



# Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Project Management and Technical Support, Mail Stop 675  
395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Date: June 09, 2015

Arlene Kocher  
Minnesota Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
380 Jackson Street, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Renewal request for a Public Interest Finding, for Proprietary Items;  
High Tension Cable Barrier

Dear Arlene Kocher:

The current Public Interest Finding (PIF) will expire on July 1, 2015. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) would like to renew the current PIF (with minor modifications). The renewed PIF would allow MnDOT to specify specific products for High Tension Cable Barrier (HTCB) on projects, on State Trunk Highways, per 23 CFR 635.411(c).

The Department has standardized specifications and plan details for use when High Tension Cable Barrier is required. It is the desire of the Department to continue to provide geographical consistency of barrier types installed, as well as provide a level of cost effectiveness. Statewide, MnDOT will continue to specify three products for use. MnDOT would like to continue to designate two products for each outstate district, and allow all three products for use in the Metro area.

Regional consistency is desirable to properly manage the amount of training and expertise required for maintenance staff. Maintenance crews for each district will need to only be trained in the repair of the systems for their geographic areas. Each maintenance area will be required to only carry parts for the specified barrier assignments. This efficiency should also minimize response time for repairs when responding to hits.

To ensure that adequate competition across Minnesota is being maintained, the Department evaluated the weighted average contract prices prior to the original PIF vs. the weighted average contract prices during the original PIF time period. The results are summarized in the following table:

Manufacturer	Cost / foot Before PIF (Weighted Average Contract Prices) (June 2009 – May 2012)	Cost /foot After PIF (Weighted Average Contract Prices) (July 2012 – June 2014)
BRIFEN	\$18.87	\$18.99
GIBRALTAR	\$19.27	\$19.07
Trinity (CASS)	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>	\$18.94

*(1) No projects with the CASS system were awarded between June 2009 and May 2012.*

There was no significant cost change before and after the PIF. For that reason, MnDOT would like to renew the PIF for an additional three years.

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The following table indicates which systems MnDOT would like to continue to select for use on State Trunk Highways:

Manufacturer	Name of System	FHWA Approval Letter	Test Level
BRIFEN	Brifen TL-4 (4-Rope)	FHWA HSA-10/B-82B	TL-4 (4 CABLES)
	WRSF	FHWA HSA-10/B82-B1	TL-4 (4 CABLES)
GIBRALTAR	Gibraltar TL-4-4 Cable Barrier System	FHWA HSA-10/B-137A <sup>(1)</sup>	TL-4 (3 CABLES)
		FHWA HSA-10/B-137A1	TL-4 (4 CABLES)
TRINITY (CASS)	CASS-S3 (4:1 SLOPE) 4-CABLE GUARDRAIL SAFETY SYSTEM	FHWA HSSD/B-141F FHWA HSST/B-232	TL-4 (4 CABLES)

(1) FHWA letter HSA-10/B-137A used as a reference for the modified version HSA-10/B-137A1 which added a fourth cable between the bottom two cables at a height of 25 inches.

MnDOT is proposing that the following products be specified for each district.

District	System Selections <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>District 1</b>	Brifen and Trinity (CASS)
<b>District 2</b>	Brifen and Trinity (CASS)
<b>District 3</b>	Brifen and Gibraltar
<b>District 4</b>	Brifen and Gibraltar
<b>Metro</b>	Brifen, Gibraltar and Trinity (CASS)
<b>District 6</b>	Brifen and Gibraltar
<b>District 7</b>	Brifen and Gibraltar
<b>District 8</b>	Brifen and Trinity (CASS)

(2) Note: Nu-Cable Barrier System and the Safence Blue Systems AB Barriers, currently do not meet the full MnDOT design criteria. These and any other systems will continue to be evaluated and considered as changes or additional testing occurs.

This new public interest finding would begin on July 1, 2015 and end on July 1, 2018. Before the PIF is again renewed, the following items will be reviewed with FHWA, Minnesota Division. The information will be provided by MnDOT's Design Standards Unit, Office of Project Management and Technical Support.

- Cost: comparison of average contract prices prior to the PIF vs. average contract prices during the PIF time period. The purpose of this is to ensure that adequate competition is maintained.
- New products: evaluate any new/improved cable barrier systems that have come on the market during the PIF time period.

The Department believes that the cost and time savings that will be experienced is such that the public interest would best be served, and we request your concurrence.

Sincerely,



Chris Roy, P.E.  
State Design Engineer

Approved: June 9, 2015

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For FHWA