

It is usually impractical to install guardrail between the roadway and a pedestrian route. When necessary to provide guardrail along a pedestrian route (at ponds, steep embankments, etc.) the guardrail shall be placed 1' behind the sidewalk (or sidewalk space) provided that minimum offset requirements from the face of curb are met. In these situations, sound engineering judgment should be used in determining guardrail locations and evaluating needs when hazards exist outside the clear zone.

When a sidewalk or shared-use path transitions from the roadway onto a bridge, guardrail is required if the travel way and the sidewalk or shared-use path are separated by a barrier on the bridge. See detail in RDM, [Appendix A, Section A-5](#) for shared-use paths and [IIM-LD-55](#) for sidewalks.

### **PAVEMENT DROP-OFFS WITH GUARDRAIL**

Whenever the pavement drop-off is within 2'-0" in front of the face of rail and in order to ensure that a pavement drop-off does not become a factor in guardrail performance, the guardrail and blockout shall be removed during the paving operation to allow the pavement to be placed as close as possible to the post. This will place the drop-off to at least the face of guardrail or behind the face of guardrail. No more than 2" drop-off allowed. Any drop-offs at the edge of pavement will have to be feathered down across a paved shoulder to the guardrail. It is critical that the guardrail height measured from the top of the overlay to the top of the guardrail be within the guardrail height tolerance limits.

Whenever it is not practical to have the pavement drop-off at or behind the face of guardrail, the drop-off shall not be located any closer than 2'-0" in front of the face of guardrail. The drop-off shall be limited to a range of 1½" to 2" in height with a 3:1 or flatter wedge to minimize the effect of the drop-off on a vehicle. Any drop-off that should happen to fall within 2'-0" of the face of guardrail and/or have a height greater than 2" shall be reviewed on a per project basis. Any drop-off that should happen to fall within 2'-0" of the face of guardrail and/or have a height greater than 2" on the NHS shall be jointly reviewed by VDOT and FHWA.