

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROADWAY ENGINEERING GROUP
OFFICE MEMO

October 2, 1998

TO: Roadway Design Personnel
ADOT and Consultants

FROM: Terry H. Otterness
Design Program Manager
Roadway Design Section

RE: **Breakaway Cable Terminals (BCTs)**
Treatment of Existing BCTs on ADOT Projects

In conjunction with the FHWA Policy of utilizing only NCHRP 350 crash tested and approved guard rail end terminals effective October 1, 1998, the FHWA has issued an amendment stating that "BCTs should now be replaced with end treatments meeting NCHRP Report 350 criteria in conjunction with 3R work". This Policy was issued for projects on the National Highway System (NHS), however, there appears to be no rationale for applying the policy only on the NHS.

ADOT has elected to comply with the amendment recommendations and therefore we will need to change out BCTs on 3R type projects. 3R projects include primarily reconstruction projects, widening, and pavement preservation projects. Other minor projects which impact existing guard rails within the project limits should include the upgrades. Minor projects which are spot improvements that do not impact guard rail such as fencing, signing, striping, drainage, or other maintenance type projects, including seal coats and overlays one inch or less in thickness will **not** be required to upgrade BCTs.

EXCEPTION: There is one exception to replacement of BCTs on 3R Projects. **Where operating speeds are anticipated to be 30mph or less and reconstruction of the guard rail is not required, existing BCTs may remain in place.**

Please implement these modifications as needed on your ongoing projects in accordance with the above guidelines. Please incorporate these changes into projects advertised after October 1, 1998. The BCTs should be replaced with current NCHRP 350 approved guard rail end treatment alternates specified by Roadway Design Section. Please call us at 255-7341 if we can be of assistance.

Please distribute this memo within your Groups to Project Managers and designers.

c. Roadway Design; Valley Freeway Group; Maintenance Group; Eng. Consultants;
Statewide Project Mgmt; Local Government; Bridge Group; Contracts & Specs;
Traffic Engineering; Construction Group; Districts; Materials Group; FHWA;
Tom Schmitt; Wayne Collins