



Summer Newsletter

Spring Meeting Recap– Lincoln, NE

Task Force 13 returned to Lincoln, NE April 16th-18th for the 12th year and 120th meeting, where 48 in-person and 25 virtual attendees met to discuss the latest updates and insights into the world of roadside hardware in the first of two biannual meetings.

Kicking off the event, attendees were treated to a TL-2 passive threat crash test conducted by the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility (MwRSF). Later that evening, the Midwest Pooled Fund Group, comprised of regional DOT officials from 22 member states in collaboration with MwRSF, teamed up with TF13 for their customary joint meeting. This virtually broadcasted meeting found DOT officials, research professionals, and industry leaders learning about the installation experience and concerns of culvert mounted guardrail, receiving updates on the continued research into the crashworthiness of sign supports and luminaire poles, and discussing the standardization, selection, and installation of crash cushions with a panel of manufacturers, distributors, and DOT members.

Over the next two days TF13 continued meeting to discuss topics widely ranging from managing the selection of new roadside hardware in congruence with delays in receiving FHWA eligibility letters, to efforts by GMU to validate simulation standards as an alternative to full scale crash testing. Members were also presented with updates on EV modeling, M180-23 implementation, and improvements to the hardware guide.

Notes on these and other intriguing meeting discussions will soon be posted on the [TF13 website](#).

⇒ Be sure to join us at the next meeting where attendees will have the chance to visit and view a crash test at the [Federal Outdoor Impact Laboratory \(FOIL\)](#).

Can't attend but feel like you're missing out? No worries!
Register and tune in virtually to the next meeting.



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Next TF13 Meeting

SAVE THE DATE:

October 14th - 16th 2025

LOCATION & HOST SITE:

Sterling, Virginia

FHWA's Turner-Fairbank
Highway Research Center

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Washington Dulles Airport
Marriott

Requests to be added to
Thursday's TF13 meeting agenda
for 15-minute Technical
Presentations must be made in
advance of the meeting.

Group Led, Volunteer Driven

As a non-profit organization, TF13 draws upon its expertise, adaptability, and integrity from the generosity of its members volunteering their time to provide essential leadership for the board and subcommittees. Subcommittee co-chairs, whether DOT or industry members, help facilitate discussion and promulgate information impacting the members of the subcommittee.

For the first time in TF13 history, all co-chair positions have been filled. This testament to the commitment and passion of our members creates the lasting legacy of invaluable contributions, both big and small, that cumulatively help propel the industry forward.

Newly Filled Vacancy:

⇒ SC #1: Publications Maintenance

Chad Heimbecker; Swiftwater Solutions, Inc.

- ◇ We are happy to welcome Chad as a new co-chair. Chad has a long history of involvement with TF13 and will help lead maintenance and improvement activities for the TF13 website & Hardware Guides.

Subcommittee Changes:

⇒ SC #11: Delineation now combined with SC #6: Work Zone Systems

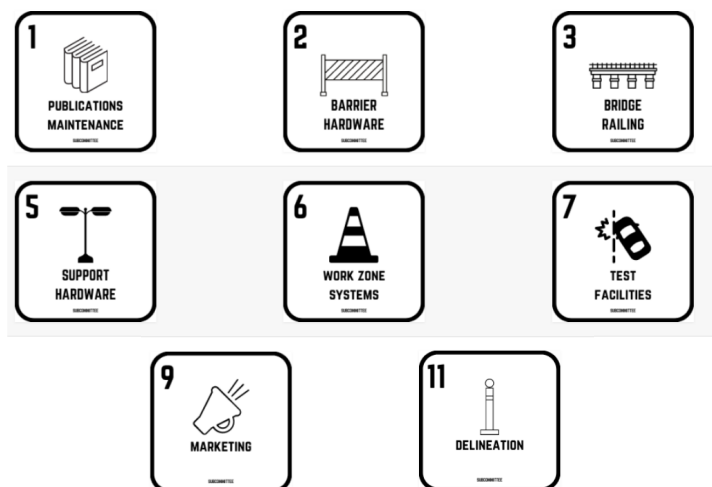
- ◇ With no major subcommittee updates since 2019 and as the most common work zone device, delineators will now be part of the overall work zone systems discussions.

Current Vacancy:

⇒ Vice President

If you are interested in fostering a bigger impact, consider filling the role of Vice President.

Please reach out directly to John Durkos at jdurkos@roadsystems.com for more information.



Hardware Guide & Related Updates

Stay informed! Visit the “Hardware Guide – Recent Updates” TF13 webpage for the latest additions and amendments to hardware systems, components, and drawings.

<https://tf13.org/guide-recent-updates/>

Recent Additions at a Glance:

- ◇ G-R-E-A-T System (obsolete)
- ◇ 2-Space Thrie-Beam Guardrail
- ◇ George Washington Memorial Parkway Masonry Stone-Faced Barrier
- ◇ Steel-Backed Timber Guardrail Median Type A
- ◇ Median Steel-Backed Timber Guardrail to Stone-Faced Median Barrier Transition
- ◇ Steel-Tube Bridge Railing to Stone-Faced Barrier Transition

AASHTO Roadside Design Guide Update

The AASHTO Technical Committee on Roadside Safety (TCRS) has completed its review of the first draft, with comments now being addressed by the contractor.

Next Steps:

- ◇ Review of the addressed comments and draft by The Committee on Design
 - ◇ Balloting the proposed Roadside Design Guide by TCRS & The Committee on Design
- ⇒ Expected Publish Date: Mid-2026

MASH 2016 Conversion to Performance Specification

Approved by AASHTO in 2021, the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) will be converted into a specification, with AASHTO now reviewing the first draft and experts providing the contractor with valuable input on key items.

Next Steps:

- ◇ Review of the full draft by TCRS expected to begin September 2025
 - ◇ Review and balloting of the new specification to be complete by Mid-2026
- ⇒ Expected Publish Date: Early 2027

TF13 Guide to Standardized Roadside Hardware

<https://tf13.org/guides/>

Links also available from
main website:

<https://tf13.org/>

Hardware Categories

Bridge Railings

Crash Cushions

End Treatments/
Terminals

Longitudinal Barriers

Sign Supports

Transition Systems

Work Zone Systems

Components

Industry Contacts/
Manufacturers

Updates You Care About

AASHTO M180-23: Path Forward

Continued discussions, driven by manufacturer concerns, has led to a combined effort between ATTSA and TF13 members to provide AASHTO with recommended changes to the existing M180-23 specification that would allow for manufacturing, roll out, and change over from M180-18. These recommendations are targeted to be provided late 2025 to AASHTO for their voting and approval. Changes, as approved, would be implemented in mid-2026.

Immediate Actions

- ⇒ AASHTO is relaying to State DOT's that non-compliance issues exist with the M180-23 version due to the base coil thickness requirements in the specification.
 - ◇ There is a proposal and consideration to revert to the previous M180-18 specification for base coil thickness.

FHWA Eligibility Letter Delays

Due to a large staffing reduction at the FHWA Office of Safety, concerns have arisen regarding the already extended time frame to receive eligibility letters for MASH tested products.

Current FHWA Operations

- ⇒ FHWA Office of Safety is still authoring FHWA Eligibility Letters with no intent to pass the responsibility to the state level.
- ⇒ Until recently, a significant change had been in place requiring the FHWA and a separate entity to co-sign and issue letters. It was unclear as to what entity had been providing the signature, but this added significantly to the delay in letters being issued. Hopefully, now, with FHWA given back authority to sign the letters, we will see some improvements.

Where Are They Now?

Role Transitions

- ◇ Dick Albin: *Resigned from FHWA; launched his own consulting firm, Albin Consulting LLC*
 - ⇒ While Dick Albin has dedicated his time to working with EKHO Infrastructure Solutions and Safe Roads R&D, he is available, at his discretion, to review or provide training in matters pertaining to roadside hardware.

dickalbin@albinllc.com

“I want to continue to work to improve road safety.”
-Dick Albin



Task Force 13 LinkedIn Group Page

Currently a private page, the new group will allow public access for anyone on or off LinkedIn to catch up on the latest news and activity.

- ⇒ Join us at the next TF13 meeting, October 14th-16th, for the Go-Live event.

Upcoming & Recent Industry Events

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| ⇒ TRB AKD20 Mid-Year Meeting; Providence, RI | August 10 th -13 th |
| ⇒ ATSSA Mid-Year Meeting; Milwaukee, WI | August 19 th -22 nd |
| ⇒ TF13 Fall Meeting; Sterling, VA | October 14 th -16 th |
| ⇒ AASHTO Annual Meeting; Salt Lake City, UT | November 17 th -20 th |
| ⇒ TRB Annual Meeting; Washinton, DC | January 11 th -15 th 2026 |
| ⇒ ATSSA Convention & Traffic Expo; Houston, TX | February 20 th -24 th 2026 |

Thank you to everyone who helped contribute and provide sources of information to include in this edition of the newsletter!