

VT Agency of Transportation: Roadside Safety Hardware Overview

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The VTrans design teams work to provide an area adjacent to the traveled way, called a clear zone, that is forgiving, recoverable, and free from hazards.

This clear zone distance is identified within the VT State Design Standards and is defined based on the type of project, type of roadway, the speed of vehicles, and the amount of traffic present on that roadway.

When this cannot be accomplished, physical barrier (ex. guardrail) is considered and may be installed in order to protect against the risks associated with leaving the roadway.



“CLEAR ZONE CONCEPT” – GENERAL OVERVIEW



ROADSIDE TOPOGRAPHY

MARCH 10, 2020

VT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY SAFETY & DESIGN SECTION
ROADSIDE SAFETY HARDWARE OVERVIEW





ROADSIDE FEATURES

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ROADSIDE SAFETY HARDWARE OVERVIEW





DRAINAGE STRUCTURES

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VT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY SAFETY & DESIGN SECTION
ROADSIDE SAFETY HARDWARE OVERVIEW



Roadside safety hardware is an essential component of maintaining a safe roadway and is often necessary due to the constraints that may be present within a project (cost, environmental impacts, Right-of-Way acquisition).

However, the installation of roadside safety hardware results in maintenance costs and responsibilities and is a roadway feature that may be impacted. Within the course of a design, our teams evaluate existing and potential future guardrail locations to ensure that they are installed only in locations where they are needed. Elimination of guardrail, is considered, and may be accomplished by flattening roadway embankments or removing/relocating fixed objects.

CLOSING