

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Statewide Design & Engineering Services Division

TO: Distribution

DATE: November 24, 2008

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FROM: Roger Healy, P.E.
Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: **Chief Engineer's Directive-
Crashworthy Railroad
Traffic Control Devices and
Avalanche Gate Supports**

Incorporate the following on all projects advertised after January 18, 2009:

Advance Railroad Flashers

Install all advance railroad flashers (those in advance of primary flashers at crossings) on NCHRP-350-compliant crashworthy bases.

Exceptions: crashworthy bases are not required for advance flashers installed outside the clear zone or when shielded by 350-compliant crash cushion or barrier.

Supports for Avalanche Gates, Railroad Gates, and Railroad Flashers

Install NCHRP 350-compliant crash cushions or barrier to shield all non-crashworthy support structures for avalanche gates, railroad gates, and railroad flashers.

Exceptions: crash cushions or barrier are not required for the above listed support structures for protection from reverse direction hits (from the far lane) on two way roads, or when

- the speed limit is 50 MPH or slower,
- the support structure is located outside the clear zone,
- the support structure is installed on a road that has a STOP sign controlled intersection within 400' of the gate or flasher.

Use the guidance in the Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual to evaluate whether to install crash cushions or barrier to shield traffic signal poles or supports for avalanche gates, railroad gates, or railroad flashers in situations where this directive does not mandate their installation.

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