# Development and Evaluation of Concrete Barrier Containment Options for Errant Motorcycle Riders 



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| 16. Abstract <br> Motorcycles are among the most vulnerable vehicles on the road. Although a combination of different factors may contribute to motorcycle crashes, roadside safety systems design can play an important role in limiting the severity of motorcycle crashes. Roadside safety systems are not typically designed with the special needs of motorcyclists in mind. The Roadside Design Guide provides guidelines for proper concrete barrier placement on roadways but does not address motorcycle barriers. The Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware includes testing guidelines and evaluation criteria for roadside safety barriers impacted by errant vehicles but does not specifically address impacts by motorcycles. <br> There is a need to contribute to motorcyclist safety by designing and evaluating a containment system for upright errant motorcycle riders impacting a concrete barrier. This system would aid in preventing riders from ejecting over the barrier and reduce injury severity to the rider during the impact event. In the study described herein, finite element computer simulations were used to assist with the design and evaluation of proposed containment options to be mounted on a concrete barrier. An upright motorcycle full-scale crash test with a Hybrid III 50th percentile male dummy was conducted to evaluate the crashworthiness of a chain link fence containment system supported by Modified U-shaped posts and attached to a curved concrete barrier section. The test was conducted at a nominal impact speed of $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ and impact angle of $18^{\circ}$ to the barrier. During the impact event, the system successfully prevented the rider/dummy from ejecting over the barrier and the dummy did not interact with the system's support posts. |  |  |


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# DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF CONCRETE BARRIER CONTAINMENT OPTIONS FOR ERRANT MOTORCYCLE RIDERS 

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page
List of Figures ..... xi
List of Tables ..... xii
Chapter 1: Introduction ..... 1
1.1 Background ..... 1
1.2 Research Objective and Methodology ..... 2
1.2.1 Concept Development and Design Selection ..... 2
1.2.2 Engineering Analysis and Component Testing. ..... 2
1.2.3 Finite Element Analysis ..... 3
1.2.4 Full-Scale Crash Testing and Analysis ..... 4
Chapter 2: Design Development ..... 5
2.1 NCHRP Report 350 Zone of Intrusion ..... 5
2.2 Proposed Design Options ..... 6
2.2.1 Option A: Chain Link Fence Supported by Weak Post ..... 6
2.2.2 Option B: Chain Link Fence Supported by 7-Shaped Post. ..... 6
2.2.3 Option C: Chain Link Fence Supported by U-Shaped Post ..... 6
Chapter 3: Dynamic Component Testing ..... 9
3.1 Pendulum Facility ..... 9
3.2 Test Article Design and Construction ..... 9
3.3 Test No. 469688-2 P1 ..... 11
3.4 Test No. 469688-2 P2 ..... 11
3.5 Test No. 469688-2 P3 ..... 14
3.6 Test No. 469688-2 P4 ..... 14
3.7 Test No. 469688-2 P5 ..... 17
3.8 Test No. 469688-2 P6 ..... 17
3.9 Test No. 469688-2 P7 ..... 20
3.10 Conclusions and Recommendations ..... 20
Chapter 4: Chain Link Fence FE Model Development and Calibration ..... 23
4.1 Chain Link Fence FE Model Development ..... 23
4.2 Chain Link Fence FE Model Calibration ..... 26
Chapter 5: FE Simulations of the Proposed Post Options ..... 31
5.1 New Jersey Shape Barrier ..... 31
5.2 Fast Hybrid III 50th Percentile Male Dummy Model ..... 32
5.3 Motorcycle FE Model ..... 33
5.4 Impact Parameters ..... 34
5.5 FE Models of Proposed Post Options ..... 34
5.5.1 Option A - Weak Post ..... 34
5.5.2 Option B - 7-Shaped Post ..... 34
5.5.3 Option C - U-Shaped Post ..... 36
5.6 FE Analysis Results of Proposed Post Options ..... 37
5.6.1 Option A - Weak Post ..... 37
5.6.2 Option B - 7-Shaped Post ..... 39
5.6.3 Option C - U-Shaped Post ..... 41

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

Page
5.7 Injury Evaluation ..... 43
5.8 Conclusion of the Proposed Containment Options ..... 44
5.9 FE Analysis of Modified U-Shaped Post Option ..... 45
5.9.1 Model Description ..... 45
5.9.2 Modified U-Shaped Post Option ..... 46
5.9.3 Conclusions ..... 48
Chapter 6: TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles (Crash Test No. 469688-2-1) ..... 49
6.1 Test Article and Installation Details ..... 49
6.2 Material Specifications ..... 49
6.3 Test Designation and Actual Impact Conditions ..... 49
6.4 Weather Conditions ..... 49
6.5 Test Vehicle ..... 52
6.6 Anthropomorphic Test Dummy ..... 53
6.7 Test Description ..... 53
6.8 Damage to Test Installation ..... 56
6.8 Damage to Dummy and Motorcycle ..... 57
Chapter 7: Summary and Conclusions ..... 59
Chapter 8: Implementation ..... 61
References ..... 63
Appendix A. Details of the Motorcycle NET ..... 65
Appendix B. Supporting Certification Documents ..... 69
Appendix C. Crash Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 87
C. 1 Vehicle Properties and Information ..... 87
C. 2 Sequential Photographs ..... 88

## LIST OF FIGURES

Page
Figure 2.1. Zone of Intrusion for NCHRP Report 350 TL-3 (a) and TL-4 (b) ..... 5
Figure 2.2. Motorcycle Pendulum Test Article ..... 10
Figure 4.1. Beam Elements of the Chain Link Fence FE Model ..... 23
Figure 4.2. Chain Link Fence FE Model ..... 24
Figure 4.3. FE Model of Posts and Rail ..... 24
Figure 4.4. FE Model of the 517 lb Pendulum Bogie ..... 25
Figure 4.5. FE Models of Pendulum Test P1 ..... 25
Figure 4.6. FE Models of Pendulum Test P7 ..... 26
Figure 4.7. Maximum Dynamic Deflection with Different $\lambda$ values in Test P1 FE Simulation ..... 26
Figure 4.8. Maximum Dynamic Deflection with Different $\lambda$ values in Test P7 FE Simulation ..... 27
Figure 5.1. 32-inch Tall New Jersey Shape Concrete Barrier FE Model. ..... 31
Figure 5.2. Comparison of Detailed Dummy Model (Left) and Fast Dummy Model (Right). ..... 32
Figure 5.3. Comparison of Mesh Size for Detailed Dummy Model (Left) and Fast Dummy Model (Right). ..... 32
Figure 5.4. Comparison of FE Model without Mesh to Physical Motorcycle. ..... 33
Figure 5.5. Option A - Weak Post FE Model. ..... 35
Figure 5.6. Option B-7 Shaped Post FE Model. ..... 35
Figure 5.7. Option C - U Shaped Post FE Model. ..... 36
Figure 5.8. Impact Configuration - Weak Post Option ..... 37
Figure 5.9. Motorcyclist's Interaction for Weak Post Option - Isometric View. ..... 38
Figure 5.10. Motorcyclist's Interaction for Weak Post Option - Front View ..... 38
Figure 5.11. Impact Configuration - " 7 "- shaped Post Option. ..... 39
Figure 5.12. Motorcyclist’s Interaction for " 7 "-shaped Post Option - Isometric View. ..... 40
Figure 5.13. Motorcyclist’s Interaction for " 7 "-shaped Post Option - Front View. ..... 40
Figure 5.14. Impact Configuration - "U"-shaped Post Option ..... 41
Figure 5.15. Motorcyclist’s Interaction for "U"-shaped Post Option - Isometric View ..... 42
Figure 5.16. Motorcyclist’s Interaction for "U"-shaped Post Option - Front View. ..... 42
Figure 5.17. HIC15 Values Comparison ..... 43
Figure 5.18. Chest Acceleration Values Comparison ..... 44
Figure 5.19. Modified U Shaped Post FE Model ..... 45
Figure 5.20. Impact Configuration - "Modified U"-shaped Post Option. ..... 46
Figure 5.21. Motorcyclist's Interaction for "Modified U"-shaped Post Option - Isometric View ..... 47
Figure 5.22. Motorcyclist's Interaction for "Modified U"-shaped Post Option - Front View ..... 47
Figure 6.1. Overall Details of the TXDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles. ..... 50
Figure 6.2. TXDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles prior to Testing. ..... 51
Figure 6.3. Target CIP for Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 52

## LIST OF FIGURES (CONTINUED)

Page
Figure 6.4. TXDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles/Test Vehicle Geometrics for Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 52
Figure 6.5. Test Vehicle before Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 53
Figure 6.6. Sequential images for test 469688-2-1 (perpendicular, overhead, and close up views) ..... 55
Figure 6.7. TXDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles after Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 56
Figure 6.8. Test Dummy after Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 57
Figure 6.9. Motorcycle upright on kickstand after Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 57
Figure 6.10. Summary of Results for Test on the TXDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles ..... 58
Figure C.1. Sequential Photographs for Test No. 469688-2-1 (Overhead and Frontal). ..... 88
Figure C.2. Sequential Photographs for Test No. 469688-2-1 (Rear View). ..... 90

## LIST OF TABLES

Page
Table 2.1. Summary of Containment Options ..... 7
Table 3.1. $\quad$ Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P1 ..... 12
Table 3.2. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P2 ..... 13
Table 3.3. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P3 ..... 15
Table 3.4. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P4 ..... 16
Table 3.5. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P5 ..... 18
Table 3.6. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P6 ..... 19
Table 3.7. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P7 ..... 21
Table 3.8. Pendulum Test Results ..... 22
Table 4.1. Initial and Maximum Dynamic Deflection Configurations in Test P1 and Test P7 Finite Element Simulations (Top Views) ..... 27
Table 4.2. Comparison between Finite Element Simulation and Pendulum Test P1 ..... 28
Table 4.3. Comparison between Finite Element Simulation and Pendulum Test P7 ..... 29
Table 5.1. Comparison of Geometrical Measurements of Physical to FE Motorcycle. ..... 33
Table 6.1. Events during Test No. 469688-2-1 ..... 54
Table C.1. Vehicle Properties for Test No. 469688-2-1. ..... 87

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable users of the road system. Multiple factors contribute to this vulnerability, including the fact that motorcycles do not provide the same protection as passenger cars or other vehicle types. Although one or a combination of different factors may cause motorcycle crashes, (including motorcyclist behavior, experience, weather, road condition and other hazards), the design of roadside safety systems can play an important role in reducing the severity of motorcycle crashes.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) requested the exploration of potential remedies to address motorcycle riders’ safety issue. Texas A\&M Transportation Institute (TTI) researchers developed a feasibility project to explore design options for a concrete barrier system to be deployed at appropriate bridge locations to improve errant motorcycle riders' safety. The objective of this project was to design, develop, and evaluate, through computer simulations and crash testing, an improved barrier system that is capable of safely containing errant motorcycle riders during an impact event.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Motorcycle collisions with roadside systems are frequently much more severe for their riders than for users of other vehicles because these roadside safety systems are not typically designed with the special needs of motorcyclists in mind. Unfortunately, some design factors that might provide higher levels of safety to users of other types of vehicles may result in more hazardous conditions to motorcyclists.

In addition, there are no guidelines addressing proper design and use of motorcycle barriers. For example, the Roadside Design Guide provides guidelines for proper guard fence placement on roadways but does not address motorcycles (1). The Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) includes testing guidelines and evaluation criteria for roadside safety barriers impacted by errant vehicles, but similarly does not address impacts by motorcycles (2). There is a need to improve motorcyclist safety by designing and evaluating a containment system for errant motorcycle riders who impact a curved roadside safety concrete barrier to prevent the rider from ejecting over the barrier, which will reduce the rider injury severity during impact.

Standards do not exist in the United State for motorcycle crash testing against roadside safety barriers. Europe and Australia are more advanced on this front, having developed a testing protocol for sliding motorcycle riders against barriers, and they are investigating methods to complement the protocol with a testing standard for upright motorcycle impacts (3-6). Nieboer et al. performed several motorcycle-into-barrier crash tests at the laboratories of the TNO CrashSafety Research Center (7). A special trolley was designed to guide the motorcycle and the dummy prior to impact. Three different test conditions were considered: $20 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ at $90^{\circ}, 30 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ at $90^{\circ}$, and $37 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ at approximately $67^{\circ}$. DEKRA Automobil GmbH (Germany) and Monash University (Australia) conducted a joint study on motorcycle impacts into roadside barriers (8). Findings from real-world crash investigations suggested conducting full-scale crash tests with two different impact scenarios: motorcycle impacting the barrier while driven in an upright
position and motorcycle striking the barrier while skidding on its side. Peldschus et al. performed two different motorcycle-into-barrier crash tests by order of the German Federal Highway Research Institute (9). The tests were performed with two different configurations for motorcycle and rider: (a) sliding, $37.3 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ at $25^{\circ}$; and (b) upright, $37.3 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ at $12^{\circ}$.

### 1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

This study sought to explore design options for containment systems on concrete barriers, to be deployed at appropriate locations to improve errant motorcycle riders’ safety. The objective of this project was to design and evaluate a containment barrier system with the capability of:

- Containing and redirecting errant upright motorcycle riders during the impact event.
- Avoiding impacted system debris that could potentially result in hazardous conditions to other road vehicles on lower roadways.
- Reducing injury risk for the errant rider by controlling the interaction with the impacted system.

The objective of this project was addressed through engineering analysis, finite element (FE) computer simulations, component pendulum testing, and full-scale crash testing.

A permanent 32-inch high New Jersey concrete barrier was constructed with a radius of curvature of 500 ft . Full-scale impact tests were performed with a motorcycle rider. The nominal impact speed of the motorcycle rider for the full-scale crash test was requested by sponsor to be $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. Through engineering analysis, the nominal impact angle was determined to be approximately $18^{\circ}$ with respect to the barrier tangent at the location of impact. This project was divided into three phases. The detailed descriptions are reported below.

### 1.2.1 Concept Development and Design Selection

TTI researchers defined basic requirements for the railing system, including accommodation of service loads, and developed design alternatives with the potential of meeting impact performance requirements, and providing other desirable functional characteristics. TTI researchers worked closely with TxDOT engineers to apply design constraints to the improved railing system. The design concepts were not fully engineered and detailed at this stage, but were sufficient for an initial feasibility assessment of rail behavior and capability.

TTI researchers presented, and discussed with TxDOT engineers, the improved railing system concepts. To the extent practical, TTI researchers documented advantages and disadvantages for each design alternative, including any perceived performance benefits and application limitations.

### 1.2.2 Engineering Analysis and Component Testing

TTI researchers developed design details of the design options that were selected by TxDOT as candidates for further development. Engineering analyses were performed to determine the appropriate size, spacing, and connection of the rail components for the design concepts, and to verify that each design could accommodate service load requirements.

TTI researchers proposed conducting component testing to validate the developed computer model of the chain link fence, and to allow verification of the final system details prior to full-scale testing.

Researchers developed a plan to conduct specific component testing, which would provide needed information to complete or confirm current model details. The component testing was mainly needed to verify the proposed system's behavior under impact, and to utilize collected system behavior information to validate the final computer models analyzed through computer simulations.

Researchers proposed conducting dynamic component testing through use of the existing TTI Proving Ground Outdoor Pendulum Facility. Researchers suggested impacting a system prototype with an existing pendulum, with the objective of obtaining post and fence forcedeflection data that would be used to calibrate the FE simulations.

Once the models were validated using information obtained from the pendulum tests, the details of the retrofit system were verified and finalized through FE impact simulations. Researchers suggested verifying the system behavior through full-scale testing after details of the recommended design were finalized.

### 1.2.3 Finite Element Analysis

TTI researchers evaluated the ability of the most promising design option to provide desirable functional characteristics. The evaluation involved the use of FE model development and impact simulations.

TTI researchers developed a detailed FE model for each of the selected design concepts. The explicit FE code LS-DYNA was used to perform impact simulations using the developed barrier model, the TTI motorcycle model, and the available Hybrid III 50 percent anthropomorphic test device (ATD) model.

Europe has developed a motorcycle impact protocol that involves a rider sliding against roadside safety devices. However, motorcycle impact standards for the evaluation of roadside safety devices when impacted by motorcycle riders in an upright position have not been developed (5). TTI researchers worked closely with TxDOT engineers to develop computer simulation plans that included proposed nominal impact conditions (speed and angle), critical impact points, and ATD containment and redirection.

The results from the computer simulations were used to assess the probability of each design concept meeting impact performance requirements and providing other desirable functional characteristics. Simulation outcomes were also used to evaluate whether design modifications to the proposed railing systems might be needed to improve the probability of meeting the project objectives before proceeding with full-scale testing.

### 1.2.4 Full-Scale Crash Testing and Analysis

The containment and redirection capability of the final containment system design was evaluated through an upright motorcycle full-scale crash test, with nominal impact conditions of $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ speed and $18^{\circ}$ tangential orientation angle. A Hybrid $(\mathrm{H}) 350^{\text {th }}$ percentile male dummy was positioned on the motorcycle, fully equipped with motorcycle gear (leather pants, leather jacket, gloves, boots, and helmet). Researchers instrumented the dummy's head with an accelerometer to capture any potential interaction with posts, and to capture the intensity of head accelerations resulting from interaction with the chain link fence.

## CHAPTER 2:

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT*

### 2.1 NCHRP REPORT 350 ZONE OF INTRUSION

The concept of Zone of Intrusions (ZOIs) for National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350 Test Level 3 (TL-3) and TL-4 has been previously investigated as a guideline for placement of attachments on top of or behind concrete barriers (10). Figure 2.1 shows the ZOIs for a sloped-faced concrete barrier.


Figure 2.1. Zone of Intrusion for NCHRP Report 350 TL-3 (a) and TL-4 (b).

At this moment, there are no specific guidelines for evaluation of ZOIs for MASH TL-3 and TL-4. However, they are anticipated to be comparable to the ZOIs evaluated for NCHRP Report 350 tests. From the reported ZOIs, it appears clear that any proposed design containment option discussed for this project would be included in the ZOI for both MASH TL-3 and TL-4.

[^0]
### 2.2 PROPOSED DESIGN OPTIONS

To address the containment and safety problem for upright errant motorcycle riders, researchers considered a chain link fence system supported by posts and rails. The chain link fence system was preferred over other options (such as an acrylic [plexiglass] wall) for a variety of reasons, including relatively low cost, availability, ease of installation, and ease of maintenance.

Various design alternative options were developed for initial feasibility. Although all options included employment of posts and rails supporting the chain link fence, they differed by typology of post design (Table 2.1). The first post design used readily available vertical steel posts (Option A), with the chain link fence directly connected to the vertical posts. The second post design included post types protruding toward the back of the system, with the chain link fence directly connected to the horizontal railings, but not to the posts (Option B and C).

### 2.2.1 Option A: Chain Link Fence Supported by Weak Post

In this design, the chain link fence was directly supported by vertical steel posts, located in the same plane as the chain link fence. In fact, the chain link fence was directly secured to the posts. Since strong steel posts represent discrete systems that can cause severe injury when directly impacted by a motorcycle rider (or, in general, by a human body), the use of weak posts was considered for this concept. In other words, the design of the post was developed to address the minimum post strength required to sustain the weight of the system and applicable wind loading requirements. The weak post system was developed with the objective of having the post deform, yield, or break away upon impact with the errant rider, reducing any consequent body injury severity.

### 2.2.2 Option B: Chain Link Fence Supported by 7-Shaped Post

In order to minimize the likelihood of an errant upright motorcycle rider directly impacting the discrete posts, researchers used 7-shaped posts in this option. The objective was to move the post as far as possible from the plane of the chain link fence. In fact, though posts were still needed to support the entire chain link fence system with horizontal rails, the proposed shape was conceived with the objective of minimizing any potential interaction between the impacting rider and the posts, at maximum deformation of the chain link fence during impact.

### 2.2.3 Option C: Chain Link Fence Supported by U-Shaped Post

Similarly to the 7-shaped posts, an option with U-shaped posts was developed. The concept behind the U-shaped posts was to further minimize the interaction between the impacting rider and the posts. The U-shaped posts were designed with a symmetry that minimizes interaction with the rider even at the bottom of the post.

After a preliminary design of the suggested post options, researchers decided to use FE computer modeling and simulations to better investigate the potential performance of the proposed options under direct impact with an errant rider. Having very little to no information available regarding FE computer material modeling and properties for chain link fence, researchers decided to conduct component pendulum testing to serve as available physical tests
for computer modeling calibration. Furthermore, this component testing allowed researchers to identify system components deemed critical to minimize the maximum dynamic deflection.

Table 2.1. Summary of Containment Options.

| Name | Configuration | Comments |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |

## Post Design Typology: Vertical Posts (chain link fence directly connected to posts)

Option A— Weak Post


- Components readily available.
- Easy construction.
- Higher likelihood for upright motorcycle riders to directly impact the posts.
- Post concept is intended to function as a type of energy absorbing system.

Post Design Typology: Protruding Posts to the back of the system (chain link fence not directly connected to posts, instead to horizontal railings)

Option B—
7-Shaped Post

- Reduces likelihood for upright motorcycle riders to directly impact the posts.
- Post offset may be limited.
- Welding needed for post components.

Option C-U-Shaped Post


- Reduces likelihood for upright motorcycle riders to directly impact the posts.
- Symmetry minimizes interaction with the rider even at the bottom of the post.
- Welding needed for post components.


# CHAPTER 3: <br> DYNAMIC COMPONENT TESTING 

### 3.1 PENDULUM FACILITY

The TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles was tested at the TTI outdoor pendulum testing facility. The pendulum impacted the TxDOT Fence Barrier for motorcycles at a target speed of $12 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ and at a height of 27 inches above the ground, which represents the bumper height of a small passenger car. The honeycomb material is replaced after each test, and the bogie is reused.

### 3.2 TEST ARTICLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Each test article was comprised of a single panel of chain link fence mesh installed across three spans (four posts) at TTI's Proving Ground Pendulum Facility to dynamically determine performance of the fence when impacted by a 517 lb pendulum bogie at targeted speeds of 7 or $12 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. The target impact point of the bogie on the fence was mid-span between the two center posts at a height of 27 inches above the ground line (grade).

Two types of 48-inch tall galvanized after weaving (GAW), knuckle selvage, chain link fence mesh were used, depending upon the test: either a $11 / 2$-inch nominal mesh of AWG 9-gauge ( 0.1483 inch diameter) wire, or a 2 -inch nominal mesh of 9-gauge wire.

Four 78-inch long steel posts supported the mesh: two outboard terminal posts and two inboard line posts. The line posts were spaced on 140 -inch centers and straddled the centerline of the pendulum bogie's path. The centerline of each terminal post was located 120 -inches from the nearest line post. The line posts were $11 / 2$-inch nominal schedule 40 ( 1.900 inches outside diameter (O.D.) by 0.145 -inch wall thickness) galvanized steel pipe, and the terminal posts were 2-inch nominal schedule 40 ( 2.375 inches O.D. by 0.154 -inch wall thickness) galvanized steel pipe. Top railing, when used, was $11 / 4$-inch nominal schedule 40 ( 1.660 inches O.D. by 0.140 -inch wall thickness) galvanized steel pipe. All pipes met ASTM F1043 specifications. Standard post fittings and tension wire were used in the installation on certain tests.

The posts were each inserted into 24-inch long Schedule 40 PVC pipe sleeves (2-inch for line posts, $2^{1} / 2$-inch for terminal posts), which were embedded in 24 inches in diameter by 7 ft deep steel reinforced concrete pier foundations. The holes for the foundations were drilled into in-situ soil.

See Figure 2.2 for pendulum test article details.


Figure 2.2. Motorcycle Pendulum Test Article.

### 3.3 TEST NO. 469688-2 P1

For Test P1, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a $2 \times 2$-inch mesh supported by four posts, but without the top and bottom rails and tension wire. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps and was wire-tied with aluminum ties to each line post in three places.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.0 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.017 s , the top edge of the fence mesh began to deflect upstream, and at 0.072 s , the top of the right center post began to deflect downstream. By 0.158 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top of the fence mesh, and by 0.333 s , the fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 28.7 inches. Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 4.5 inches. Photographs of the support before and after the test, and a summary of the test, is provided in Table 3.1.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $13.8 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.392 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.6 g between 0.392 and 0.402 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -1.8 g between 0.295 and 0.345 s .

### 3.4 TEST NO. 469688-2 P2

For Test P2, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a $2 \times 2$-inch mesh supported by only the two terminal posts and without the line posts, top and bottom rails, and tension wire. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.0 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.031 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top of the fence mesh, and at 0.102 s , the bottom of the fence mesh released from the $2 \times 8$-inch support board. The impact wave of the fence mesh reached the right post at 0.187 s , and the top of the right post began to deflect downstream at 0.208 s . The fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 47.8 inches at 0.570 s . Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 4.25 inches. Photographs of the support before and after the test and a summary of the test is provided in Table 3.2.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $10.5 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.516 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.3 g between 0.660 and 0.670 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -1.3 g between 0.642 and 0.692 s .

Table 3.1. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P1.


Table 3.2. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P2.


### 3.5 TEST NO. 469688-2 P3

For Test P3, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{1}{1} 2$-inch mesh supported by four posts, but without the top and bottom rails and tension wire. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps and was wire-tied with aluminum ties to each line post in three places.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.2 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.103 s , the top of the right post began to deflect downstream, and at 0.203 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top of the fence mesh. The near end post began to deflect downstream at 0.226 s , and the fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 29.25 inches at 0.309 s. Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 2.75 inches. Photographs of the support before and after the test, and a summary of the test, are provided in Table 3.3.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $14.8 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.379 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.8 g between 0.379 and 0.389 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -2.1 g between 0.269 and 0.319 s .

### 3.6 TEST NO. 469688-2 P4

For Test P4, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a $2 \times 2$-inch mesh supported by four posts, the top rail, and tension wire in lieu of a bottom rail. The top rail was secured to each post with a loop cap. The mesh was wire-tied with aluminum ties to the top rail approximately every 25 inches. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps and was wire-tied with aluminum ties to the line posts only at the bottom of the fence material. The mesh was attached to the tension wire with hog rings approximately every 25 inches.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.1 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.064 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top of the fence mesh, and at 0.068 s , the top rail began to deflect. The top of the right center post began to deflect downstream at 0.076 s , and the near outer post began to undulate at 0.115 s . The fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 26.4 inches at 0.282 s . Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 3.0 inches. Photographs of the support before and after the test, and a summary of the test, are provided in Table 3.4.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $14.8 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.357 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.4 g between 0.357 and 0.367 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -2.0 g between 0.213 and 0.263 s .

Table 3.3. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P3.


Table 3.4. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P4.


### 3.7 TEST NO. 469688-2 P5

For Test P5, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. The $2 \times 2$-inch mesh was supported by four posts and by a top rail. The mesh was also connected to the bottom rail. The bottom rail, however, did not extend to the terminal posts. Additionally, the bottom rail was not secured to the line posts. The top rail was secured to each post with a loop cap. The mesh was wire-tied with aluminum ties to the top and bottom rails approximately every 25 inches. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps but was not secured to the line posts. A tension wire was not used in this installation.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.3 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.053 s , the near end of the bottom rail began to deflect upstream, and at 0.076 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top rail. The top rail began to deflect at 0.077 s , and the top of the right center post began to deflect downward at 0.081 s . At 0.140 s , the near end post began to undulate, and the fence mesh began to separate from the center of the bottom rail at 0.165 s . The fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 23.4 inches at 0.300 s . Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 5.25 inches. Photographs of the support, before and after the test, and a summary of the test are provided in Table 3.5.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $14.1 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.332 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.2 g between 0.332 and 0.342 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -2.1 g between 0.159 and 0.209 s .

### 3.8 TEST NO. 469688-2 P6

For Test P6, the target bogie speed was $12 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a 2 -inch $\times 2$-inch mesh supported by only the two terminal posts, and without the top and bottom rails. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps. Tension wire was not used in this installation.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $12.2 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.030 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top of the fence mesh, and at 0.164 s , the impact wave in the fence mesh reached the right post. The top of the right post began to deflect downstream at 0.177 s , and fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 71.7 inches at 0.540 s . Maximum permanent deformation of the mesh after the test was 26.5 inches. Photographs of the support before and after the test and a summary of the test is provided in Table 3.6.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $13.1 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.401 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 2.2 g between 0.588 and 0.598 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -2.2 g between 0.335 and 0.385 s .

Table 3.5. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P5.


Table 3.6. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P6.


### 3.9 TEST NO. 469688-2 P7

For Test P7, the target bogie speed was $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ into a $2 \times 2$-inch mesh supported by four posts and the top rail, but only a partial bottom rail that was not connected to the terminal posts. The top rail was secured to each post with a loop cap. The mesh was attached to each terminal post with three chainlink fence clamps. The mesh was also wire-tied with steel ties along with the bottom rail to the line posts only at the bottom of the mesh. The mesh was wire-tied with steel ties to the top and bottom rails approximately every 12 inches. Tension wire was not used in this installation.

The pendulum bogie impacted the fence mesh at a height of 27 inches above ground level while traveling at an impact speed of $7.3 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. At 0.048 s , the top rail began to deflect, and at 0.056 s , the near end of the bottom rail began to deflect upstream. By 0.067 s , the top of the right center post began to deflect downstream, and by 0.080 s , the leading cables suspending the bogie contacted the top rail. The fence mesh reached maximum deflection of 21.2 inches at 0.250 s . Maximum residual deformation of the mesh after the test was 8.0 inches. Photographs of the support, before and after the test, and a summary of the test are provided in Table 3.7.

Longitudinal occupant impact velocity was $16.1 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{s}$ at 0.314 s , maximum longitudinal occupant ridedown acceleration was 1.4 g between 0.315 and 0.325 s , and the maximum $50-\mathrm{ms}$ average acceleration was -2.5 g between 0.198 and 0.248 s .

### 3.10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Seven pendulum tests were conducted on different chain link fence design alternatives. The basic installation consisted of a chain link fence supported by a combination of end (or terminal) posts, intermediate (or line) posts, and top and/or bottom steel horizontal rails spanning between posts. Table 3.8 summarizes the description and maximum dynamic deflection of all the tests.

In all seven pendulum tests, the chain link fence successfully contained the pendulum bogie. System modifications were applied to the fence design, including adding interconnecting rails, removing line posts, and a few other minor changes. The P7 alternative design resulted in the least dynamic deflection. Test P7 served as the most rigid scenario, with the most restraints on the chain link mesh. This system contained the pendulum bogie with a maximum dynamic deflection of approximately 21.2 inches. Tests P1 and P7 were selected for reproduction with computer simulations, with the intent of calibrating the chain link fence computer model. Calibration of the model was completed mostly based upon dynamic deflection.

Comparing Test P1 with Test P3, the only relevant difference between the two test installations was the chain link mesh size ( $2 \times 2$ inches for P1; $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches for P3). The mesh size, however, did not seem to have appreciably affected the maximum dynamic deflection of the chain link fence (P1 was 28.7 inches; P3 was 29.25 inches). From an installation perspective, a chain link fence with $2 \times 2$ inches mesh size is more desirable because the 2 -inch mesh is more common and readily available than the $11 / 2 \times 1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches size, which is an important consideration, especially for maintenance purposes after a crash.

Table 3.7. Summary of Results for Pendulum Test No. 469688-2 P7.


Table 3.8. Pendulum Test Results.

| Test <br> No. | Speed <br> $(\mathbf{m i} / \mathbf{h})$ | Mesh <br> Size <br> (in $\times$ in) | Line <br> Posts | Top <br> Rail | Bottom <br> Rail/Wire | Maximum Dynamic <br> Deflection (ft) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| P1 | 7.0 | $2 \times 2$ | Yes | No | No | 2.39 |
| P2 | 7.0 | $2 \times 2$ | No | No | No | 3.98 |
| P3 | 7.2 | $11 / 2 \times 11 / 2$ | Yes | No | No | 2.44 |
| P4 | 7.1 | $2 \times 2$ | Yes | Yes | Wire | 2.20 |
| P5 | 7.3 | $2 \times 2$ | Yes | Yes | Partial Rail with aluminum wire- | 1.95 |
| P6 | 12.2 | $2 \times 2$ | No | No | No | 5.97 |
| P7 | 7.3 | $2 \times 2$ | Yes | Yes | Partial Rail with steel wire-ties | 1.76 |

The main difference between tests P4, P5, and P7 was the connection type used to secure the chain link fence to the bottom horizontal rail or tension wire. In Test P4, a tension wire was attached to the bottom of the chain link fence, while for both tests P5 and P7, the central portion of the bottom of the fence was wire-tied to a steel horizontal partial rail. In Test P5, aluminum wire-ties were used, while in test P7 steel wire-ties were installed with 12-inch spacing. The maximum dynamic deflections of these three tests were still comparable. Only for P7, however, the chain link fence remained attached to the bottom rail, while in the other two cases ( P 4 and P5), the tension wire and the aluminum ties failed and allowed for a large opening at the bottom of the chain link fence installation.

Based on all the above observations, and the results of the pendulum tests performed, researchers suggested developing a chain link fence containment system with a $2 \times 2$ chain link mesh size, and top and bottom steel horizontal rails with discrete steel connections spaced at approximately 1 ft . Test P1 and Test P7 were selected for chain link fence computer simulation calibration (Table 3.8).

## CHAPTER 4: <br> CHAIN LINK FENCE FE MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND CALIBRATION ${ }^{\dagger}$

### 4.1 CHAIN LINK FENCE FE MODEL DEVELOPMENT

The modeled chain link fence is a manufactured $2 \times 2$-inch mesh of 0.1483 -inch O.D. (9 gauge) wire. The chain link net is developed diagonally with elements connected together as a knuckle, which allows some local rotation between the elements. However, considering the complexity in modeling contact interactions between weaved strands of the chain links, and the computer resources needed to simulate these interactions, researchers simplified the representation of the chain link fence by modeling a mesh of beams and null-shell elements that were connected at the beam intersections.

Null-shell elements are shell elements using MAT_NULL in LS-DYNA (11). They are low-density shell elements to help establish contact and avoid numerical issues between the beam and other elements. As Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show, the chain link fence beam elements were connected with each other and the null-shell elements by constrained nodal rigid bodies (CNRB), which made the chain link fence FE model stiffer than the actual knuckle connections in chainlink fencing.


Figure 4.1. Beam Elements of the Chain Link Fence FE Model.

To predict more accurate dynamic deflections of the chain link fence in full-scale crash test simulations, the FE model of the chain link fence needed to be calibrated with the results of the pendulum tests completed in Chapter 3. Test P1 and Test P7 were chosen to calibrate the FE

[^1]model of chain link fence, given the differences in construction these two tests presented. For the pendulum tests, the terminal posts were 2 -inch schedule 40 pipe ((2.375-inch O.D. and 0.154 -inch wall thickness). The line posts were $11 / 2$-inch schedule 40 pipe ( 1.900 -inch O.D. and 0.145 -inch wall thickness). The rails were $11 / 4$-inch schedule 40 ( 1.660 -inch O.D. and 0.140 -inch wall thickness). The post and rail material were steel with 30 ksi yield strength. Figure 4.3 shows the FE models of posts and rails.


Figure 4.2. Chain Link Fence FE Model.

(b)
(c)
(a) Rail

Terminal Line
Post Post
Figure 4.3. FE Model of Posts and Rail.
The chain link fence system used in the pendulum tests had three spans, with spacing of $10 \mathrm{ft}, 11.67 \mathrm{ft}$, and 10 ft . The pendulum bogie was 517 lb and impacted the target at $7 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ (approximately replicating the impact severity when a $50^{\text {th }}$ percentage male impacts the system with the designed angle and velocity). Figure 4.4 shows the pendulum FE model and pendulum bogie.

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 demonstrate the FE models of pendulum tests P1 and P7. In Test P1, the chain link fence system had two terminal posts and two line posts, but no top and bottom rails. In test P7, the chain link fence was supported by two terminal posts and two line posts, with top and partial bottom rails.


Figure 4.4. FE Model of the 517 lb Pendulum Bogie.


Figure 4.5. FE Models of Pendulum Test P1.

(a) Front View

(b) Top View
(c) Left View

Figure 4.6. FE Models of Pendulum Test P7.

### 4.2 CHAIN LINK FENCE FE MODEL CALIBRATION

The objective of this project was to develop a containment system, so researchers focused on the calibration of chain link fence's maximum dynamic deflection. After preliminary simulations, researchers found that using the original size of the beam elements resulted in much less maximum dynamic deflections. Therefore, an area reduction factor $\lambda$ was introduced to calibrate the chain link fence's maximum dynamic deflection. A series of simulations was conducted to determine the best $\lambda$ value. Figures 4.7 and 4.8 illustrate the maximum dynamic deflections by using different $\lambda$ values in Test P1 and Test P7, respectively.

Maxmimum Dynamic Deflection


Figure 4.7. Maximum Dynamic Deflection with Different $\lambda$ Values in Test P1 FE Simulation.

## Maxmimum Dynamic Deflection



Figure 4.8. Maximum Dynamic Deflection with Different $\lambda$ Values in Test P7 FE Simulation.

When $\lambda$ equals to $1 / 4$, the chain link fence FE model had similar maximum dynamic deflections to what was exhibited in both Tests P1 and P7. The maximum dynamic deflections were 2.23 ft in Test P1 simulation ( 6.5 percent difference), and 1.65 ft in Test P7 simulation ( 6.2 percent difference). Table 4.1 includes the configurations of chain link fence at initial moment and at maximum dynamic deflection for Test P1 and test P7. Table 4.2 compares the frames of Test P1, and Table 4.3 compares the frames of Test P7 with the real pendulum tests.

Table 4.1. Initial and Maximum Dynamic Deflection Configurations in Test P1 and Test P7 Finite Element Simulations (Top Views).


Once the FE models of the chain link fence and other major components (posts and railings) were acceptably calibrated against the dynamic component testing, FE models of initially proposed system designs were developed for predictive FE impact simulations.

Table 4.2. Comparison between Finite Element Simulation and Pendulum Test P1.

| Time (s) | Finite Element Simulation | Pendulum Test |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.00 |  |  |
| 0.11 |  |  |
| 0.22 |  |  |
| 0.33 |  |  |

Table 4.3. Comparison between Finite Element Simulation and Pendulum Test P7.

| Time (s) | Finite Element Simulation | Pendulum Test |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.000 |  |  |
| 0.085 |  |  |
| 0.165 |  |  |
| 0.250 |  |  |

## CHAPTER 5: FE SIMULATIONS OF THE PROPOSED POST OPTIONS ${ }^{\ddagger}$

### 5.1 NEW JERSEY SHAPE BARRIER

An FE model of a 32-inch tall New Jersey profile barrier was developed and computer simulations were conducted with the LS-DYNA solver. Per TxDOT requirements, the barrier system was modeled replicating a radius of 500 ft .

The concrete barrier model was modeled with a total length of 72 ft . The concrete barrier was built using shell elements with rigid material properties. Figure 5.1 shows the 32 -inch New Jersey shape concrete barrier model.
(a) Front View
(b) Top View

(c) Side View

Figure 5.1. 32-inch Tall New Jersey Shape Concrete Barrier FE Model.

[^2]
### 5.2 FAST HYBRID III 50TH PERCENTILE MALE DUMMY MODEL

TTI researchers included an existing available version of the simplified Hybrid III $50^{\text {th }}$ percentile male dummy model, referred to as the fast model. Although a detailed Hybrid III dummy model is also available, the fast model version was ultimately preferred to limit computational time needed for simulation completion. The detailed dummy requires longer simulation time and has previously encountered numerical instability in preliminary trial simulations. Given the aggressive schedule of this feasibility project, TTI researchers decided to use the fast dummy model in all simulations to limit the computational time without sacrificing dummy behavior and post-impact trajectory accuracy. Figures 5.2 and 5.3 compare the fast model to the detailed model.


Figure 5.2. Comparison of Detailed Dummy Model (Left) and Fast Dummy Model (Right).


Figure 5.3. Comparison of Mesh Size for Detailed Dummy Model (Left) and Fast Dummy Model (Right).

### 5.3 MOTORCYCLE FE MODEL

An FE computer model of a sport bike, the Kawasaki Ninja 500R, was used in this simulation research effort. The motorcycle model consists of 193,170 nodes and 194,120 elements, as shown in Figure 5.4.

Most of the connections were modeled with CNRBs because the majority of the joints between motorcycle parts are simple bolted connections. Other connections, such as the front and rear axles and the connection between the frame and the fork holders, were modeled as revolute joints. The contact between various parts of the model was defined using the Automatic Single Surface contact in LS-DYNA.

Another key step in the development of a reliable motorcycle FE model is the implementation of tire models. The working principle of a tire is somewhat similar to an airbag. Both use an enclosed volume that contains air at a specific pressure. Therefore the tires were modeled using the Simple Pressure Volume airbag definition in LS-DYNA. A pressure of 0.28 MPa ( 41 psi ) was used to replicate typical motorcycle tire pressure.

In Table 5.1, Kawasaki Ninja 500R specifications were compared to the developed FE model to verify the geometric accuracy of the model. The model's measurements are relatively consistent with those of the physical motorcycle, because in all cases a difference of less than 5 percent was observed. Figure 5.4 compares the FE and the physical motorcycle models.

Table 5.1. Comparison of Geometrical Measurements of Physical and FE Motorcycle (Kawasaki Ninja 500R).

|  | Physical Motorcycle <br> $(\mathrm{mm})$ | FE Motorcycle (mm) | Percent Difference <br> (percent) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Width | 701 | 722.6 | 3.08 |
| Height | 1195 | 1194 | 0.08 |
| Length | 2096 | 2094.5 | 0.07 |
| Wheelbase | 1435 | 1448.5 | 0.94 |
| Wheel Radius | 292.1 | 289.9 | 0.75 |
| Seat Height | 787.4 | 786.1 | 0.17 |
| Ground Clearance | 150 | 155 | 3.33 |



Figure 5.4. Comparison of FE Model without Mesh to Physical Motorcycle.

### 5.4 IMPACT PARAMETERS

As previously mentioned, the 32-inch high New Jersey concrete barrier installation was to be rigidly installed with a radius of curvature of 500 ft . The nominal impact speed of the motorcycle rider for the full-scale crash test was $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$. The nominal impact angle was determined to be approximately $18^{\circ}$, with respect to the barrier tangent at the location of impact.

### 5.5 FE MODELS OF PROPOSED POST OPTIONS

### 5.5.1 Option A - Weak Post

The size of line and terminal posts, as well as horizontal rails, was determined by engineering analysis based on the ASTM Standard Specification for Strength and Protective Coatings on Steel Industrial Fence Framework (12) and Chain Link Fence Wind Load Guide for the Selection of Line Post and Line Post Spacing (13): a 1.900-inch O.D. and 0.145 -inch wall thickness were chosen for line posts; a 2.375 -inch O.D. and 0.154 -inch wall thickness were used for terminal posts; and a 1.660 -inch O.D. and 0.140 -inch wall thickness were selected for horizontal rails. The yield strength of steel posts/rails and chain link fence were 30 ksi and 55 ksi, respectively. The chain link fence system was attached to the back of the concrete barrier, resulting in a system height of 4 ft above the top of the New Jersey system. Figure 5.5 shows the model of the chain link fence with a weak post system.

### 5.5.2 Option B - 7-Shaped Post

A $21 / 2$-inch $\times 2 \frac{1}{2}$-inch $\times \frac{3}{16}$-inch square section was used for modeling the 7 -shaped steel posts. As for the top and bottom horizontal rails, $21 / 2$-inch $\times 21 / 2$-inch $\times 1 / 4$-inch square sections were used. The posts are installed behind the chain link fence and are attached to the back side of the existing New Jersey safety shape barrier. The posts extended 1 ft beyond the back face of the concrete barrier. The total height of the retrofit attachment was 4 ft with a post spacing of 8 ft . The yield strength of the steel posts and chain-link fence were 30 ksi and 55 ksi , respectively.

The posts and rails were built using shell elements. One-foot length of the posts, starting from the bottom of the posts, was rigidly connected to the back of the barrier. The bottom rails were connected with line and terminal posts by CNRB. Figure 5.6 shows the FE model of 7shaped post chain link fence system.


Figure 5.5. Option A - Weak Post FE Model.

(a) Front View

(b) Top View

(c) Left View

(d) Back View

Figure 5.6. Option B-7-Shaped Post FE Model.

### 5.5.3 Option C - U-Shaped Post

A $21 / 2$-inch $\times 21 / 2$-inch $\times \frac{3}{16}$-inch square section was used to model the U-shaped steel posts, and $21 / 2$-inch $\times 1 / 4$-inch tubes were used for the top and bottom horizontal rails. The posts were installed behind the chain link fence and attached to the back side of the existing New Jersey safety shape barrier. The posts extended 1 ft beyond the back face of the concrete barrier. The total height of the retrofit attachment was 4 ft , with post spacing of 8 ft . The yield strength of the steel posts and chain-link fence were 30 ksi and 55 ksi , respectively.

The posts and rails were built using shell elements. The bottom of the post was rigidly connected to the back of the barrier. The bottom rails were connected with line and terminal posts by CNRB. Figure 5.7 shows the FE model of the U-shaped post system.


Figure 5.7. Option C - U-Shaped Post FE Model.

### 5.6 FE ANALYSIS RESULTS OF PROPOSED POST OPTIONS

### 5.6.1 Option A - Weak Post

The dummy was positioned on the motorcycle in an upright position, and an initial $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ velocity was applied to them. The dummy impacted just before the post at an $18^{\circ} \mathrm{impact}$ angle with the chain link fence weak post system. The maximum deflection of the impacted line post was approximately 2.5 inches. Figure 5.8 shows the configuration at post's maximum displacement. The dummy was contained and redirected during the impact event, as shown in Figures 5.9 and 5.10.


Figure 5.8. Impact Configuration - Weak Post Option.


Figure 5.9. Motorcyclist’s Interaction for Weak Post Option - Isometric View.

(a) Motorcycle Impacts Barrier

(b) Head and Shoulder Impact Fence

(c) Maximum Deflection of Impact

(d) Final Configuration

Figure 5.10. Motorcyclist's Interaction for Weak Post Option - Front View.

### 5.6.2 Option B - 7-Shaped Post

The dummy was positioned on the motorcycle in an upright position, and an initial $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ velocity was applied to them. The dummy impacted just before the post at an $18^{\circ} \mathrm{impact}$ angle with the chain link fence 7 -shaped post system. Figure 5.11 shows images from the impact simulation. The maximum deflection of the chain link fence was approximately 6.25 inches. Figure 5.11c shows the configuration at the chain link fence's maximum displacement. The dummy was contained and redirected during the impact event, as shown in Figure 5.12 and 5.13.

(a) Top View at Impact

(b) Top View after Impact

(c) Chain Link Fence Maximum Deflection

Figure 5.11. Impact Configuration - 7-Shaped Post Option.


### 5.6.3 Option C - U-Shaped Post

The dummy was positioned on the motorcycle in an upright position, and an initial $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ velocity was applied to them. The dummy impacted just before the post at an $18^{\circ}$ impact angle with the chain link fence U-shaped post system. Figure 5.14 shows images from the impact simulation. The maximum dynamic deflection of the chain link fence was approximately 6.30 inches. Figure 5.14c shows the configuration at the chain link fence's maximum displacement. The dummy was contained and redirected during the impact event, as shown in Figures 5.15 and 5.16.


Figure 5.14. Impact Configuration - U-Shaped Post Option.


### 5.7 INJURY EVALUATION

Head injury and chest accelerations obtained from the FE simulations of the Hybrid III dummy were used to determine the likelihood that an occupant would have sustained significant injury. The head injury criterion (HIC) is determined on the basis of the head acceleration. In the Hybrid-III and the THOR dummy FE model, the HIC is achieved by nodal output of acceleration from the center of gravity of the head. Head acceleration recorded during impact event is employed to calculate $\mathrm{HIC}_{15}$ value as follows (14):

$$
H I C=\max \left[\left[\frac{\int_{t_{1}}^{t_{1}} a(t) d t}{t_{2}-t_{1}}\right]^{2.5}\left(t_{2}-t_{1}\right)\right]
$$

The Hybrid III dummy is calibrated for frontal impacts only. Oblique impacts are not calibrated. Since the dummy FE model was not validated, the values obtained from the accelerometer could be unrealistic. However, relative differences in HIC values can be used to assess the performance of one design concept over the other. Researchers decided to use percentage ratios to compare the injury severity from different retrofit systems. The weak post revealed the worst injury to the impacted dummy. Compared with the weak post option, the 7-shaped post and U-shaped post options had approximately 13 percent HIC 15 values and 9 percent chest acceleration values.


Figure 5.17. HIC15 Values Comparison.


Figure 5.18. Chest Acceleration Values Comparison.

### 5.8 Conclusion of the Proposed Containment Options

The motorcycle rider was contained and redirected by all the simulated containment barrier designs. Maximum chain link fence deflection and post deflection were evaluated. In all cases, there was no indication of possible failure of the system components as a result of the impact event.

Rider-system interaction shows significant difference between the weak post option and the 7- and U-shaped post options. TxDOT specified the protrusion shall not be larger than 11 inches from the back face of the barrier to accommodate other attachments, such as signs, on the back of the concrete parapet. Impact computer simulations of the proposed 7-shaped post indicated that, because of the oblique nature of the post design, protrusion much larger than 11 inches should be considered to avoid interaction between the errant rider and the post during an anticipated impact event.

Therefore, the 7 -shaped post option was eliminated in favor of a more symmetric post shape, such as the U-shaped posts. The U-shaped post option design was subsequently refined to consider the added 11-inch lateral protrusion constraint. Consideration was also given to ease of constructability for this post design. Therefore, it was decided to modify the original U-shaped post to a similar symmetric shape post pipe, which would limit its protrusion to a value not larger than 11 inches. The newly symmetrical U-shaped pipe design was named Modified U-shaped post.

### 5.9 FE ANALYSIS OF MODIFIED U-SHAPED POST OPTION

### 5.9.1 Model Description

The Modified U-shaped option was designed to minimize the likelihood of an errant upright motorcycle rider directly impacting the discrete posts of the proposed chain link fence system.

A 1114 -inch schedule 40 pipe (1.660-inch O.D. and 0.140 -inch wall thickness) was chosen for line post and rail modeling. The posts were attached to the back side of the existing New Jersey safety barrier. The total height of the chain link fence system attachment was 4 ft from the New Jersey top surface, and post spacing was 8 ft . The material yield strength properties of the modeled steel posts and the chain link fence were 30 ksi and 55 ksi , respectively.

The posts and horizontal rails were modeled using shell elements. The bottom of the post was rigidly connected to the back of the barrier. The bottom horizontal rails were rigidly connected to the posts through a constrained nodal rigid body connection type. Figure 5.19 shows the Modified U-shaped post system FE model.

(a) Front View
(b) Top View

(c) Left View

(d) The Modified U-Shaped Post

Figure 5.19. Modified U-Shaped Post FE Model.

### 5.9.2 Modified U-Shaped Post Option

The dummy was positioned on the motorcycle in an upright position, and an initial $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ velocity was applied to them. The dummy impacted just before the post at an $18^{\circ} \mathrm{impact}$ angle with the retrofit system. Figure 5.20 shows images from the impact simulation. The maximum deflection of the chain link fence resulted in approximately 6.8 inches. Figure 5.20c shows the configuration at chain link fence's maximum displacement. The dummy was contained and redirected during the impact event, as shown in Figures 5.21 and 5.22.

(a) Motorcycle Impacts Barrier

(b) Final Configuration

(c) Chain Link Fence Maximum Deflection

Figure 5.20. Impact Configuration - Modified U-Shaped Post Option.

(a) Motorcycle Impacts Barrier

(b) Head and Shoulder Impact Fence

(c) Chain Link Fence Maximum Deflection at Post Location

(d) Final Configuration

Figure 5.21. Motorcyclist's Interaction for Modified UShaped Post Option - Isometric View.

(a) Motorcycle Impacts Barrier

(b) Head and Shoulder Impact Fence

(c) Chain Link Fence Maximum Deflection at Post Location

(d) Final Configuration

Figure 5.22. Motorcyclist's Interaction for Modified U-Shaped Post Option - Front View.

There was no interaction between the dummy and the Modified U-shaped post. The dummy was contained and redirected by the chain link fence system during the impact event.

The HIC was calculated and compared for both design options (weak and Modified Ushaped post systems). With no direct interaction between the dummy and the post, the $\mathrm{HIC}_{15}$ value recorded during the impact with the chain link fence with Modified U-shaped posts resulted in a reduction of 88 percent, compared to the value documented during the impact against the system with weak posts option.

### 5.9.3 Conclusions

Based on the results obtained from the detailed predictive FE computer simulations, researchers suggested the Modified U-shaped posts as part of the final chain link fence containment system design. Thus, the containment and redirection capabilities of the final containment system design were evaluated through an upright motorcycle full-scale crash test, with nominal impact conditions of $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ speed and $18^{\circ}$ tangential orientation angle, as described next.

# CHAPTER 6: <br> TXDOT FENCE BARRIER FOR MOTORCYCLES (CRASH TEST NO. 469688-2-1) 

### 6.1 TEST ARTICLE AND INSTALLATION DETAILS

The test installation was a 75 ft long arc on a $500-\mathrm{ft}$ radius and consisted of a reinforced concrete New Jersey style profile barrier, 32 inches tall, with chain link mesh attached above the top of the barrier.

The chain link was 9 -gauge $2 \times 2$-inch mesh, 48 inches tall, and secured to horizontal rails near its top and bottom. The rails were supported by vertical posts, which were spaced at 96 inches and anchored to the field side of the barrier. The posts were fabricated from bent pipe supplemented with steel plates.

Figure 6.1 presents overall information on the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles, and Figure 6.2 provides photographs of the installation. Appendix A provides further details of the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles.

### 6.2 MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

Appendix B provides material certification documents for the materials used to install/construct the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles.

### 6.3 TEST DESIGNATION AND ACTUAL IMPACT CONDITIONS

The crash test involved a motorcycle weighing 410 lb impacting the critical impact point (CIP) of the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles at a target impact speed of $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h} \pm 2.5$ $\mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$, and a target angle of $15.5^{\circ} \pm 1.5^{\circ}$ at the point of impact ( $18^{\circ} \pm 1.5^{\circ}$ tangential angle to the barrier). The target CIP on the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles was $4.7 \mathrm{ft} \pm 1 \mathrm{ft}$ upstream of the center of post 5 (see Figure 6.3).

The motorcycle weighed 410 lb , and the impact speed and angle were $34.6 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ and $15.2^{\circ}$, respectively. The impact point was 4.8 ft upstream of the center of post 5.

### 6.4 WEATHER CONDITIONS

The test was performed on the morning of July 5, 2018. Weather conditions at the time of testing were as follows: wind speed: $4 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$; wind direction: Northerly $\left(360^{\circ}\right)$, (vehicle was traveling in a northwesterly direction); temperature: $87^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$; humidity: 58 percent.

Figure 6.1. Overall Details of the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles.


Figure 6.2. TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles prior to Testing.


Figure 6.3. Target CIP for Test No. 469688-2-1.

### 6.5 TEST VEHICLE

Figures 6.4 and 6.5 show the 2012 Kawasaki 250 Ninja motorcycle used for the crash test. The vehicle’s test inertia weight was 410 lb , and its gross static weight was 600 lb . Table C. 1 in Appendix C1 gives additional dimensions and information on the vehicle. The vehicle was directed into the installation using the reverse cable tow and guidance system, and was released to be freewheeling and unrestrained just prior to impact.


Figure 6.4. TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles/Test Vehicle Geometrics for Test No. 469688-2-1.


Figure 6.5. Test Vehicle before Test No. 469688-2-1.

### 6.6 ANTHROPOMORPHIC TEST DUMMY

FE computer simulations showed no interaction between the dummy and the Modified Ushaped post. For the full-scale crash test, the dummy's head was instrumented with an accelerometer to capture any potential interaction with posts. The accelerometer would also capture the intensity of head accelerations resulting from interaction with the chain link fence. The dummy used in this test was an H3 50th percentile male calibrated for frontal impacts. The instrumentation used was a TSR PRO-HB triaxial accelerometer. Researchers recognized that the H3 dummy is calibrated for frontal impacts, while these test impact conditions included an oblique angle. Unfortunately, a calibrated dummy for use in oblique impacts has not been developed. Therefore, researchers decided to equip the dummy's head with the accelerometer to collect data for possible future research studies.

### 6.7 TEST DESCRIPTION

The test vehicle was traveling at an impact speed of $34.6 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ as it contacted the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles 4.8 ft upstream of the center of post 5 , at an impact angle of $15.24^{\circ}$ at the point of contact ( $17.74^{\circ}$ tangential angle). Table 6.1 lists events that occurred during Test No. 469688-2-1. Figures C. 1 and C. 2 in Appendix C2 present sequential photographs during the test.

After loss of contact with the barrier, the motorcycle laid over on its left side and came to rest 81 ft downstream of the impact point. Figure 6.6 depicts events that occurred during Test No. 469688-2-1. The chain link fence supported by the Modified U-shaped post containment system successfully contained and redirected the errant rider. The dummy did not interact with the posts. The recorded $\mathrm{HIC}_{15}$ value was 92 ( 700 is the maximum HIC value allowed before serious injuries occur).

Table 6.1. Events during Test No. 469688-2-1.

| TIME (s) | EVENTS |
| :---: | :--- |
| 0.000 | Motorcycle front tire makes contact with barrier and motorcycle begins <br> to lean to right |
| 0.019 | Front tire begins to ride up barrier |
| 0.024 | Front right side of motorcycle makes contact with barrier |
| 0.076 | Riders right arm makes contact with mesh |
| 0.076 | Riders right shoulder makes contact with mesh |
| 0.092 | Rear tire comes off ground (motorcycle is airborne) |
| 0.116 | Riders right side of helmet makes contact with mesh |
| 0.172 | Helmet passes by post 5 with no contact on post (1 to 1.6 inches away) |
| 0.174 | Riders left hand begins to come off handlebar grip |
| 0.404 | Rear tire makes contact with pavement |
| 0.447 | Rider no longer in mesh and no longer gripping handle bars |
| 0.518 | Front tire makes contact with pavement |
| 0.699 | Rider recumbent and still on motorcycle but falling off. |
| 0.828 | Rider begins to fall off of motorcycle |
| 0.906 | Motorcycle makes contact with barrier again |
| 1.844 | Motorcycle lays over on side and skids along pavement |


(a) Perpendicular View

(b) Overhead View

(c) Zoomed-in View of the Impact Area

Figure 6.6. Sequential Images for Test 469688-2-1 (Perpendicular, Overhead, and Close Up Views).

### 6.8 DAMAGE TO TEST INSTALLATION

Figure 6.7 shows the damage to the TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles. The mesh fence at Post 5 was permanently deformed 7.0 inches toward the field side. Working width was 2.2 ft , and the height of maximum working width was 6.6 ft . Maximum dynamic deflection during the test was 9.4 inches, and maximum permanent deformation of the mesh was 7 inches.


Figure 6.7. TxDOT Fence Barrier for Motorcycles after Test No. 469688-2-1.

### 6.8 DAMAGE TO DUMMY AND MOTORCYCLE

Figures 6.8 and 6.9 show the damage to the dummy and motorcycle. The dummy came to rest 58 ft downstream of impact and 8 ft toward traffic lanes. The dummy's hip was deformed, but otherwise appeared intact. The motorcycle sustained damage to the right side muffler, right rear brake pedal, and right and left turn signals, and the right and left side fairings sustained scuff marks.


Figure 6.8. Test Dummy after Test No. 469688-2-1.


Figure 6.9. Motorcycle Upright on Kickstand after Test No. 469688-2-1.


## CHAPTER 7: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

FE computer simulations were used to assist with the design and evaluation of proposed containment options to be mounted on a concrete barrier. An upright motorcycle full-scale crash test with a Hybrid III 50th percentile male dummy was conducted to evaluate the crashworthiness of a chain link fence containment system supported by Modified U-shaped posts and attached to a curved concrete barrier section. The test was conducted at nominal impact speed of $35 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ and impact angle of $18^{\circ}$ to the barrier. During the impact event, the system successfully prevented the rider/dummy from ejecting over the barrier. The dummy did not interact with the system's support posts.

An upright motorcycle test was performed to evaluate a newly developed post-chain link fence system for attachment to a concrete barrier. The tested system demonstrated the ability to contain upright errant motorcycle riders, reducing rider injury risks during the impact event. This system would prevent riders from ejecting over the barrier, thus reducing injury severity to the rider during the impact event.

## CHAPTER 8: IMPLEMENTATION ${ }^{\S}$

The developed and crash tested Modified U-Shaped Post and mesh fence containment system is considered suitable for implementation at locations where an upright motorcycle rider containment option is needed and/or desired. The system can be retrofit on existing cast-in-place roadside safety concrete barriers and can be easily adapted for application to concrete profiles differing from the New Jersey shape tested in this research study, such as single slope, vertical, F-shape profiles.

To achieve MASH TL-3 compliance for the proposed containment design, researchers suggest system evaluation through full-scale crash test MASH Test 3-11. This test involves a pickup truck vehicle impacting the system at $62 \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{h}$ speed and $25^{\circ}$ angle. This test would serve to evaluate the structural integrity of the system during impact and to investigate occupant risk and vehicle deformation per MASH standard criteria.

[^3]
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| SI* (MODERN METRIC) CONVERSION FACTORS |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| APPROXIMATE CONVERSTIONS TO SI UNITS |  |  |  |  |
| Symbol | When You Know | Multiply By | To Find | Symbol |
| LENGTH |  |  |  |  |
| in | inches | 25.4 | millimeters | mm |
| ft | $f t$ | 0.305 | meters | m |
| yd | yards | 0.914 | meters | m |
| mi | miles | 1.61 | kilometers | km |
| AREA |  |  |  |  |
| in ${ }^{2}$ | square inches | 645.2 | square millimeters | $\mathrm{mm}^{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{ft}^{2}$ | square ft | 0.093 | square meters | $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{yd}^{2}$ | square yards | 0.836 | square meters | $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ |
| ac | acres | 0.405 | hectares | ha |
| $\mathrm{mi}^{2}$ | square miles | 2.59 | square kilometers | km ${ }^{2}$ |
|  |  | VOLUME |  |  |
| fl oz | fluid ounces | 29.57 | milliliters | mL |
| gal | gallons | 3.785 | liters | L |
| $\mathrm{ft}^{3}$ | cubic ft | 0.028 | cubic meters | $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ |
| $\mathrm{yd}^{3}$ | cubic yards | 0.765 | cubic meters | $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ |
| NOTE: volumes greater than 1000L shall be shown in $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ |  |  |  |  |
| MASS |  |  |  |  |
| oz | ounces | 28.35 | grams | g |
| lb | pounds | 0.454 | kilograms | kg |
| T | short tons (2000 lb) | 0.907 | megagrams (or metric ton") | Mg (or "t") |
| TEMPERATURE (exact degrees) |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | Fahrenheit | $\begin{gathered} 5(F-32) / 9 \\ \text { or }(\mathrm{F}-32) / 1.8 \end{gathered}$ | Celsius | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| FORCE and PRESSURE or STRESS |  |  |  |  |
| Ibf | poundforce | 4.45 | newtons | N |
| lbf/in ${ }^{2}$ | poundforce per square inch | 6.89 | kilopascals | kPa |
| APPROXIMATE CONVERSTIONS FROM SI UNITS |  |  |  |  |
| Symbol | When You Know | Multiply By | To Find | Symbol |
| LENGTH |  |  |  |  |
| mm | millimeters | 0.039 | inches | in |
| m | meters | 3.28 | $f t$ | ft |
| m | meters | 1.09 | yards | yd |
| km | kilometers | 0.621 | miles | mi |
| AREA |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{mm}^{2}$ | square millimeters | 0.0016 | square inches | in ${ }^{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ | square meters | 10.764 | square ft | $\mathrm{ft}^{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{m}^{2}$ | square meters | 1.195 | square yards | $\mathrm{yd}^{2}$ |
| ha | hectares | 2.47 | acres | ac |
| km ${ }^{2}$ | Square kilometers | 0.386 | square miles | $\mathrm{mi}^{2}$ |
| VOLUME |  |  |  |  |
| mL | milliliters | 0.034 | fluid ounces | oz |
| L | liters | 0.264 | gallons | gal |
| $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ | cubic meters | 35.314 | cubic ft | $\mathrm{ft}^{3}$ |
| $\mathrm{m}^{3}$ | cubic meters | 1.307 | cubic yards | $y d^{3}$ |
| MASS |  |  |  |  |
| g | grams | 0.035 | ounces | oz |
| kg | kilograms | 2.202 | pounds | lb |
| Mg (or "t") | megagrams (or "metric ton") | 1.103 | short tons (2000lb) | T |
| TEMPERATURE (exact degrees) |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Celsius | 1.8C+32 | Fahrenheit | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ |
| FORCE and PRESSURE or STRESS |  |  |  |  |
| N | newtons | 0.225 | poundforce | lbf |
| kPa | kilopascals | 0.145 | poundforce per square inch | $\mathrm{lb} / \mathrm{in}^{2}$ |

[^4]




## APPENDIX B. SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS



| Load No. | Break Date | Cylinder Age | Total Load (lbs) | Break (psi) | Average |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| TI | 2018-7-5 | 70.0475 | Z15,000 | 7,605 |  |
|  |  |  | 21,000 | 7465 | 7560 |
|  |  |  | 215,000 | 7,605 |  |
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| SECTION: REBAR 13MM (\#4) 20'0" 420/60 | 0 |  | H |  | BOL\#: 72415067 |
| GRADE: ASTM A615-16 Gr 420/60 | L | 10650 State Hwy 30 | 1 | 10650 State Hwy 30 | CUST PO\#: 777141 |
| ROLL DATE: 03/20/2018 | D | College Station TX | P | College Station TX | CUST PIN: |
| MELT DATE: |  | US 77845-7950 |  | US 77845-7950 | DLVRY LBS / HEAT: 17528.000 LB |
| Cert. No.: 82344800 / 000309J130 | T | 9797745900 | T | 9797745900 | DLVRY PCS / HEAT: 1312 EA |


| Characteristic | Value | Characteristic | Value | Characteristic Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| c | 0.29\% | Elongation Gage Lgth test 1 | 81N |  |
| Mn | 0.82\% | Bend Test Diameter | 1.7501N |  |
| P | 0.021\% | Bend Test 1 | Passed |  |
| $s$ | 0.030\% | Rebar Deformation Avg. Spaci | 0.3351 N |  |
| Si | 0.15\% | Rebar Deformation Avg. Heigh | 0.0291N |  |
| Cu | 0.22\% | Rebar Deformation Max. Gap | 0.1101N |  |
| Cr | 0.10\% | Uniform Elongation | 6.5\% |  |
| Ni | 0.07\% |  |  |  |
| Mo | 0.015\% |  |  |  |
| V | 0.005\% |  |  |  |
| Sn | 0.009\% |  |  |  |
| AI | 0.000\% |  |  | The Following is true of the material represented by this MTR: |
| N | 0.0000\% |  |  | "Material is fully killed |
| Carbon Eq A6 | 0.47\% |  |  | ${ }^{*} 100 \%$ melted and rolled in the USA |
|  |  |  |  | -EN10204:2004 3.1 compliant |
| Yield Strength test 1 | 100.0ksi |  |  | *Contains no weld repair |
| Yield Strength test 1 (metri | 690 MPa |  |  | -Contains no Mercury contamination |
| Tensile Strength test 1 | 117.0ksi |  |  | -Manufactured in accordance with the latest version |
| Tensile Strength 1 (metric) | 807 MPa |  |  | of the plant quality manual |
| Elongation test 1 | 12\% |  |  | "Meets the "Buy America" requirements of 23 CFR635.410 |

REMARKS : H GRADE: ASTM A615-16 G
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CERTIFIED MILL TEST REPORT
For additional copies call




[^5]

Total Weight: 3,931 Lbs
Longest Length: 40-00










## APPENDIX C. CRASH TEST NO. 469688-2-1

## C. 1 VEHICLE PROPERTIES AND INFORMATION

Table C.1. Vehicle Properties for Test No. 469688-2-1.


Geometry: inches


## C. 2 SEQUENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHS


0.100 s

0.200 s

0.300 s


Figure C.1. Sequential Photographs for Test No. 469688-2-1 (Overhead and Frontal).


Figure C.1. Sequential Photographs for Test No. 469688-2-1 (Overhead and Frontal Views) (Continued).


Figure C.2. Sequential Photographs for Test No. 469688-2-1 (Rear View).


[^0]:    * The opinions/interpretations identified/expressed in this section of the report are outside the scope of TTI Proving Ground's A2LA accreditation.

[^1]:    ${ }^{\dagger}$ The opinions/interpretations identified/expressed in this chapter are outside the scope of TTI Proving Ground’s A2LA Accreditation.

[^2]:    ${ }^{\ddagger}$ The opinions/interpretations identified/expressed in this chapter are outside the scope of TTI Proving Ground’s A2LA Accreditation.

[^3]:    ${ }^{\text {§ }}$ The opinions/interpretations identified/expressed in this chapter are outside the scope of TTI Proving Ground’s A2LA Accreditation.

[^4]:    *SI is the symbol for the International System of Units. Appropriate rounding should be made to comply with Section 4 of ASTM E380. (Revised March 2003)

[^5]:    Total Weight: 4,231 Lbs
    Longest Length: 40-00

