



Office of Engineering  
Project Development Division  
Bridge Design Section  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
Phone: 225-379-1302

John Bel Edwards, Governor  
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL BRIDGE DESIGNERS - IN-HOUSE AND CONSULTANTS

FROM: ZHENGZHENG "JENNY" FU, P.E. *ZJF*  
BRIDGE DESIGN ENGINEER ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: BRIDGE DESIGN TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM NO. 95 (BDTM.95) -  
CONCRETE MEDIAN BARRIER POLICY - UPDATE

DATE: September 17, 2020

Effective immediately, this BDTM revises the language of the DOTD Bridge Design and Evaluation Manual, Part II, Volume 4, Section 2.3.3. Under Section 2.3 "Median Barrier Design," Section 2.3.3 is deleted and replaced with the following:

**2.3.3 - Concrete Barrier**

**A concrete barrier consists of a double-sided single slope shape with a reinforced cast-in-place concrete footing independent of the roadway/shoulder section. The concrete barrier height shall be a minimum of 42 inches, and shall be at least Test Level 4 (TL-4). A 54-inch tall barrier may be permissible when justified in the design report. Design forces shall be in accordance with the current AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.**

**If the project site involves horizontal curves with superelevation, the designer shall take into consideration the different roadway vertical elevations on each side of the median when designing the barrier. Site specific concrete barrier designs and details are typically required in these conditions in order to maintain the required barrier height. If barrier height increases to become outside of allowances already considered in the design, the structural design shall be checked for the required design loads.**

This technical memorandum is posted on the LA DOTD Website under *Inside La DOTD > Divisions - Engineering > Bridge Design > Technical Memoranda – BDTMs.*

Please contact Kelly Kemp (225-379-1809, [kelly.kemp@la.gov](mailto:kelly.kemp@la.gov)) if you have questions or comments.

ZZF/kmk

Attachments

Cc: Christopher P. Knotts (Chief Engineer)  
Edward Wedge (Deputy Engineer Administrator)  
Chad Winchester (Chief, Project Development Division)  
Vince Latino (Assistant Secretary of Operations)  
David Miller (Chief Maintenance Administrator)  
Nick Fagerburg (Bridge Maintenance Administrator)  
Mike Vosburg (Chief Construction Division Engineer)  
Brian Owens (Construction Engineer Administrator)  
Brian Kendrick (Project Management Director)  
Chris Nickel (Pavement and Geotechnical Engineer Administrator)  
David Smith (Road Design Engineer Administrator)  
Art Aguirre (FHWA Division Bridge Engineer)  
District Administrators  
ADAs of Engineering and Operations  
District Bridge Engineers and Area Engineers