DEPUTY DIRECTIVE

Number: DD-50

Refer to Director's Policy: 03-Safety and Health

Effective Date: 3-15-96

Supersedes: New

Title: Installation of Barrier on Two- or Three-Lane Facilities

INTERIM POLICY

The Department will continue to install barriers on freeways, expressways, and multilane conventional highways when studies initiated by the median barrier monitoring system identify the installation as the appropriate and best solution. On two- or three-lane facilities installation of a barrier may be approved on a case-by-case basis when all other reasonable options have been evaluated. Monitoring of cross center line accidents on two- and three-lane highways will be initiated as part of the evaluation process. The evaluation report shall be approved by the District Director or the District Division Chief for Traffic Operations.

Installation on two- or three-lane facilities further depends on meeting all or most of the following minimum criteria:

1. An apparent increasing trend of severe cross-center-line accidents;

2. The normal long-term improvements such as adding lanes or facility upgrading are not immediately viable options due to funding or environmental constraints;

3. Other reasonable options such as buffer zone, barrier striping etc., have already proven ineffective at the location under study;

4. Operational features of the roadway include high speeds, high volumes, minimal ingress/egress, and few intersections;

5. After installation the roadway meets all minimum design standards as outlined by the State and Local Project Development Program.

BACKGROUND

Historically, barrier is not used on two- or three-lane roadways. In the past these facilities have been upgraded to multilane roadways or freeways as warranted by traffic volumes. However, with funds to provide upgraded improvements diminishing, the placement of a barrier may be an interim option if all other alternatives have not proven effective at reducing head-on accidents.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Traffic Operation Program Manager will:

- Approve the installation of barrier, case-by-case, based on input from all other responsible parties.
- Develop final departmental policy.

The State and Local Project Development Program Manager will provide the Program Manager for Traffic Operations with documented approval that the proposed barrier project meets the minimum criteria within his/her functional area.

District Directors will:

- Provide the program manager for Traffic Operations and the program manager for Project Development with all documentation required to meet the interim policy.
- Meet all other departmental directives to support any project resulting from this interim policy.

APPLICABILITY

All Caltrans employees involved with the development of barrier projects on two- or three-lane facilities.

ANDREW POAT
Deputy Director