

Cable Median Barrier

Installing high tension cable median barrier in strategic locations has proven to be effective in preventing cross median crashes that so often have tragic outcomes.

Cable median barrier projects have been funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funds and other state and federal funds. Project selection is based on crash data, traffic volume, and existing median width following AASHTO guidance.

High Tension Cable Median Barrier In Place - Dec 2016	
	Miles
Metro	223
Greater Minnesota	368
Statewide Total	591



Studies of existing cable median barrier installations show dramatic decreases in fatal and serious injuries due to cross median crashes. Cable median barriers can reduce fatal crashes by 95 percent. There are few safety devices available that virtually guarantees consistent success in saving lives every year on divided highways. Since the first installation in 2004, cable median barriers have saved approximately 148 lives in Minnesota.

The typical cost for installation is about \$125,000-\$150,000 per mile. However, there are restrictions in where cable median barrier can be installed depending on the cross section of the median area. For example, if the side slope is too steep, additional costs can be incurred through grading and/or providing cable median barrier for both directions.

For each installation, engineers must determine how far the barrier should be placed from the shoulder. The placement is influenced by a variety of factors including: ditch slopes, manufacturer and engineers recommendations, median widths, soil conditions, maintenance issues, and curvature of the roadway. Improper placement of the barrier could result in vehicles overriding the barrier and crossing into oncoming traffic.

The annual cost for maintenance and repair in the Metro District for FY2016 is approximately \$5,400 per mile. Statewide, the average annual cost per mile for maintenance and repair is approximately \$3,600. Whenever possible, repair costs are recovered through insurance companies of the individuals responsible for damaging the cable median barrier or through court-ordered restitution.

For more information visit:

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/reports/cmbarrier.html>