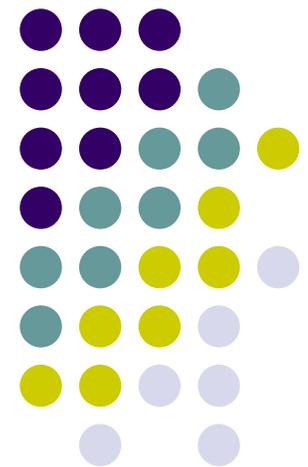


Highly-Mobile Barrier Systems to Protect Workers

Hyatt Regency at Capital Park
Sacramento, CA
July 12-13, 2005



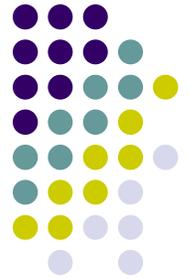
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration





Purpose

- Discuss and debate recent developments in highly-mobile barrier systems for worker and motorist protection
- Discuss and debate issues and criteria that should be considered in purchasing, renting, and/or deploying these devices



Discussion Topics

- What types of work zones and activities could benefit from the use of highly-mobile protection devices?
- When should such a system be used?
- How would a decision to require or to use a system be made?
- What characteristics does a protection system need to possess to make it viable and cost-effective? Which characteristics have the highest priority?



Discussion Topics (cont'd)

- What are the possible issues and constraints associated with the use of a particular protection system at a particular work zone on a particular roadway type?
- What other applications could these devices protect?
 - Utility applications?
 - Intersection work?
 - Buffers for accident investigation?



Priority Rankings

1. Bridge maintenance
2. Guardrail repair
3. Concrete slab replacement
4. Joint repair
5. Pothole patching
6. Crack sealing
7. Culvert/drain work
8. Traffic control
9. Asphalt overlay
10. Sign work
11. Core sampling
12. Signal work
13. Landscaping
14. Lighting work
15. Short-line striping
16. Surveying
17. Litter pick-up
18. Asphalt milling
19. RPM work
20. Sealcoating
21. Pavement profiling
22. Rumble strip installation
23. On-road equipment repairs
24. Level up
25. Retroreflectivity measurements

Site Factors Affecting Need for Protection



- Lack of “escape” route
- Accident data for activities
- Accident data for location
- Exposures measures (volumes, duration, vehicle mix, functional classification, etc.)
- Cost (importance of life-cycle)
- Proximity to hazard
- “Return-on-investment”

Device Selection Considerations



- Protection space requirements
 - Lateral
 - Longitudinal
- Accessibility to equipment and materials
- Mobility
- Deflection constraints
- Transportability
- Ease of installation

Other Miscellaneous Thoughts



- May be difficult to change institutional culture
 - Prototypes versus final product
 - Commitment at highest levels are critical
- States need an assessment process to follow
- Importance of versatility of equipment