



TASK FORCE 13...Who Are We?

TaskForce13 or TF13 is a Joint Cooperative Committee of AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials), ARTBA (American Road & Transportation Builders Association), and AGC (The Associated General Contractors of America). TF13 is the longest standing of all existing Task Forces. The Task Force is made up of individuals from industry, the research community, academia, States and the FHWA.

The objective of TF13 is to develop, recommend, and promote standards for bridge and road hardware to ensure optimum function, aesthetics, and economy. The Task Force operates via co-chairs within TF13. The Task Force and our subcommittees are made up of a State and an Industry person and act as an Executive Committee. The subcommittees are as follows:

- #1 Publication Maintenance
- #2 Barrier Hardware
- #3 Bridge Railing & Transition Hardware
- #4 Drainage Hardware
- #5 Sign, Luminaire & Traffic Signal Support Hardware
- #6 Work Zone Hardware
- #7 Certification of Test Facilities
- #8 Rail Highway Crossing Hardware
- Special Subcommittee – Marketing
- Special Subcommittee - New Standardization Areas

TF13 meets twice a year, in the Spring and in the Fall. Since 2009, our Spring meeting has been in conjunction with TRB Committee AFB20, Committee on Roadside Safety Design. And since 1998, our Fall meeting has been in conjunction with the AASHTO Technical Committee on Roadside Safety. Typically, over 75 members regularly attend both annual TF13 meetings but the entire Task Force is made up of over 250 individuals.

TF13 has been responsible for the development of numerous Standardized Guides covering the areas of Roadside Barrier & Bridge Rail Hardware, Highway Light Pole Hardware, Small Sign Support Hardware, and Highway Drainage Products. The most widely used is "A Guide to Standardized Highway Barrier Hardware", which was first published in 1971. It was then revised/reissued in 1973, 1979 and 1995. Now all of our guides are on-line at www.aashtotf13.org. In 2011 the AASHTO Roadside Design Guide will be updated and will reference TF13 on-line Guides as the source for current information on highway hardware.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.aashtotf13.org> and we hope to see you at our 2011 meetings.

John C. Durkos
October 2010





TASK FORCE 13 SUBCOMMITTEES

Currently Task Force 13 is working toward completing eight near-term goals. The effort to accomplish these goals is delegated to eight active subcommittees, each chaired and attended by representatives whose particular talents and experience are well suited toward accomplishing the goal.

MISSION STATEMENTS FOR SUBCOMMITTEES

Mission statements were taken from the TF13 web site. Co-chairs, please review and update the web site as needed.

SUBCOMMITTEE #1 - PUBLICATIONS MAINTENANCE:

To develop and promote a standard method of delivery and maintenance for Task Force 13 publications. A long-term goal for this Subcommittee is obtaining AASHTO's support in this process for all publications. The committee was formed in 2000.

SUBCOMMITTEE #2 - BARRIER HARDWARE:

To oversee the compilation, update, and maintenance of data on barrier systems and assure conveyance of the information in a user friendly medium. The primary product of this committee is "A Guide To Standardized Highway Barrier Hardware." The purpose of this guide is to provide users (barrier researchers, public and private sector designers and engineers, manufacturers, and contractors) with standardized components for barrier systems and general information on proprietary devices.

SUBCOMMITTEE #3-BRIDGE RAILING AND TRANSITION HARDWARE:

To aid, oversee and participate in the preparation and maintenance of hardware guides for crashworthy bridge railing and approach guardrail transition systems. The successful completion of these guides will result in a clear and concise compilation of crash-tested bridge railing and transition systems for use by researchers, bridge and roadway engineers in public transportation agencies, consulting engineers, and hardware manufacturers.

SUBCOMMITTEE #4 - HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

PRODUCTS:

To develop, publish and update guidelines for currently used and accepted products intended to collect, convey and treat storm water runoff. The primary resultant of this subcommittee is "A Guide to Standardized Highway Drainage Products," 1999. The intended goal of this publication is to provide the end user a tool to design surface and subsurface highway drainage systems. The subcommittee will stay current of new market developments and convey the information through the publication.

SUBCOMMITTEE #5 - SIGN, LUMINAIRE & TRAFFIC SUPPORT HARDWARE:

To develop, disseminate, and maintain user friendly documents to provide users (researchers, designers, manufacturers, and contractors) with information on standardized hardware components for sign, luminaire and traffic signal supports. The Task Force 13 publications under the purview of the Subcommittee are "A Guide to Small Sign Support Hardware," 1998, and "A Guide to Standardized Highway Lighting Pole Hardware," 1980.

SUBCOMMITTEE #6 - WORK ZONE HARDWARE:

To provide support for the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse website which is used as a depository for highway work zone hardware. The subcommittee will provide a forum for the industry to express their concerns and views of work zone products.

SUBCOMMITTEE #7 - CERTIFICATION OF TEST FACILITIES:

To ultimately to improve the consistency and quality of crash test methods and measurement results between test laboratories. As recommended to the Federal Highway Administration, this mission quest requires crash test laboratories to become accredited by a third-party accreditation organization conforming to the general requirements of ISO Guide 58.

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Also central to this mission is the establishment of, and participation in, an interlaboratory collaboration and proficiency test program between crash test laboratories. Proficiency testing is also an important component of third party accreditation.

SUBCOMMITTEE # 8 - RAIL HIGHWAY CROSSING HARDWARE:

To foster communication between DOT's, designers of grade crossings and industry and centralize a source for design materials and hardware related to the design of Grade Crossings.

RESEARCH CENTER NEWS

◆ On May 17 the FHWA issued a memorandum on the minimum height of W-beam guardrail to be used in new installations. Recent research on standard 27" guardrail shows that it does not meet Test Level 3 criteria under NCHRP Report 350 or the AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware. The memo calls for revising state standards to require a minimum mounting height of 27 ¾ inches to the top of the rail for the standard strong steel post guardrail system, G4(1S). This can be done by specifying an installation target height of 29 inches with a permissible construction tolerance of plus or minus one inch above the pavement or nominal terrain. FHWA further recommended that the states seriously consider adopting one of the new 31-inch high w-beam guardrail systems. The generic Midwest Guardrail System, as well as three proprietary guardrail designs have been crash tested to meet TL-3 criteria and exhibit superior performance over the G4(1S) system.

The memo lists the various FHWA acceptance letters that have been written for the 31-inch barriers, as well as enumerating the end treatments that may be used with them.

Attached to the memo is a series of Frequently Asked Questions that deal with a number of barrier issues including weathering steel, substitution of parts, and shape of concrete barriers. A subsequent memo is planned that will address existing guardrail and will be coordinated closely with AASHTO's Technical Committee on Roadside Safety. [Click here](#) to download the memo.

◆ FAQ's can be downloaded at:
http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/qa_bttabr.cfm

◆ 22-14(03) – evaluation of existing roadside safety hardware using updated criteria – completed – Evaluation safety performance - for more info: www.trb.org/nchrp/public/nchrp.asp

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Keith Platte – AASHTO – Associate program director, project delivery replaces Jim McDonnell – Jim is now head of AASHTO Engineering – took Ken Kobetsky's place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting will be in Cleveland, Ohio, May 25-26, 2011 in conjunction with TRB Committee AFB20.

The Fall meeting will be in South Dakota in conjunction with AASHTO Technical Committee on Roadside Safety.

