

Memorandum

*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Date: June 1, 2012

From: STEVE TAKIGAWA
Deputy Director
Maintenance and Operations



ROBERT PIEPLOW
Acting Deputy Director
Project Delivery



Subject: **Implementation of Pavement Safety Edge**

To allow drivers who drift off the highway to return to the road safely and smoothly and to help reduce pavement edge-related crashes, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is implementing use of the pavement safety edge. The safety edge is a sloped edge of 30 degrees placed at the edge of roadway pavement. The safety edge is a Federal Highway Administration Every Day Counts Initiative and is included as an action item in the "Implementation of the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan."

The effective date for the implementation of this change is October 1, 2012. This change does not apply to projects where a PS&E has already been submitted to DES OE or the project is under construction prior to October 1, 2012. The safety edge should be incorporated on all projects that include pavement items unless a specific condition can be documented that would preclude the benefit of adding the feature (see attached Safety Edge FAQ). Specifically, the safety edge will not be incorporated in the following locations:

- Next to curbs, dikes, guardrails, barriers, walls, and landscape paving.
- Where the distance from the edge of the pavement shoulder to the hinge point is less than 1 foot and there is not enough room for the safety edge.
- Within 3 feet of driveways or intersections.
- On pavement overlays that are less than 0.15 feet thick.

Continue to place embankment or shoulder backing to the edge of the pavement shoulder as shown in the attached revised Standard Plans for pavement edge treatments (RSP P74, RSP P75, and RSP P76). Also attached for your use to implement the safety edge are Standard Special Provisions for asphalt and concrete, along with examples of typical cross sections and quantities.

More information from the FHWA about the pavement safety edge can be found on the Internet at <<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/technology/safetyedge/intro.cfm>>. If you have questions or comments regarding documentation and use of the pavement safety edge, please contact Janice Benton (916-654-5176), Bill Farnbach (916-227-5845), or Chuck Suszko (916-227-7314).

Attachments

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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- c: Terry Abbott, Chief, Division of Design
- Robert Copp, Chief, Division of Traffic Operations
- Mark Leja, Chief, Division of Construction
- Tony Tavares, Chief, Division of Maintenance
- Janice Benton, Chief, Office of Traffic Safety Program, Division of Traffic Operations
- Bill Farnbach, Chief, Office of Concrete Pavement and Pavement Foundations,
Division of Maintenance–Pavement Program
- Chuck Suszko, Chief, Office of Construction Engineering, Division of Construction