



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 2-23

TO: Chief District Engineers
KYTC Central Office Directors
Project Development Branch Managers
Active Consultants

FROM: Tim Layson, P.E., Director *WTL*
Division of Highway Design

DATE: June 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Update of KYTC's Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)-16 Implementation
Temporary Concrete Barriers

Design Memorandum 03-19 addressed Implementation of MASH-16. At the time the memo was released, it was estimated that there would be a MASH-16 compliant Portable Concrete Barrier (PCB) tested and approved and that a cut-off date of June 30, 2024 would allow the industry to be able to supply enough of the new PCB wall to meet the needs.

Midwest Pooled Fund program – which helps fund MwRSF research and of which KYTC is member – is currently conducting research to develop a non-proprietary PCB that will meet MASH TL-3 safety criteria. With current testing backlog at the facilities stretching up to two years, the goal that was previously established will need to be adjusted.

Based on FHWA guidance and technical assistance from the Kentucky Transportation Center, we have adjusted our guidance on the use of the Temporary Concrete Barrier Wall as follows:

- 1) 9T-Wall in good condition may be used beyond the previously established date of June 30, 2024.
- 2) Subsequent to KYTC's approval of MASH-16 PCB, 9T-Wall will continue to be allowed for use for a 2-year transitional period. The very next letting date following this 2-year period, 9T- Wall will not be allowed to be used on any newly awarded projects. The 9T-Wall will continue to be used on any ongoing projects.
- 3) Potentially compromised 9T-Wall segments may no longer be used on any projects and must be removed from service. Construction contractors and KYTC personnel must inspect 9T-Wall closely to determine if unacceptable damage will compromise its performance.

- 4) Work zone crashes involving the 9T-Wall will continue to be monitored to ensure performance remains at satisfactory levels and if not, select a MASH-16 compliant PCB and expedite its application in work zones.

Upon KYTC's acceptance of an approved non-propriety temporary barrier wall, a memo will be issued announcing a date for the termination of allowable use of the current 9T-Wall.