#### WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Project title:** Pooled Fund for the Development of Approach Guardrail Transitions for Box

Beam and MGS

**Project Number:** TPF-5(393)

**Progress period:** 8/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

Principal Investigator and all others who have worked on the project (provide name and **ORCID number**): Roger Bligh (#0000-0001-5699-070X), Nauman Sheikh (#0000-0003-1718-4881), Nathan Schulz (#0000-0002-7527-9419), James Kovar (#0000-0002-1542-7010)

### 1. Please state whether the project is ahead of schedule, on time, or behind schedule:

The project is currently behind schedule. Task 1 *Engineering Design and Concept Development* took much longer to complete than initially scheduled. However, this was a critical task in the project because it defined the design options that will be simulated and tested in subsequent tasks and ultimately adopted into Wyoming and Montana DOT standards. Therefore, it was important that the process and WYDOT review was thorough, deliberate, and considered as many factors as possible.

Task 2 *Finite Element Modeling & Simulation* took one month longer to complete than scheduled. Researchers had to adapt to a remote work environment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While most work was able to be successfully performed remotely, access to computer resources required for evaluating simulation runs was more limited.

The TTI Proving Ground test schedule has a 5-month backlog due to Covid-19 shutdowns, weather delays, and increased demand. Consequently, the time required to conduct the crash tests is longer than initially proposed.

A time extension of 10 months is being requested to permit completion of the programmed research tasks.

#### 2. Percentage of overall work completed.

40%

#### 3. Activities and Accomplishments:

### a. What are the major goals and objectives of the project?

The research objective is to develop two non-proprietary approach guardrail transition systems from box beam and MGS guardrail that are MASH Test Level 3 (TL-3) compliant. The transitions are being designed to connect the guardrail systems to the Texas Department of

Transportation (TxDOT) Type C2P TL-4 bridge rail system. Direct connection between the transition section and bridge rail is desired to avoid use of a solid concrete parapet end that could hinder snow clearing operations. The work plan for the project is divided into seven tasks. These include:

- Task 1: Engineering Design and Drawing Development
- Task 2: Finite Element Modeling & Simulation
- Task 3: Test Installation Construction
- Task 4: Crash Testing of the Box Beam Transition
- Task 5: Crash Testing of the MGS Transition
- Task 6: Final Report
- Task 7: FHWA Eligibility Letter

#### b. Describe what was accomplished under these goals.

## Task 1: Engineering Design and Drawing Development (previously completed)

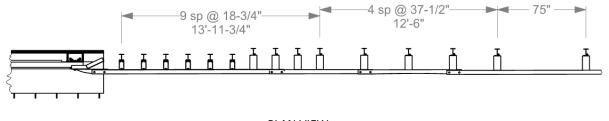
### **Task 2: Finite Element Modeling & Simulation (completed)**

A meeting was held with technical representatives of Wyoming DOT and Montana DOT on August 21 to discuss the proposed test installation details for both the box beam and MGS transition systems. The box beam transition design was approved as recommended. For the MGS transition system, WYDOT requested investigation of the use of 8-inch steel blockouts rather than 12-inch wood blockouts.

To investigate the impact performance of the MGS transition with steel blockouts, the researchers revised the finite element model of the MGS transition to include 8-inch steel blockouts on the six transition posts adjacent to the C2P bridge rail (see Plan View, Figure 1). Details of the steel blockouts and their attachment to the posts are also shown in Figure 1. The modified finite element model is shown in Figure 2.

### Impact Simulations

The researchers performed impact simulations with the MGS transition with steel blockouts using impact conditions of *MASH* Test 3-21 (pickup truck) and Test 3-20 (small car). Under both impact conditions, the vehicle impacted the transition at a speed and angle of 62 mi/h and 25 degrees. The critical impact points (CIPs) determined in the previously reported simulation analyses were used for these new simulations. The change in blockout type does not affect the lateral stiffness of the transition system, so the impact points were still considered valide. Measured from the upstream flange of the first C2P post, the CIPs were 84 inches and 76 inches for the pickup truck and the small car, respectively.



#### PLAN VIEW

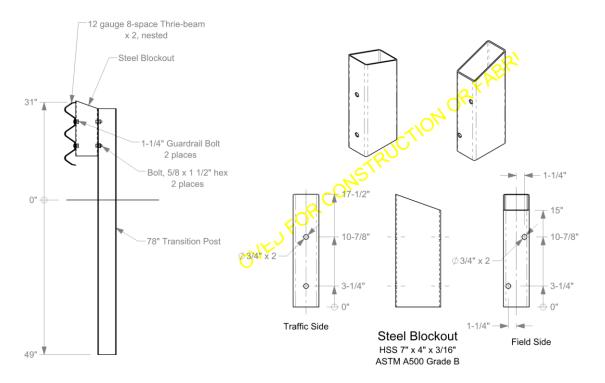


Figure 1: Steel blockout and post details of the modified transition system.

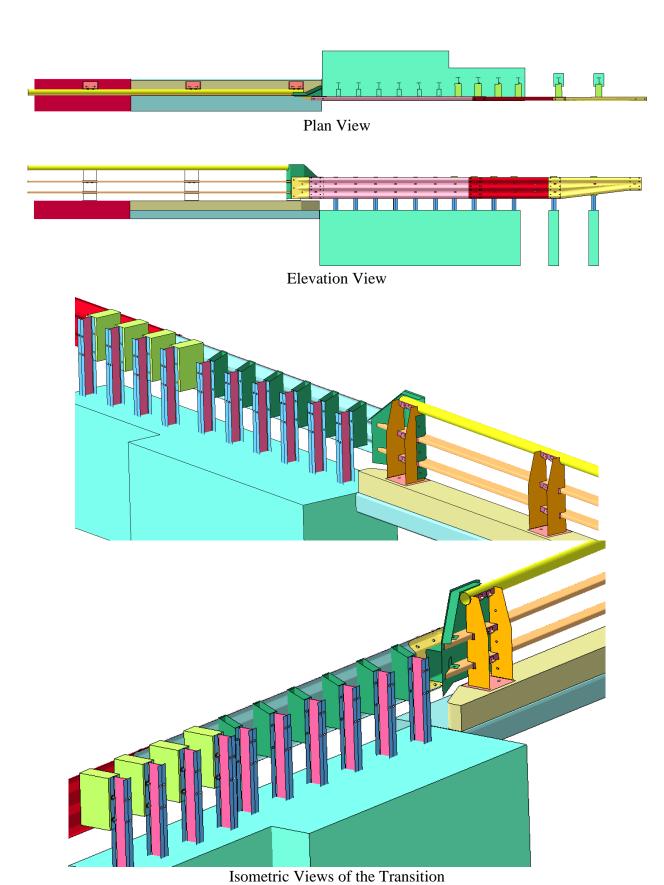


Figure 2. Details of the FE model for MGS transition.

#### Pickup Truck (Test 3-21) Impact Simulation

In this simulation, the 5,000-lb pickup truck model impacted the transition at the CIP at an impact speed and angle of 62 mi/h and 25 degrees. Figure 3 shows the results of the simulation as the vehicle redirects after impact. The maximum dynamic and permanent deflections of the system were 9.5 inches and 8.5 inches, respectively. The vehicle was contained and redirected in a stable manner. The results of the simulation showed that the MGS transition design with steel blockouts is expected to perform acceptably for Test 3-21.

#### Small Car (Test 3-20) Impact Simulation

In this simulation, the 2,420-lb passenger car model impacted the transition at the CIP at an impact speed and angle of 62 mi/h and 25 degrees. Figure 4 shows the results of the simulation as the vehicle redirects after impact. The maximum dynamic and permanent deflections of the system were 5.9 inches and 5.4 inches, respectively. The vehicle was contained and redirected in a stable manner. The results of the simulation showed that the MGS transition design with steel blockouts is expected to perform acceptably for *MASH* Test 3-20.

#### **Conclusions**

Based on the results of the simulations presented herein, the design of the MGS transition with 8-inch deep steel blockouts performed very similarly to the previously presented design with 12-inch deep wood blockouts. The system performed successfully in the simulations of *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21. It is recommended that both tests be performed to verify the performance of the transition system.

#### **Task 3: Test Installation Construction (ongoing)**

Work on Task 3 was initiated during the reporting period. Detailed test installation drawings for the recommended design of the box beam and MGS transitions were prepared. The drawings reflected details developed during the Task 2 simulation analyses. The drawings were submitted to Wyoming DOT for review on August 18.

A meeting was held with technical representatives of Wyoming DOT and Montana DOT on August 21 to discuss the test installation details for both the box beam and MGS transition systems. After addressing comments, a revised set of drawings for the box beam guardrail transition to C2P bridge rail were transmitted to WYDOT on September 10 for review and approval. As requested during the project meeting, posts 16-18 were modified to have the same hole pattern on both the traffic side and field side of the post to make them interchangeable and, thereby, reduce inventory. The system drawings reflected a portion of C2P bridge rail attached to a moment slab foundation with a transition attached to each end to reduce the number of repairs required during the testing program. Approval of the test installation drawings was received from Wyoming DOT on September 17. The drawings for the box beam transition are presented in Attachment A to this report.

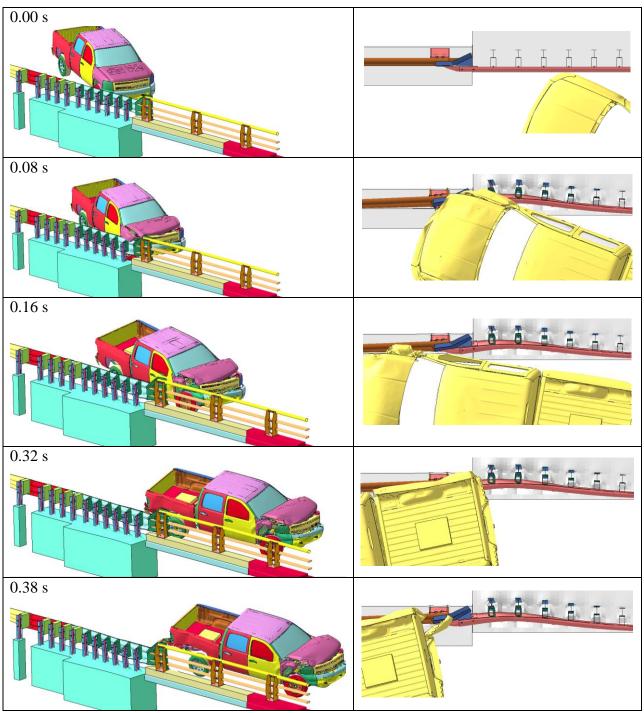


Figure 3: Results for Test 3-21 impact simulation.

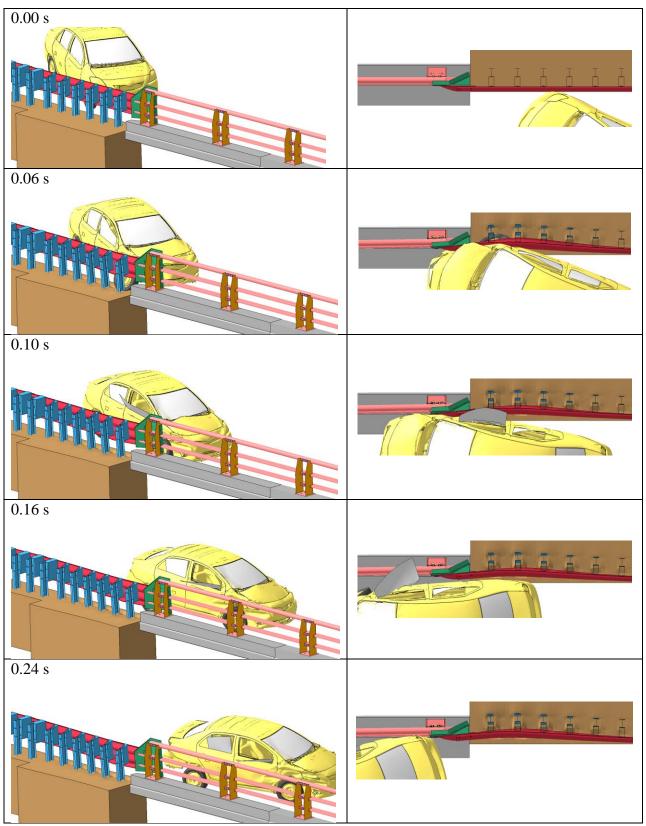


Figure 4: Results for Test 3-20 impact simulation.

Upon receipt of approval to proceed, the test installation construction process was initiated at the TTI Proving Ground. The test installation will include 20 ft of C2P bridge rail anchored to a moment slab. A transition, approach guardrail, and terminal will be attached to each end of the bridge rail section. This layout reduces repair requirements and helps expedite execution of the testing matrix. The box beam transition is being constructed first. A box beam transition is being constructed on each end of the bridge rail section. A 72 ft length of box beam approach guardrail attached to the upstream end of the transition. The end of the box beam approach guardrail will be anchored with a Type 1 end anchorage.

TTI researchers have developed a test plan for both the box beam and MGS transition systems. The *MASH* test matrix for transitions consists of two tests: Test 3-20 with a passenger car, and Test 3-21 with a pickup truck. In both tests, the vehicle impacts the more flexible of the two barrier systems being connected at a nominal speed and angle of 62 mi/h and 25 degrees.

For the box beam transition, *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21 will be performed on both the downstream and upstream ends of the transition system. The downstream end is where the transition attaches to the C2P bridge rail. The upstream end is where the box beam approach guardrail attaches to the transition. Finite element impact simulations were used to determine the critical impact point for each test.

On the downstream end of the box beam transition, the CIPs for *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21 were determined to be 36 inches and 60 inches upstream from the end of the bridge rail curb, respectively. On the upstream end of the box beam transition, the CIPs for *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21 were determined to be 8 ft and 12.25 ft upstream of the end of the lower rubrail element, respectively.

After completion of the testing for the box beam guardrail transition, the MGS transition system will be installed. As described above, modifications were made to the MGS transition system at the request of WYDOT. Based on the successful simulation results, the test installation drawings for the MGS transition system were updated and sent to WYDOT for review and approval on October 23. These draft test installation drawings are presented in Attachment B.

The test plan for the MGS transition includes *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21 on the downstream ends of the transition system where it attaches to the C2P bridge rail. Based on the Task 2 simulation analyses, the CIPs for *MASH* Test 3-20 and Test 3-21 were determined to be 76 inches and 84 inches upstream from the upstream flange of the first C2P bridge rail post.

The upstream end of the MGS transition will not be evaluated because it is similar in design to a system that was already crash tested and determined to be *MASH* compliant. If changes to the upstream end are desired, it will result in the need for additional time and resources to evaluate the changes, including the need for additional crash testing if an FHWA eligibility letter is desired by Wyoming DOT.

c. What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided? If the research is not intended to provide training and professional development, state "Nothing to Report". Otherwise, describe opportunities for training and professional development, training activities, and professional development.

Nothing to report.

d. How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest? Describe what results have been disseminated and in what manner, including publications, conference papers, and presentation. Please list ALL derivative reports/publications which were generated from this project, and provide an electronic copy of the report/publication.

Nothing to report.

e. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives? Describe briefly what you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives.

Work on Task 3 will continue. Materials required for construction of both the C2P bridge rail and transition systems will be acquired. Construction of the simulated bridge rail system and attached transitions will be initiated. When a date for completion of construction of the test installation can be determined, the full-scale crash tests for the box beam transition will be scheduled on the TTI Proving Ground test calendar. The tests dates will be relayed to Wyoming DOT.

- f. List any products resulting from the project during the reporting period. Include in this list:
  - 1. Publications, conference papers, and presentations.
  - 2. Website(s) or other internet sites (List the URL).
  - 3. Technologies or techniques.
  - 4. Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses.
  - 5. Other products, such as data or databases, physical collections, audio or video products, software or NetWare, models, educational aids or curricula, instruments or equipment.

Nothing to report.

#### g. Impact:

- 1. How will this project impact WYDOT?
- 2. How will this project impact other agencies?

WYDOT's Mission Statement is to "provide a safe, high quality and efficient transportation system." One of the goals within the mission statement is to "improve safety on the state transportation system." Successful implementation of the transitions developed under this project into WYDOT's standard plans will provide an improved level of safety. The transitions

will provide continuity of motorist safety from MASH guardrail systems to MASH bridge rail systems. Full implementation of MASH compliant roadside safety devices, including transition systems, will provide an enhanced level of safety that will help reduce the severity of lane departure crashes that represent over 75% of highway fatalities in Wyoming. Additionally, the AASHTO/FHWA MASH Implementation Agreement requires state DOTs to provide MASH compliant roadside safety features to obtain federal funding reimbursement on projects. The results of this research will be useful to other agencies. This project is being funded as a pooled fund effort between WYDOT and Montana DOT. It will provide transition details that will be immediately implementable by both of these agencies as well as other agencies that use similar guardrail and bridge rail systems.

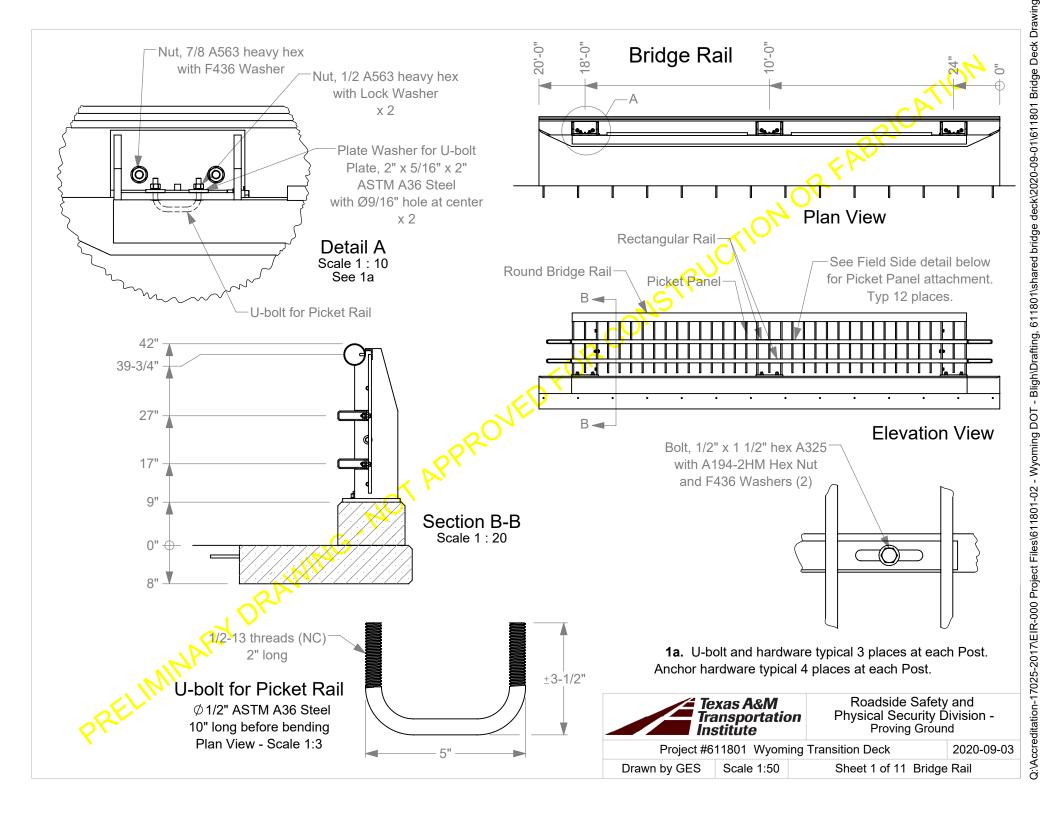
#### h. Changes to Scope of Work. Provide the following changes, if applicable:

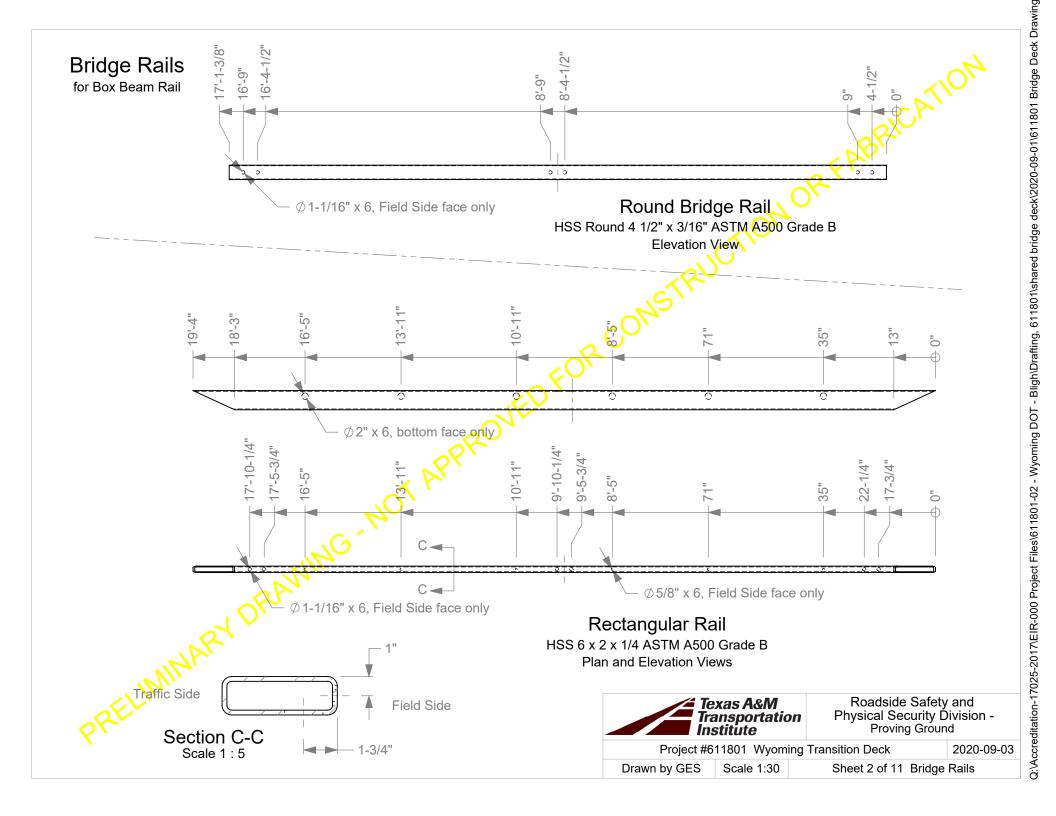
- 1. Scope of work or objectives of the project.
- 2. Changes in key persons.
- 3. Disengagement from the project for more than three (3) months, or a twenty five (25) percent reduction in time devoted to the project.
- 4. The inclusion of costs that require prior approval.
- 5. The transfer of funds between line items in the budget.
- 6. The subawarding, transferring or contracting of work.
- 7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or match.

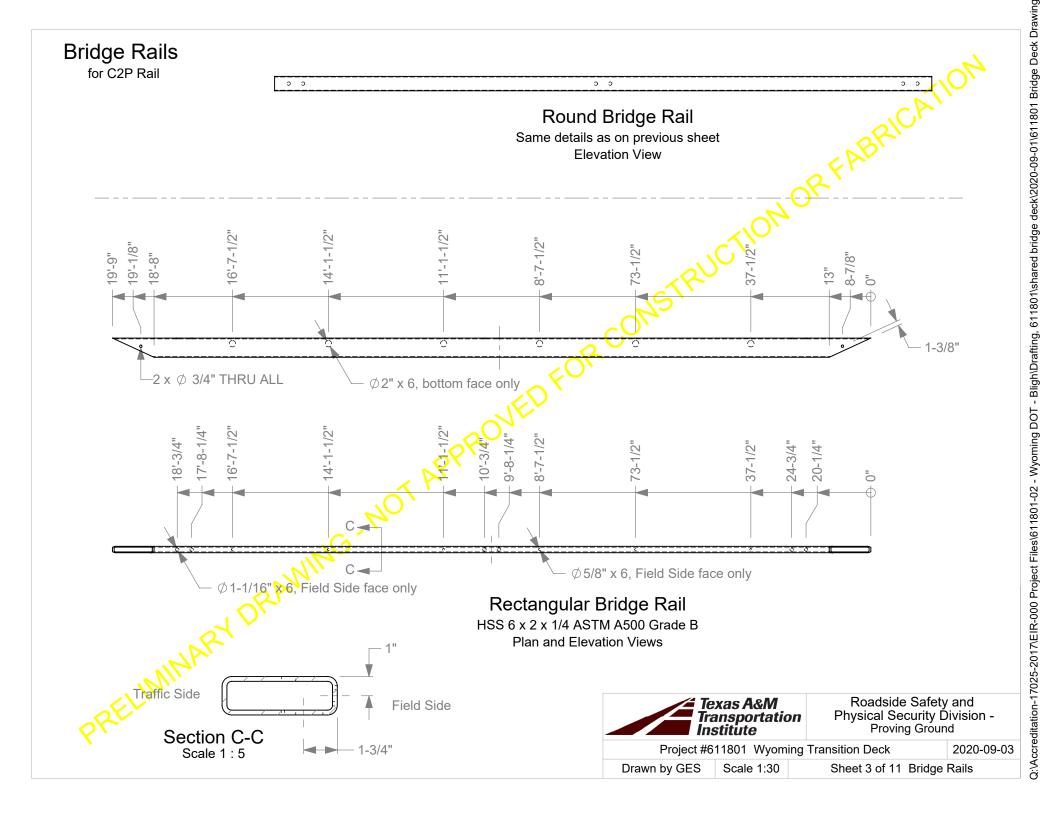
Nothing to report.

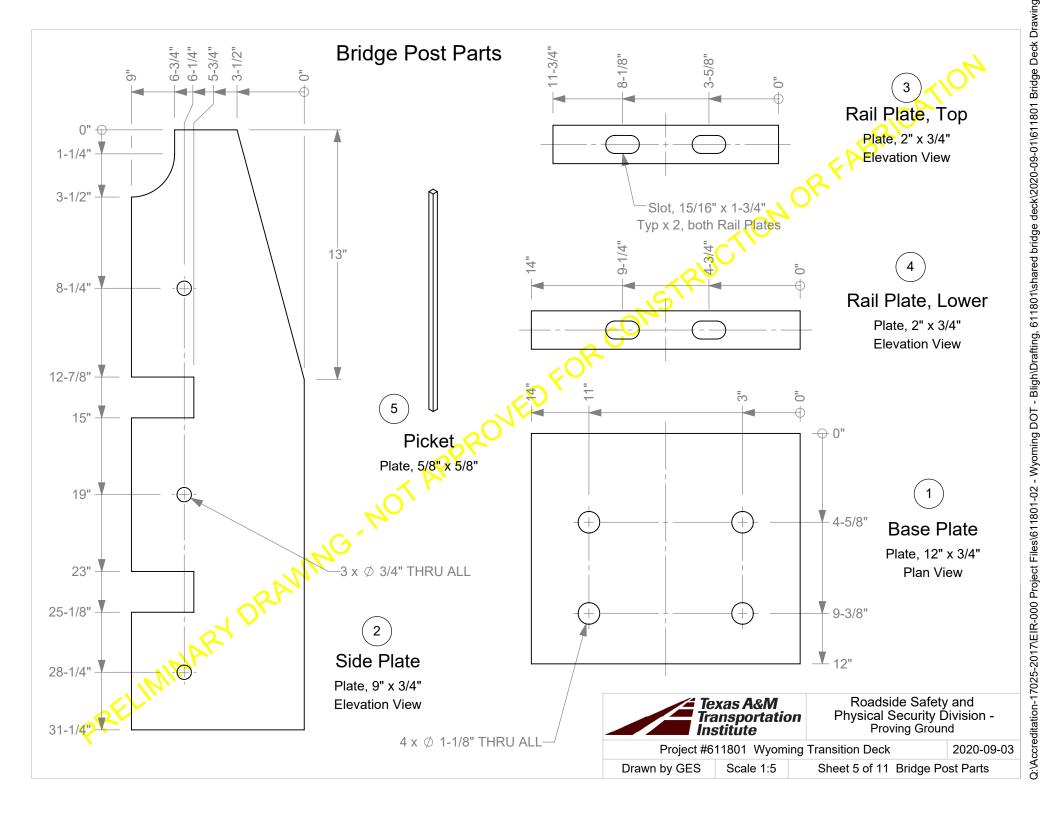
# **ATTACHMENT 1**

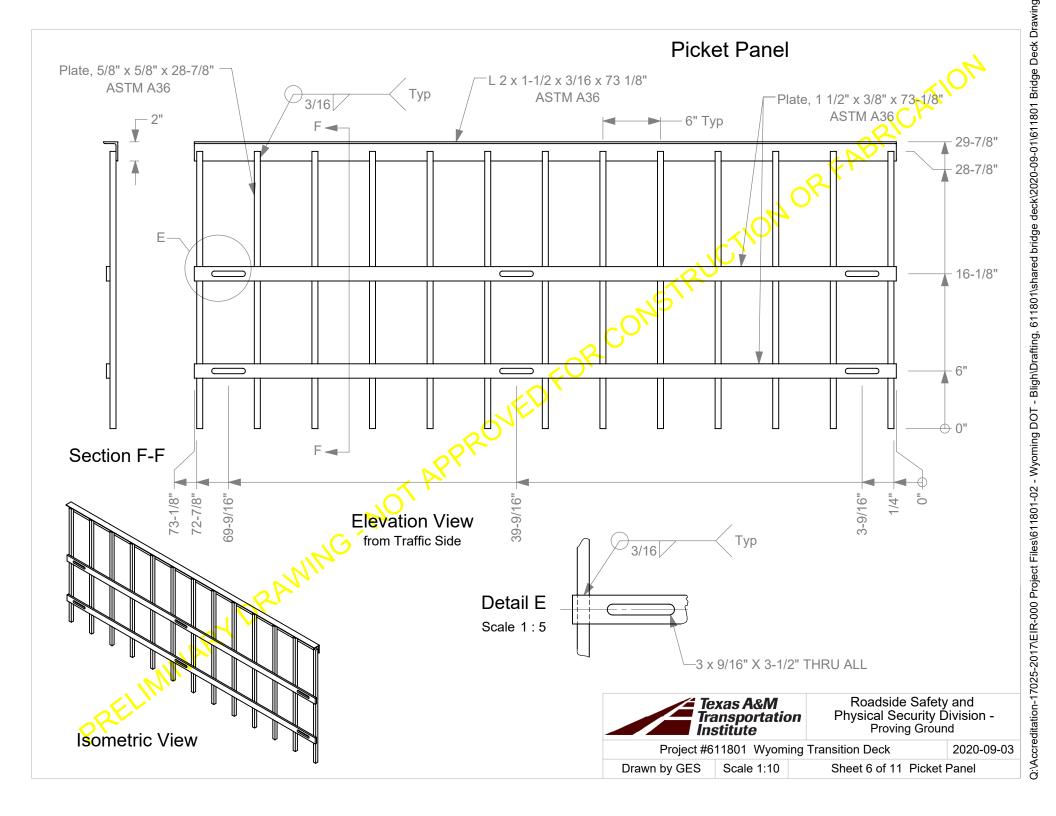
# **Box Beam Guardrail Transition Test Installation Details**

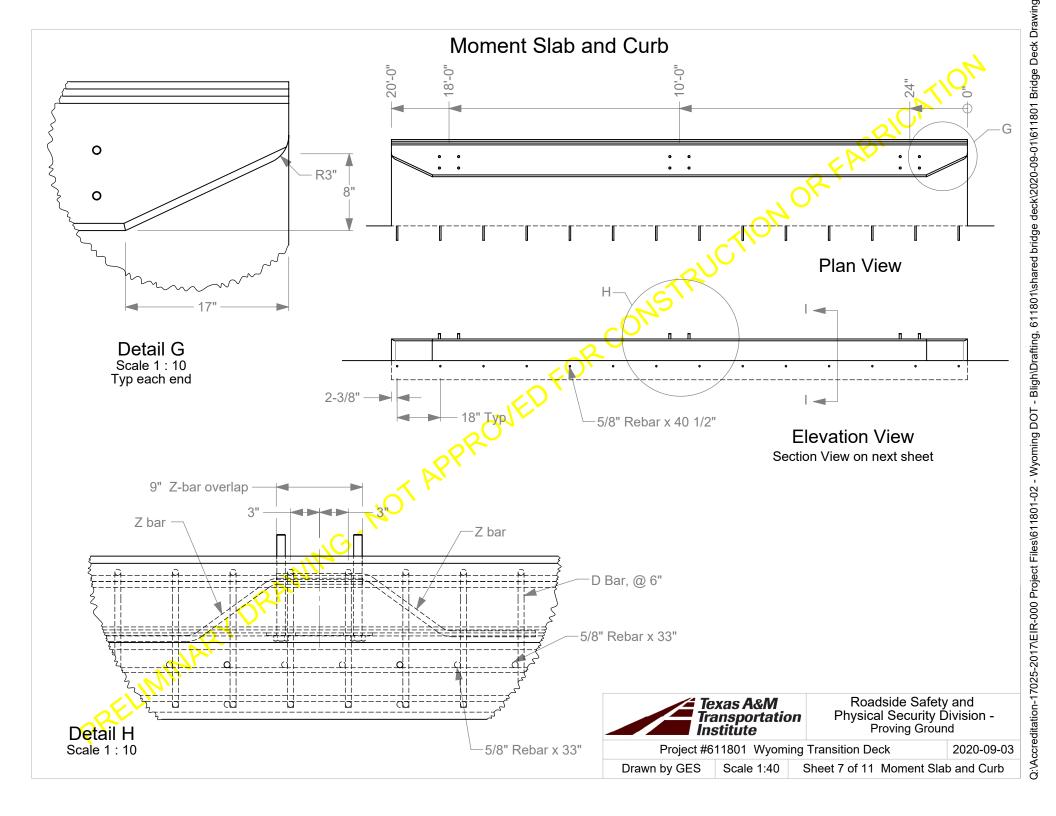


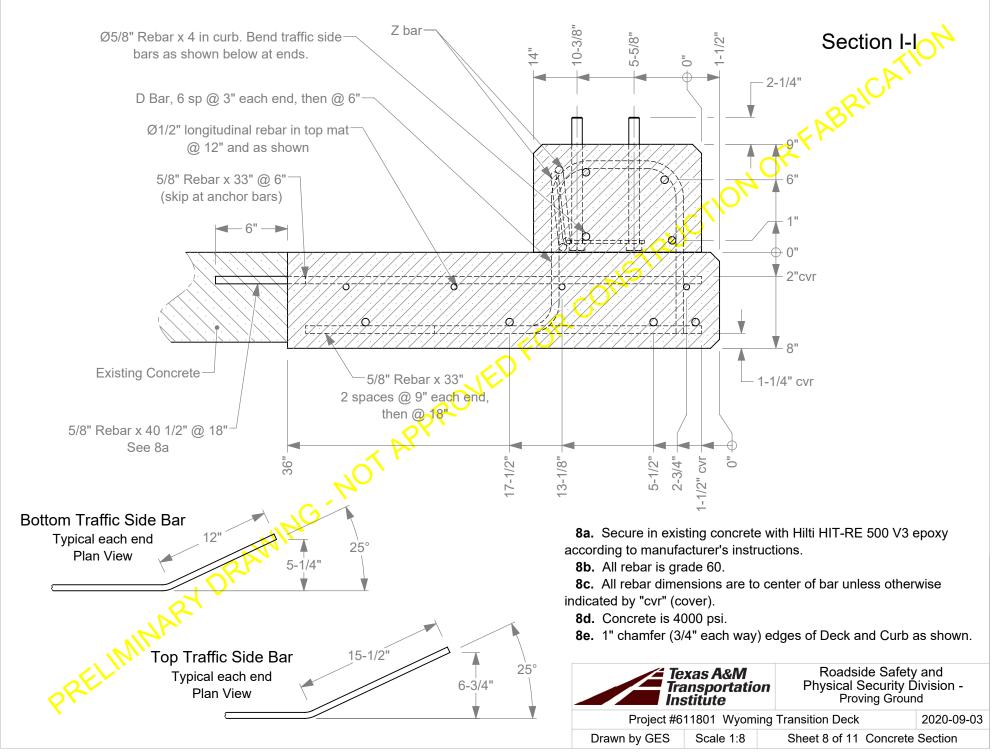


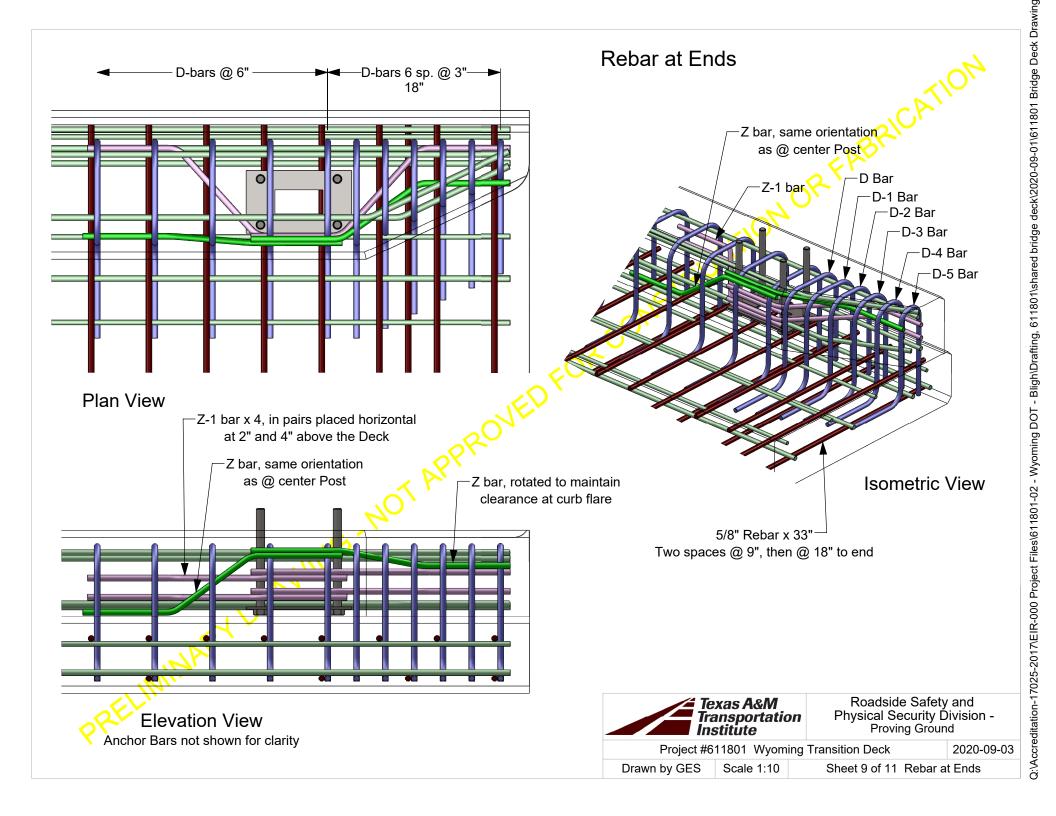


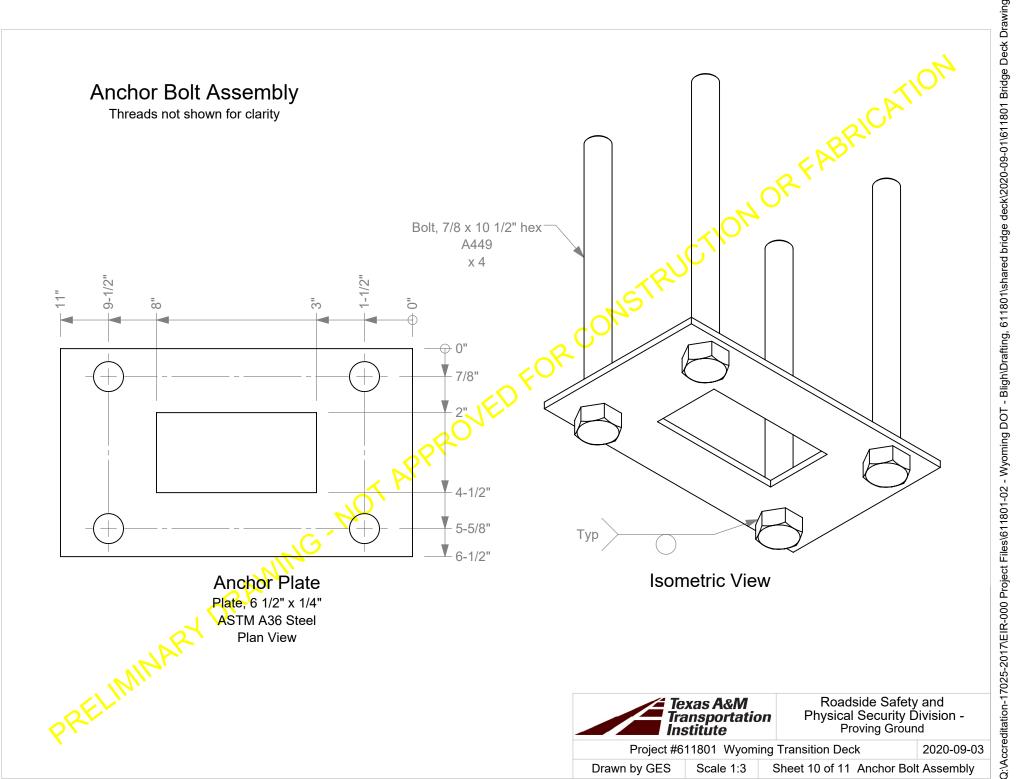














Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

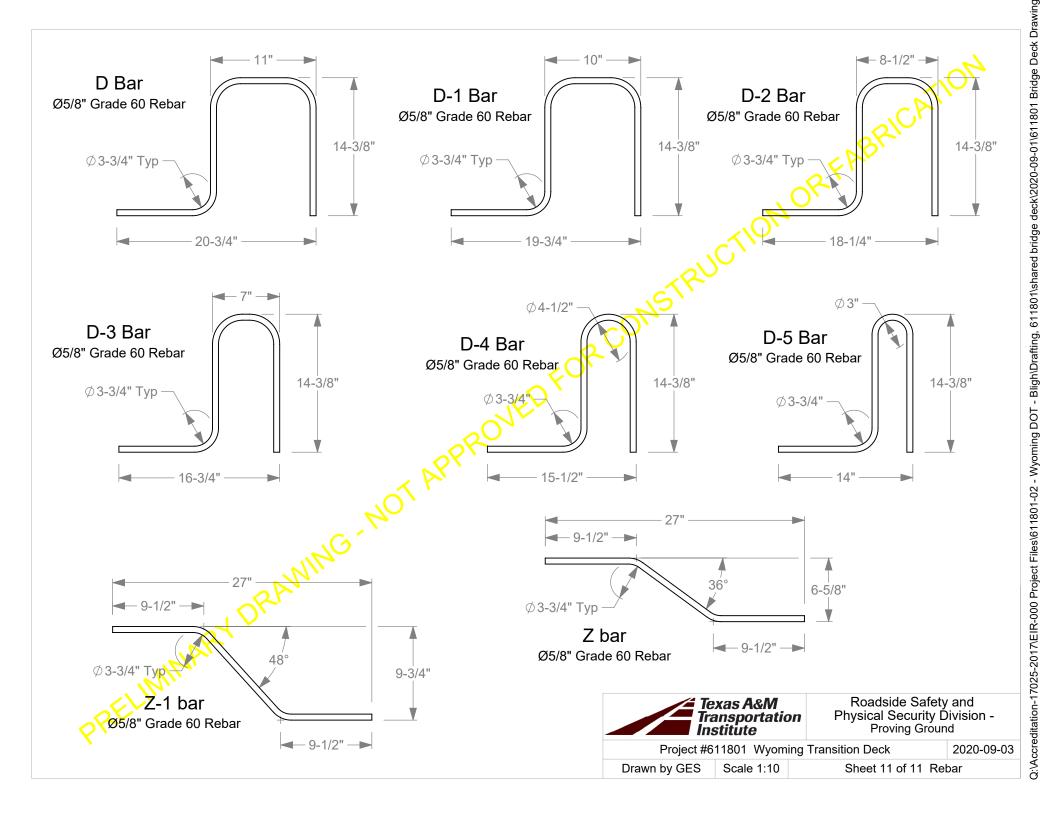
Project #611801 Wyoming Transition Deck

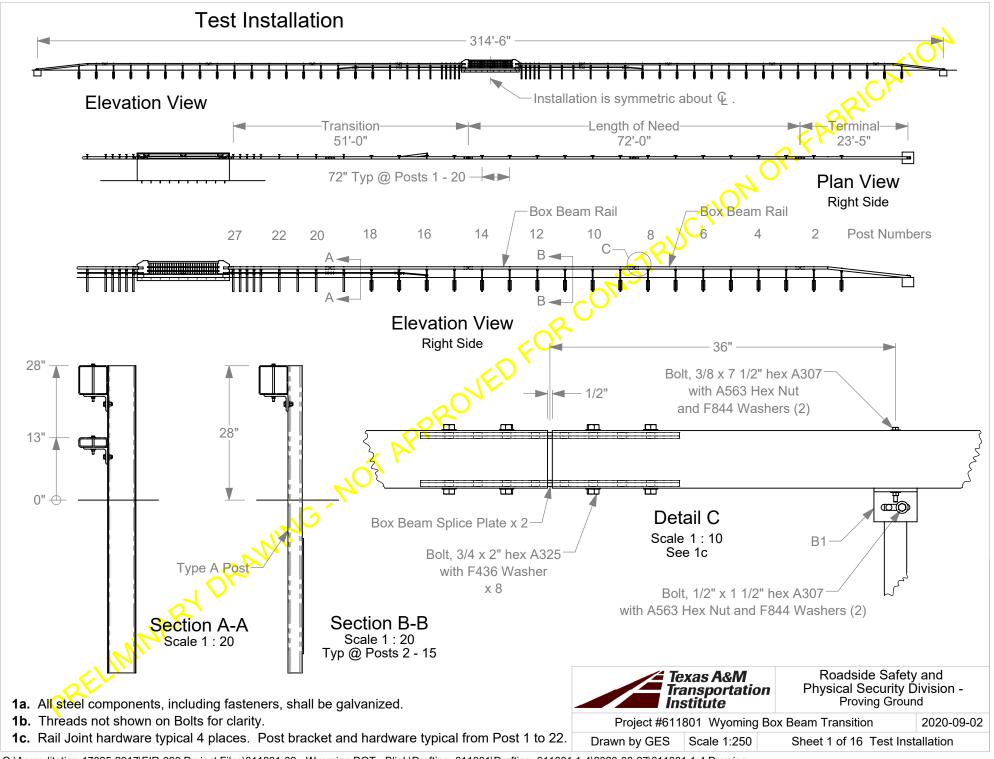
2020-09-03

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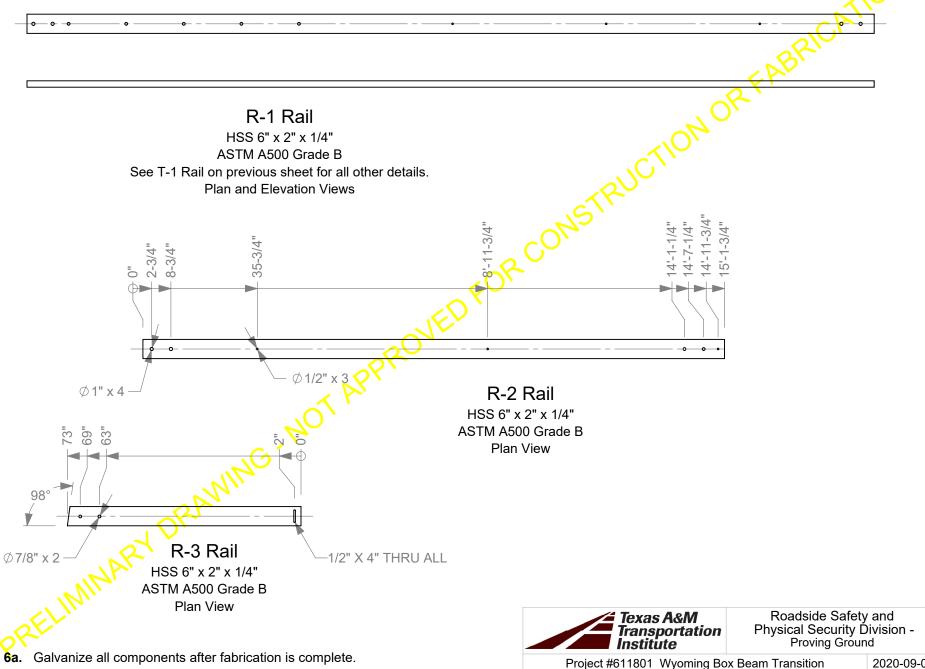
Scale 1:3

Sheet 10 of 11 Anchor Bolt Assembly





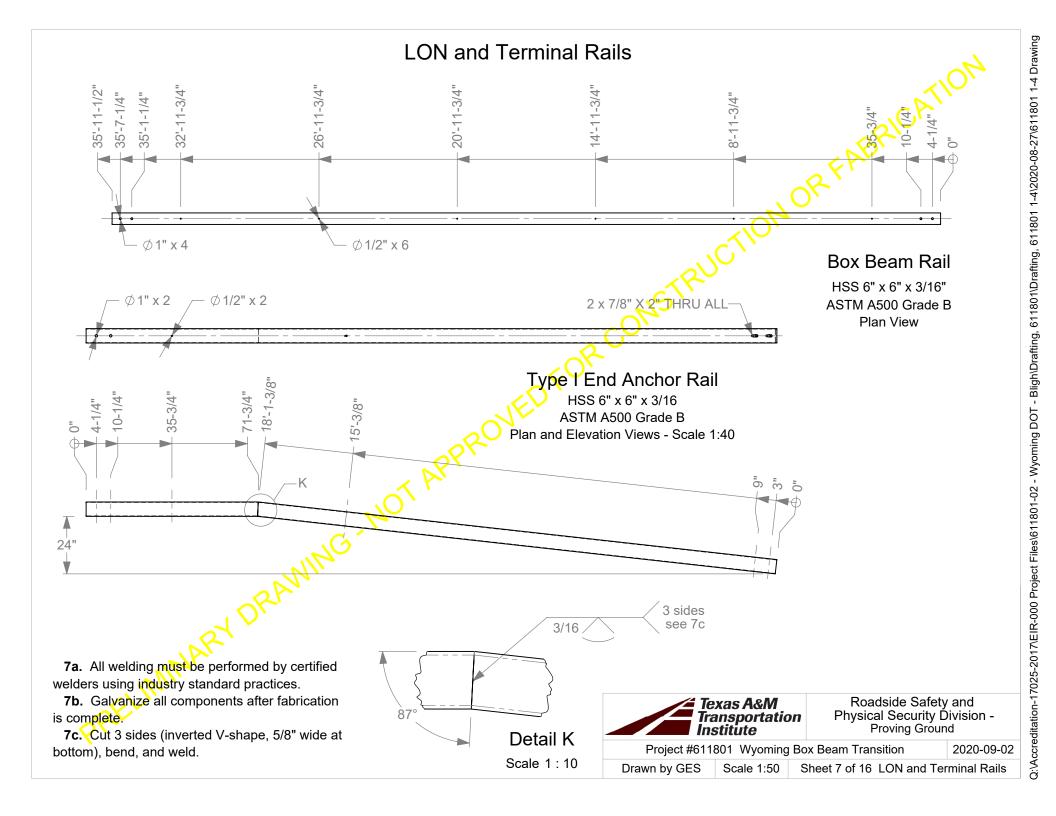
## Rub Rails

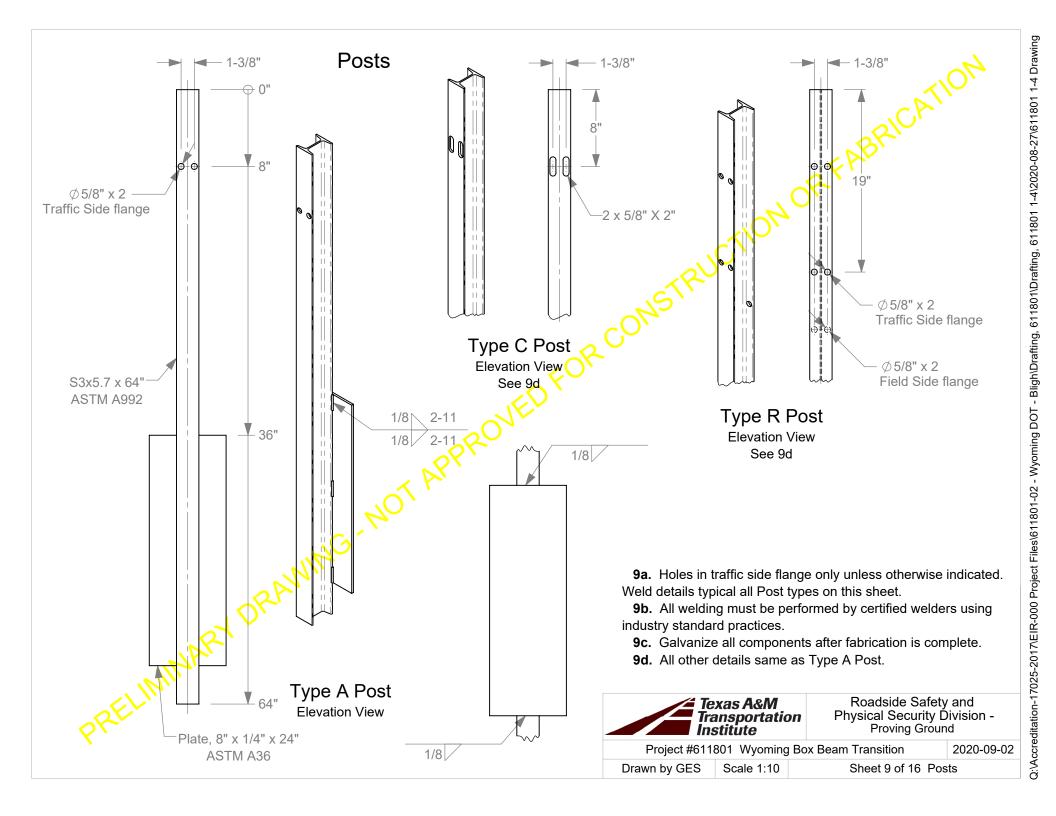


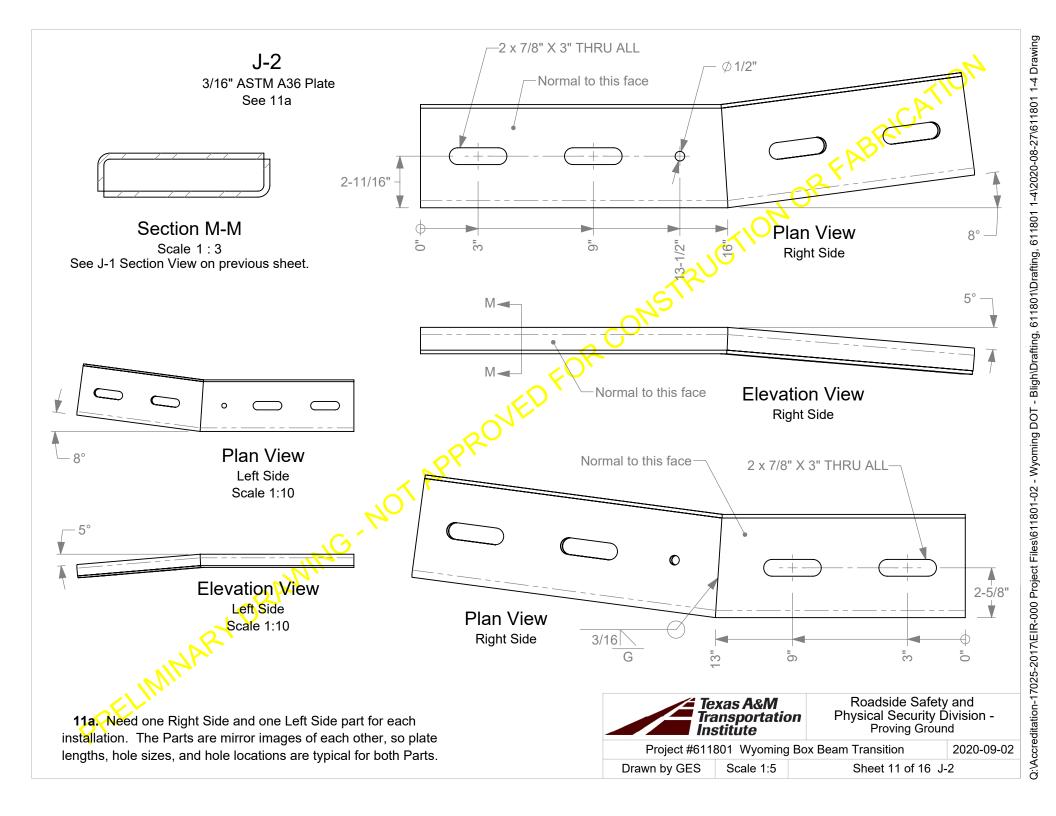
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Scale 1:30

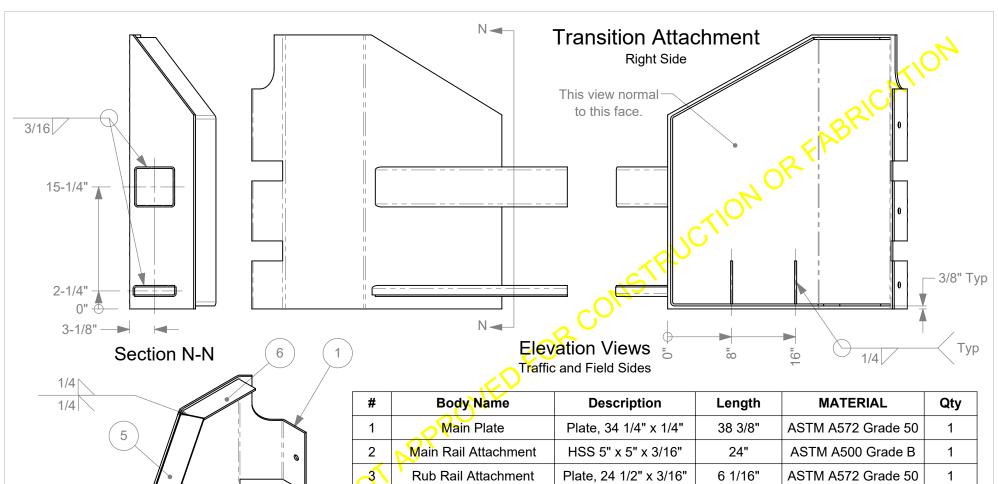
Sheet 6 of 16 Rub Rails



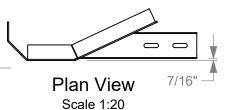








	#	Body Name	Description	Length	MATERIAL	Qty
	1	Main Plate	Plate, 34 1/4" x 1/4"	38 3/8"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	2	Main Rail Attachment	HSS 5" x 5" x 3/16"	24"	ASTM A500 Grade B	1
	w W	Rub Rail Attachment	Plate, 24 1/2" x 3/16"	6 1/16"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	4	Rub Rail Attachment	Plate, 24" x 3/16"	6 1/16"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	5	Side Stiffener	Plate, 3" x 1/4"	61 7/8"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	6	Top Stiffener	Plate, 3" x 1/4"	10 5/16"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	7	Bottom Stiffener	Plate, 2 3/4" x 1/4"	9 7/8"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	1
	8	Gusset	Plate, 3" x 1/4"	5 3/8"	ASTM A572 Grade 50	2



Isometric View

**12a.** All welding must be performed by certified welders using industry standard practices.

12b. Galvanize after fabrication is complete.



Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

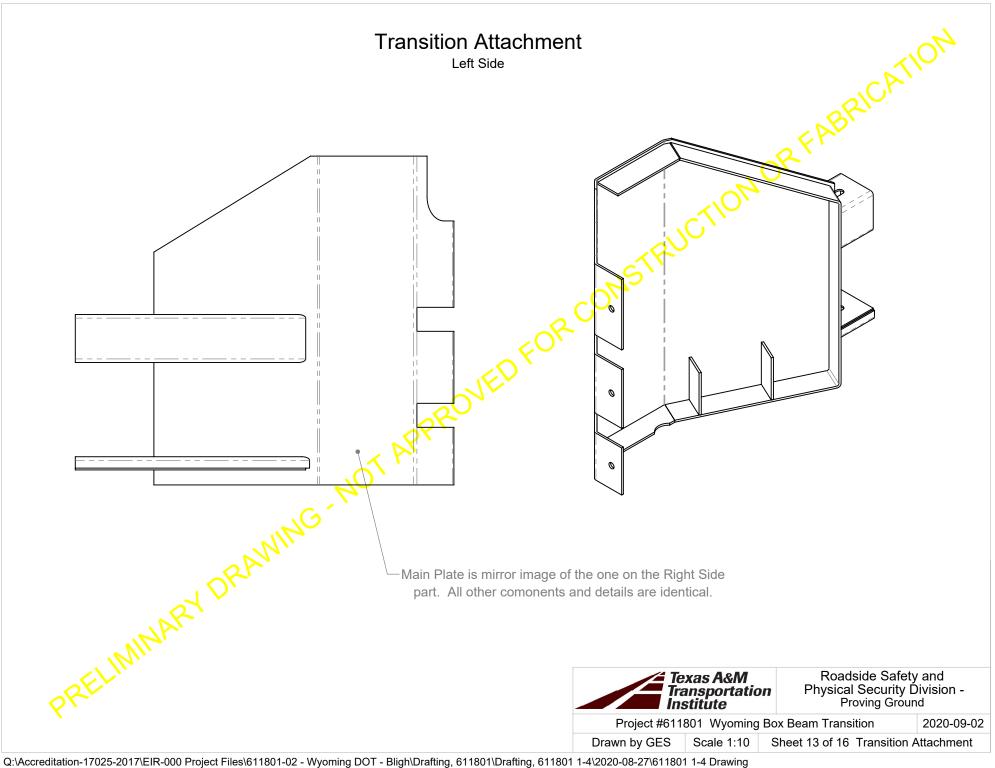
Project #611801 Wyoming Box Beam Transition

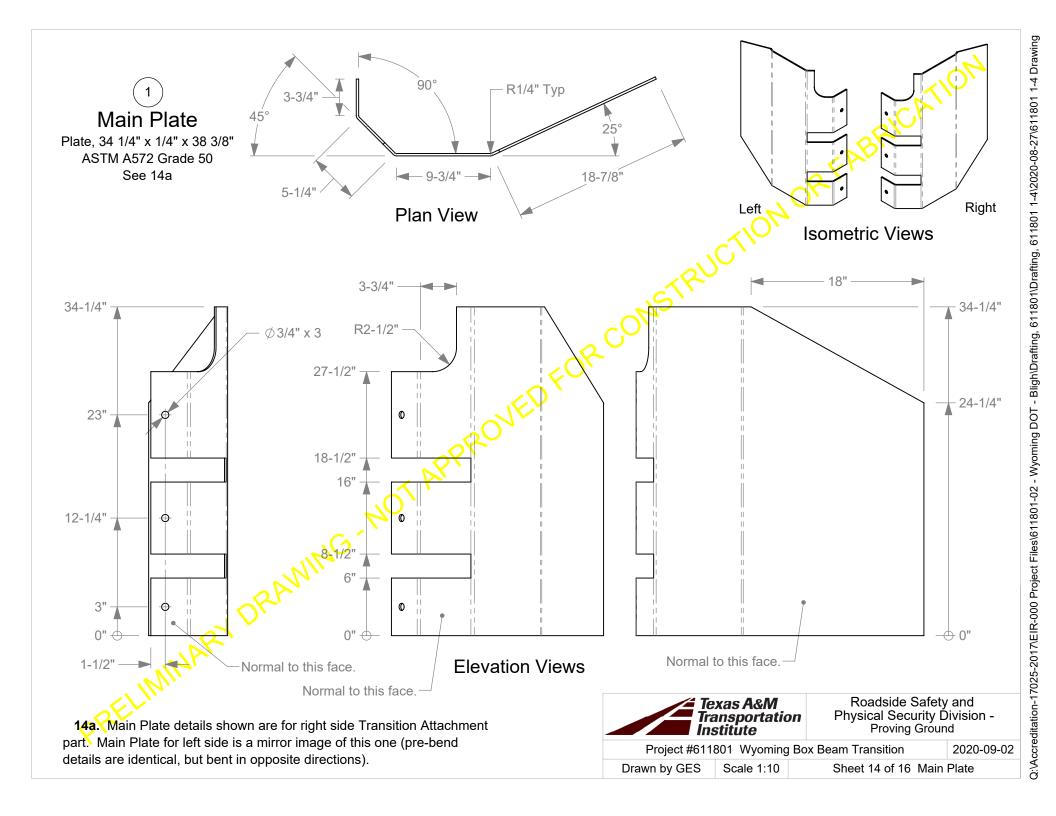
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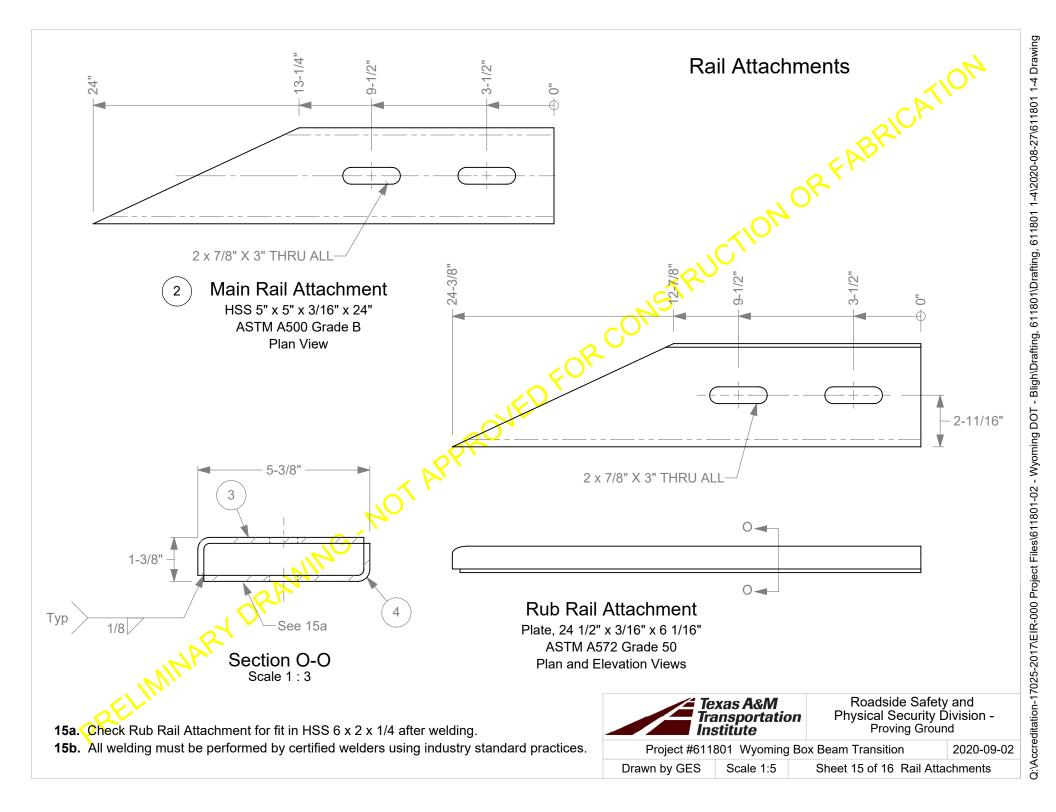
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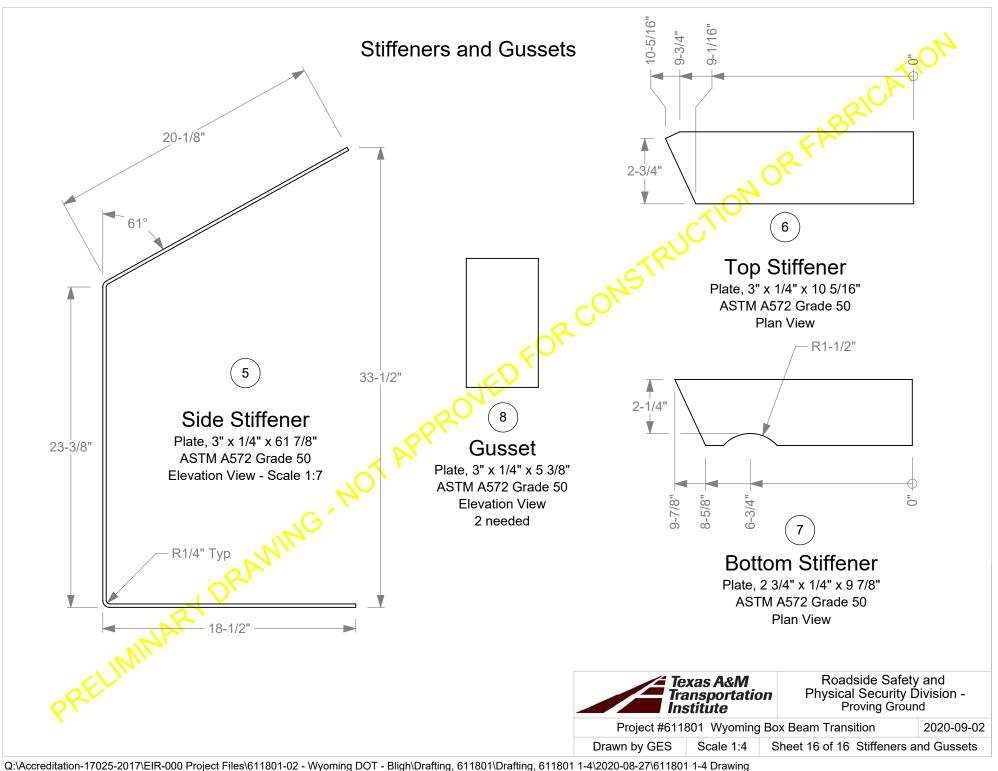
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Sheet 12 of 16 Transition Attachment



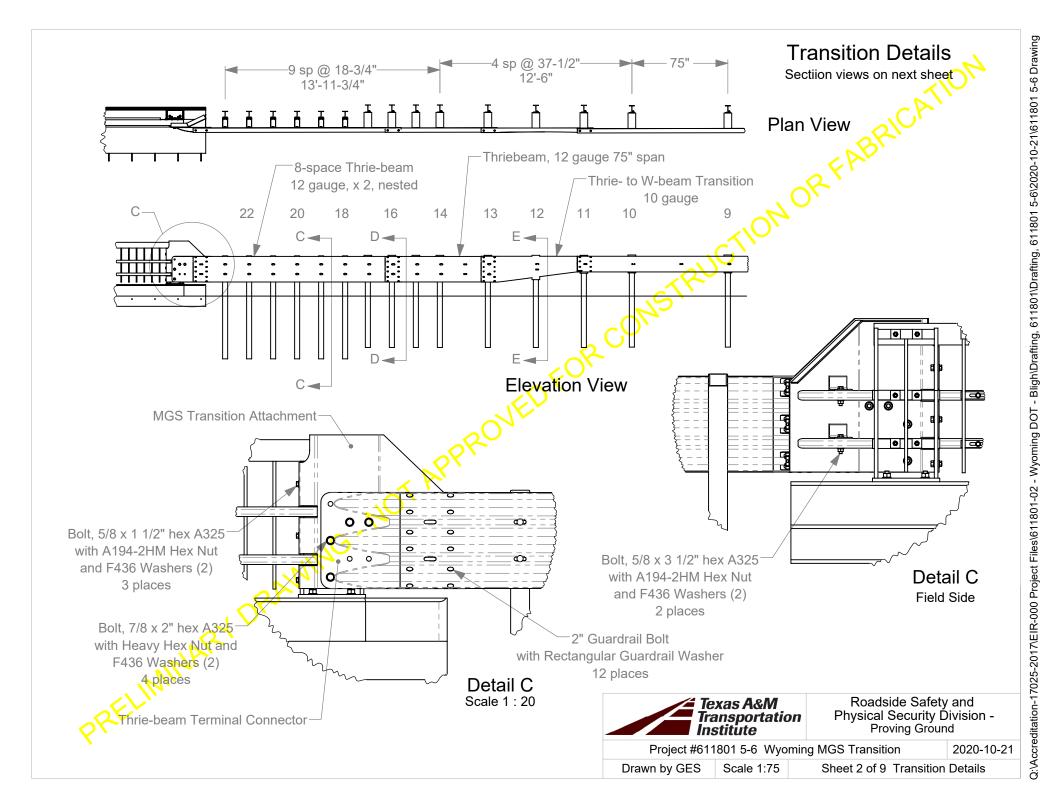


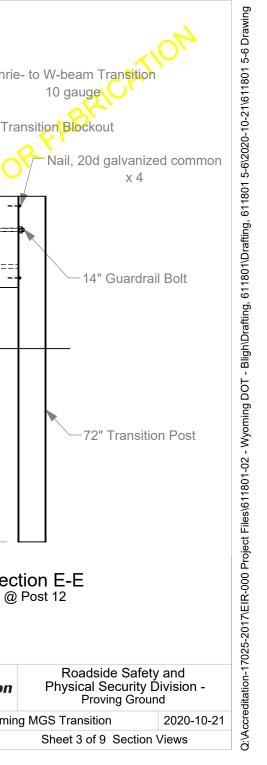


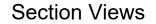


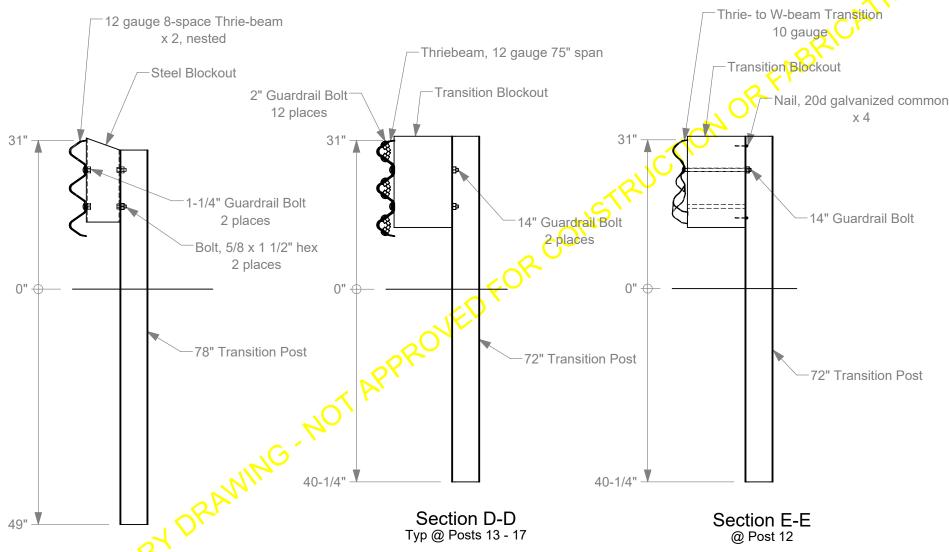
#### **ATTACHMENT 2**

#### **MGS Transition Test Installation Details**









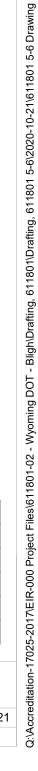
Section C-C Typ @ Posts 18 - 23

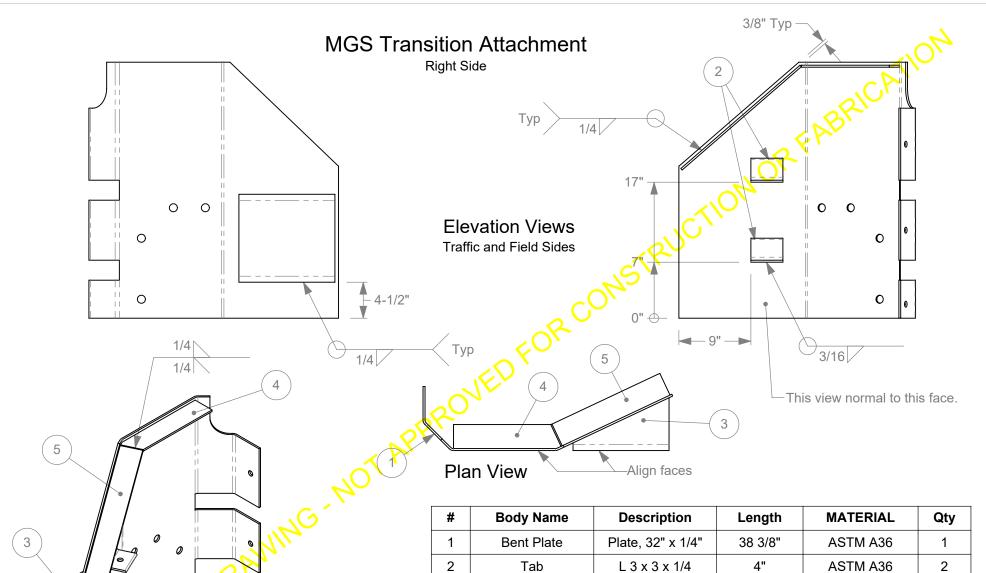
> Texas A&M Transportation Institute

> > Project #611801 5-6 Wyoming MGS Transition

Drawn by GES

Scale 1:20





#	Body Name	Description	Length	MATERIAL	Qty
1	Bent Plate	Plate, 32" x 1/4"	Plate, 32" x 1/4" 38 3/8" ASTM A36		1
2	Tab	L 3 x 3 x 1/4	4"	ASTM A36	2
3	Thrie-beam Support	Plate, 12" x 1/4"	ate, 12" x 1/4" 23 1/8" ASTM A36		1
4	Top Stiffener	Plate, 3" x 1/4"	13 7/16"	ASTM A36	1
5	Side Stiffener	Plate, 3" x 1/4"	19 11/16"	ASTM A36	1

**4a.** All welding must be performed by certified welders using industry standard practices.

Isometric View

Field Side

**4b.** Galvanize after fabrication is complete.



Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

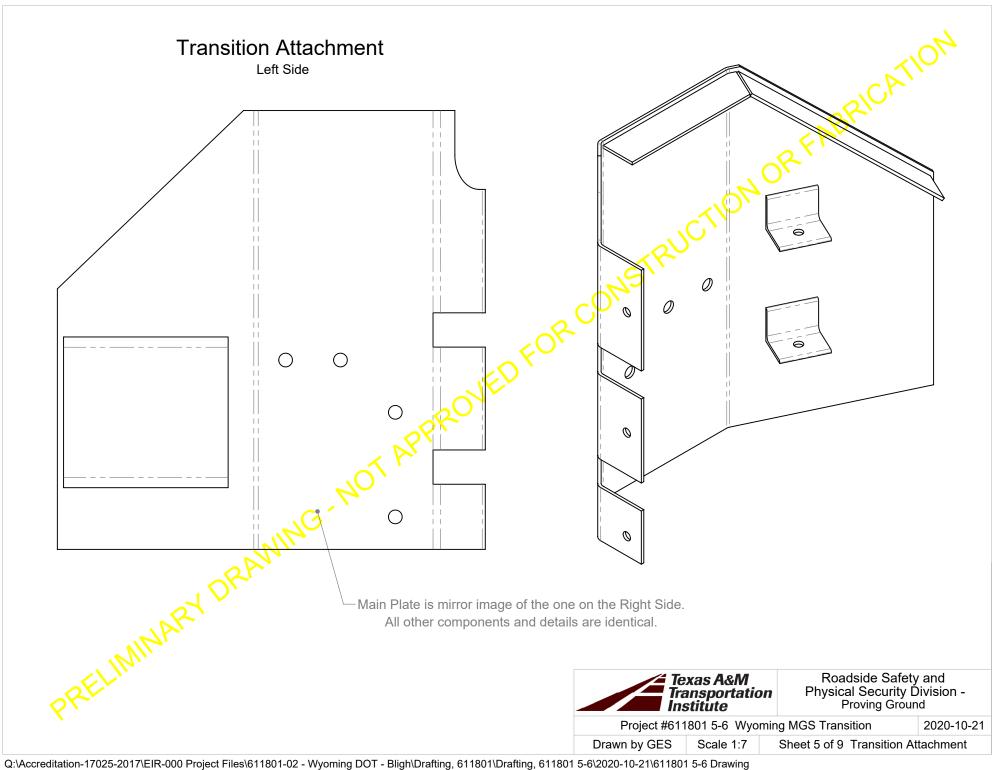
Project #611801 5-6 Wyoming MGS Transition

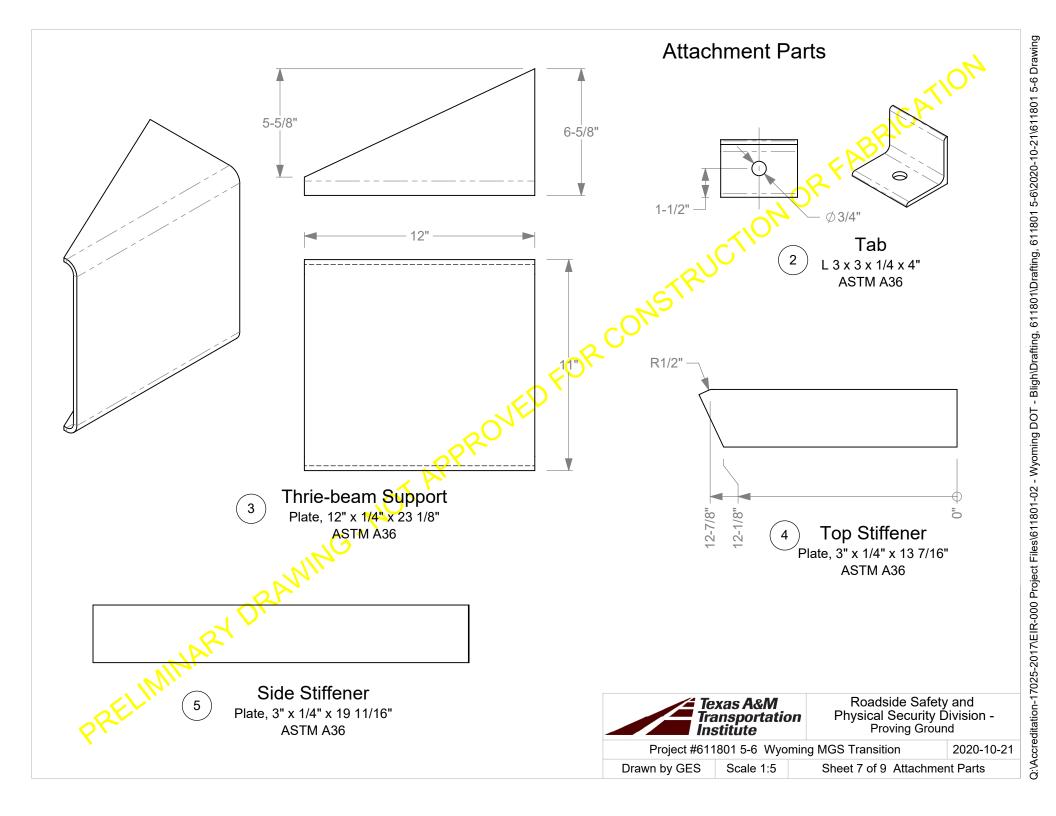
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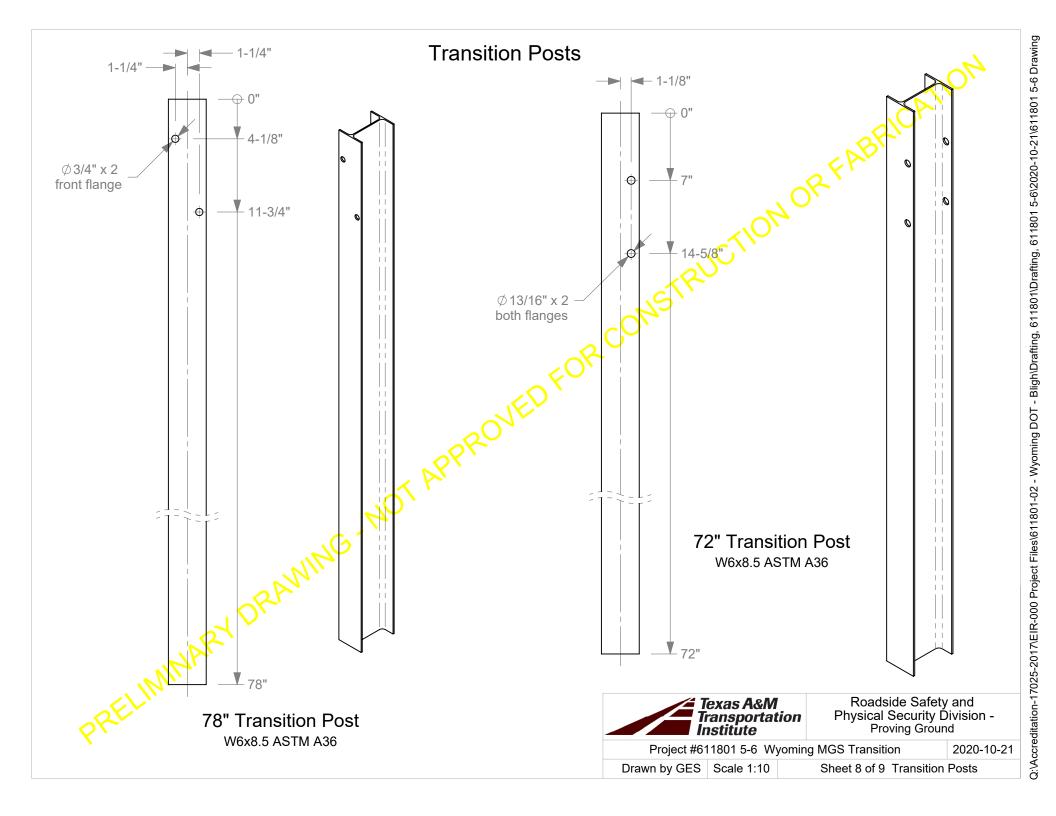
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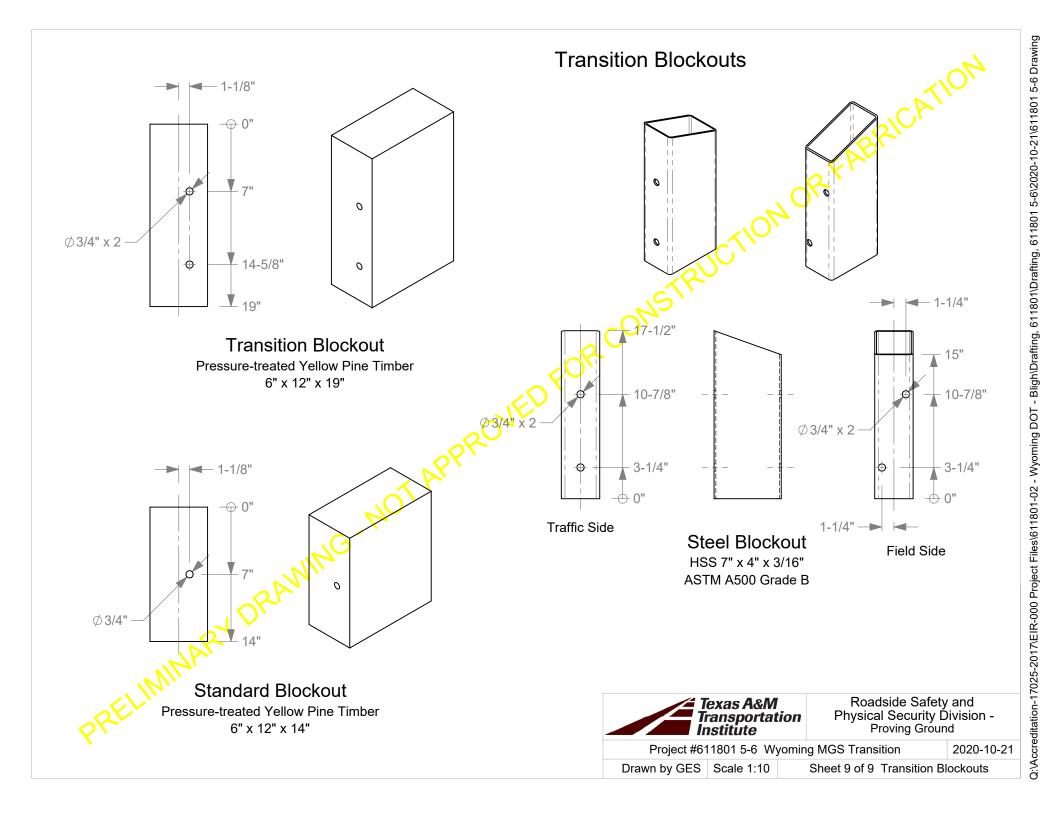
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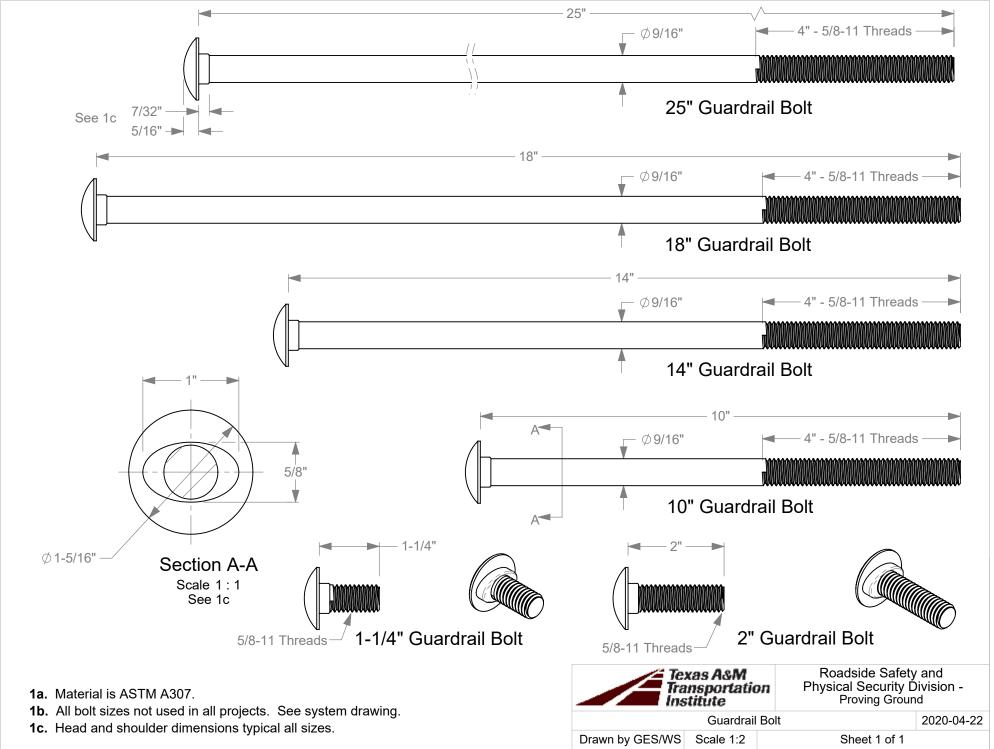
Sheet 4 of 9 Transition Attachment



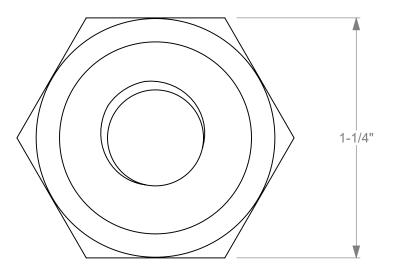


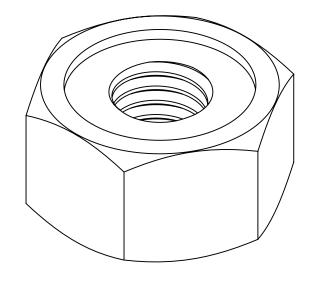


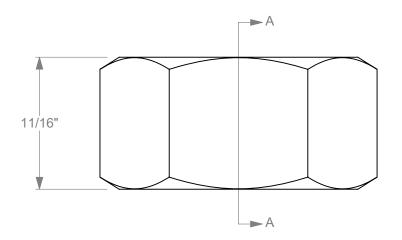


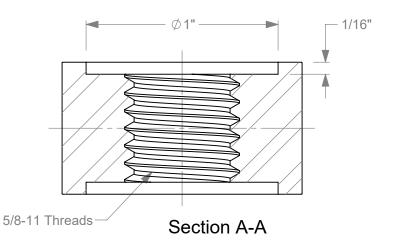


#### Recessed Guardrail Nut











Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

Recessed Guardrail Nut

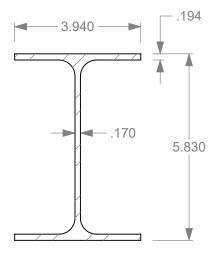
2019-06-27

**1a.** Material is ASTM A 563 Grade A.

Drawn by GES Scale 2:1

# — 1-1/8" $\emptyset$ 13/16" Typ, both flanges 72" Isometric View W6x8.5 ASTM A992 **Elevation View**

## 72" Wide-Flange Guardrail Post



Section A-A

Scale 1:3



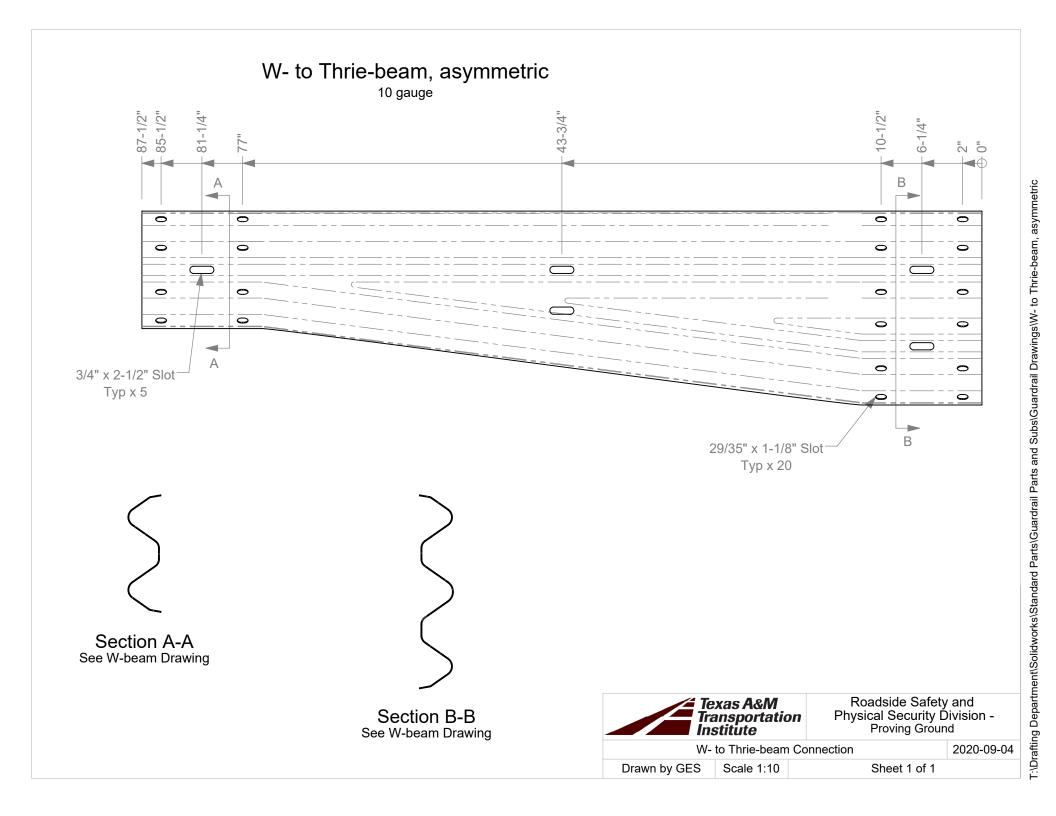
Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

72" Wide-Flange Guardrail Post

2020-01-06

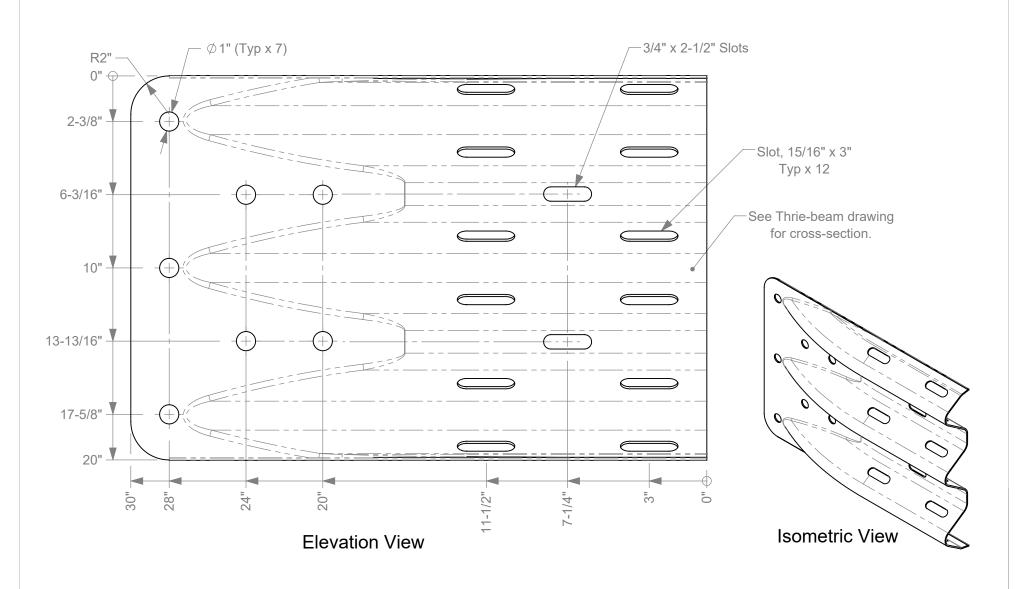
Drawn by GES

Scale 1:10



#### Thrie-beam End Shoe

10 gauge (0.1345" before galvanizing)





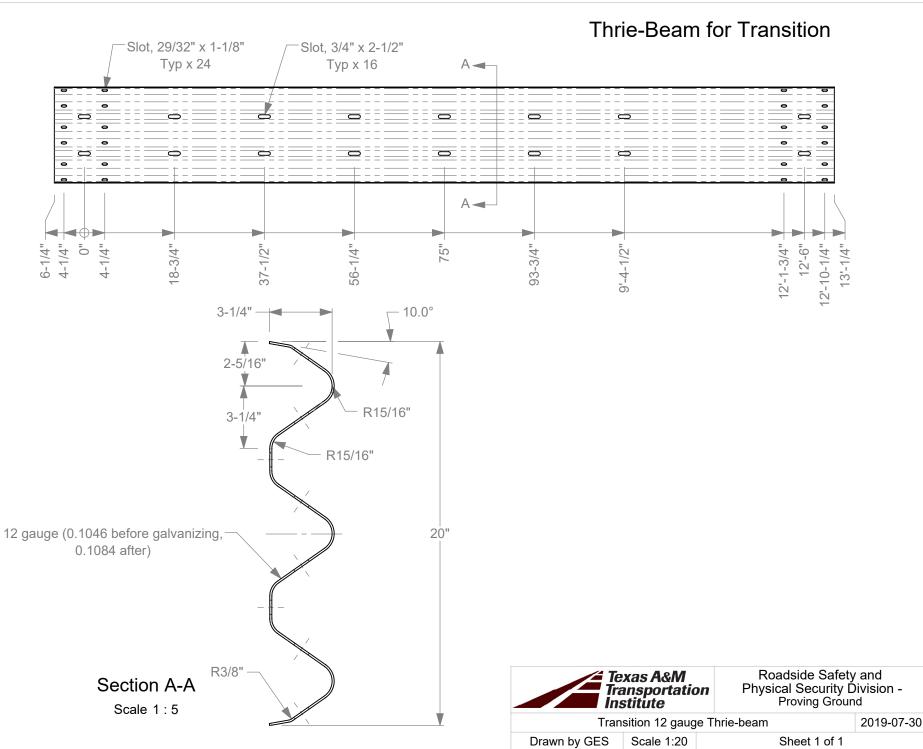
Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

Thrie-beam Terminal Connector

2019-07-29

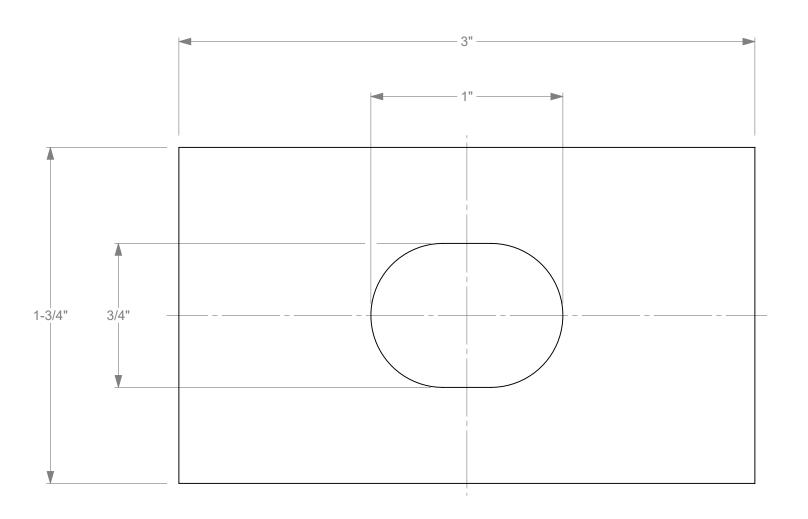
Drawn by GES

Scale 1:5



## Rectangular Guardrail Washer

0.20" thick



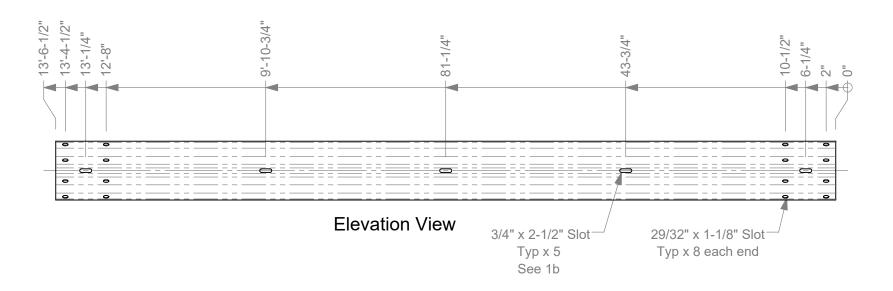
Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

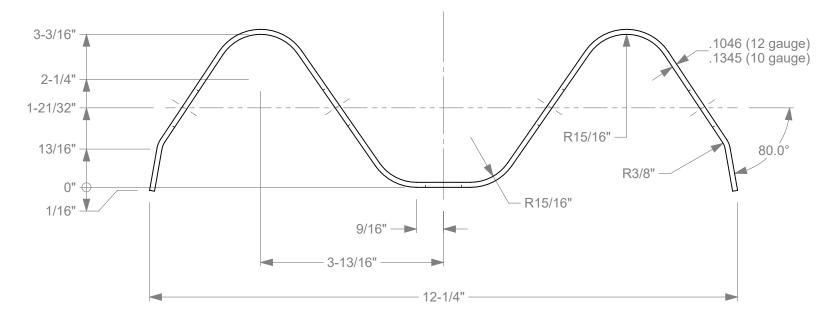
Rectangular Guardrail Washer

2019-08-08

Drawn by GES

Scale 2:1



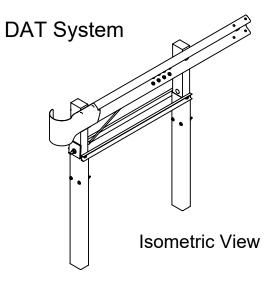


#### **Section View**

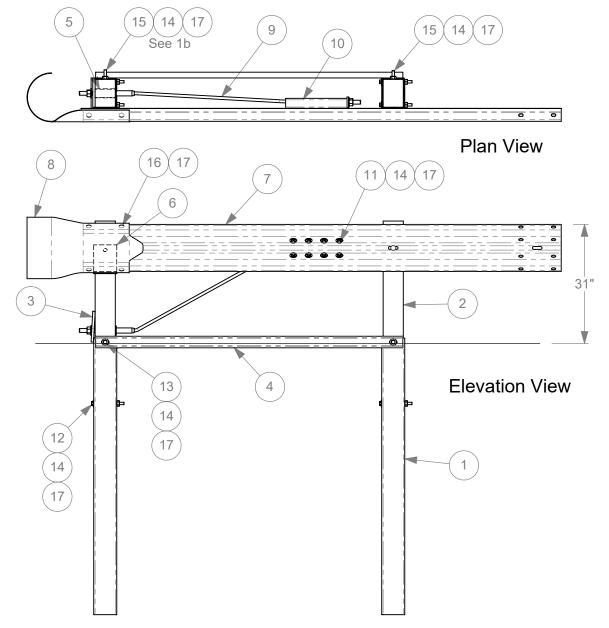
**1a.** Manufacture per AASHTO M180 specifications.

**1b.** 4-space Guardrail is shown. Slots typical x 3 for 2-space W-beam spaced at 75", and typical x 9 for 8-space W-beam spaced at 18-3/4". Slots are typical x 4 at 37-1/2" for 9'-4-1/2" span W-beam.

Texas A&M Transportation Institute			Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division - Proving Ground	
4-space W-beam Guardrail				2020-06-05
Drawn by GES	Scale 1:20		Sheet 1 of 1	



#	Part Name	Qty.
1	1 Foundation Tube	
2	<ul><li>2 Terminal Timber Post</li><li>3 BCT Bearing Plate</li></ul>	
3		
4	4 DAT Strut	
5	5 BCT Post Sleeve	
6	Shelf Angle Bracket	1
7	DAT Terminal Rail	1
8	W-beam End Section	1
9	9 Anchor Cable Assembly	
10	Guardrail Anchor Bracket	1
11	Bolt, 5/8 x 2" hex	8
12	Bolt, 5/8 x 8" hex	4
13	Bolt, 5/8 x 10" hex	2
14	Washer, 5/8 F844	16
15	15 10" Guardrail Bolt	
16	1-1/4" Guardrail Bolt	4
17	Recessed Guardrail Nut	20



1a. All bolts are ASTM A307.

**1b.** Hardware secures Shelf Angle Bracket to Post. Rail is supported by Shelf Angle Bracket and does not attach directly to Post.



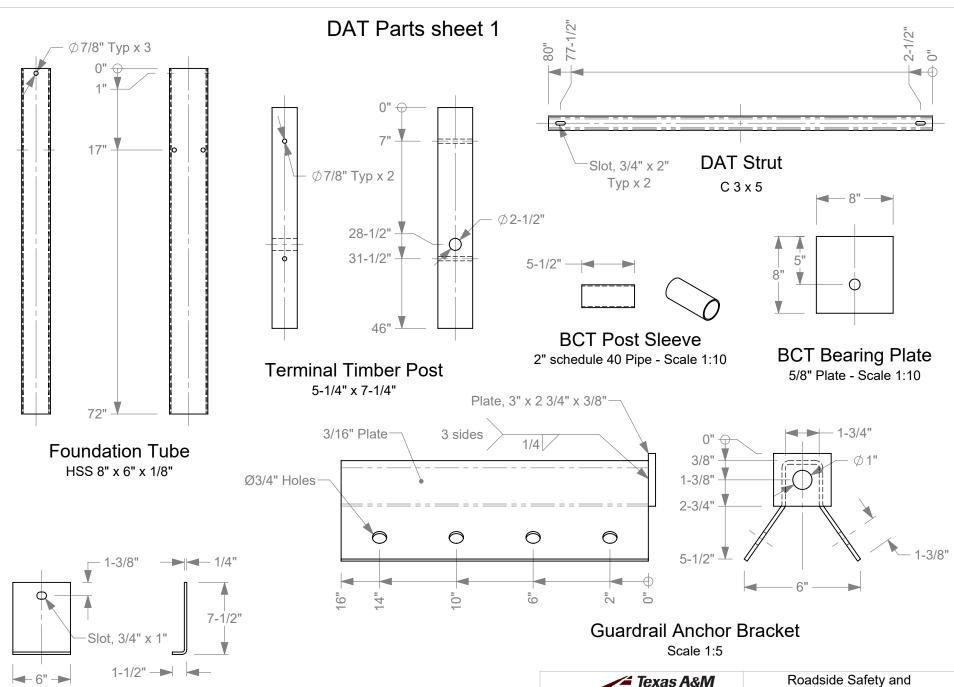
Roadside Safety and Physical Security Division -Proving Ground

DAT (Downstream Anchor Terminal)

2019-07-26

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Shelf Angle Bracket
Scale 1:10

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Scale 1:20

DAT (Downstream Anchor Terminal)

Transportation

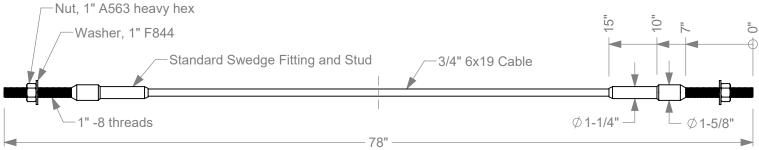
Institute

) 2019-07-26 Sheet 2 of 3

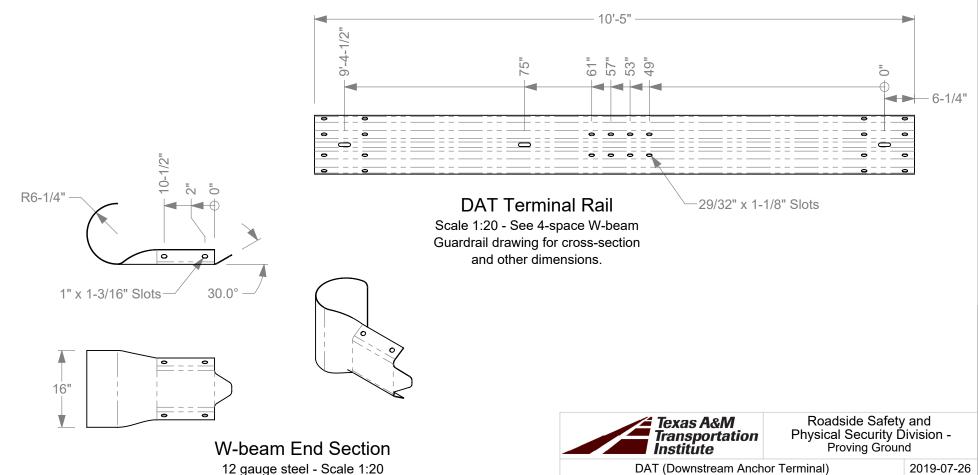
Physical Security Division -

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# DAT Parts sheet 2



#### **Anchor Cable Assembly**



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Scale 1:10

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