



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.  
Commissioner

January 3, 2018

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Users of the Virginia Department of Transportation's Road and Bridge Standards

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) developed new standards for the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) 31" guardrail system based on the Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), which was published February 16, 2017. The GR-MGS Standards are required for new guardrail installations on all projects going to Advertisement on or after September 12, 2017. Existing guardrail, within the project limits, shall be evaluated by the engineer utilizing Traffic Engineering's IIM-TE-366, which contains guardrail upgrade warrants.

The GR-2, GR-3, GR-7, GR-8, GR-9, and GR-11 standards may *not* be installed on projects advertised on or after September 12, 2017; however, they may be installed during spot repair work where approved for use. The VDOT standards for FOA(s), GR-6, and the GR-10 may be utilized in conjunction with the GR-MGS standards until a MASH equivalent is available, provided that the GR-MGS4 height transition is used.

If there are reasons for a project to deviate from the GR-MGS Standards, a design waiver may be submitted to the District Location & Design Engineer for approval. The District Location & Design Engineer (in consultation with the Central Office Standards and Special Design Section, as needed) may approve a design waiver, on a project by project basis, with the appropriate justification documentation.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the GR-MGS Standards, please contact Chuck Patterson, P.E., of the Location and Design Standards and Special Design Section.

Sincerely,

Signature on file \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/3/18

Susan H. Keen, P.E.  
State Location & Design Engineer