

August 22, 2011

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, D.C. 20590

In Reply Refer To: HSST /CC-118

Mr. Mark R. Morgan Director of Engineering Smith & Wesson Security Solutions 277 Mallory Station Road, Suite 112 Franklin, TN 37067

Dear Mr. Morgan:

This letter is in response to your request for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acceptance of a roadside safety device for use on the National Highway System (NHS).

Name of device: Expeditionary Mobile Barrier
Type of device: Crash Cushion / Arrester net
Test Level: NCHRP Report Test Level 3
Testing conducted by: Texas Transportation Institute

Date of request:

December 10, 2010

Date of completed package:

Initially acknowledged:

December 10, 2010

December 14, 2010

You requested that we find this system acceptable for use on the NHS under the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH).

### Requirements

Roadside safety devices should meet the guidelines contained in the NCHRP Report 350 or the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH). The FHWA Memorandum "Identifying Acceptable Highway Safety Features" of July 25, 1997 provides further guidance on crash testing requirements of longitudinal barriers.

#### **Decision**

The following device was found acceptable:

• Expeditionary Mobile Barrier with 14 foot to 40 foot wide net

FHWA:HSSI:NArtimovich:ms:x61331:06/29/11

File: s://directory folder/HSST/CC-118\_USR Expeditionary Mobile

Barrier.docx

cc: HSST (NArtimovich)

## **Description**

The Smith & Wesson Security Solutions Expeditionary Mobile Barrier (EMB) is a deployable net system which may be used as a method of lane closure or temporary access control. The EMB consists of four main components: (1) net; (2) lift arms; (3) textile brakes; and (4) anchors.

The net is constructed of 2 inch polyester webbing woven together. At each joint, the webbing is stitched together. The net is 48 ft long, 42 inches tall and weighs approximately 29 pounds. It is configurable to provide a barrier width range from 14 ft to 40 ft. Enclosure 1 shows the details of the net.

The net is supported by two lift arms, one on each side of the roadway where the net is to be deployed. Each lift arm is constructed of aluminum tubing and contains an electric powered actuator that lowers and raises the net (Enclosure 2). Power to each attenuator is provided by a 12 volt battery that is attached at the base of the lift arm. Each assembled lift arms weighs approximately 132 pounds.

Upon impact by a vehicle, the net releases from the lift arms. Two textile breaks connect the two ends of the net to the anchors. Once the net is released from the lift arms, it begins to engage the textile brakes. The textile brake is an energy absorption technology that is based on absorbing kinetic energy through the tearing action of two textile straps woven together.

In this submission, two separate methods for anchoring the textile brakes were used: (1) earth anchors or (2) vehicle anchors. In the earth anchor method, each end of the net is anchored to two M.K. Rittenhouse & Sons, Ltd. 88DB1 duckbill earth anchors. Each anchor cable is 42 inches long and ¼ inch in diameter and is rated for 3000 pounds static holding force. The duckbill earth anchors are driven into the ground leaving steel loop above the ground. In the vehicle anchor method, each brake is anchored to a standard class III trailer hitch of a vehicle that weighs at least 6000 pounds.

Enclosures 3 and 4 show the earth anchorage system and the vehicle anchorage system respectively. Connections between the anchor and the textile brake are accomplished using two 10,000 pound rated polyester straps with hooks on each end and three shackles. A ½ inch shackle attaches the 10,000 pound straps to each earth anchor while a ¾ inch shackle attaches the straps to the textile brake. When the textile brake is anchored to a trailer hitch receiver, a ¾ inch shackle is used to connect the two 10,000 pound straps to the receiver.

### **Crash Testing**

Three full crash tests were conducted on the test article described above according to MASH guidelines as shown in the following table:

ID	MASH Test	Width of the Net (ft)	Anchorage Method
USR16	3-40	40	Earth Anchor
USR17	3-41	40	Vehicle Anchor
USR18	3-41	14	Earth Anchor

In test 3-40, the centerline of the vehicle (MASH 1100C small car) was aligned with the right quarter point of the barrier. In both tests conducted according to test 3-41, the centerline of the vehicle (MASH 2270P pickup truck) was aligned with the centerline of the net.

In all three tests, the test article slowed, captured, and stopped the test vehicle. The post impact trajectories of the test vehicles were predictable. In all three tests the Occupant Impact Velocity values are smaller than the maximum limits set by MASH and Occupant Ridedown Acceleration values are below the preferred limits. Therefore, it is judged that the test article successfully passed the three tests. Enclosures 5 through 7 summarize the test results for tests USR16 through USR18 respectively.

The stopping distances of vehicles in tests USR16, USR17, and USR 18 were 78 ft, 152.3 ft, and 138.2 ft respectively.

# **Findings**

According to MASH, test designations 3-40 through 3-45 are to be conducted for non-redirective gating crash cushions for Test Level 3 approval. The test article described above was not crash tested according to MASH tests 3-42 through test 3-45. You have requested that these tests be waived for the EMB system.

The test article is a symmetric net. Therefore, the oblique impacts are not perceived to be more critical than straight impacts (the impacts where the longitudinal axis of the impacting vehicle is perpendicular to the net). Therefore, it is judged that test 3-42 will not be more critical than test 3-40. Also, test 3-43 and 3-44 will not likely to be more critical than test 3-41.

Test 3-45 is intended to examine the performance of crash cushions during impact by mid-sized vehicles. The main concern for the test is that attenuator staging can be tuned to meet the testing requirements for small cars and heavy pickup trucks without adequately accommodating mid-sized vehicles. Due to the design of the EMB, it is not expected that the system will perform differently for mid-sized cars than small cars or heavy pickup trucks.

Therefore, we concur with your request that the tests 3-42 through 3-45 be waived.

Because the lift arms are substantial structures, they would generally require shielding in an actual field installation to prevent errant motorists from striking one and further losing control of their vehicles. The same consideration would apply when other vehicles are used to anchor the ends of the EMB.

In your letter you requested the approval of the EMB for the following conditions:

- Earth anchor or vehicle anchor, and
- The net width within the range of 14 ft to 40 ft.

The FHWA concurs with your first request on the grounds that the EMB performed as expected with both anchorage systems. We also agree with your second request because the test results associated with test USR 17 and USR 18 are consistent with each other. The videos of both tests also show a consistent behavior of the system.

According to the results obtained from crash testing, no hazard shall be present within 160 ft behind the nets for the net width of 14 ft and 40 ft respectively. No information is available for the stopping distance of vehicles for nets with the net width between 40 ft and 14 ft and a conservative approach has to be adopted.

Therefore, the device described in the various requests above and detailed in the enclosed drawings is acceptable for use on the NHS under the range of conditions tested, when acceptable to a highway agency.

Please note the following standard provisions that apply to FHWA letters of acceptance:

- This acceptance is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the devices and does not cover their structural features, nor conformity with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Any changes that may adversely influence the crashworthiness of the device will require a new acceptance letter.
- Should the FHWA discover that the qualification testing was flawed, that in-service performance reveals unacceptable safety problems, or that the device being marketed is significantly different from the version that was crash tested, we reserve the right to modify or revoke our acceptance.
- You will be expected to supply potential users with sufficient information on design and installation requirements to ensure proper performance.
- You will be expected to certify to potential users that the hardware furnished has
  essentially the same chemistry, mechanical properties, and geometry as that submitted for
  acceptance, and that it will meet the crashworthiness requirements of the FHWA and
  MASH.
- To prevent misunderstanding by others, this letter of acceptance is designated as number CC-118 and shall not be reproduced except in full. This letter and the test documentation upon which it is based are public information. All such letters and documentation may be reviewed at our office upon request.
- The Expeditionary Mobile Barrier systems are patented products and considered proprietary. If proprietary devices are specified by a highway agency for use on Federal-aid projects, except exempt, non-NHS projects, (a) they must be supplied through competitive bidding with equally suitable unpatented items; (b) the highway agency must certify that they are essential for synchronization with the existing highway facilities or that no equally suitable alternative exists; or (c) they must be used for research or for a distinctive type of construction on relatively short sections of road for experimental purposes. Our regulations concerning proprietary products are contained in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 635.411.

• This acceptance letter shall not be construed as authorization or consent by the FHWA to use, manufacture, or sell any patented device for which the applicant is not the patent holder. The acceptance letter is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the candidate device, and the FHWA is neither prepared nor required to become involved in issues concerning patent law. Patent issues, if any, are to be resolved by the applicant.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Griffith Director, Office of Safety Technologies Office of Safety

Enclosures





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Sincerely yours,

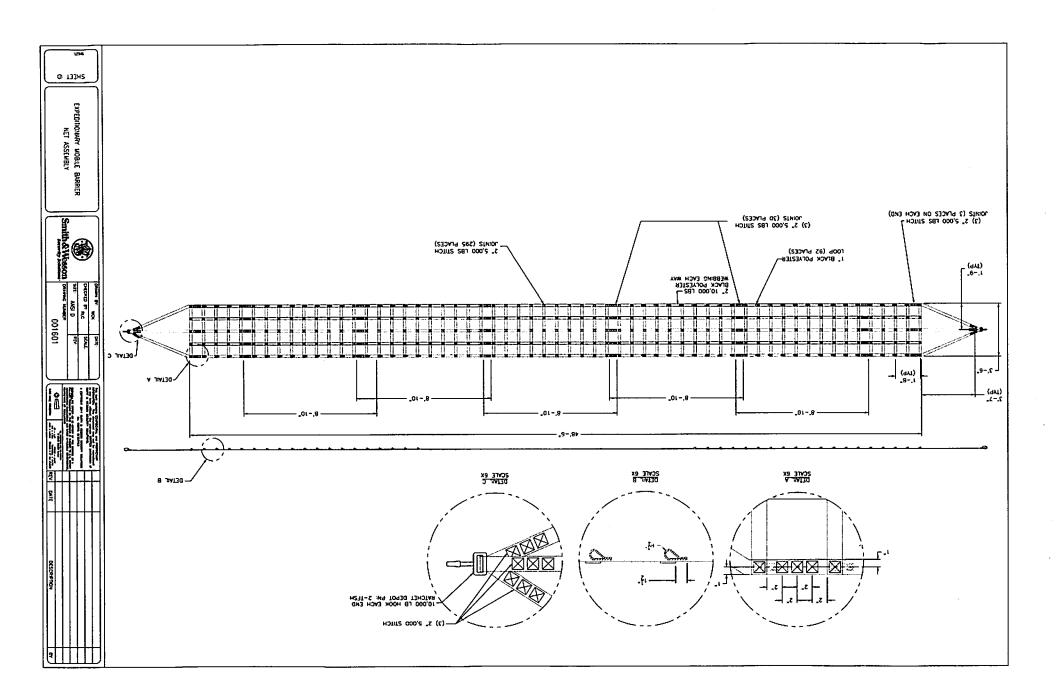
Michael S. Griffith

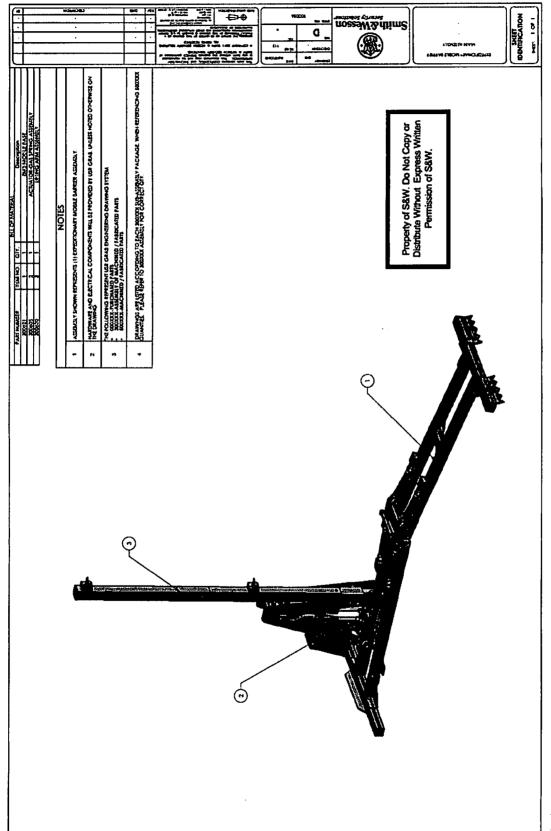
Michael & Fulfit

Director, Office of Safety Technologies

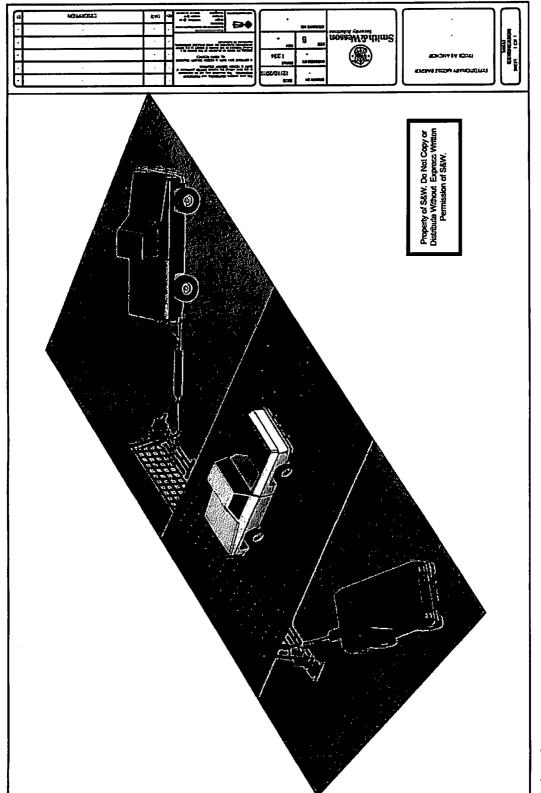
Office of Safety

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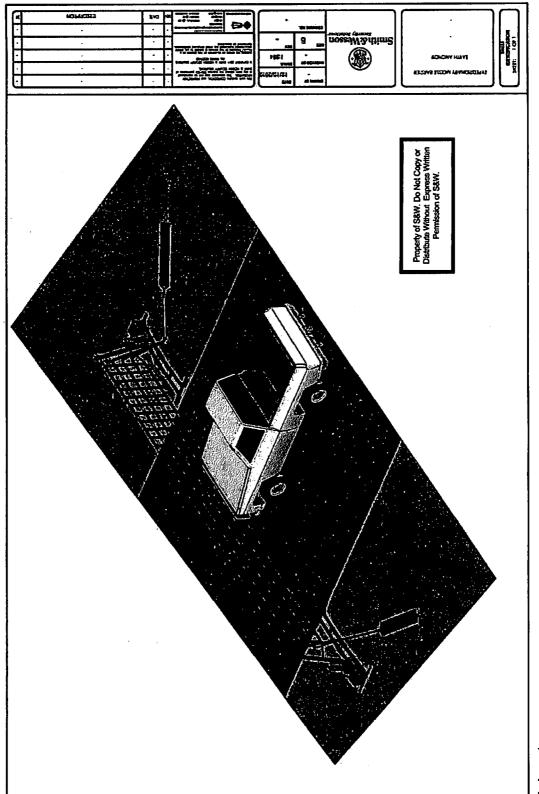




Enclosure 2



Enclosure 3



Enclosure 4

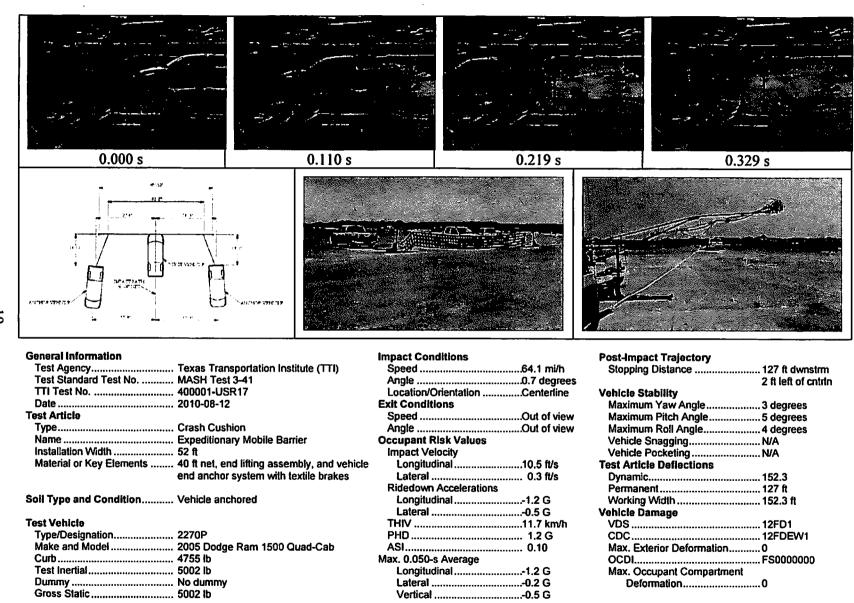


Figure 5.7. Summary of results for MASH test 3-41 on Expeditionary Mobile Barrier (40 ft net).

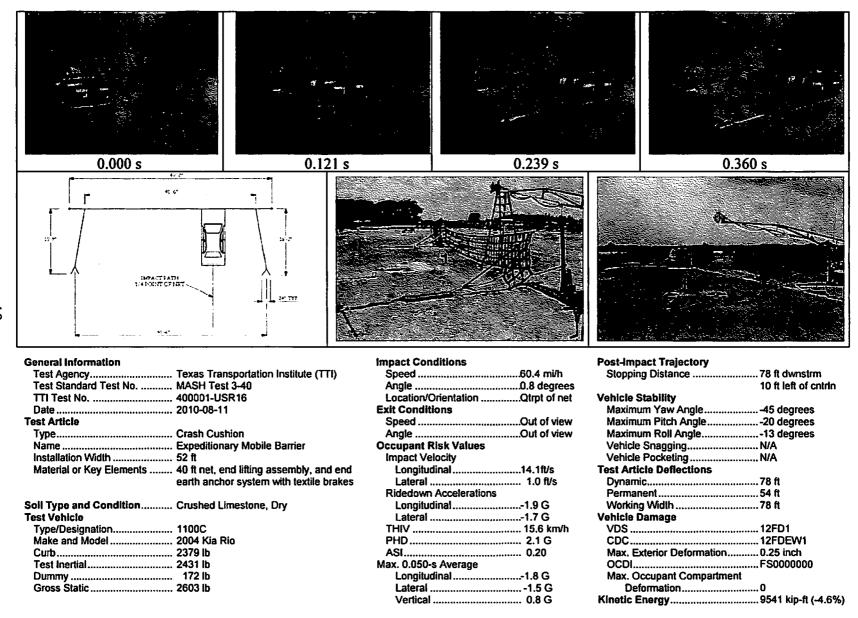
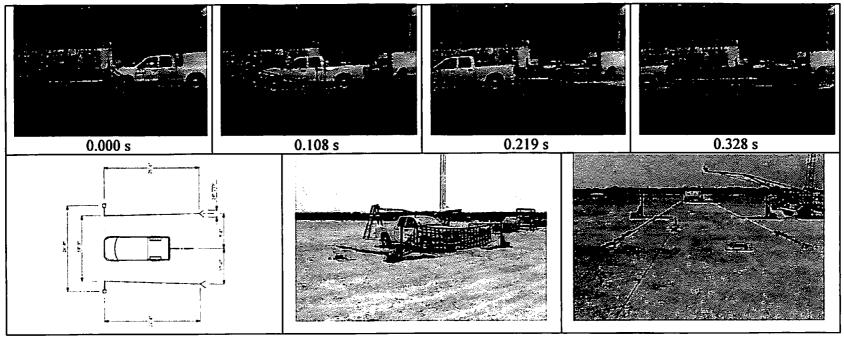


Figure 5.6. Summary of results for MASH test 3-40 on Expeditionary Mobile Barrier (40 ft net).



General Information	
Test Agency	Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)
Test Standard Test No	
TTI Test No	400001-USR18
Date	2010-08-12
Test Article	
Туре	Crash Cushion
Name	
Installation Width	
Material or Key Elements	14 ft net, end lifting assembly, and end earth anchor system with textile brake
Soil Type and Condition	Crushed Limestone, Dry
Type/Designation	2270P
	2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad-Cab
Curb	
Test Inertial	
Dummy	
Gross Static	5002 lb

Impact Conditions	
Speed	64.3 mi/h
Angle	
Location/Orientation	
Exit Conditions	
	Out of vio
Speed	Out of vie
Angle	Out of viet
Occupant Risk Values	
Impact Velocity	
Longitudinal	11.2 fVs
Lateral	
Ridedown Acceleration	
Longitudinal	-
Lateral	
THIV	
PHD	
ASI	0.12
Max. 0.050-s Average	
Longitudinal	1.1 G
Lateral	0.2 G
Vertical	

Post-Impact Trajectory	
Stopping Distance	139 2 ft dumetrm
Stopping Distance	
	2 ft rightt of cntrln
Vehicle Stability	
Maximum Yaw Angle	9 degrees
Maximum Pitch Angle	30 degrees
Maximum Roll Angle	23 degrees
Vehicle Snagging	
Vehicle Pocketing	
Test Article Deflections	
Dynamic	130 2 #
Permanent	
Working Width	., 138.2 π
Vehicle Damage	
VDS	12FD1
CDC	12FDEW1
Max. Exterior Deformation	0.5 inch
OCDI	FS0000000
Max. Occupant Compartment	
Deformation	0
Kinetic Energy	&&&4 KIP41 (*1.176)