Agreement for Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware \(MASH\)](#).” The memo discusses the agreement between AASHTO and FHWA that requires all new installations of safety hardware on the NHS to be evaluated using the 2016 edition of MASH. The requirement applies to bridge railings with contract letting dates after December 31, 2019.

In summary, FHWA policy is that all new or replacement railing on National Highway System or Interstate Highway System bridges must meet Test Level 3 (TL-3) crash-test criteria at a minimum. However, responsible transportation agencies have limited latitude to define when existing railing that complies with requirements of NCHRP Report 230 must be replaced.

Certifying Reimbursement-Eligible Roadside Safety Hardware

In accordance with the May 21, 2012 memo, "Roadside Safety Hardware - Federal-Aid Reimbursement Eligibility Process," TxDOT certifies that all traffic and combination railings included in Appendix A, "Acceptable Bridge Railing in Texas," of this Manual have been crash-tested by an accredited test facility or evaluated to be equal to a crash-tested railing, as stated herein. These bridge railings are eligible for federal-aid reimbursement.

Required Crash Tests

The AASHTO *Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware* (MASH) defines six crash-test levels for evaluation of bridge railing for vehicular traffic, as follows.

Table 2-1: Crash Tests Required by AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (2009 and 2016)

| Test Level (TL) | Test No. | Vehicle | Impact Speed | Impact Angle |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| TL-1 | 1-10 | 2420-lb. small car | 31 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 1-11 | 5000-lb. pickup truck | 31 mph | 25 degrees |
| TL-2 | 2-10 | 2420-lb passenger car | 44 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 2-11 | 5000-lb pickup truck | 44 mph | 25 degrees |
| TL-3 | 3-10 | 2420-lb passenger car | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 3-11 | 5000-lb pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |

Table 2-1: Crash Tests Required by AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (2009 and 2016)

| Test Level (TL) | Test No. | Vehicle | Impact Speed | Impact Angle |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| TL-4 | 4-10 | 2420-lb passenger car | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 4-11 | 5000-lb pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 4-12 | 22,000-lb single-unit truck | 56 mph | 15 degrees |
| TL-5 | 5-10 | 2420-lb passenger car | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 5-11 | 5000-lb pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 5-12 | 79,300-lb tractor-van trailer | 50 mph | 15 degrees |
| TL-6 | 6-10 | 2420-lb passenger car | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 6-11 | 5000-lb pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 6-12 | 79,300-lb tractor-tank trailer | 50 mph | 15 degrees |

NCHRP Report 350 defined six test levels, as follows.

Table 2-2: Crash Tests Required by NCHRP Report 350

| Test Level (TL) | Test No. | Vehicle | Impact Speed | Impact Angle |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| TL-1 | 1-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 31 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 1-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 31 mph | 25 degrees |
| TL-2 | 2-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 43 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 2-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 43 mph | 25 degrees |
| TL-3 | 3-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 62 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 3-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |

Table 2-2: Crash Tests Required by NCHRP Report 350

| Test Level (TL) | Test No. | Vehicle | Impact Speed | Impact Angle |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| TL-4 | 4-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 62 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 4-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 4-12 | 17,637-lb. single-unit truck | 50 mph | 15 degrees |
| TL-5 | 5-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 62 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 5-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 5-12 | 79,366-lb tractor-van trailer | 50 mph | 15 degrees |
| TL-6 | 6-10 | 1973-lb. small car | 62 mph | 20 degrees |
| | 6-11 | 4409-lb. pickup truck | 62 mph | 25 degrees |
| | 6-12 | 79,366-lb tractor-tank trailer | 50 mph | 15 degrees |

Section 3 — Texas Policy on Bridge Railing

Overview

All bridges require bridge railing. Bridge-class culverts require safety end treatments, metal beam guard fence, or bridge railing. Roadways elevated by retaining walls require bridge railing or metal beam guard fence for the entire length of the retaining walls.

- ◆ **New bridges.** Texas bridge railing on new construction must meet FHWA crash-test criteria as specified in MASH or NCHRP Report 350.
- ◆ **MASH Implementation.** Per FHWA memo, all new installations of bridge railing, with contract letting date after December 31, 2019, must be evaluated and approved with MASH crash-test criteria.
- ◆ **Existing bridges.** See Chapter 4, "Treatment of Existing Railing" for TxDOT policy on upgrading existing rails.

Approval of Bridge Railing

A bridge railing type can be approved for use on Texas bridges in any one of the following ways:

- ◆ It has been successfully crash tested in accordance with MASH or NCHRP Report 350 criteria.
- ◆ It has been approved for specific uses by FHWA after evaluation of results from successful crash testing based on criteria that predate NCHRP Report 350.
- ◆ It has been evaluated by TxDOT and identified as similar in strength and geometry to another rail that has been successfully crash tested in accordance with MASH or NCHRP Report 350 criteria.

Rail Type Selection

Use the greater of the posted speed or design speed at the bridge location to determine the test level required for the railing on the bridge.

All bridges with speeds of 50 mph and above must have railings that meet TL-3 criteria or greater. Bridges with speeds of 45 mph and below must have railings that meet TL-2 criteria or greater.

The AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications describes Test Level 4 as "taken to be generally acceptable for the majority of applications on high speed highways, freeways, expressways, and Interstate highways with a mixture of trucks and heavy vehicles." Based on this description, bridge railings rated TL-4 as per NCHRP Report 350 or MASH are recommended, but not mandatory, for all bridges carrying the main lanes of Interstate highways and divided highways.

Metal Beam Guard Fence to Bridge Railing Transitions

Bridge railing on any Texas bridge must connect with roadside metal beam guard fence if it is present. TxDOT provides railing transition details in the TxDOT Design Division [Roadway Standards](#) and transition connection details in the TxDOT Bridge Division [Bridge Standards](#). Select the transition appropriate for the speed. Speeds of 50 mph and above require a TL-3 transition. Speeds of 45 mph and below can use a TL-2 or TL-3 transition.

Protecting the Ends of Bridge Railing

All ends of bridge railings must be protected with the appropriate metal beam guard fence and end treatment, per the Roadway Design Manual, with the following exception.

Roadway classifications of urban and suburban, curbed sections, with speed of 45 mph and less may omit protection if both of these criteria are satisfied:

- ◆ Bridge railing falls within the line of sight of cross traffic streets or driveways, and
- ◆ Clear zone width, as provided in Chapter 2 Section 6 of the Roadway Design Manual, is satisfied.

This exception does not supersede the need to protect steep side slopes, in accordance with the Roadway Design Manual. If the criteria are not met or steep side slopes are present, and metal beam guard fence cannot be installed, consideration must be made to extend the bridge railing around the corner of the intersecting street or driveway.

Railing on Bridge-Class Culverts

Protect the ends of bridge-class pipe and box culverts by providing, in order of preference, safety end treatments, metal beam guard fence, or bridge railing as described in the Drainage Facility Placement section of the [Roadway Design Manual](#) regardless of horizontal clearance (clear zone). Bridge railing is frequently not an option with bridge-class pipe culverts. A pedestrian railing used alone is not acceptable for bridge-class culverts; traffic railing or combination railing must protect pedestrians and pedestrian railing from vehicular traffic on bridge-class culverts. For bridge-class culverts with raised sidewalks, use an approved combination railing.

Properly anchor bridge railings on box culverts using the details shown on the [Rail Anchorage Curb standard drawing](#) and the details shown on the standard drawing for the selected bridge railing type.

For existing box culverts where bridge rail is required, anchor the railing properly using the details shown on the standard drawing for the selected bridge railing type and the details shown on the [Rail Anchorage Curb Retrofit Guide drawing](#), which applies for fill heights of 2

ft. or less. If the Rail Anchorage Curb Retrofit Guide drawing does not apply, the Bridge Division is available to provide project specific details for the addition of bridge railing.

Metal beam guard fence meets TL-3 requirements and can be provided as an option to bridge railing in the following ways:

- ◆ If there is 36 in. or more of fill, the posts can be soil-embedded as per standard [GF\(31\)-14](#).
- ◆ If there is less than 36 in. of fill but at least 9 in., the low fill culvert post detail shown on standard (31)-14 can be used.
- ◆ Long span guard fence, shown on standard [GF \(31 \) LS-17](#), can be used for shorter bridge-class culverts provided the clearances required by the standard are met

Railing on Roadways Elevated by Retaining Walls

Roadways elevated on retaining walls that are in-line with the edge of bridge slab require bridge railing, extended along the retaining wall until the drop-off terminates. The bridge railing and side slopes must be protected with the appropriate metal beam guard fence and end treatment, in accordance with the Roadway Design Manual.

Roadways elevated on retaining walls that are offset from the edge of bridge slab require one of the following railing options:

- ◆ Bridge railing placed in-line with the edge of bridge slab, extended along the roadway until the retaining wall drop-off terminates. The bridge railing and side slopes must be protected with the appropriate metal beam guard fence and end treatment, in accordance with the Roadway Design Manual.
- ◆ Metal beam guard fence and end treatment attached to bridge railing on the bridge and extended along the edge of roadway until the retaining wall drop-off terminates and side slopes are protected in accordance with the Roadway Design Manual. Slope requirements behind the metal beam guard fence must also be met.
- ◆ Metal beam guard fence and end treatment attached to the bridge railing on the bridge at the edge of roadway. Additionally, bridge railing mounted at the face of the retaining wall, beginning behind the metal beam guard fence and extending until the retaining wall drop-off terminates. This bridge railing and the side slopes must also be protected with the appropriate metal beam guard fence and end treatment, in accordance with the Roadway Design Manual.

Open Bridge Railing

Open rails on Texas bridges enhance the bridge user's view from the bridge and often improve the appearance of the bridge. TxDOT encourages the use of open bridge railing on most bridges crossing a water feature and locations where the view would appeal to users. The cost premium of open bridge railing often may be offset by increased positive perception of the public.

Sound Barriers

Recent years have produced interest in sound barriers for the sides of highways and on bridge overpasses, particularly in suburban areas. TxDOT does not recommend installation of precast concrete sound barriers mounted on top of concrete bridge railing for these reasons:

- ◆ The sound barrier mass changes the vehicle impact behavior with the railing.
- ◆ The sound barrier connections at the top of the railing have not been proven to be adequately anchored.

Sound walls may be placed behind a concrete traffic barrier, with a 2 ft. 10 in. minimum distance from face of traffic barrier to face of sound wall, taking into account posts or pillars in the wall that may project in front of the wall panels.

The Bridge Division has details of a sound wall cast integrally on top of a single-slope concrete traffic railing. This railing with sound wall has been evaluated and approved for TL-4 (NCHRP 350) use. Non-standard bridge slab details or custom foundations are required with this railing.

Decorative Fencing

Requests to place decorative fencing on bridge rails are frequently made to enhance bridge or project aesthetics. Unless the proposed fencing is proved crashworthy by full-scale crash testing, the following requirements must be met when a decorative fence is added to a bridge rail.

- ◆ The speed at the bridge must be 45 mph and below.
- ◆ The fence must be installed on top of or behind a concrete barrier type rail.
- ◆ The fence must have no component that could become an occupant compartment intrusion threat.
- ◆ The fence must have a device that prevents the fence or any of its components from falling onto lower roadways, railroads, or pedestrians.

Chapter 3 — Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing

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Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

Bridges that support non-vehicular traffic must meet special railing requirements. The following sections outline special requirements for the following:

- ◆ Bridge railing for pedestrians.
- ◆ Bridge railing for bicyclists.
- ◆ ADA requirements for bridge railing.

Section 2 — Bridge Railing for Pedestrians

FHWA Policy

Railing on the outside edge of a bridge with adjacent pedestrian walkway must be 42 inches minimum in height, measured from the top of the walkway.

A vehicular bridge with a speed of 45 mph or below is considered a low-speed facility, and it does not require a separator railing if pedestrians use it. A bridge with a speed 50 mph and above is considered a high-speed facility, and it must have a separator railing if pedestrians use it. See Appendix B, "Acceptable Placement of Bridge Railing for Vehicular and Non-vehicular Traffic," for more information.

Texas Policy

- ◆ **Combination Railing.** Combination railing is designed for use on the outside of raised sidewalks when no separator railing is used on a facility with speeds of 45 mph or below. Combination railing must meet MASH or NCHRP Report 350 criteria.

Only Combination Railing Types C2P, C1W, C221, C223, C402, C412 and C4(S) are currently approved for use on a high speed facility.

Openings between horizontal or vertical members on combination railing must be small enough that a 6-inch sphere cannot pass through them in the lower 27 inches. For the portion of combination railing that is higher than 27 inches, openings may be spaced such that an 8-inch sphere cannot pass through them.

- ◆ **Pedestrian Railing.** Railing adjacent to pedestrian walkways must comply with the geometry and strength requirements of current AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.¹ Openings between horizontal or vertical members on pedestrian railings must be small enough that a 6-inch sphere cannot pass through them in the lower 27 inches. For the portion of pedestrian railing that is higher than 27 inches, openings may be spaced such that an 8-inch sphere cannot pass through them.

Requirements for sidewalks in Texas are documented in the Roadway Design Manual, Chapter 2, [Section 6](#).

- ◆ **Separator Railing.** Separator railing is located between the traffic lanes and the pedestrian walkway. Traffic and combination railings may be used.

Separator railing may be appropriate on lower speed bridges that are close to schools or that have significant pedestrian traffic. Sites should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

1. AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), current. See the Bridge Design Manual - LRFD for the current edition adopted by the Bridge Division.

When using a separator railing, attach a metal-beam guard fence and terminate it at the edge of the roadway shoulder, letting pedestrians walk behind the guard fence. If needed, a crash cushion can be used to absorb railing end impact energy. A curb will adversely affect the performance of a barrier terminal.

- ◆ **Protective Containment Cages.** Some pedestrian-use bridges and walkways may pose a threat to vehicles or trains from vandals throwing objects. These bridges and walkways may have a protective containment cage for the pedestrians. It is a local or railroad company decision about whether a fence or containment cage is required at a particular site. Full containment cages on Texas bridges require minimum headroom for all walks and tunnels of 8 ft. More headroom may be required based on the needs of users.

The CLF-RO standard drawing provides details for an 8 ft. chain link fence attached to the backside of a limited number of concrete parapets for the purpose of railroad protection.

Section 3 — Bridge Railing for Bicyclists

Texas Policy

In Texas, any bridge that is specifically designated for bicycle traffic must have appropriate railing for bicyclists. Texas has adopted the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*.¹ This requires bridge railings designated for bicycle traffic to have the same minimum height (42 inches), clear openings, and design live load as for pedestrian railing.

All Combination Railing and Pedestrian-Only Railing documented in [Appendix A. Current Standard Bridge Railings in Texas](#), satisfy requirements for bicycle traffic. For questions of applicability of other rails, contact the TxDOT Bridge Division.

1. AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), current. See the Bridge Design Manual - LRFD for the current edition adopted by the Bridge Division.

Section 4 — ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Railing Requirements

Neither the FHWA nor AASHTO have issued specific ADA requirements for bridge railing. However, all Texas ramps, railing, and bridges that may be accessed by those with disabilities must be designed to meet current ADA requirements.

Handrails

See current [Texas Accessibility Standards](#) for handrail requirements.

Chapter 4 — Treatment of Existing Railing

Contents:

[Section 1 — Overview](#)

[Section 2 — Bridge Railing Upgrade Requirements](#)

[Section 3 — Railing on Historic Bridges](#)

[Section 4 — Bridge Railing Design Exceptions](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

For more than a decade, Texas has promoted highway planning that upgrades railing on existing bridges to current standards. TxDOT has developed a range of procedures for retrofitting existing structures with railing types that have performed well and are reasonably economic to install. Procedures for retrofitting bridge railing on existing structures are published with the [TxDOT Bridge Railing Standards](#).

Section 2 — Bridge Railing Upgrade Requirements

FHWA Policy

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in its November 20, 2009, implementation plan for MASH, requires that bridge railing on the National Highway System (NHS) meet requirements of MASH or NCHRP Report 350:

- ◆ "Highway safety hardware installed on new construction and reconstruction projects shall be those accepted under NCHRP Report 350 or MASH."

and

- ◆ "Agencies are encouraged to upgrade existing highway safety hardware that has not been accepted under NCHRP Report 350 or MASH:
 - during reconstruction projects,
 - during 3R projects, or
 - when the system is damaged beyond repair."

In the January 7, 2016, MASH implementation memo, agencies are again encouraged to upgrade existing highway safety hardware, with the additional requirement that only MASH-approved devices are allowed for bridge railing installations with contract letting after December 31, 2019.

Texas Policy

TxDOT requirements for treatment of existing railing for various project classifications are outlined in the table below.

Table 4-1: TxDOT Requirements Upgrading Bridge Railing Current Standards

| Project Classification | | Railing Action |
|---|---|---|
| Preventive Maintenance (PM) and 2R | | <p>Replacement of traffic railing not complying with MASH or NCHRP Report 350 is recommended but not required as long as the minimum rail height requirement is met.</p> <p>Existing traffic railing complying with MASH, NCHRP Report 230, or NCHRP Report 350 may be raised to meet the minimum rail height requirement.</p> <p>Existing rail that does not meet the minimum rail height and does not comply with MASH, NCHRP Report 230, or NCHRP Report 350 must be upgraded to comply with MASH or NCHRP Report 350.</p> |
| 3R | If the structure is not widened and if no work affecting the existing railing is done as part of the 3R project. | <p>Replacement of traffic railing not complying with MASH or NCHRP Report 350 is recommended but not required as long as the minimum rail height requirement is met.</p> <p>Existing traffic railing complying with MASH, NCHRP Report 230 or NCHRP Report 350 may be raised to meet the minimum rail height requirement.</p> |
| 3R | If rehabilitation work is scheduled or performed which widens the structure to either side or redecks (full-depth) any complete span of the structure, or if any work affecting the rail is done to the existing structure as part of the 3R project. | <p>All traffic railing on the structure must comply with MASH or NCHRP Report 350. Railing adjacent to pedestrian walkways must comply with requirements in Chapter 3.</p> <p>Exceptions by approval of Design Exception or Design Waiver Request.</p> <p>Exceptions to compliance with MASH or NCHRP Report 350:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design Exception approval required if ADT is greater than 1,500 VPD. 2. Design Waiver approval required if ADT is less than 1,500 VPD. |
| 4R | | <p>Traffic railing must comply with MASH or NCHRP Report 350. Railing adjacent to pedestrian walkways must comply with requirements in Chapter 3.</p> <p>Exceptions by approval of Design Exception Request.</p> |
| Hazard Elimination Program (HES) Projects | | 3R or 4R criteria as applicable to the elements affected by the programmed scope of the HES project. |
| All Project Classifications | | When traffic rail is upgraded to MASH or NCHRP Report 350, adjacent MBGF and guard fence transitions must also be upgraded. |

NOTE: For project classifications and work that does not require the bridge rail to be upgraded, MBGF and MBGF transitions may be upgraded without upgrading the bridge railing provided no work is done to the bridge railing other than the connection of the bridge railing to the transitions or guard fence.

Rails that meet NCHRP Report 230 requirements include Types T202, C202, T6, T411, T421 and C411.

Existing Railing Meeting Current Standards (NCHRP Report 350)

Existing railing types that are no longer used for new construction but are considered to meet the crash test criteria in NCHRP Report 350 are summarized in the following table.

Table 4-2: Acceptable Railing No Longer Used for New Construction

| Railing Type | NCHRP Report 350 Approval Level | Nominal Height | Minimum Height | Description |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| T101 | TL-3 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Steel rail with two rectangular tubes and W beam, and with W6x20 posts. |
| T101RC | TL-3 | 27 in. | 27 in. | A version of T101 rail for retrofitting on bridges with curbs. Superseded by T131RC. |
| C101 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Same as T101 rail with additional steel pipe rail; designed for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. |
| T2 | TL-3 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Vertical faced concrete parapet with W-beam fascia; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T201. |
| C2 | TL-2 | 39 in. from sidewalk | 39 in. from sidewalk | Vertical faced concrete parapet with W-beam fascia and steel pipe rail; designed for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Superseded by C201. |
| T201 | TL-3 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Vertical faced concrete parapet; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T221. |
| C201 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Vertical faced concrete parapet with steel pipe rail; designed for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Superseded by C221. |
| B201 | Not applicable* | 63 in. | 63 in. | Vertical faced concrete parapet with chain-link fence; designed for bicycle and pedestrian use. Superseded by B221. *The presence of chain-link fence makes this railing only approved for speeds of 45 mph and below. |
| T202 | TL-2 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Concrete posts with concrete beam rail; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T203. |
| C202 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete posts with concrete beam rail; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by C203. |

Table 4-2: Acceptable Railing No Longer Used for New Construction

| Railing Type | NCHRP Report 350 Approval Level | Nominal Height | Minimum Height | Description |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| T203 | TL-3 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Concrete posts with concrete beam rail; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T223. |
| C203 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete posts with a steel pipe rail between each post, a concrete beam rail and a steel pipe rail; designed for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Superseded by C223. |
| B221 | Not applicable* | 63 in. | 63 in. | Vertical faced concrete parapet with chain-link fence; designed for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. *The presence of chain-link fence makes this railing only approved for speeds of 45 mph and below. |
| T4 (A) | TL-3 | 33 in. | 31 in. | Concrete parapet with aluminum railing; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T401. |
| C4 (A) | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete parapet with aluminum railing; designed for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Superseded by C402. There are two heights of C4 rail-39 inches and 42 inches. The 39 inch tall version is acceptable for traffic only. |
| T4 and T4 (S) | TL-3 or TL-2 | 33 in. (27 in.) | 31 in. (27 in.) | Concrete parapet with steel railing; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T401. Earliest version of T4 rail had 12 inch tall concrete parapet and 27 inch overall height, which is not considered to meet TL-3 requirements but is considered to meet TL-2 requirements. Subsequent version of T4 rail had 18 inch tall parapet and 33 inch overall height; this version meets TL-3 requirements. |
| C4 and C4 (S) | TL-3 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete parapet with steel railing; designed for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Superseded by C402. There are two heights of C4 rail-39 inches and 42 inches. The 39 inch tall version is acceptable for traffic only. |
| T421 | TL-2 | 32 in. | 30 in. | Slanted steel posts with large round tubular rails; designed for vehicular traffic. |
| T5 | TL-4 | 32 in. | 29 in. | Concrete safety shaped parapet; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T501. Needs a 3 foot long vertical taper at toe of rail on upstream rail end to meet NCHRP Report 350 criteria. |
| T501 | TL-4 | 32 in. | 29 in. | Concrete safety shaped parapet; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T551. |
| C501 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete safety shaped parapet with steel pipe railing; designed for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. |
| T502 | TL-4 | 32 in. | 29 in. | Concrete safety shaped parapet with multiple drain slots; designed for vehicular traffic. Superseded by T552. |
| C502 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete safety shaped parapet with multiple drain slots and with steel pipe railing; designed for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. |

Table 4-2: Acceptable Railing No Longer Used for New Construction

| Railing Type | NCHRP Report 350 Approval Level | Nominal Height | Minimum Height | Description |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| T503 | TL-4 | 32 in. | 29 in. | Precast concrete safety-shaped parapet bolted to slab; designed for vehicular traffic. |
| T504 | TL-4 | 32 in. | 29 in. | Precast concrete safety-shaped parapet bolted to slab and designed for box-beam and slab-beam structures; designed for vehicular traffic. |
| T6 | TL-2 | 27 in. | 27 in. | Steel rail with two W-beam members welded back to back and with breakaway posts. |
| C6 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Same as T6 rail with additional steel pipe rail designed for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. |
| T77 | TL-3 | 33 in. | 31 in. | Concrete curb with steel posts and two steel tube rails, designed for vehicular traffic. |
| HT | TL-5 | 50 in. | 47 in. | Modified concrete safety-shaped parapet with steel railing; designed for heavy truck traffic. Superseded by T80HT. |
| TT | TL-6 | 90 in. | 90 in. | Modified concrete safety-shaped parapet with concrete posts and concrete railing; designed for heavy tank truck traffic. Never issued as a standard rail type. Superseded by T80TT. |
| T501SW | TL-4 | Not applicable | Not applicable | 8-foot reinforced concrete safety-shaped parapet and vertical wall; designed for use on bridges and on pavement. Never issued as a standard rail type. May also be referred to as T501NB and in heights other than 8-feet. |
| TW3 | TL-3 | 29 in. | 27 in. | Concrete curb with steel posts and two steel tube rails, designed for vehicular traffic. Never issued as a standard rail type. Superseded by T1W. |
| CW2 | TL-2 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete curb with steel posts and four steel tube rails, designed for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Never issued as a standard rail type. Superseded by C1W. |
| T412 | TL-4 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete with 6-inch windows; designed for vehicular traffic. Never issued as a standard rail type. Superseded by C412. |
| T414 | TL-4 | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete with 6-inch windows; designed for vehicular traffic. Never issued as a standard rail type. Superseded by C412. |
| PR1 | Not applicable | 42 in. | 42 in. | Steel posts with steel rails, designed for pedestrian traffic. |
| PR2 | Not applicable | 42 in. | 42 in. | Concrete parapet with steel posts and steel rails, designed for pedestrian traffic. |

Minimum Bridge Railing Height

Minimum heights for most bridge railing types are documented in Appendix A, "Current Standard Bridge Railings in Texas" and Table 4-2. If the railing is not shown in this Manual, the minimum allowable height is 27 inches for traffic railing and 42 inches for combination and pedestrian railings.

Measuring Bridge Railing Height

If there is no overlay or seal coat, measure the bridge railing height at its top inside face to the top of the roadway surface, as shown in Figure 4-1.

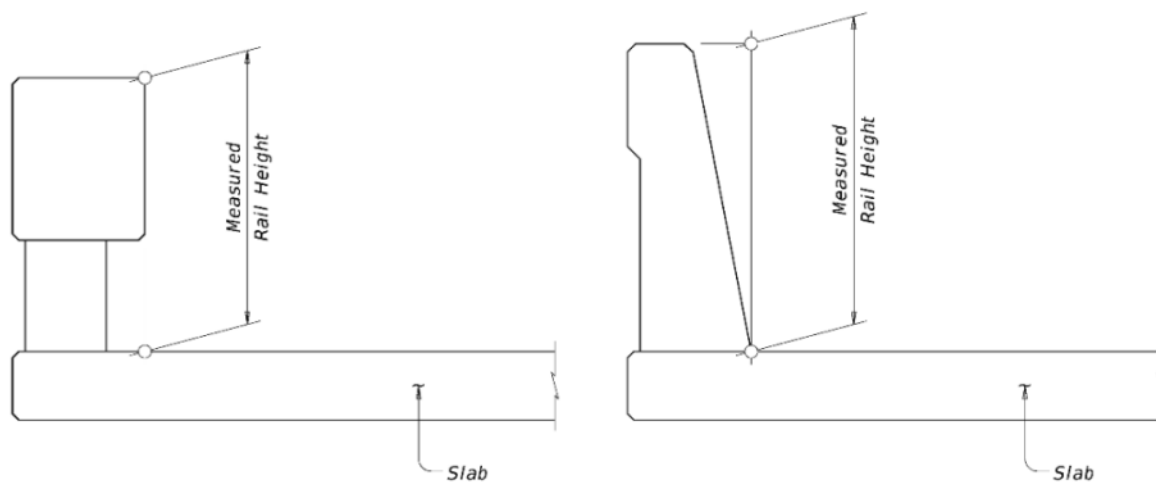


Figure 4-1. Measuring bridge railing height with no overlay

If there is an overlay or seal coat, measure the bridge railing height at its top inside face to the bottom of a 10 ft. straightedge placed flush on the pavement in front of the rail and perpendicular to the rail, as shown in Figure 4-2.

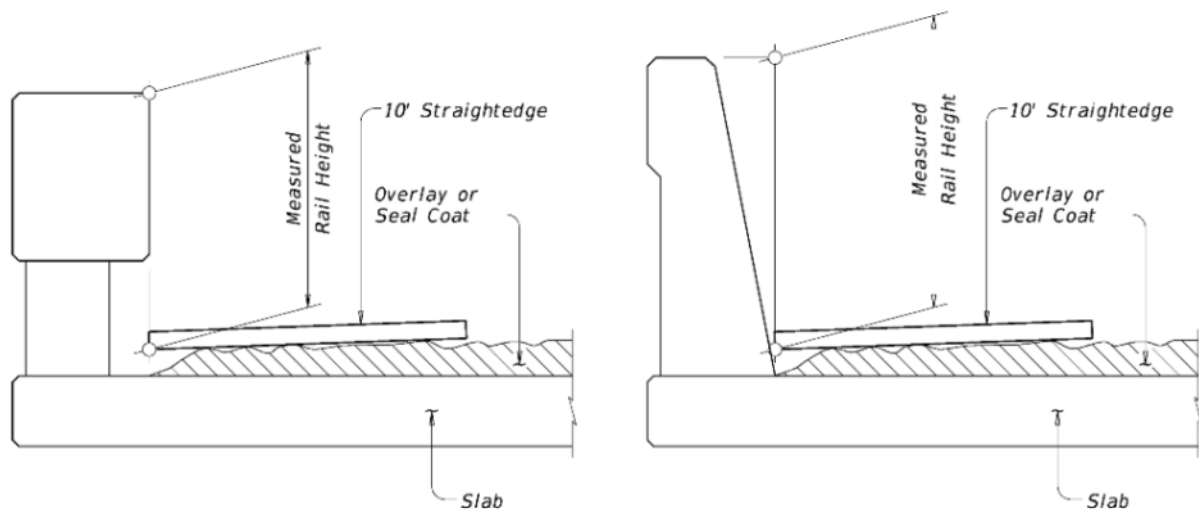


Figure 4-2. Measuring bridge railing height with overlay or seal coat

Bridge Railing Height in Pavement Overlay Projects

Minimum railing heights must be maintained, even during subsequent bridge maintenance overlays. In order to achieve minimum railing height, the following actions are available: Mill the existing overlay prior to new overlay application; taper the new overlay at a maximum 1 to 10 slope over the width of the shoulder to zero depth at the rail; or both.

If minimum railing height cannot be achieved with milling or tapering the overlay, the railing must be retrofitted to its minimum height when allowed by the criteria in Table 4-1. The Bridge Division is available to assist when details for raising railing heights are required.

Transition Upgrades

When roadway guard fence is upgraded, but existing bridge railing will remain in place, customized bridge-rail-to-guard-fence transitions may be required. The Bridge Division is available to advise Districts on options.

Recommendations

Consider the following aspects of the project in the selection of a retrofit railing when planning for a bridge that will be widened or rehabilitated:

Elements of the bridge structure

- ◆ Review details of the slab and curb reinforcement of the existing bridge to determine if the slab edge is capable of being retrofitted with an adequate new railing. Note in particular:
 - Slab thickness and overhang length;

- Curb width and height and reinforcement; and
- Bridge abutment wingwall conditions.
- ◆ Evaluate the effect of a full-strength retrofit on the shoulder width of the bridge. Ensure that a reduction in effective shoulder width or in sight distances at adjacent intersections will not affect safety. Also consider the following:
 - Bridge width, alignment, and grade;
 - Type, aesthetics, and strength of existing railing; and
 - Bridge length and its potential for posting speed limits.

Characteristics of the bridge location

- ◆ Evaluate details of the location, such as the following:
 - Bridge structure's height above lower terrain or waterway;
 - Approach roadway's width, alignment, and grade;
 - Position of adjacent streets and their average daily traffic;
 - Posted speed at bridge, average daily traffic, and percentage of truck traffic; and
 - Accident history on the bridge.

Features of the retrofit designs

- ◆ Carefully review details of potential retrofit designs, such as the following:
 - Placement or spacing of new anchor bolts or dowels;
 - Reinforcement anchorage;
 - Approach guard fence post positioning; and
 - Shoulder width required by the new railing.

Section 3 — Railing on Historic Bridges

Additional Guidelines

Federal law protects historically significant bridges, and any rehabilitation or improvement projects on them require special attention. Bridges designated as historic and listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places introduce a special railing challenge because the historic railing may not meet current standards. As soon as a project is determined to involve a historically significant bridge, the district should contact the TxDOT Bridge Division, as directed in the Bridge Division's [Historic Bridge Manual](#). The director of the Texas Historical Commission is the designated State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Texas, and the SHPO and TxDOT are responsible for determining what effect any proposed project will have on a historic bridge.

Historic Bridge Railing Options

Original railing on a historic bridge likely will not meet current crash-test requirements. It also likely will not meet current standards for railing height (a minimum of 27 inches) and limits on the size of openings in the railing (small enough that a 6-inch sphere cannot pass through them).

Options for upgrading the railing on historic bridges usually include the following:

- ◆ Place an approved traffic railing inboard of the existing railing, leaving the existing railing in place. This is sometimes appropriate when a pedestrian walkway exists on or is planned for the bridge.
- ◆ Replace the existing railing with an acceptable approved railing. Possible close matches to some historical railing include Types T1P, T66, T401, T402, C2P, C402, T411, C411, C412 or C66.
- ◆ Remove the current railing and incorporate it into a new acceptable railing. This may be appropriate in rare instances where an existing railing is especially decorative.
- ◆ Design a special railing to match the appearance of the existing railing. It may not be necessary to crash test the new railing if the geometry and calculated strength equal or exceed a crash-tested railing.

Section 4 — Bridge Railing Design Exceptions

Possible Design Exception

Occasionally, an upgrade to railing on an existing structure could degrade rather than improve bridge safety. A District should consult with the Bridge Division about a possible design exception if it is planning a bridge-widening or rehabilitation project in which raising the railing to meet current standards will reduce overall safety. Factors to consider include the following:

- ◆ Speed of traffic in the bridge location.
- ◆ Resistance to impact of the existing railing.
- ◆ Whether the bridge ends are intersections protected by stop signs or stop lights.
- ◆ Whether the geometry is straight into, along, and out of the bridge.
- ◆ Whether traffic on the bridge is one-way or two-way.
- ◆ Accident history on the bridge, including damages to and repairs of the railing.
- ◆ Risk of fall over the side of the bridge.
- ◆ Whether the bridge has a lower roadway.
- ◆ Whether a railing upgrade will further narrow an already narrow lane width.

Chapter 5 — Temporary Bridge Railing

Contents:

[Section 1 — Overview](#)

[Section 2 — Recommended Temporary Railing](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

Temporary bridge railing or barrier is installed on existing bridges during widening and on new bridges during staged construction.

Policy

MASH requires all barriers, including temporary barriers, to meet its crash test criteria.

Bridge railings that will be permanent in the final bridge, but act as temporary barriers during construction, must be installed with all their components for the full duration of use, and must satisfy the minimum height specified for the rail.

Selection of Temporary Railing

- ◆ Some factors to weigh in the selection of an appropriate temporary barrier or bridge railing are:
 - Traffic volume and mix (for example, percentage of truck traffic)
 - Posted speed within the work zone
 - Width of temporary lanes, number of lanes, and shoulder width if any
 - Alignment of the bridge (that is, curves and grades)
 - Duration of construction.

Section 2 — Recommended Temporary Railing

Precast Safety-shaped Traffic Barriers

For temporary railing, TxDOT recommends the single-slope concrete barriers (SSCB), the F-shaped concrete barriers (CSB), or the low profile concrete barrier (LPCB) detailed in the [Roadway Standard Drawings](#).

Consider available railing slide space when deciding whether to anchor the barrier. Crash-test vehicle performance is better with the unanchored barrier. TxDOT does not allow using unanchored precast safety-shaped traffic barriers unless at least two feet of slide space is available behind them to allow the energy of an impact to be absorbed by the change in momentum of the barrier mass. See the [Roadway Standard drawing SSCB \(5\)-10](#) for details to anchor SSCB, and drawing [CSB\(7\)-10](#) for details to anchor CSB. LPCB is not anchored; therefore, slide space must be accommodated.

Also consider length of the construction area when selecting railing. If barrier segments are 30 feet long, they can be connected easily with only nominal equipment. However, to perform adequately as a temporary railing, 10-ft. segments require significant connection in the form of dowels, cables, bolted lap splices, etc. Most precast barriers are in 30-ft. segments and LPCB barrier is in 20-ft. segments. TxDOT generally discourages use of shorter segments for temporary bridge railing.

Steel Traffic Barriers

Steel barriers provided on the [Roadway Standards webpage](#) may be used for temporary railing on bridges. Installation of these barriers is per standard drawing and Manufacturer's recommendations. Allowable deflection, based on anchoring method, as shown on the standard drawing must be taken into account when selecting and locating a barrier for temporary placement.

After removal of temporary barrier, any holes made in the bridge deck for anchoring must be repaired in accordance with Item 429, "Concrete Structure Repair."

Appendix A — Current Standard Bridge Railings in Texas

Contents:

[Section 1 — Overview](#)

[Section 2 — Metal Railing](#)

[Section 3 — Metal and Concrete Railing](#)

[Section 4 — Concrete Railing](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

Sections 2 through 4 of this appendix provide descriptions of current bridge railing types acceptable for new construction, including the crash-test criteria used for testing and approved test level of the railing, as applicable.

Texas bridge railing type names use alphanumeric sequences, usually observing the following conventions:

- ◆ T indicates railing for vehicular traffic.
- ◆ T80 indicates railing for tractor-trailer trucks.
- ◆ P indicates railing for pedestrian traffic.
- ◆ C indicates railing for a combination of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- ◆ B indicates railing for bicycle traffic.
- ◆ R indicates retrofitted railing.
- ◆ HT indicates heavy truck railing.
- ◆ TT indicates tank truck railing.
- ◆ SSTR indicates single slope traffic railing.
- ◆ S indicates steel railing.
- ◆ A indicates aluminum railing.

The "nominal face of rail" is 1-ft. from the outside edge of bridge slabs, regardless of actual physical dimensions. Types T66, T224, T80TT, C412, and C66 railings are exceptions. Their "nominal face of rail" is set at 1.5-ft. from the outside edge of bridge slabs.

More Information

For more detailed information on Texas bridge railing, refer to the TxDOT Bridge Division [Railing Standards](#).

For information about crash-tested railing currently available or about railing currently under design, contact the TxDOT Bridge Division.

Section 2 — Metal Railing

Traffic Railing Type T131RC

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Retrofit railing for use on existing bridges with curbs. It has two steel square tubes and W6X15 posts spaced a maximum 5.0 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-3 |
| Nominal height | 36 inches (Typ); railing height depends on thickness of existing overlays. |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 34 inches (Typ); height depends on curb height and thickness of existing overlays. |

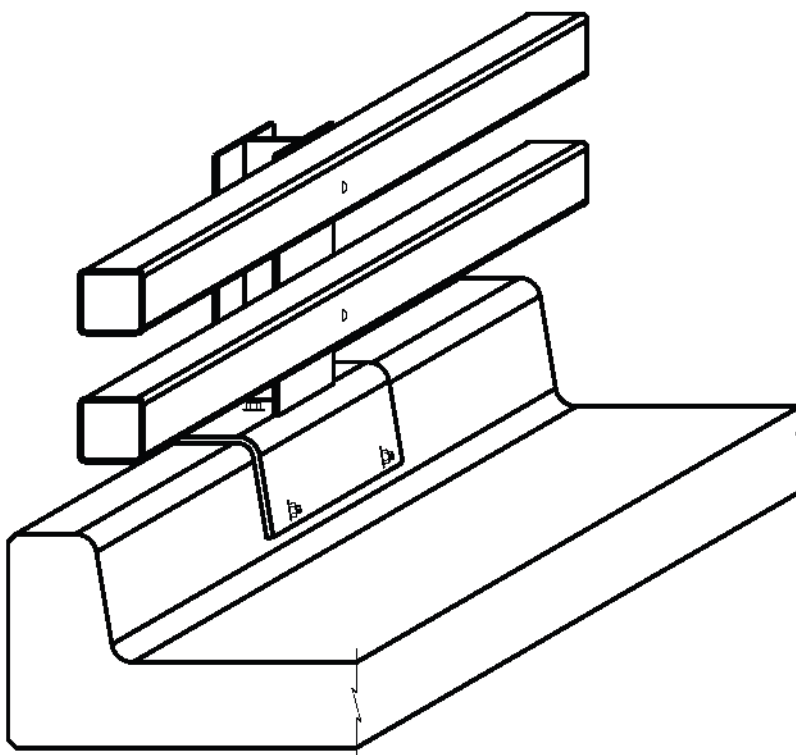


Figure A-1. Type T131RC Railing

Traffic Railings Type T631 and T631LS

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | These railings are 31 inches high, w-beam rail supported on S3x5.7 steel posts. Posts are spaced 3 ft. 1 1/2 inc. for the T631 railing and 6 ft. 3 in. for the T631LS railing. |
| Approved test criteria and level | T631: Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-3 . T631LS: Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-2 . It cannot be used for bridges with speeds over 45 mph. |
| Nominal height | 31 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 27 inches |
| Special notes | Do not use these railing for separator railing between traffic lanes and pedestrian walkway. The length of W-beam is the MBGF length of need plus the length of T631/T631LS bridge rail. Therefore, it is continuous across the MBGF and Type T631/T631LS bridge rail and is fabricated in 12'-6" or 25'-0" sections. Note that the fabrication lengths should be taken into consideration when calculating the MBGF length, since the required quantity of MBGF may need to be adjusted until the length of W-beam (MBGF + T631/T631LS) is a multiple of 12'-6" or 25'-0". The length of the T631/T631LS is based on the nominal end of bridge rail as shown on the standard and should not be adjusted. |

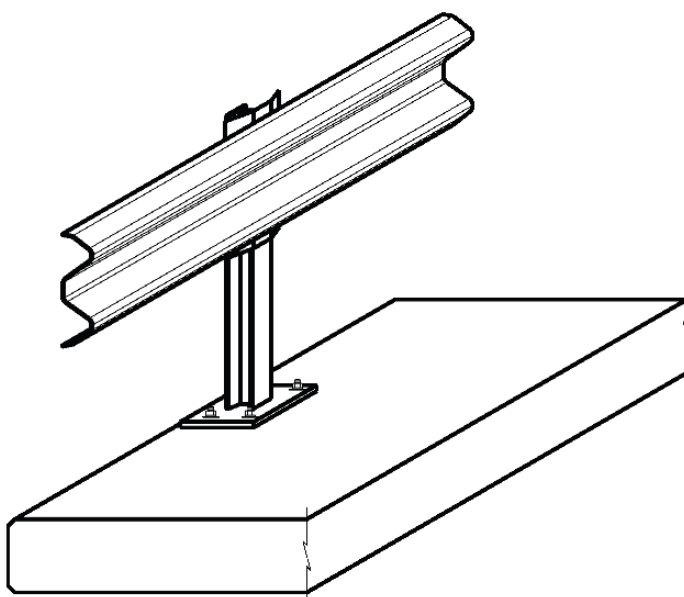


Figure A-2. Type T631 Railing

Pedestrian Railing Type PR11

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Pedestrian |
| Description | Six pipe rails, with 3.5-inch HSS steel pipe for the top rail and 2.375-inch HSS steel pipe for the lower rails. Its 5-inch-wide steel-plate posts are spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | The PR11 railing is designed for pedestrian loads only. It has not been crash-tested, and it is not intended for exposure to traffic. If this railing is used on a bridge or culvert, it must be protected from vehicular impact by an approved bridge rail type. |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

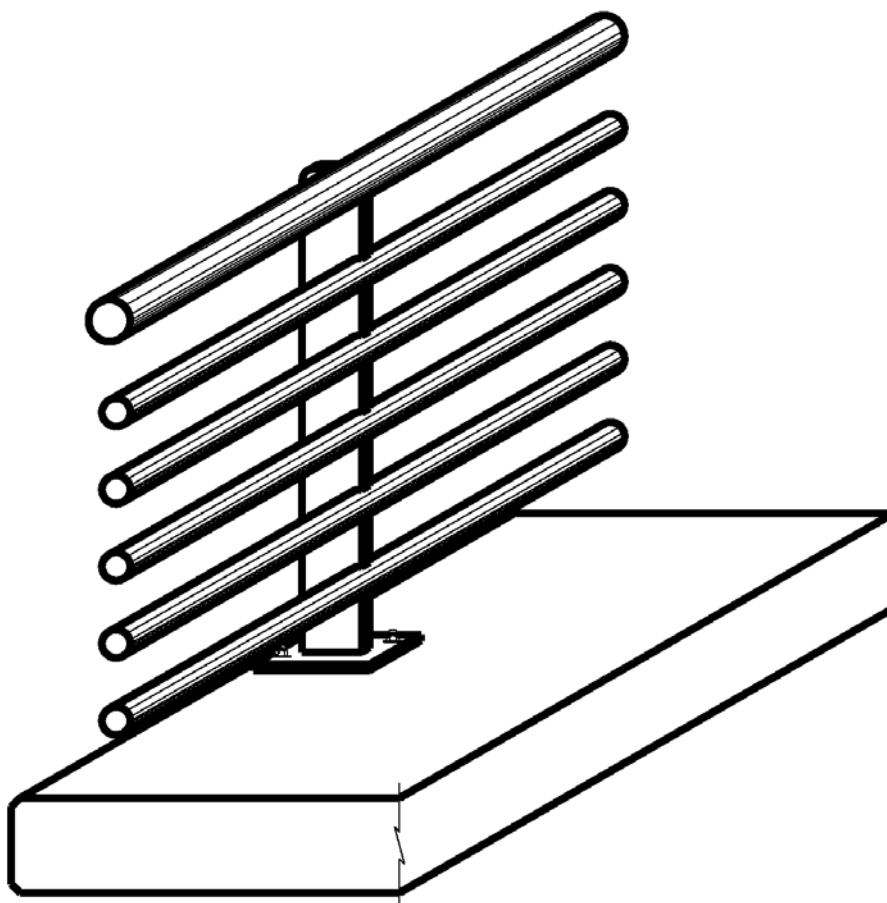


Figure A-3. Type PR11 Railing

Section 3 — Metal and Concrete Railing

Traffic Railing Type T1F

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet with two aluminum half-ellipse rails centered at 18 inches and 30.75 inches above the roadway surface. The rails are supported by steel posts spaced a maximum of 8 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 33 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 31 inches |

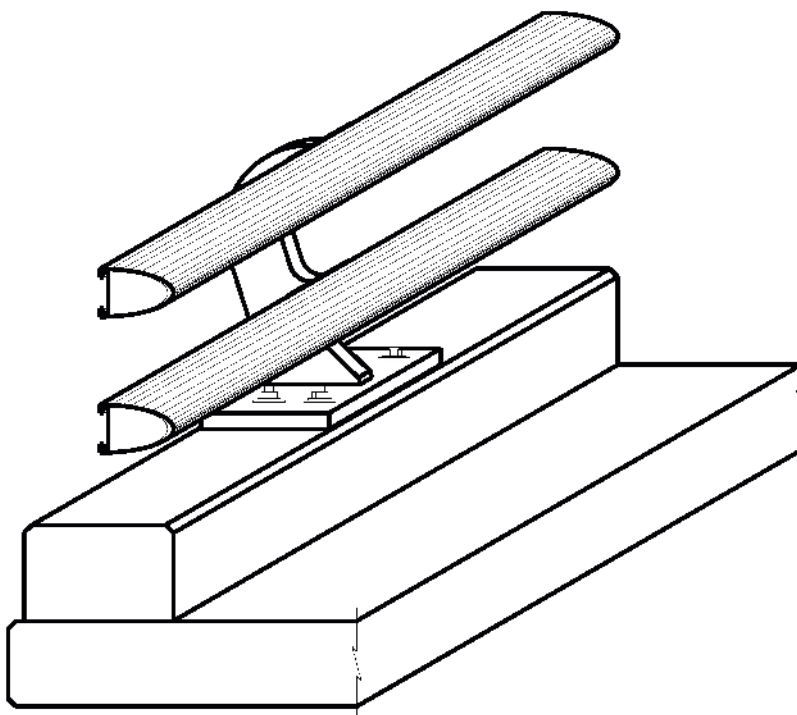


Figure A-4. Type T1F Railing

Traffic Railing Type T1P

| | |
|---|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet with a round steel-top tube, two rectangular steel tubes, and a picket panel mounted on the back side of railing. The rails are supported by twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 8 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 36 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 34 inches |
| Special notes | This railing is not issued as a TxDOT standard railing type. |

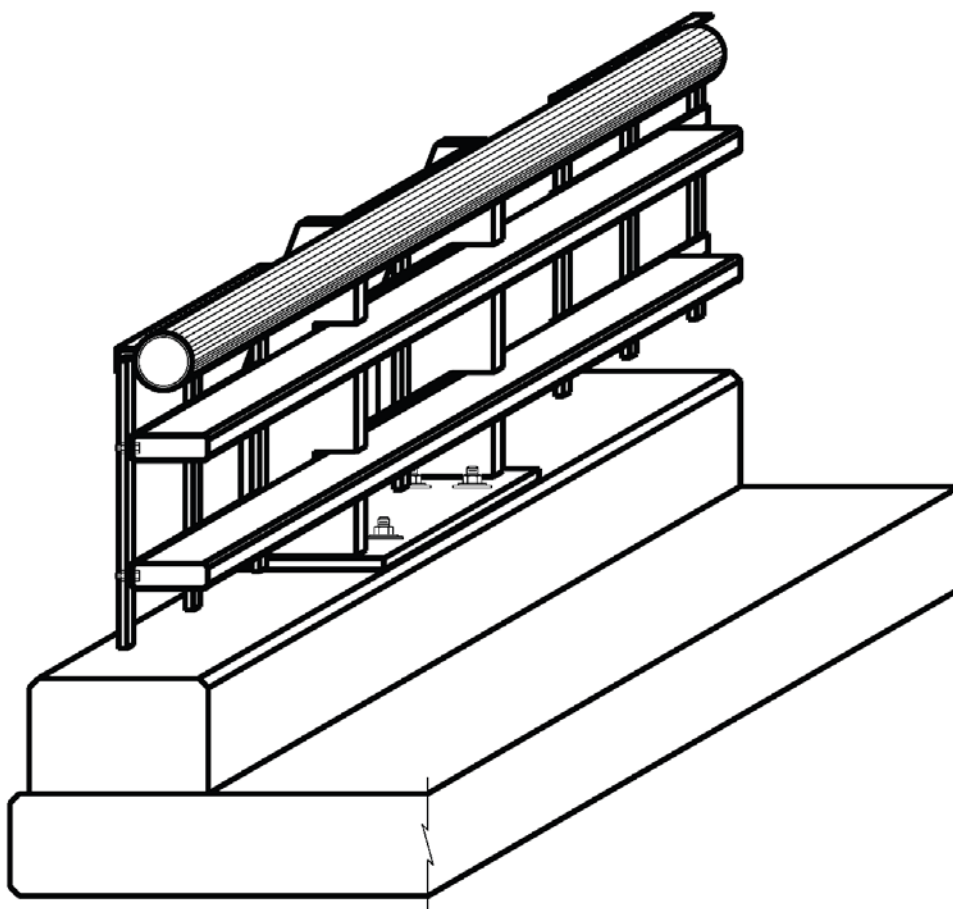


Figure A-5. Type T1P Railing

Traffic Railing Type T2P

| | |
|---|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet with a round steel-top tube, and two rectangular steel tubes. The rails are supported by twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 8 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-4 . |
| Nominal height | 44 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

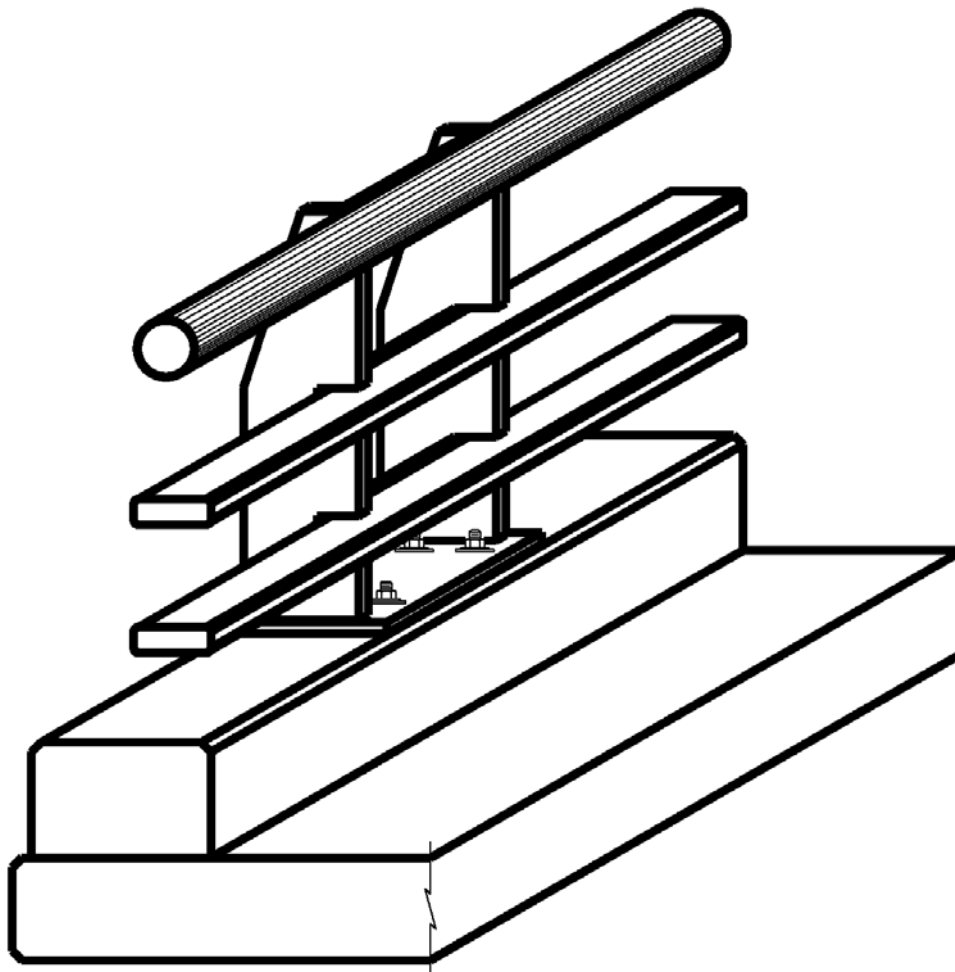


Figure A-6. Type T2P Railing

Traffic Railing Type T1W

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet and with two steel rectangular tube rails centered at 19 inches and 31 inches above the roadway surface. The rails are supported by twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 9 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . It is derived from the successfully crash-tested Wyoming two-tube TL-3 railing (NCHRP 350). |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |

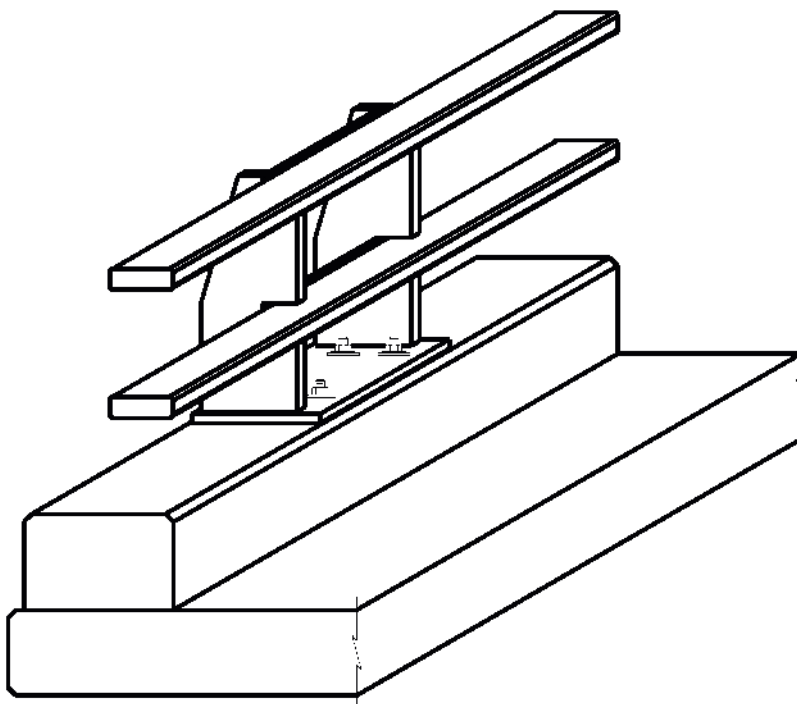


Figure A-7. Type T1W Railing

Traffic Railing Type T401

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 18-inch concrete parapet and a steel ellipse or rectangular HSS 15 inches above the concrete. It has twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. It features a bolt anchorage system for the steel rail posts that may be drilled and epoxy-anchored, allowing slip-forming of the concrete parapet. Its parapet is thicker than that of the T4(S) railing, from which its design is derived. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 33 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 31 inches |

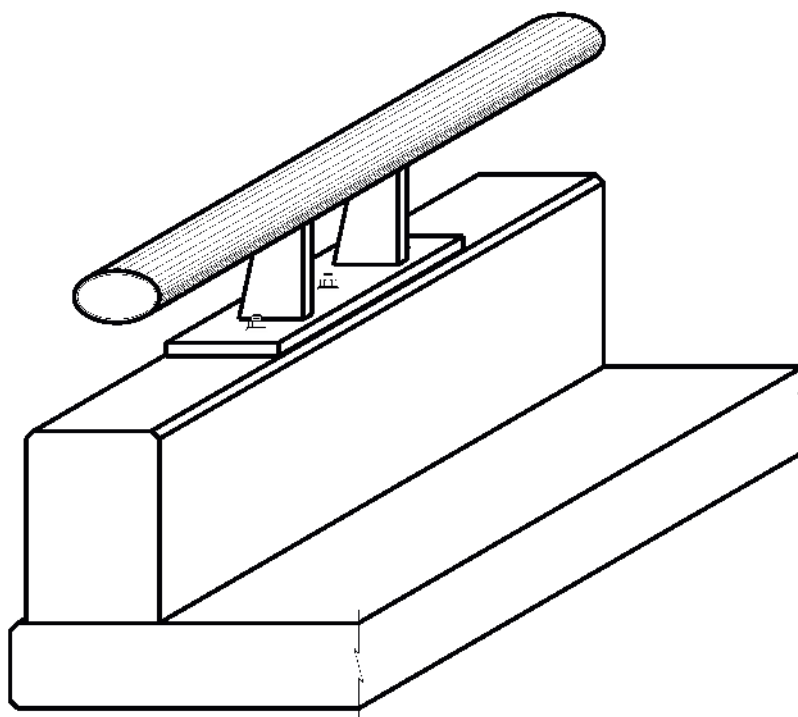


Figure A-8. Type T401 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T402

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 24-inch concrete parapet and a steel ellipse or rectangular HSS 18 inches above the concrete. It has twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. It features a bolt anchorage system for the steel rail posts that may be drilled and epoxy-anchored, allowing slip-forming of the concrete parapet. Its parapet is thicker than that of the C4(S) railing, from which its design is derived. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 40 inches |

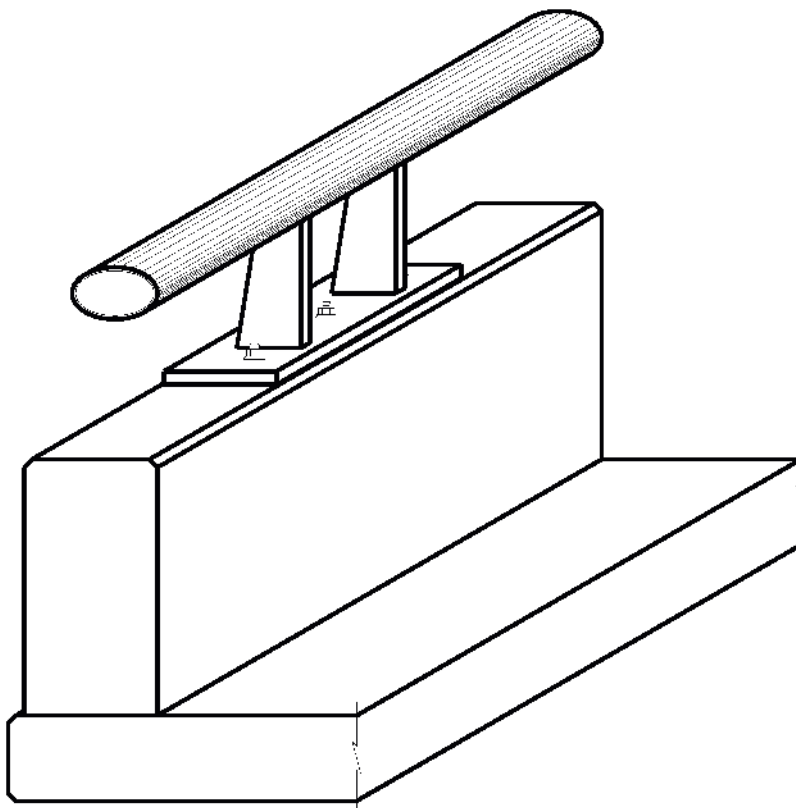


Figure A-9. Type T402 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T80HT

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 32-inch-high concrete F-shaped parapet with an elliptical steel or rectangular HSS railing mounted 18 inches above the concrete. Posts are twin steel plates and are spaced a maximum of 8.33 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-5 . It is derived from the Type HT railing which was crash-tested in 1984 with an 80,000-lb. semi-truck at 48 mph and at an angle of impact of 15 degrees. The Type HT was approved for TL-5 use after evaluation of results from the 1984 crash testing. |
| Nominal height | 50 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 47 inches |
| Special notes | Non-standard slab details are required for this railing. |

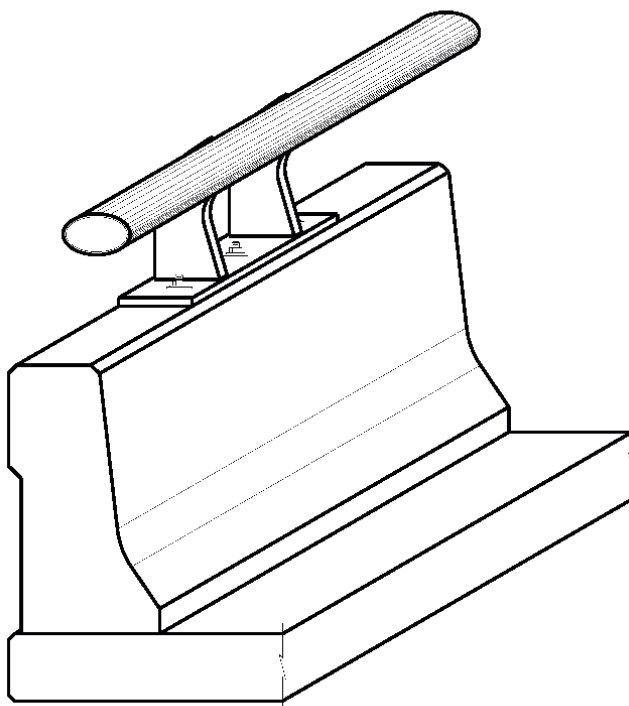


Figure A-10. Type T80HT Railing

Traffic Railing Type C2P

| | |
|---|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet with a round steel-top tube, and two rectangular steel tubes, and a picket panel mounted on the back side of railing. The rails are supported by twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 8 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-4 . |
| Nominal height | 44 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

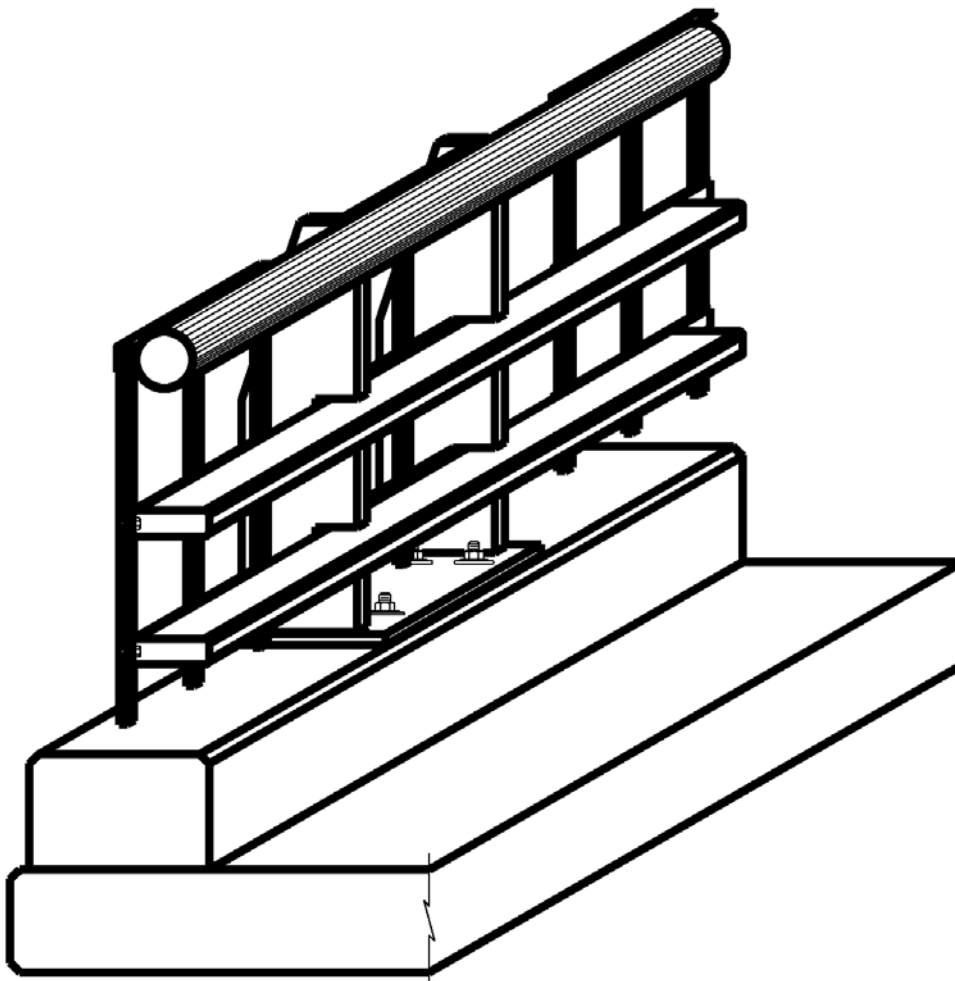


Figure A-11. Type C2P Railing

Combination Railing Type C1W

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | 9-inch concrete parapet with four steel rectangular tube rails centered at 15.75, 23.5, 31.25 and 41 inches above the sidewalk/roadway surface. The rails are supported by twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 9 ft. apart. The C1W railing is a combination version of the Type T1W railing. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3. |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

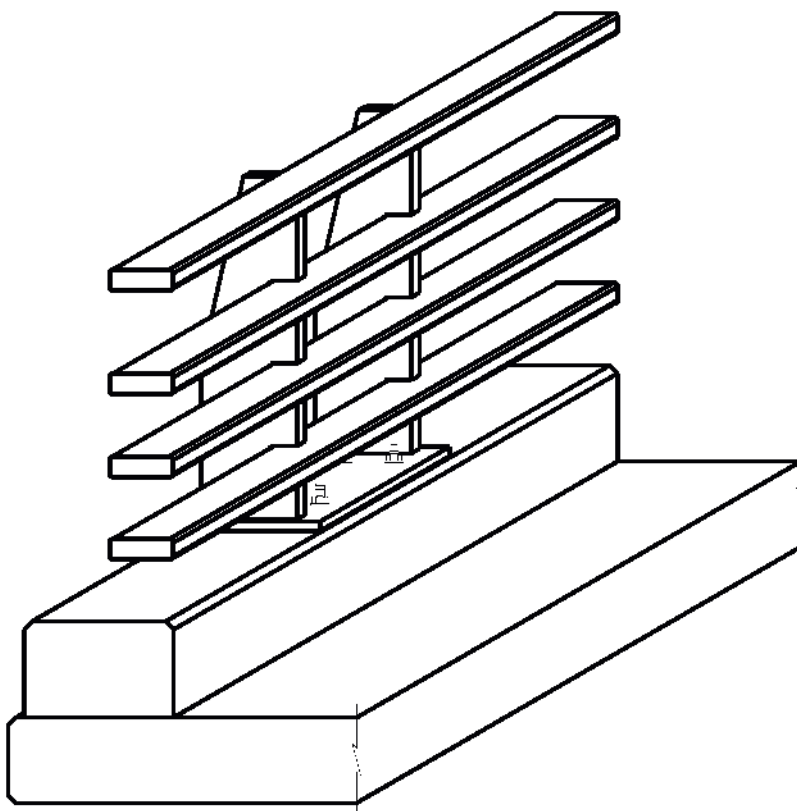


Figure A-12. Type C1W Railing

Combination Railing Type C221

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | Vertical faced concrete parapet with a single pipe rail mounted 42 inches above the sidewalk/roadway surface. It features a bolt anchorage system for the steel rail posts that may be drilled and epoxy-anchored, allowing slip-forming of the concrete parapet. Its parapet is thicker than that of the C201 railing, from which its design is derived, allowing for optional use of welded wire reinforcement. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

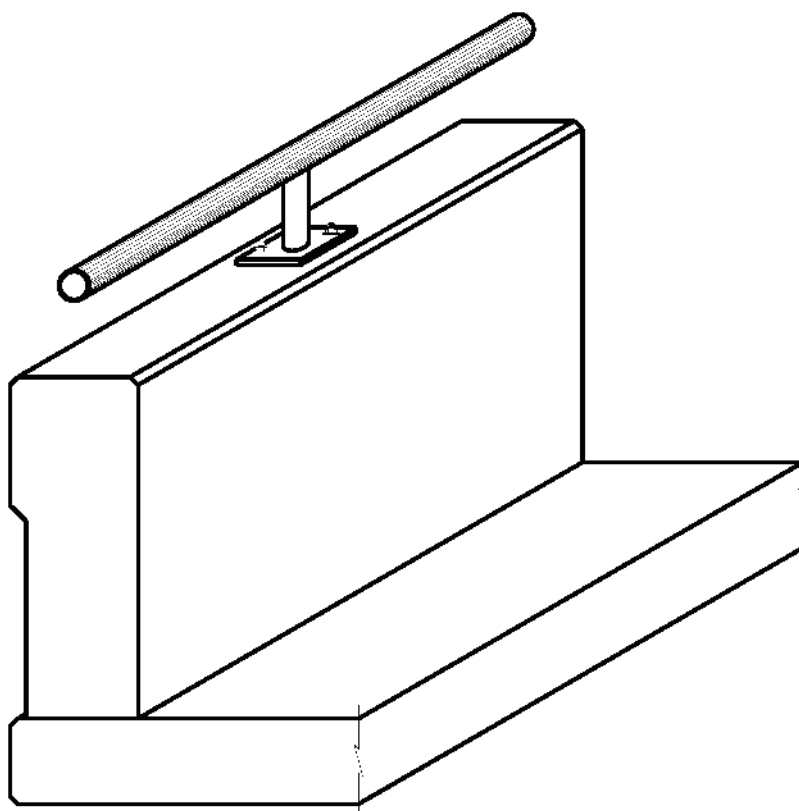


Figure A-13. Type C221 Railing

Combination Railing Type C223

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | 32-inch-high concrete post-and-beam railing with a single pipe rail mounted 42 inches above the sidewalk/roadway surface. It features a bolt anchorage system for the steel rail posts that may be drilled and epoxy-anchored, allowing slip-forming of the concrete parapet. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

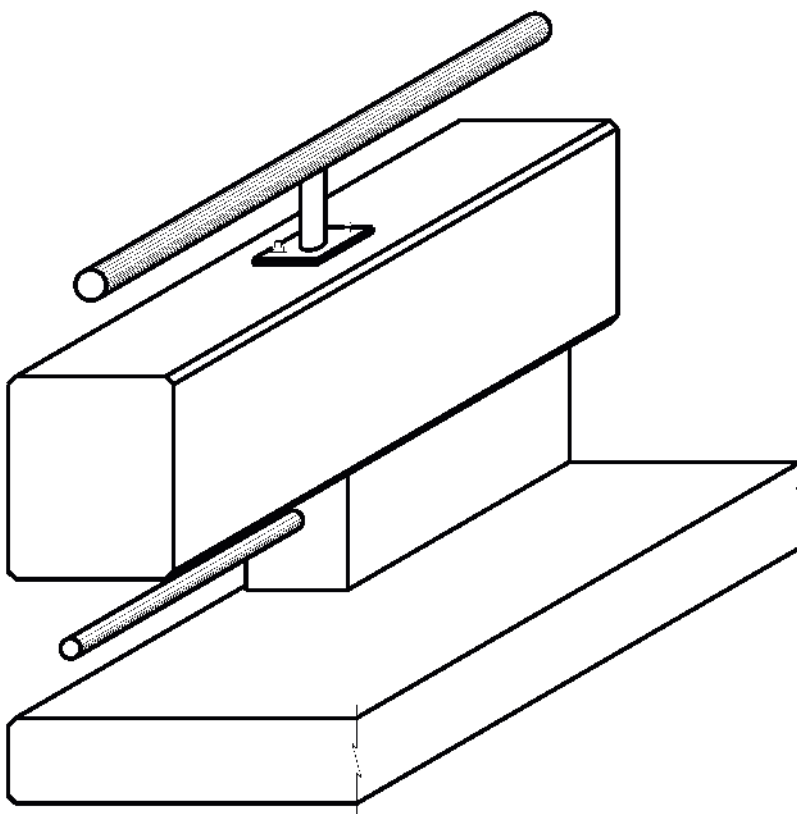


Figure A-14. Type C223 Railing

Combination Railing Type C402

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | 24-inch concrete parapet and a steel ellipse or rectangular HSS 18 inches above the concrete. It also includes a 2-inch pedestrian pipe rail between the parapet and the top rail to be used on the sidewalk side of the railing. It has twin steel posts spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. It features a bolt anchorage system for the steel rail posts that may be drilled and epoxy-anchored, allowing slip-forming of the concrete parapet. Its parapet is thicker than that of the C4(S) railing, from which its design is derived. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

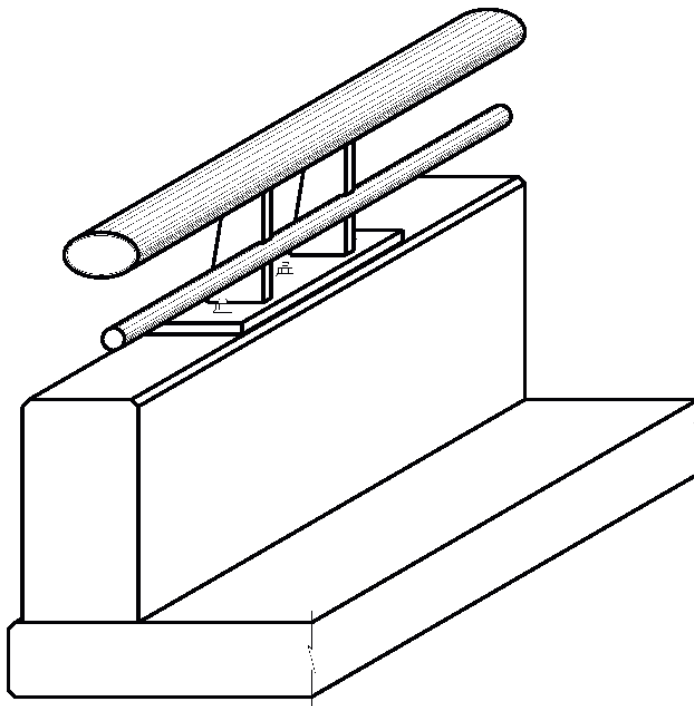


Figure A-15. Type C402 Railing

Combination Railing Type C66

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | 32-inch-high concrete post-and-beam railing with a single pipe rail mounted 42 inches above the sidewalk/roadway surface. It has a 9-inch-tall concrete curb with concrete posts spaced at 6.5 feet maximum. The concrete railing is 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . It cannot be used for bridges with speeds over 45 mph. |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

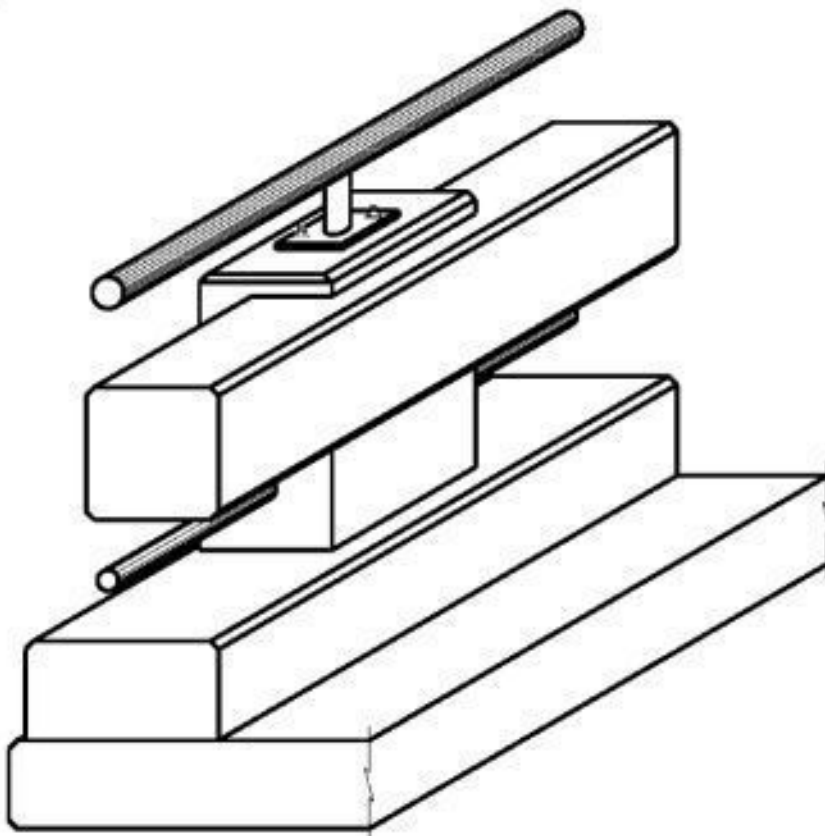


Figure A-16. Type C66 Railing

Pedestrian Railing Type PR22

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Pedestrian |
| Description | Four pipe rails, with 3.5-inch HSS steel pipe for the top rail and 2.375-inch HSS steel pipe for the lower rails, on a 13-inch concrete parapet. Its steel posts are spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | The PR22 railing is designed for pedestrian loads only. It has not been crash-tested, and it is not intended for exposure to traffic. If this railing is used on a bridge or culvert, it must be protected from vehicular impact by an approved bridge rail type. |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

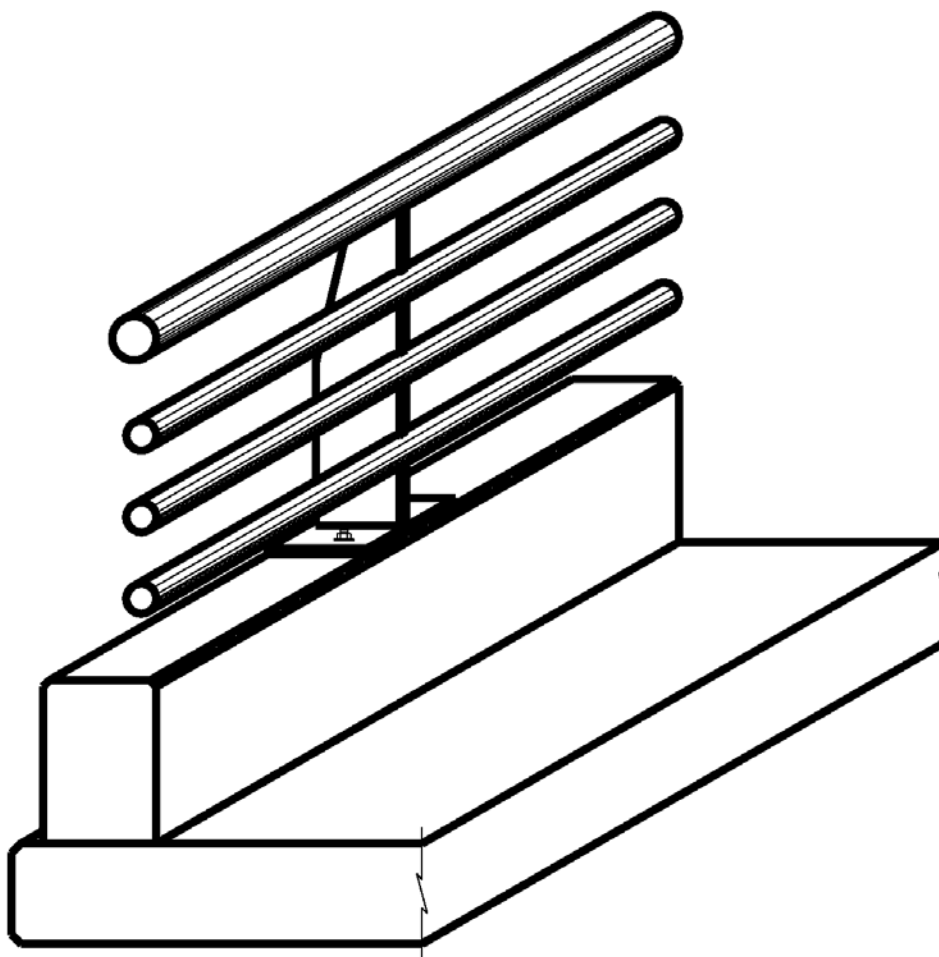


Figure A-17. Type PR22 Railing

Pedestrian Railing Type PR3

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Pedestrian |
| Description | 2-ft-wide concrete posts spaced a maximum of 12 ft apart. Between the concrete posts there are two steel pipe rails centered 42 inches and 13.5 inches from the sidewalk surface with vertical steel pickets connected to the steel pipe rails. A 6-inch-tall concrete curb is placed between the concrete posts. |
| Approved test criteria and level | The PR3 railing is designed for pedestrian loads only. It has not been crash-tested, and it is not intended for exposure to traffic. If this railing is used on a bridge or culvert, it must be protected from vehicular impact by an approved bridge rail type. |
| Nominal height | 43.75 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |
| Special notes | The PR3-HD is to be used with this railing when an ADA-compliant handrail is needed. |

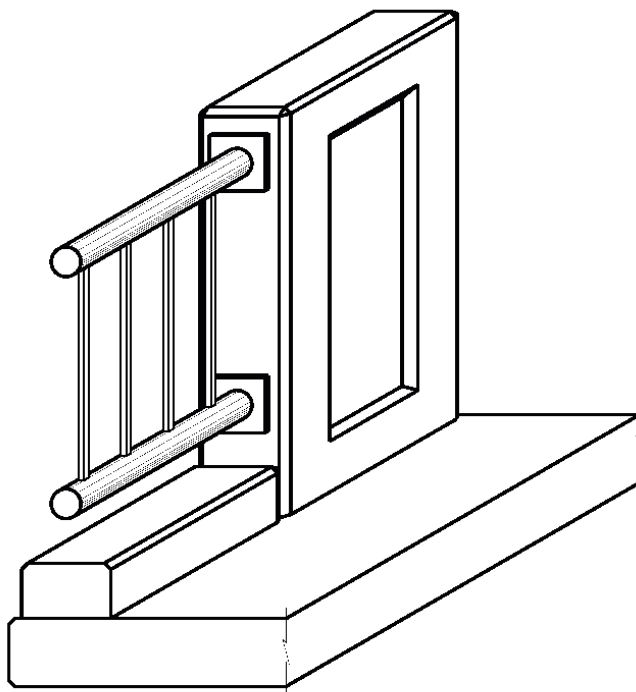


Figure A-18. Type PR3 Railing

Section 4 — Concrete Railing

Traffic Railing Type T221

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Vertical-faced concrete parapet. This parapet is taller and thicker than the T201 railing, from which its design is derived, allowing optional use of welded wire reinforcement. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |

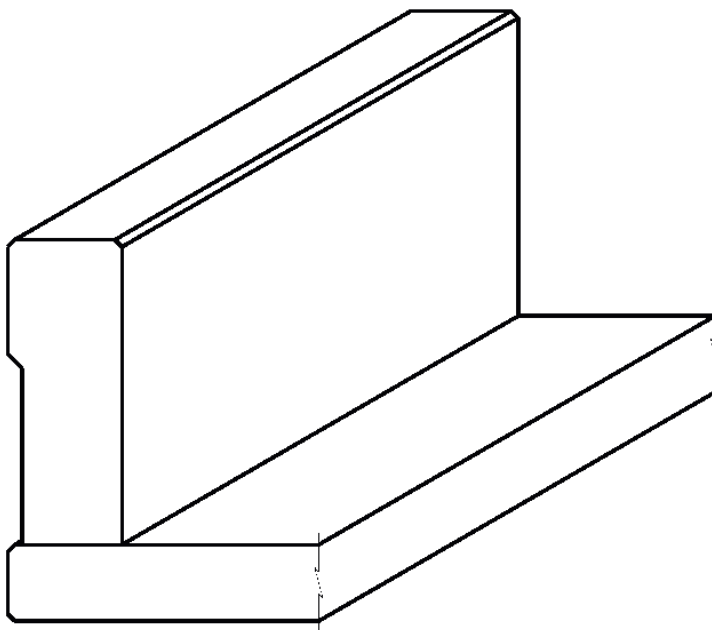


Figure A-19. Type T221 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T222

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Vertical-faced concrete parapet. This parapet is taller and thicker than the T201 railing, from which its design is derived, allowing optional use of welded wire reinforcement. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-4 . |
| Nominal height | 38 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 36 inches |

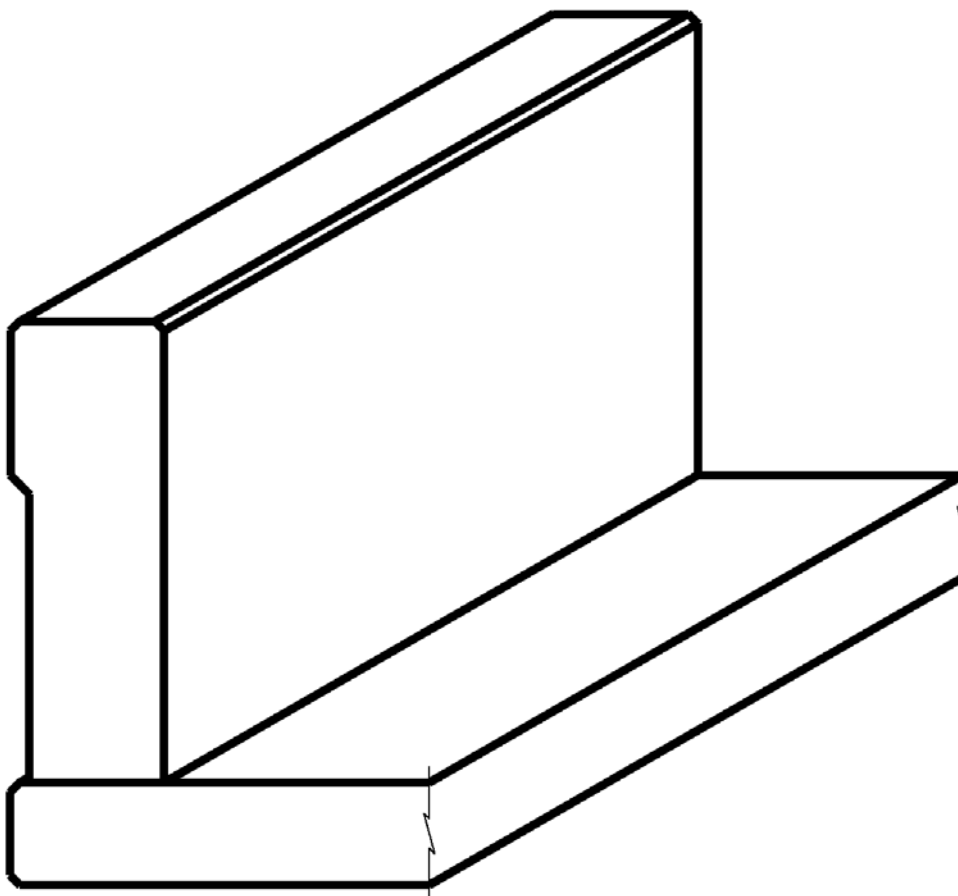


Figure A-20. Type T222 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T221P

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | A precast version of the T221 vertical-faced concrete parapet. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |

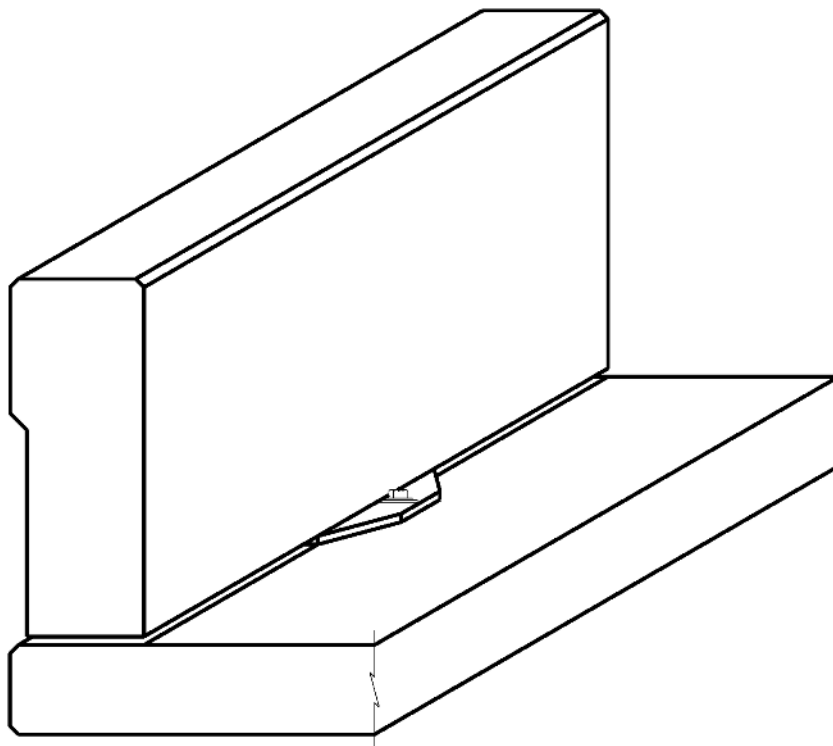


Figure A-21. Type T221P Railing

Traffic Railing Type T223

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Continuous concrete top beam 19 inches high by 15.5 inches wide on 13-inch-high concrete posts that are 4 ft. long and spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |
| Special notes | This railing is not recommended for direct connectors or flyovers. |

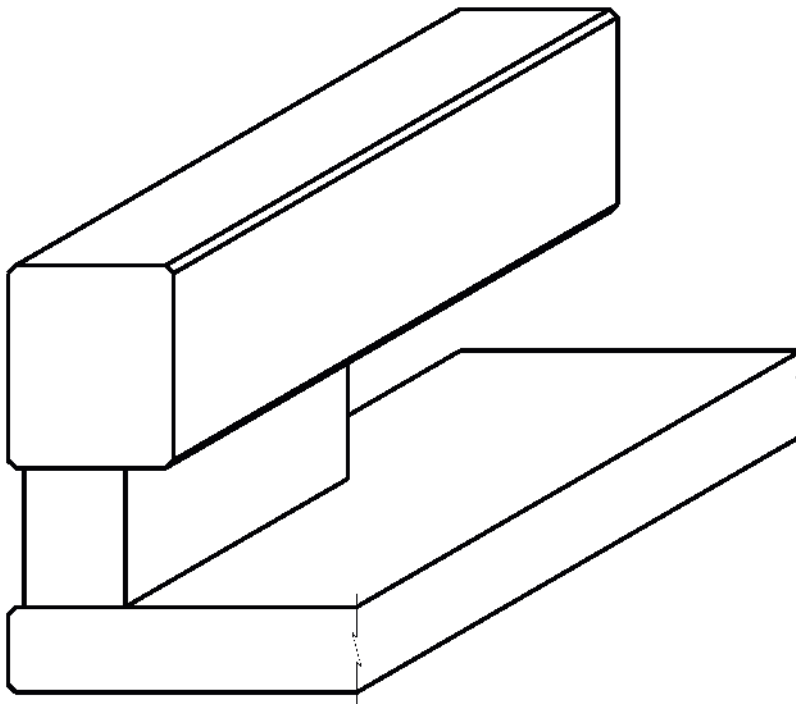


Figure A-22. T223 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T224

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Continuous concrete top beam 21 inches high by 16.5 inches wide, on a 9-inch-high continuous curb and 12-inch-tall concrete posts that are 5 ft. long and spaced a maximum of 10 ft. apart. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-5 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 40 inches |

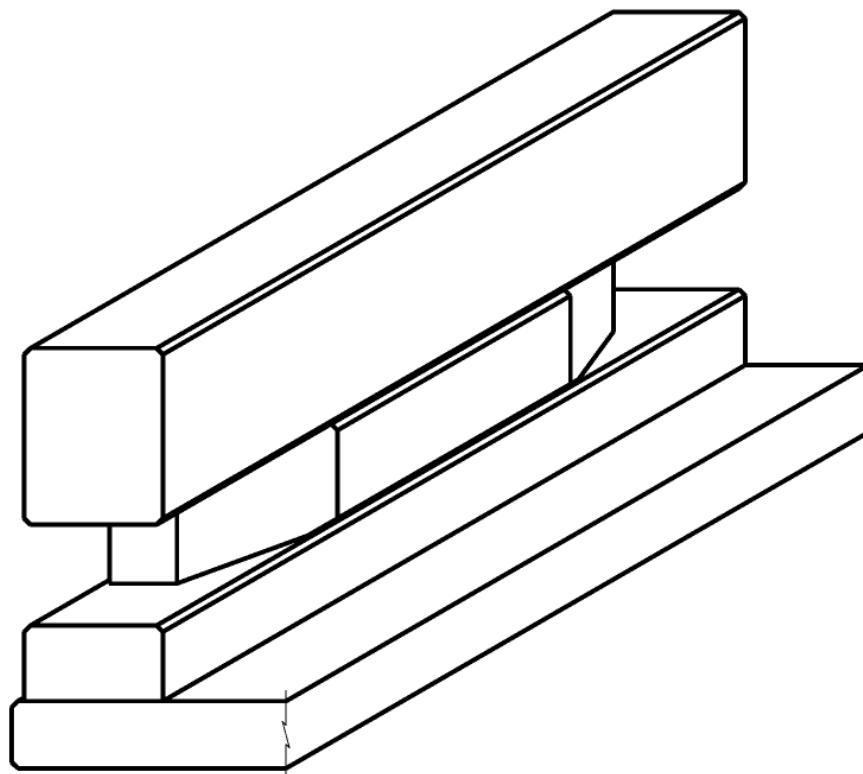


Figure A-23. Type T224 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T411

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Continuous concrete railing that has 6-inch-wide windows spaced every 18 inches, center to center. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-2. |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |

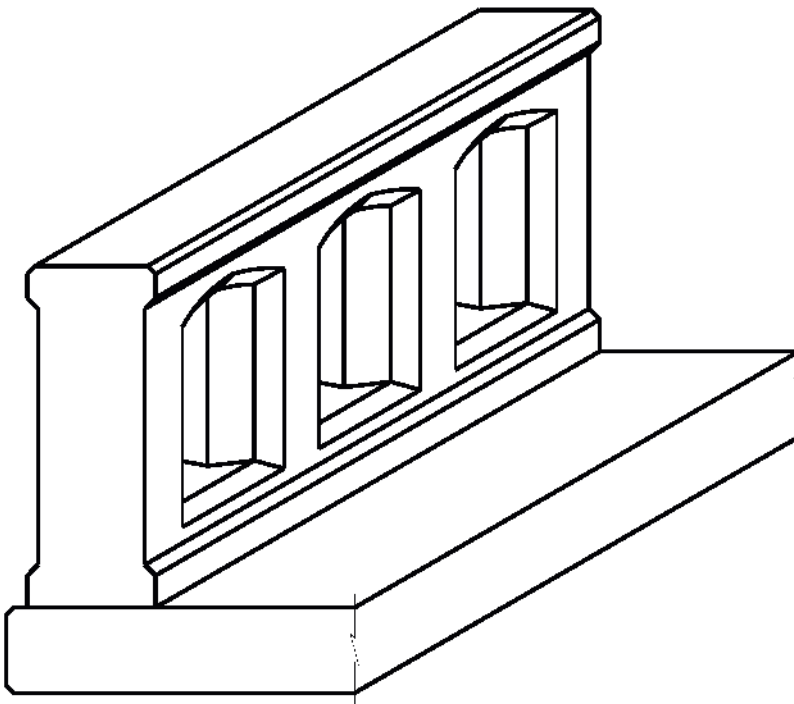


Figure A-24. Type T411 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T551

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Concrete F-shaped parapet. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3 . |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 29 inches |

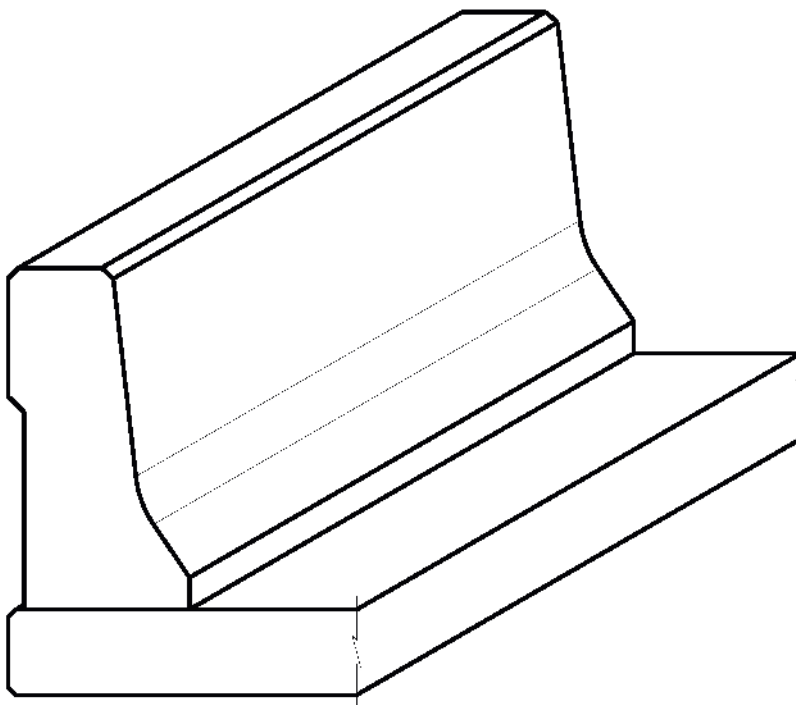


Figure A-25. Type T551 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T552

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Concrete F-shaped parapet with multiple drain slots. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-3. |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 29 inches |

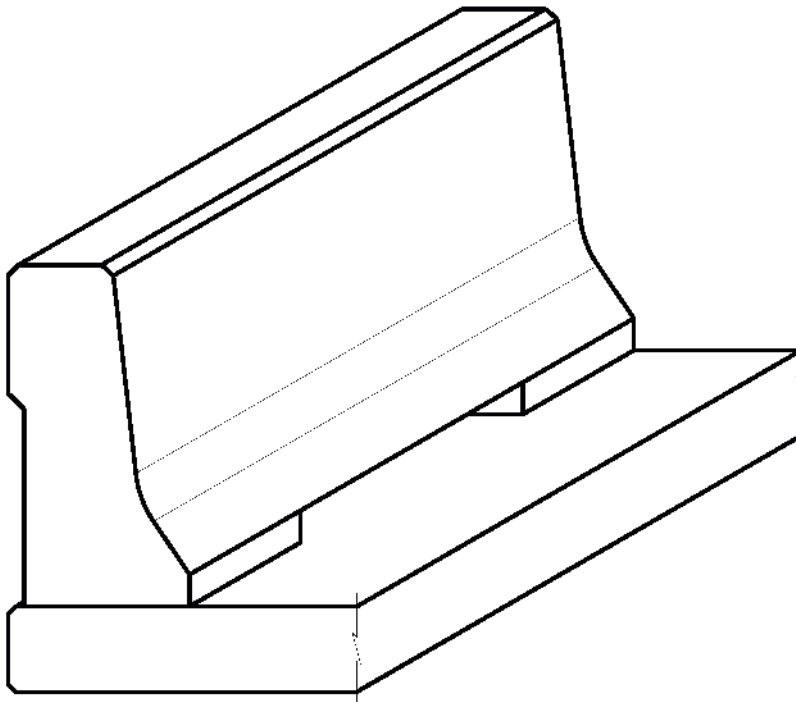


Figure A-26. Type T552 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T66

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Concrete post-and-beam railing. It has a 9-inch-tall concrete curb with concrete posts spaced at 6.5 feet maximum. The concrete railing is 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-3 . It is derived from the successfully crash-tested California Type 80 railing. |
| Nominal height | 32 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 30 inches |

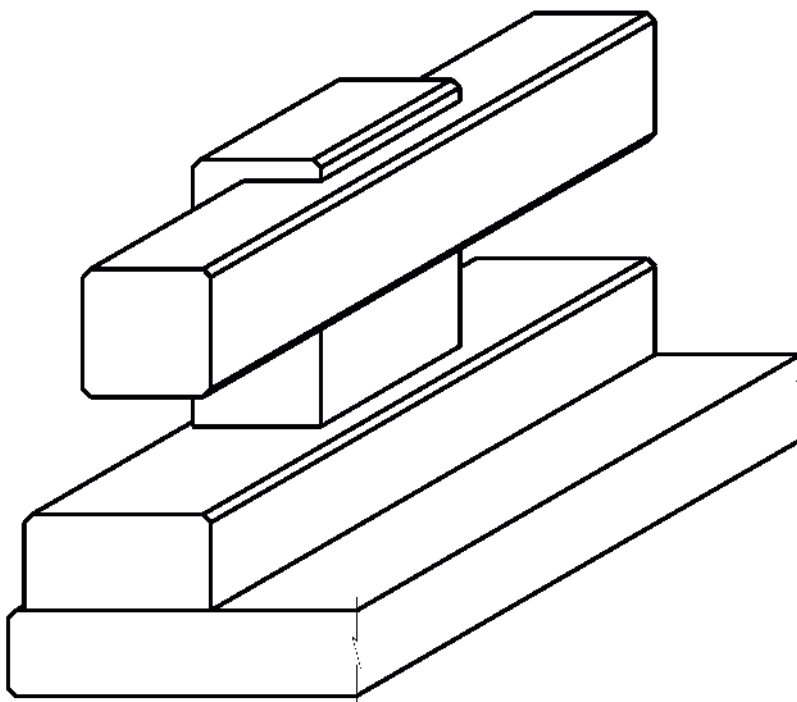


Figure A-27. Type T66 Railing

Traffic Railing Type SSTR

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Concrete parapet with a single front slope. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for MASH TL-4 . |
| Nominal height | 36 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 32 inches |

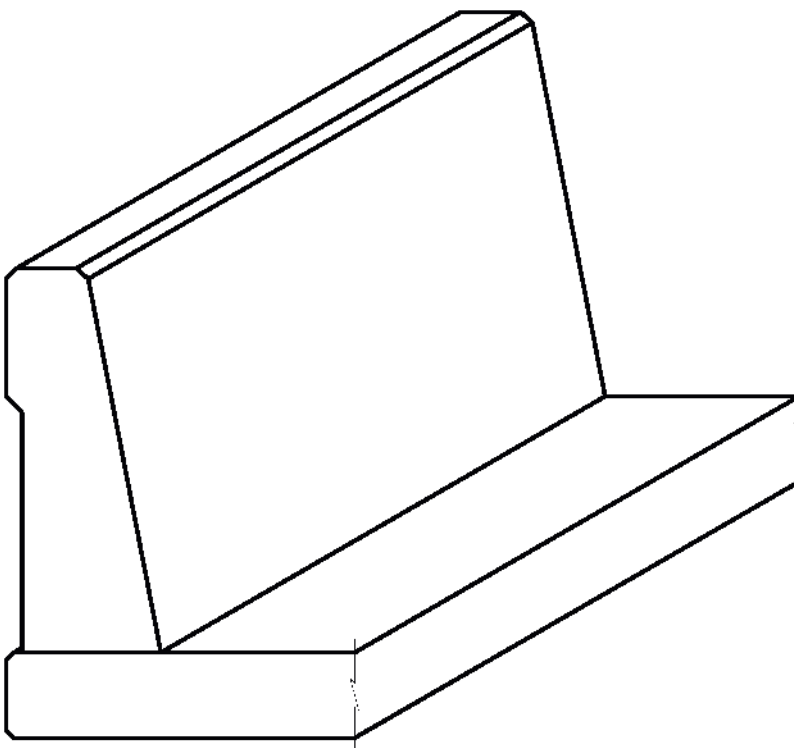


Figure A-28. Type SSTR Railing

Traffic Railing Type T80SS

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | Concrete parapet with a single front slope and aesthetic reveals along exterior face. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-5 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |
| Special notes | Non-standard slab details are required for this railing. |

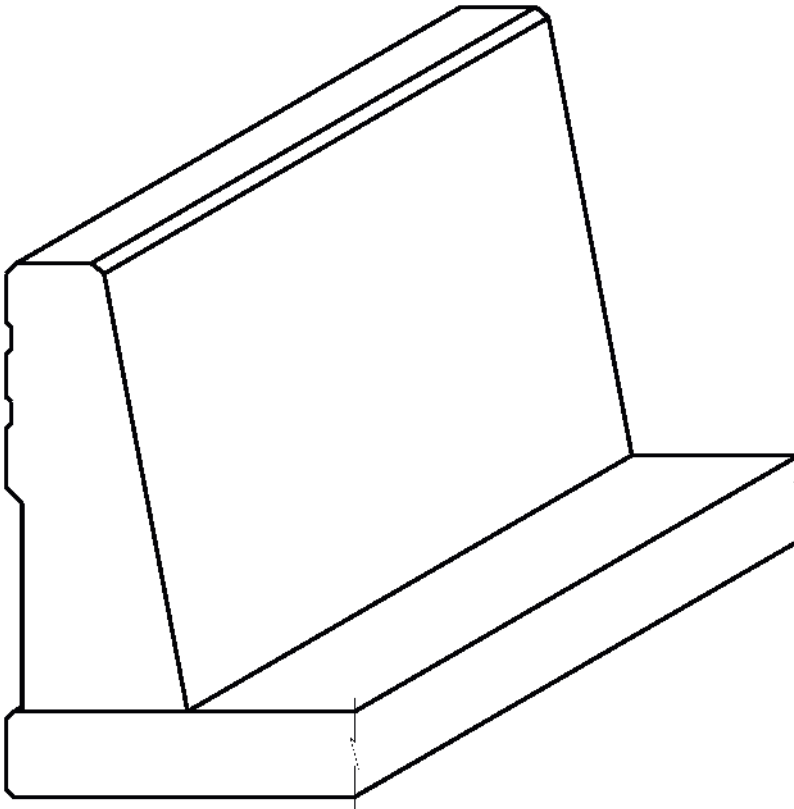


Figure A-29. Type T80SS Railing

Traffic Railing Type C411

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | Continuous concrete railing that has 6-inch-wide windows spaced every 18 inches, center to center. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-2. |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

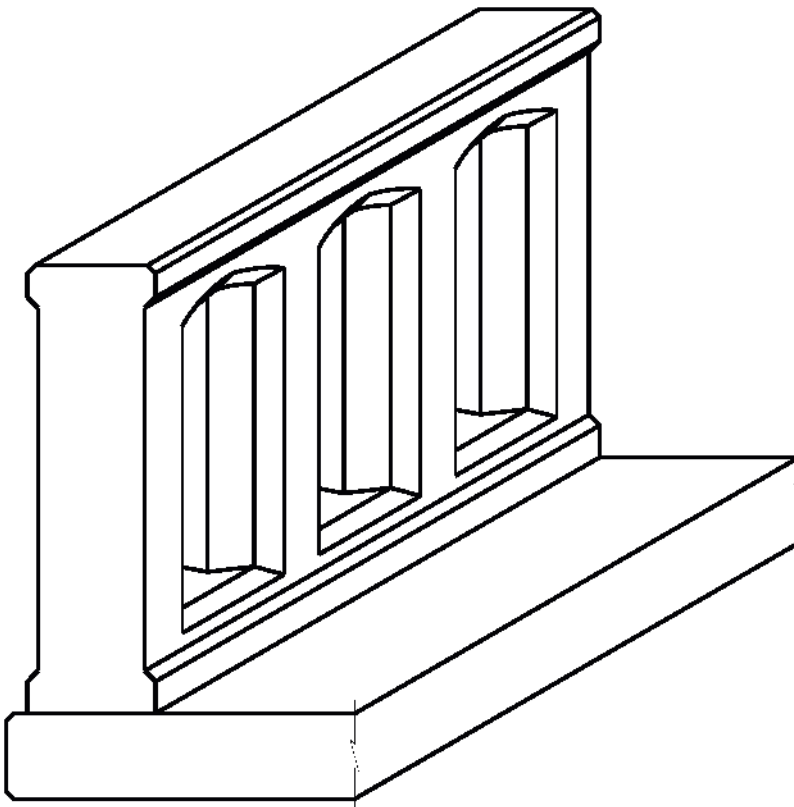


Figure A-30. Type C411 Railing

Traffic Railing Type C412

| | |
|--|--|
| Classification | Combination |
| Description | Continuous concrete railing that has 6-inch-wide windows spaced every 18 inches, center to center. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Successfully crash-tested and approved for NCHRP 350 TL-4 . |
| Nominal height | 42 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 42 inches |

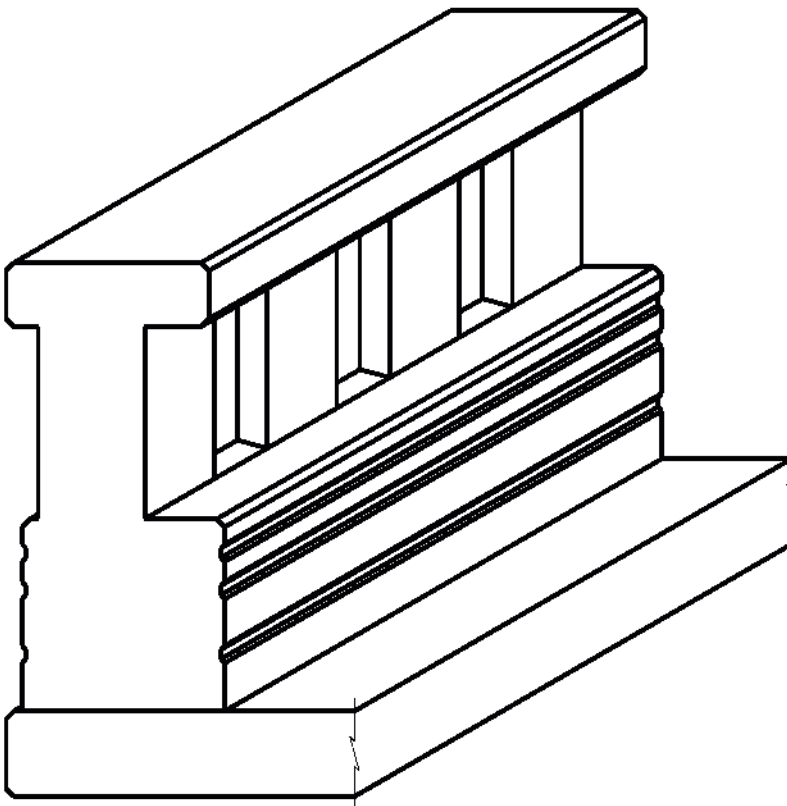


Figure A-31. Type C412 Railing

Traffic Railing Type T80TT

| | |
|--|---|
| Classification | Traffic |
| Description | 90-inch-high continuous concrete railing with a 42-inch-tall single-slop base topped with a 48-inch-tall wall and beam. |
| Approved test criteria and level | Evaluated and approved for MASH TL-6. It is derived from the Type TT railing, which was successfully crash-tested to NCHRP 350 TL-6 criteria. |
| Nominal height | 90 inches |
| Minimum height after maintenance overlays | 90 inches |
| Special notes | This railing is not issued as a TxDOT standard railing type. Non-standard slab details are required for this railing. |

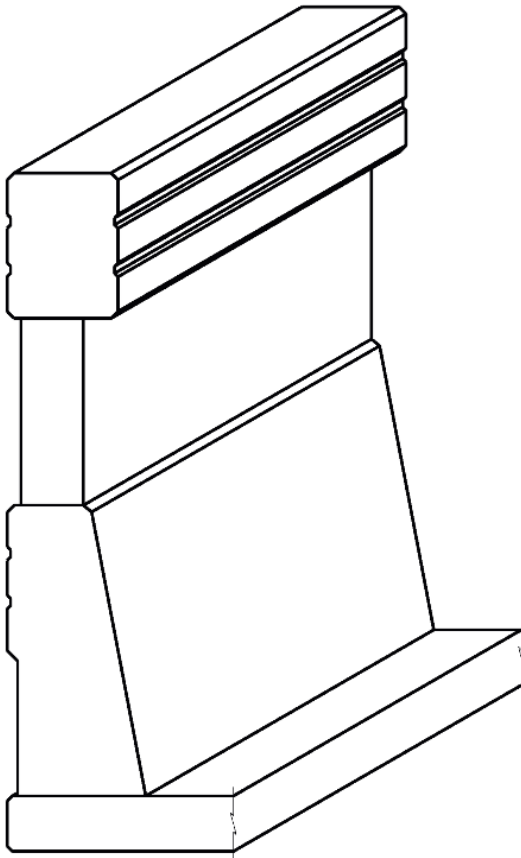


Figure A-32. Type T80TT Railing

Appendix B — Acceptable Placement of Bridge Railing for Vehicular and Non-vehicular Traffic

Contents:

[Section 1 — Overview](#)

[Section 2 — Placement of Bridge Railing](#)

Section 1 — Overview

Introduction

The following section provides depictions of acceptable placement of bridge railing for structures carrying vehicular and non-vehicular traffic, either separately or in combination.

Refer to Chapter 2, "Policies on Use of Bridge Railing for Vehicular Traffic," and Chapter 3, "Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Requirements for Bridge Railing," for policy on use of bridge railing.

Bridge railings shown in the following figures are for example only. The bridge railing selected for a specific structure must meet all policy outlined in this Manual.

Section 2 — Placement of Bridge Railing

Bridges Carrying Vehicular Traffic Only

Both high-speed and low-speed bridges carrying vehicular traffic only must have a traffic or combination rail on both outside edges. The type of railing used is dependent on the posted or design speed of the bridge, whichever is greater.

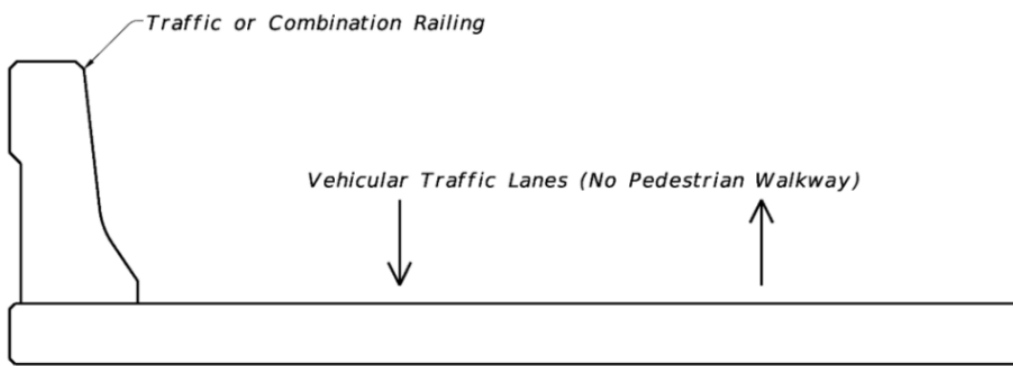


Figure B-1. Bridge railing for vehicular traffic only

Bridges Carrying Vehicular and Non-vehicular Traffic - Low Speed Facilities

Low speed bridges carrying both vehicular and non-vehicular traffic require a combination railing on the outside edge of bridge, adjacent to all pedestrian walkways, if a separator railing is not provided. If a separator railing is not provided, a raised pedestrian walkway is required. A separator railing is not required on low-speed bridges, but may be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a separator railing is provided, refer to Figure B-3 for railing placement.

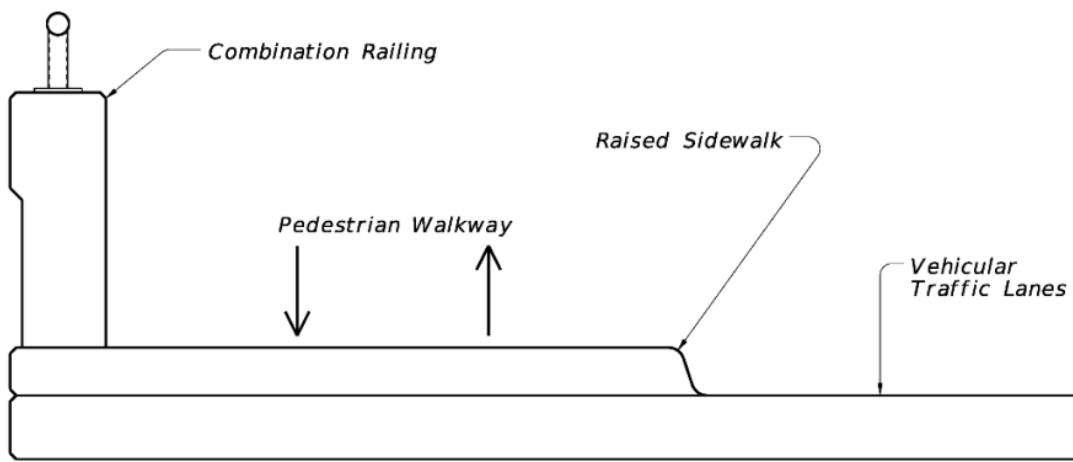


Figure B-2. Bridge railing for vehicular and non-vehicular traffic -- low speed

Bridges Carrying Vehicular and Non-vehicular Traffic - High Speed Facilities

High speed bridges carrying both vehicular and non-vehicular traffic require a separator railing between all vehicular traffic lanes and pedestrian walkways. The separator railing may be a traffic or combination railing. The outside edges of the bridge require a combination or pedestrian railing adjacent to the pedestrian walkway. If the outside edge of bridge does not have an adjacent pedestrian walkway, a traffic or combination rail is acceptable.

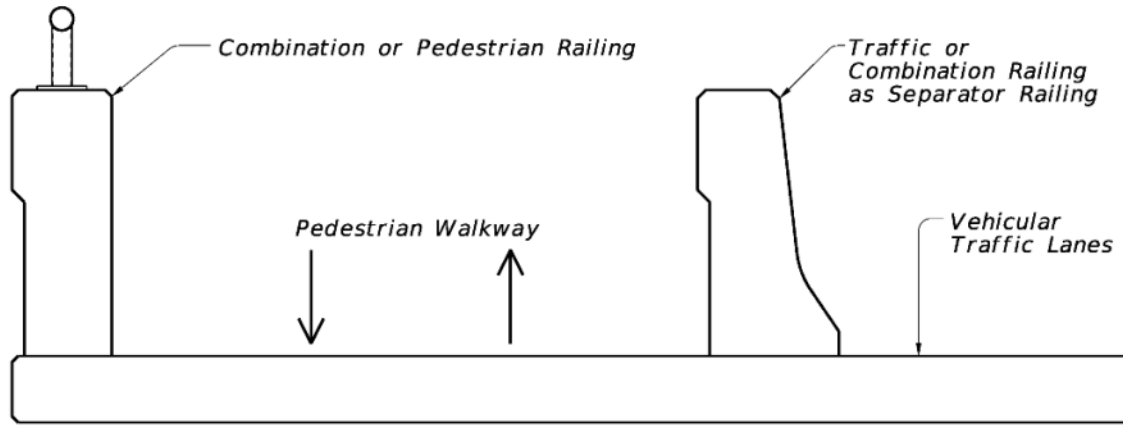


Figure B-3. Bridge railing for vehicular and non-vehicular traffic -- high speed

Bridge Carrying Non-vehicular Traffic Only

Bridges carrying non-vehicular traffic only must have a combination or pedestrian rail on both outside edges.

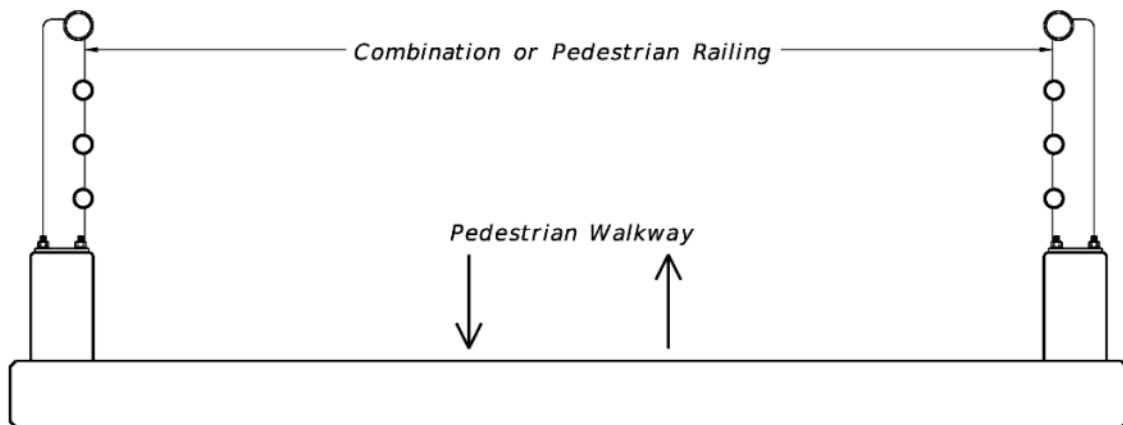


Figure B-4. Bridge railing for non-vehicular traffic only