Guardrail W-Beam Height

Purpose
The intent of this bulletin is to clarify ADOT’s position regarding the height of W-Beam guardrail installations.

Background
The current ADOT direction, per C-Standard Drawings, calls out a control height of 28 inches (to the top of the rail), with an industry standard practice of plus or minus one inch. FHWA has recently issued guidance that the height of W-beam guardrail should be at least 27 ¾ inches to the top of the rail.

Implementation
ADOT will now consider 28 inches (to the top of the rail) as the minimum control height, with a plus two inch tolerance (maximum 30 inches high). This subject should be emphasized at the guardrail pre-activity meeting to ensure conformance to FHWA and ADOT’s guardrail installation expectations.