

Cable Barrier - *Things to Know*

Cable barrier has been in use since 2000, and is widely used around the United States. Improvements in the design and function of cable barrier has led to the High Tension Cable Barrier systems currently being installed in Washington State.

Advantages of Cable Barrier

Some advantages of cable barrier include:

- It provides effective vehicle containment and redirection while imposing the lowest deceleration forces on the vehicle's occupant(s).
- It may reduce the severity of crashes, which is of significant importance on high-speed facilities.
- After it is struck, it has a tendency not to redirect vehicles back into traffic, which can help reduce the frequency of secondary crashes.
- It can often be placed on existing facilities without the delay of extended environmental permitting and the expense of complex highway reconstruction that might be needed for other barrier system choices.
- It has advantages in heavy snowfall areas because it has minimal potential to create snowdrifts.
- In crucial wildlife habitats, it can aid in some types of animal movements.
- It does not present a visual barrier, which may make it desirable on Scenic Byways.
- The effort (time and materials) needed to maintain and repair cable barrier systems is much less than the effort needed for a W-beam system.

More Information on Cable Barrier

For more information on cable barriers, see FHWA's [website](http://www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/ctrmeasures/cable_barriers.htm/) (www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/ctrmeasures/cable_barriers.htm/).

Other Considerations

Verify the cable manufacturer system's lateral deflection distance. This distance is based on the length of cable run, the spacing of the end anchors, and the post spacing. The deflection distance is based on ideal conditions and in narrower median areas and in many urban and other limited-width situations the use of cable barrier may not be possible.

Currently Approved Systems

High-tension Cable Barrier systems that are approved for use on WSDOT projects can be found on the Qualified Products List (QPL) www.wsdot.wa.gov/Business/MaterialsLab/QPL.htm. Search the QPL by standard specification; search **GSP 8-11.2.OPT1.GR8** for 4-cable systems. The search should provide a list similar to the table shown below (the table below was generated **January 4, 2017** and may be out of date):

Product Name	Manufacturer	Deflection ¹	Manufacturer's Website
Four-Cable Nucor Wire Rope Barrier System	Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., Marion-OH	5.25 feet to 9.81 feet	http://www.nucorhighway.com/cable-barrier-products/nu-cable-high-tension/ TL-4 Compliant
Nu-Cable System	Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., Marion-OH		http://www.nucorhighway.com/cable-barrier-products/nu-cable-high-tension/ TL-4 Compliant
Brifen Wire Rope Safety Fence (WRSF)	Brifen USA, Inc., Okla. or a city with standard post spacing	less than 3 feet	http://www.brifenus.com/ TL-4 Compliant
CASS	Trinity Highway Products, LLC, Centerville-UT		http://www.highwayguardrail.com/products/cb.html

NOTES:

1. Deflection distances listed are found in manufacturer's literature, and are based upon controlled testing conditions. Follow the Design Manual for lateral deflection requirements for typical installations