

LEAD STATES TEAM SYNOPSIS

Cable Median Barrier (CMB) Team

LST Members

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Activity Period

2005 – 2007

Cost of LST Effort

\$28,000

What the LST Did

Over a two-year period, the lead states team (LST) performed three major tasks:

- 1) gathered best practice information,
- 2) created a cable median barrier (CMB) practices website, and
- 3) presented information at conferences throughout the country.



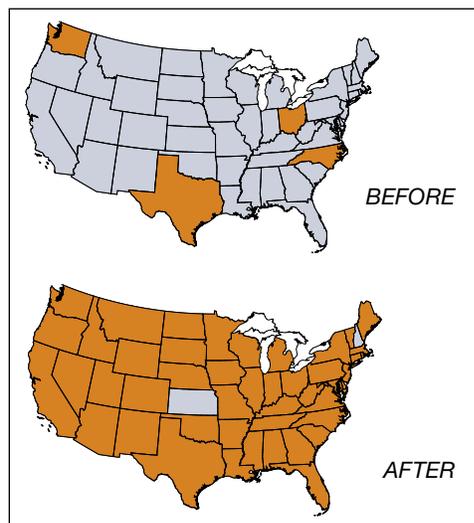
This CMB installed along IH 20 in Texas had an immediate impact in reducing the number of fatalities from cross median collisions.

Best Practice Information: An initial team goal was to accumulate “best practice” guidelines from the several states already using CMB, from CMB producers, and from researchers. The most helpful and detailed information was provided by lead states team members themselves, based on their own state experiences.

Website Clearinghouse for CMB: The team developed a website to best disseminate information (<http://tig.transportation.org/?siteid=57&pageid=2197>). The website explains the need for and benefits of using CMB, gives case studies and state experiences, and provides design and specification information used by the lead states. It is designed to give guidance through every stage of the process of implementing CMB, and serve as a repository for information from other states, including those first using CMB. The website has led to both national and international contacts for additional information from LST members.

Presentation of Information: Finally, LST members hit the road to convey CMB information at numerous conferences and meetings across the country. These activities were designed to provide helpful information to all states who had not yet embraced the CMB technology on their freeways to prevent across-median crashes.

What the LST Accomplished



The orange states on the BEFORE map are the lead states and represent most of the states with CMB experience at the time the project began. States in orange on the AFTER map are known to have at least placed trial CMB sections by the time of the final LST survey. Others states may have obtained initial experience since that survey. The exceptional success of the CMB LST was facilitated by both the extraordinary safety improvements offered by this technology and a vigorous marketing program by producers of these systems.

Proven benefits of cable median barriers:

- One of the most effective safety measures state DOTs can deploy to protect motorists.
- Across the country agencies that have installed these barriers report a significant decrease in fatalities and in the severity of cross median crashes.
- Work as a retrofit on existing, reconstructed, or new medians that are wide and relatively flat. They are also effective on sloped terrain.
- Generally cost less to install than other barrier systems. Repair and maintenance costs are easily offset by their lifesaving and injury-reducing benefits.