

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

DESIGN GUIDES FOR ROADSIDE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TASK 1

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Geometric Standards and Development Unit Traffic Research and Development Section Traffic and Safety Division

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Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation Roadside Safety Improvement Program Task 1

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Design Guides

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The sole objective of Task 1 is to replace existing exposed steel beam guardrail endings on the state trunkline system with the buffer end-section, and to do this as rapidly as resources allow. It is understood that at many guardrail installations there is other work that ought to be done, but increasing the amount of work at one installation will delay the removing of exposed endings at others. So the work to be done under Task 1 is strictly limited; the balance of the work needed will be undertaken in Tasks 2 and 3.

Task 2 will be the improving of structure approach guardrail and, as necessary, the reconstruction of the structure railing to meet current standards.

Task 3 will be a complete improvement of the roadside to current standards, considering all items, not just guardrail. Most of the work done under Task 1 will be negated by the work done under Task 3. A guardrail installation treated under Task 1 cannot be considered to have necessarily been brought up to "Yellow Book" standards.

In applying these Design Guides for Task 1, it is important to keep in mind the objective of Task 1. Since these guides are to be used to determine the proper treatment for thousands of existing guardrail installations, there will be situations in which strict adherence to the guides will be detremental to the objective. In such situations, the investigator must adjust the guides, using his engineering judgement, as necessary to best achieve the objectives.

END SECTIONS

All exposed guardrail endings on two-way roadways and on the approach end of one-way roadways will be replaced with a buffer end-section and, if necessary, a curved guardrail section, in accordance with Standard Plan (Special Detail) ____.

An "exposed guardrail ending" is an ending which has the potential of penetrating the vehicle on an end-on impact and that is a position where an end-on impact is possible.

The most common types of endings that have the potential of penetrating the vehicle are flared or curved end sections and blunt endings. Neither buried end-section nor the lower rail of Type C or CD guardrail are considered "exposed guardrail endings."

An ending is not in "a position where an end-on impact is possible" if there is an obstruction in the vehicle's path that will prevent it from hitting the guardrail ending head-on, or if the guardrail is turned so that the ending does not face oncoming drivers on the trunkline, or if some other situation exists such that an endon impact is improbable. See sheet $\underline{7}$. On divided highways, the trailing end of a median guardrail installation should be treated under Task 1 if the existing ending is 30 ft or less from the inside edge of the opposing roadway.

OTHER WORK

In addition to treating the guardrail endings, the investigator should recommend that a minor amount of additional work be done, when such work is expected to greatly improve the protection provided to the motoring public. The types of additional work the investigator may recommend are discussed below.

- 1. <u>Guardrail Removal</u>. All unwarranted guardrail installations shall be removed; some of the other work described below may be recommended so as to eliminate the guardrail warrant. Guardrail is not warranted when the roadside is cleared, within the limits set below, of all obstacles from which the motorist needs protection for these slopes:
 - a) Foreslope of 1 on 4 or flatter: Clear roadside for 30 ft from the edge of pavement.
 - b) Foreslope of 1 on 4 to 1 on 3; maximum height of fill of 20 ft: Clear roadside on the slope and the first 10 ft of the backslope and within 30 ft from the edge of pavement.

However, the guardrail may still be warranted if an overlyhazardous situation exists at the toe of the slope, such as a V-ditch, water, trees, or a backslope of 1 on 2 or steeper.

- 2. <u>Guardrail Extensions</u>. Occasionally existing guardrail installations may be extended under the three conditions listed below. If the existing guardrail is Type A or Type B, the extension shall be Type B. If the existing guardrail is Type C the extension shall be Type C. Structure approach guardrail will be treated under Task 2, and so will not be extended under Task 1.
 - A guardrail installation may be extended up to 100 ft on either end if necessary to provide adequate protection from an obstacle. The guardrail should extend at least 50 ft from either side of the obstacle.
 - b) A guardrail installation less than 100 ft in length should be lengthened to 100 ft, 50 ft on either side of the obstacle. If the installation to be lengthened is less than 21 in. high, measured to the top of the rail, the entire installation should be replaced.
 - c) If the opening between two successive guardrail installations would be less than 150 ft after the Task 1 treatment is applied, the guardrail should be extended to close the gap. In doing so, however, the access rights of the abutting property owner must be protected; driveways, field entrances, cattle crossings, and in some cases pedestrian openings, generally cannot be closed.

The dimensions given above do not include the buffer end section. It will often be necessary to adjust those dimensions as existing conditions dictate.

- 3. <u>Minor Grading</u>. Minor grading to eliminate the warrant for guardrail can occasionally be done, depending on the capabilities of the agency doing the work. Such work could include flattening slopes to 1 on 3 or flatter (1 on 4 desirable) up to 100 cubic yards of fill. (Sheet $\frac{\partial}{\partial}$). Subbase and roadside drainage and erosion control must be maintained or restored.
- 4. <u>Culvert Endings</u>. Occasionally a guardrail installation can be eliminated by replacing a culvert headwall with a culvert end section. For Task 1, culverts up to 36 in. diameter may be so treated (Standard Plans IV-86A and IV-88A). For culverts of 24 in. diameter or greater, a grate shall also be required unless the culvert end section is 20 ft or more from the edge of pavement. Culverts that must be extended as a result of minor grading shall have a culvert end section.
- 5. <u>Inlet Covers</u>. Any Inlet Cover E that is found in a driveable area shall be replaced with an Inlet Cover G (Standard Plan I-12A).

TASK 2 INVENTORY

A CONTRACTOR

When the information required for Task 1 is gathered in the field, the inventory required for Task 2 will also be obtained.

This inventory must include enough information about each structure and box culvert so that the proper approach guardrail and structure railing system can be designed: the type of existing structure railing; the length of existing guardrail; structure, pavement, and shoulder widths; the foreslope for each quadrant, to the point where it is 1 on 3 or flatter; culverts in the vicinity of the structures; and railroad grade crossings, driveways, or other items that would restrict the length of guardrail that can be installed.

The normal lengths of guardrail to be installed at structure approaches are shown on sheet $\frac{12}{2}$. A sample of the type of data needed on this inventory is shown on sheets $\frac{10\xi}{1}$. The structure

approach guardrail system, including structural anchorages, revised structure railing, and impact attenuators, if any, will be designed in the office.

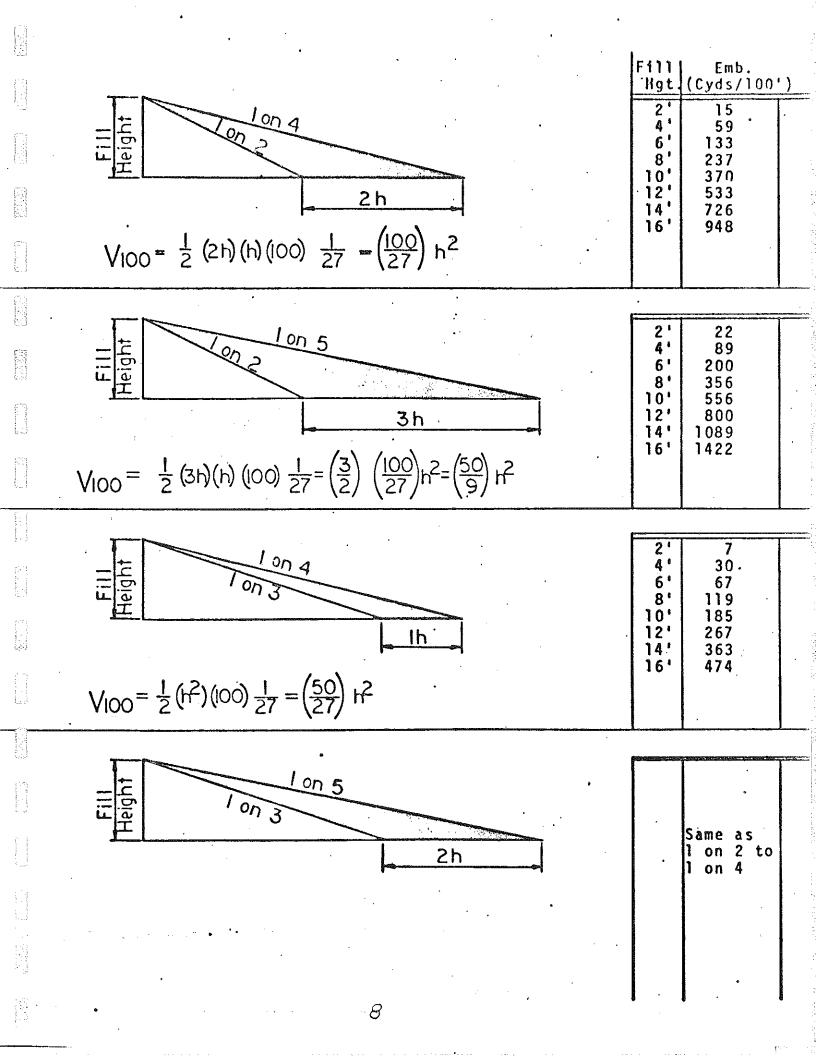
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Rem I eq. End Shoe 12.5 ft. - Beam GR Rem. I eq. End Shoe Install 12.5 A. - Galv. Curved Beam 12.5 A - Beam GR, GR., Type B (50'R) Install 12.5 ft. - Galv, Curved Beam I eq. - Buffered End Section GR, Type B (50'R) 1 ea. Buffer End Section Exist R.O.W Exist Pedestrian -Walkway or Drive Exist ____ GR; (Type __) Exist ____ GR. (Type ___) Opening. Trunkline Ex. ____ GR (Type ___) Ex. ____ GR (Type __) Exist R.O.W.L Exist. R.O.W. Ľ, * ounty Rem. I eg. - Fnd Shoe ¥. Install leg-Buffer End Section * If the distance from the state-owned R.O.W is less than 50', replace existing end shoe with buffer end section. AUTH. NO. DRAWN STATE OF MICHIGAN CONT. SEC. DATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS SCALE REF. TRAFFIC & SAFETY DIVISION 7 of SHEET PLAN

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GUARDRAIL REMOVAL AS RELATED TO CULVERTS

TASK 1

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CULVERTS UP TO 36 INCH DIAMETER: REMOVE HEADWALL, EXTEND AND ADD CULVERT END SECTION.

> For culverts of 24 inches diameter or greater, a grate shall be added unless 20 feet or more from edge of pavement.

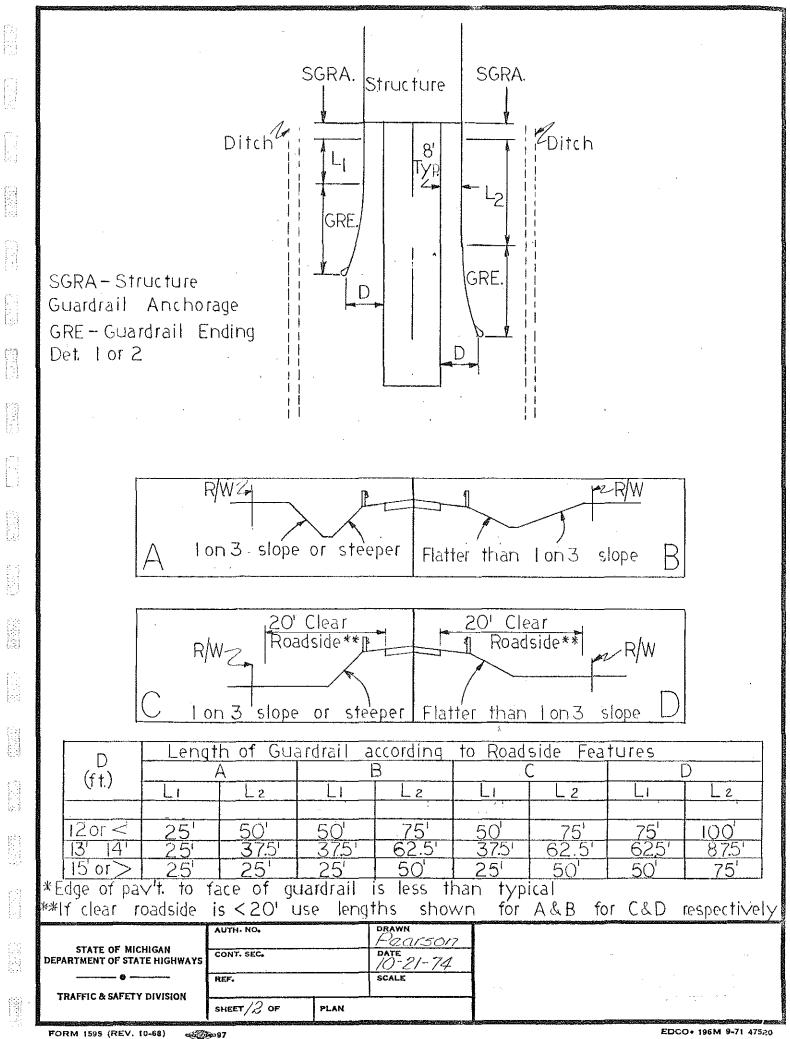
Rem. I ea, End Shoe Install 12,5 ft. Galv. Curved Ex. ____ of GR, (Type __) ream Coad Name Beam GR, Type B (50'R) I ea Buffer End Sect. Ion3 Ion4 Rem leg - End Shoe lon3 lonz Install lea. Buffer End Section Ex. _ ' of GR, (Type _)) Ex. _ of GR, (Type _) | lon 2 lon 3 Ex. ____ of GR. (Type_) w/Buried End B.E. lon3 lon2 Rem. I ea. End Shoe Install leg - Buffer End Section 5 # of Control Section No Reference No. if Struc # not assigned. Provide information shown on supplemental sheet DRAWN AUTH, NO. STATE OF MICHIGAN CONT. SEC. DATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS REF. SCALE TRAFFIC & SAFETY DIVISION SHEET / OF PLAN

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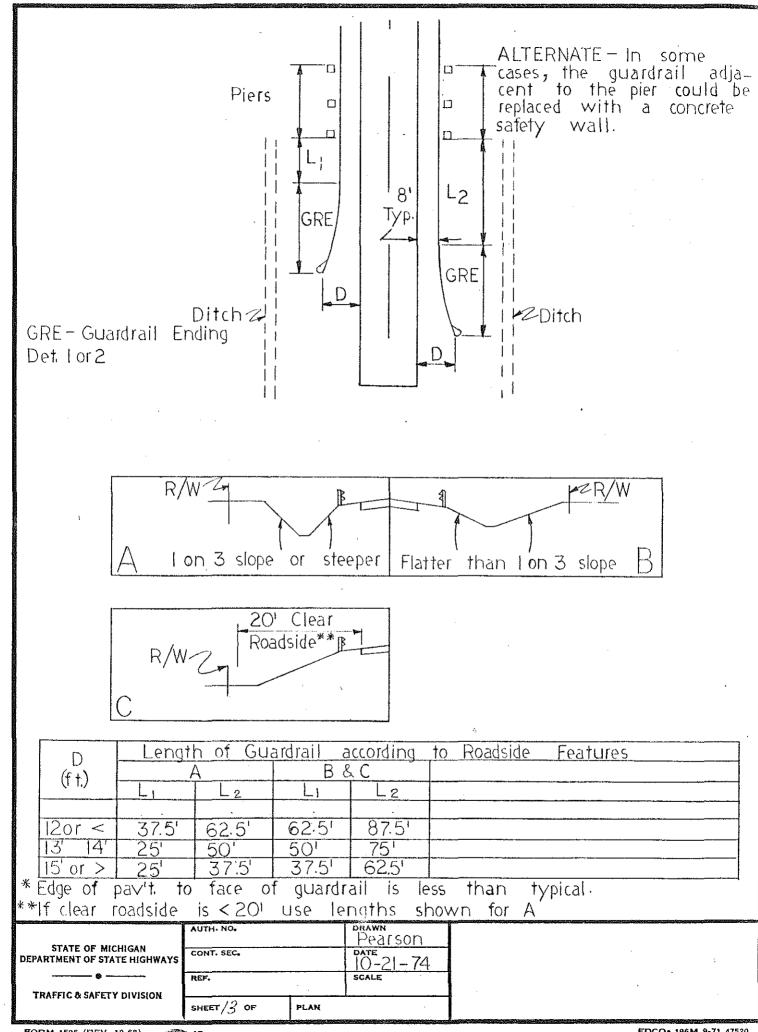
Item or Structure No. Control Section Route No. Bridge Safety Walk -Railing Roadway Width CROSS-SECTION PLAN 1. Structure Length_____ft. 2. Roadway Width _____ft. 3. Width of Safety Walk _____ft. ____in. (North or East side) ft_____in. (South or West side) 4. Type of Bridge Railing _____ a. Parapet_____ b. 2 or 3 Tube_____ D. C or S IUDE [C. Conc. Posts W/ Fabricated Railing [d. Steel " " e. Concrete Wall .---f. Other (include sketch or photo) _____ AUTH. NO. DRAWN Supplemental Sheet for STATE OF MICHIGAN CONT, SEC. DATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS REF. SCALE Structures TRAFFIC & SAFETY DIVISION SHEET // OF PLAN

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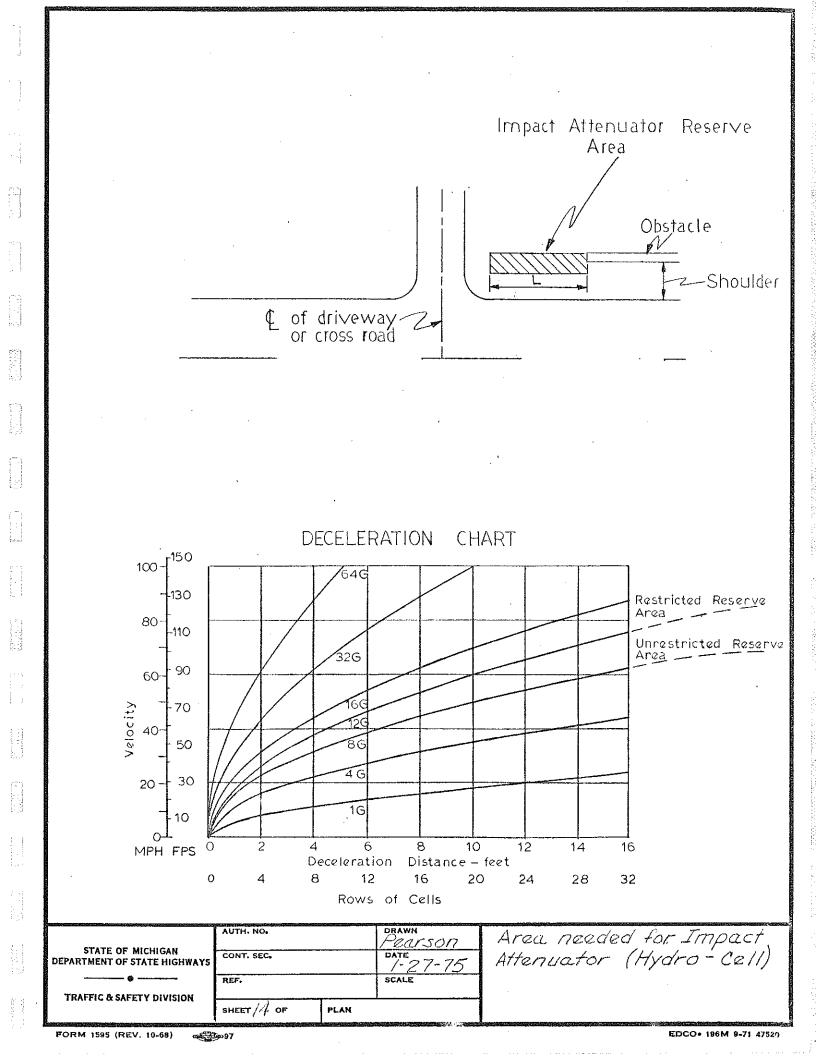


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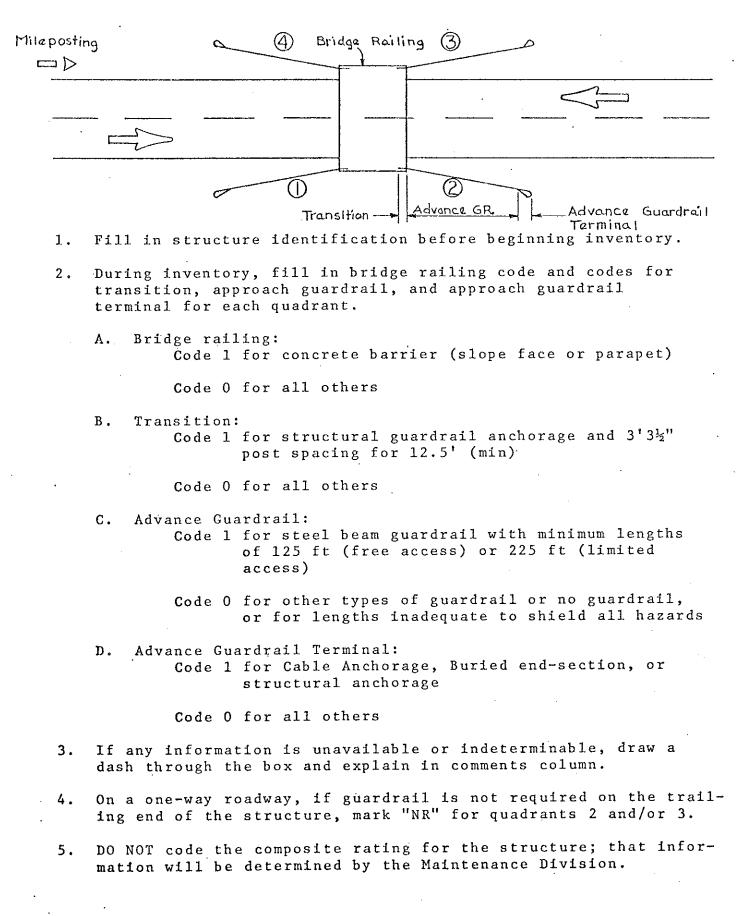


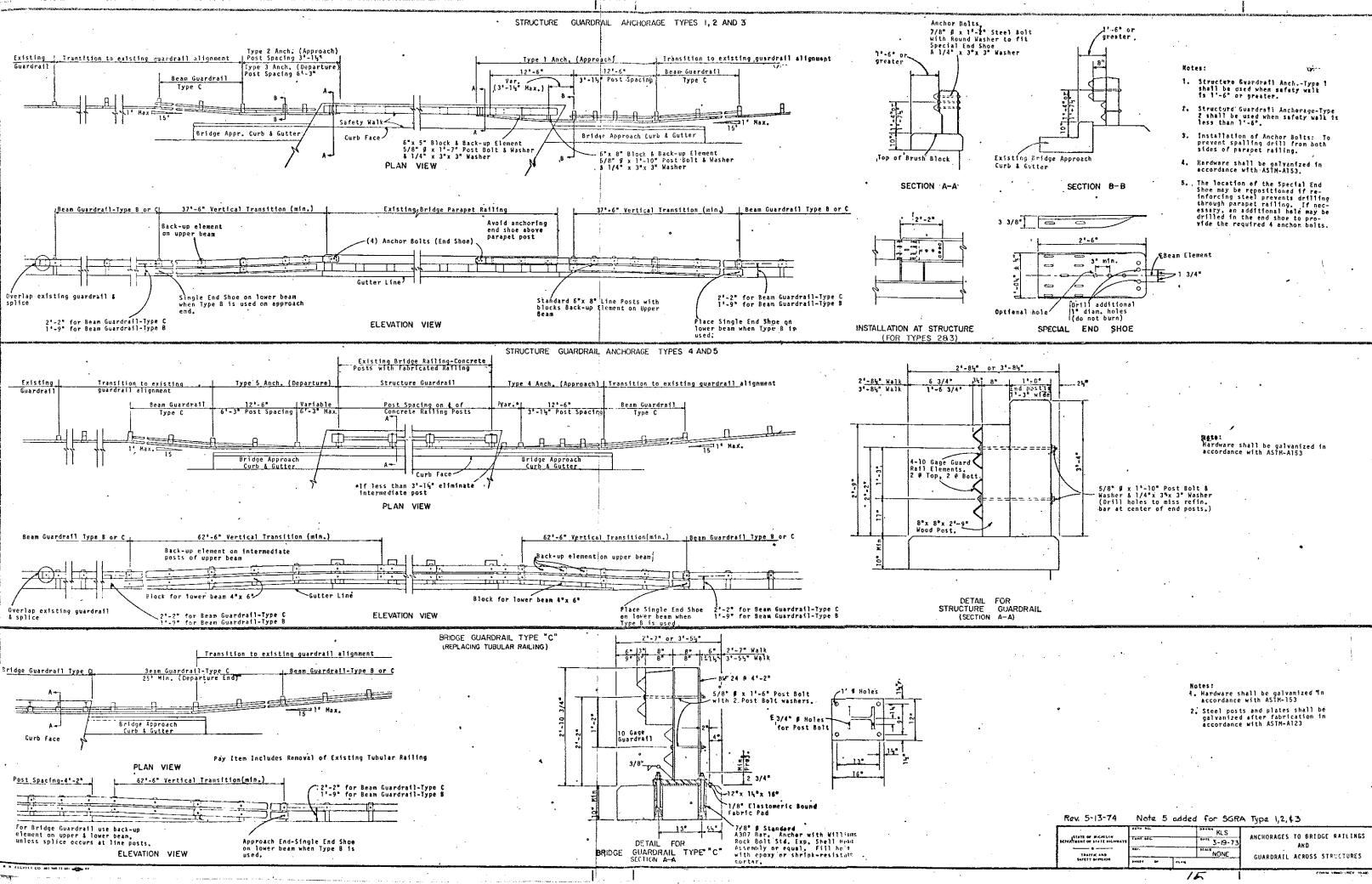
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INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR NATIONAL BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM BRIDGE RAILING AND GUARDRAIL INVENTORY





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