

Date: April 15, 2014

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning and Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All Regional Managers, Engineering
All Regional Traffic Engineers
All District Managers, Transportation
All District Operations Managers

Subject: Guardrail Program

Purpose:

To confirm Ministry policy for selecting the location of new guardrail on numbered highways.

Background:

The Ministry established an annual Guardrail Program in 1977. This is a provincial program intended to place roadside barrier at new locations on numbered provincial routes where the guardrail warrant index is 90 or greater.

The Guardrail Warrant Index was established in December 1977. The warrant index is a measure of the degree of need for guardrail on the shoulder of a highway. The warrant index takes into account such data as road alignment, grade, fill height, fill slope, shoulder width, traffic volume and climatic conditions.

Policy:

The Guardrail Program is intended to address the following:

- barrier placed on the roadside;
- new locations with a guardrail warrant index of 90 or greater;
- locations on numbered routes;
- extensions of existing barrier through warranted locations (not just flares);
- data collection and analysis of potential locations.

The Guardrail Program is not intended to address the following:

- locations with a guardrail warrant index of less than 90;
- locations on minor roads, local roads or unnumbered routes;
- median barrier installations;
- upgrading of existing installations with flares;
- bridge flares;
- replacing older style barrier (18" or w-beam);
- replacing damaged barrier;
- locations identified solely by fatal accidents or Coroners reports;
- locations that will receive repaving or other major works, in the near future.

For locations not covered by the Guardrail Program, contact Regional Manager, Engineering.

Guardrail Warrant Index:

Figure 610.A. Roadside Barrier Index Nomograph of the *BC Supplement to TAC Geometric Design Guide* shall be used to determine the warrant index.

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