



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

June 1, 2007

In Reply Refer To:  
HSSD/WZ-252

Mr. Felipe Almanza  
Mr. Jan Miller  
TraFFix Devices  
220 Calle Pintoresco  
San Clemente, CA 92672

Dear Messrs. Almanza and Miller:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2006, requesting the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) acceptance of your company's Premier Panel vertical panel as a crashworthy traffic control device for use in work zones on the National Highway System (NHS). Accompanying your letter was background information regarding similar products developed by TraFFix that have received FHWA acceptance. You requested that we find this device acceptable for use on the NHS under the provisions of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350 "Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features."

The Premier Panel is a vertical panel that would be used with a 20 or 30 pound low profile rubber base and a standard heavy duty or light weight barricade light (not to exceed 4.5 pounds) that is securely attached using standard cup-washer hardware. The panel is made from high density polyethylene or may be molded using low density polyethylene, weighs between 3 and 4 pounds depending on the polyethylene plastic utilized, and measures 44 1/4 inches tall. Three drawings of the proposed Premier Panel are enclosed.

In support of your request, you referenced devices that TraFFix has successfully crash tested and received FHWA letters of acceptance WZ-24, WZ 73, and WZ-189. These previously tested and accepted devices are similar in form and function as the Premier Panel, and have been crash tested with a light securely attached.

Based on the information submitted and successful crash testing conducted by your company on equivalent devices, the Premier Panel with or without a light weight barricade light is acceptable for use on the NHS under the provisions of the NCHRP Report 350, when proposed by the contracting authority. When used without a light attached, the Premier Panel vertical panel is considered an acceptable FHWA Self-Certified Category I device. When the Premier Panel is used with a standard heavy duty or light weight light (not to exceed 4.5 pounds), it is considered an acceptable FHWA Category II device that meets crashworthy criteria under the provisions of the NCHRP Report 350.



Please note the following standard provisions that apply to the FHWA letters of acceptance:

- This acceptance is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the devices and does not cover their structural features, nor conformity with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Any changes that may adversely influence the crashworthiness of the device will require a new acceptance letter.
- Should the FHWA discover that the qualification testing was flawed, that in-service performance reveals unacceptable safety problems, or that the device being marketed is significantly different from the version that was crash tested, it reserves the right to modify or revoke its acceptance.
- You will be expected to supply potential users with sufficient information on design and installation requirements to ensure proper performance.
- You will be expected to certify to potential users that the hardware furnished has essentially the same chemistry, mechanical properties, and geometry as that submitted for acceptance, and that they will meet the crashworthiness requirements of the FHWA and the NCHRP Report 350.
- To prevent misunderstanding by others, this letter of acceptance, designated as number WZ-252, shall not be reproduced except in full. This letter, and the test documentation upon which this letter is based, is public information. All such letters and documentation may be reviewed at our office upon request.
- The Premier Panel is a patented product and considered proprietary. If proprietary devices are specified by a highway agency for use on Federal-aid projects, except exempt, non-NHS projects, they: (a) must be supplied through competitive bidding with equally suitable unpatented items; (b) the highway agency must certify that they are essential for synchronization with the existing highway facilities or that no equally suitable alternative exists; or (c) they must be used for research or for a distinctive type of construction on relatively short sections of road for experimental purposes. Our regulations concerning proprietary products are contained in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 635.411.
- This acceptance letter shall not be construed as authorization or consent by the FHWA to use, manufacture, or sell any patented device for which the applicant is not the patent holder. The acceptance letter is limited to the crashworthiness characteristics of the candidate device, and the FHWA is neither prepared nor required to become involved in issues concerning patent law. Patent issues, if any, are to be resolved by the applicant.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Rice, Jr.  
Acting Director, Office of Safety Design  
Office of Safety

Enclosure

FHWA:HSSD:MLupes:tb:x66994:5/29/07

File: s://directory folder/mlupes/WZ252-TrafFixPremPanell.doc

cc: HSSD (Reader, HSA; Chron File, HSSD; M.Lupes, HSSD  
M.McDonough, HSSD)



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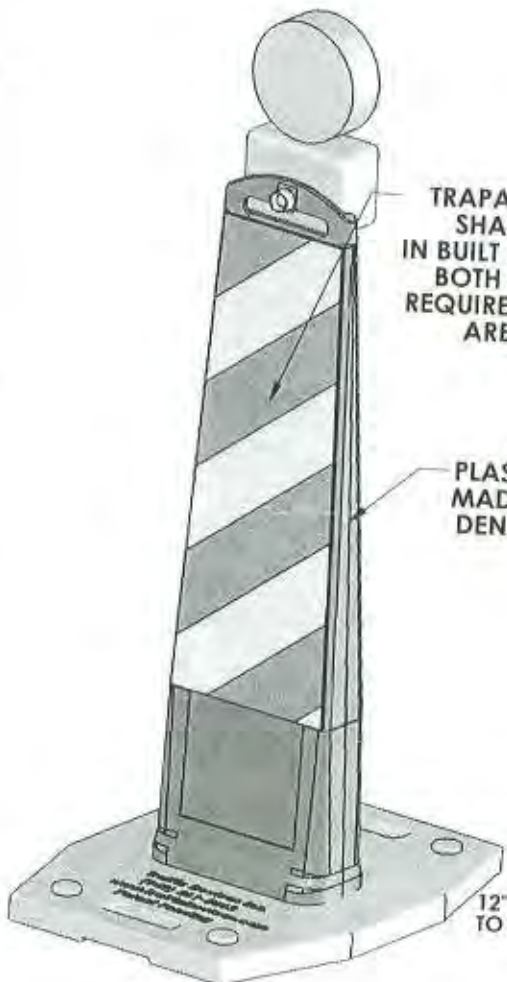
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George E. Rice, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

George E. Rice, Jr.  
Acting Director, Office of Safety Design  
Office of Safety

Enclosure



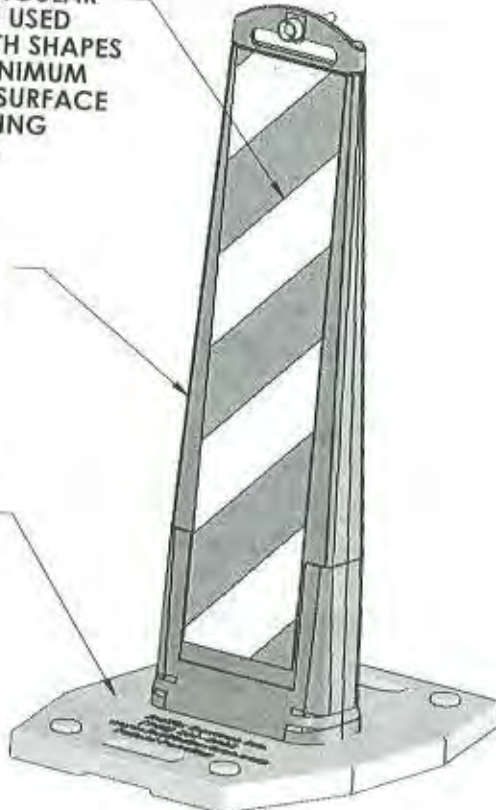
**PREMIER PANEL  
W/TRAPAZOIDAL  
SHAPE SHEETING**

TRAPAZOIDAL AND RECTANGULAR  
SHAPE SHEETING CAN BE USED  
IN BUILT IN RECESS TO FIT BOTH SHAPES  
BOTH SHAPES MEET THE MINIMUM  
REQUIRED RETROREFLECTIVE SURFACE  
AREA OF 270 SQ IN FACING  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

PLASTIC PREMIER PANEL  
MADE OF LOW OR HIGH  
DENSITY POLYETHYLENE  
3 LB-4 LB

20 LB OR 30 LB  
RUBBER BASE

12" FROM GROUND  
TO BOTTOM OF SHEETING



**PREMIER PANEL  
W/RECTANGULAR  
SHAPE SHEETING**



**Traffix  
Devices Inc.**  220 Calle Platanos  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
(949) 361-5500  
FAX (949) 361-0205  
www.traffixdevices.com

TITLE  
**PREMIER PANEL**

DRAWN BY  
TJG/MS/MS  
CHECKED BY  
APPROVED BY

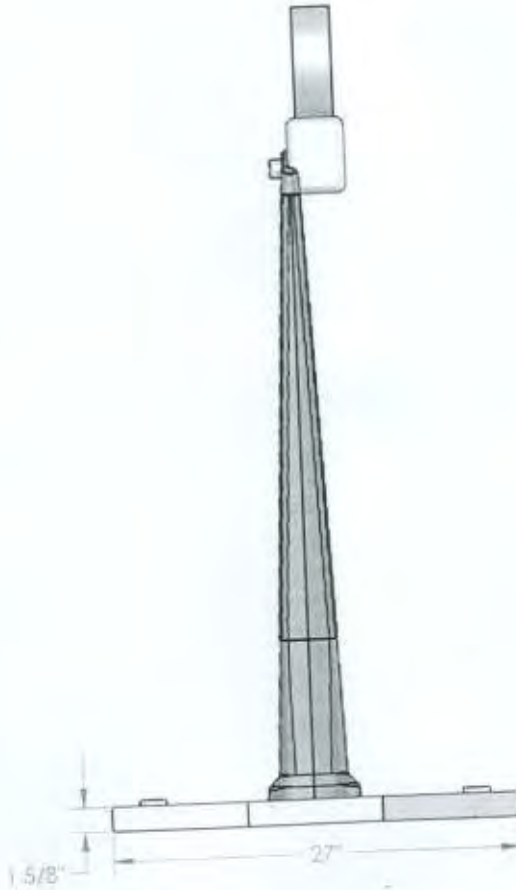
DATE  
06/11/06  
DATE  
DATE

SIZE  
**B**

DWG. NO  
**502**

REV  
-

SHEET 1 OF 3



**Traffix Devices Inc.**  
 220 Cole Pinnacolo  
 San Clemente, CA 92672  
 (949) 361-8900  
 FAX (949) 361-6205  
 www.traffixdevices.com

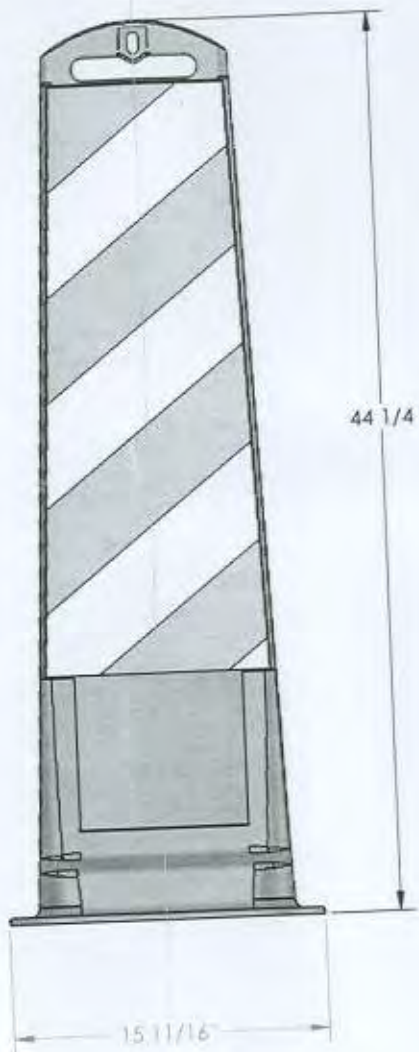
TITLE:  
**COMPLETE ASSY  
 OVERALL DIM**

SIZE **B** DWG. NO. **503** REV

DRAWN BY: Felipe Almorales  
 CHECKED BY:  
 APPROVED BY:

DATE: 04-11-04  
 DATE:  
 DATE:

SHEET 2 OF 3



**Traffix Devices Inc.** 

220 Calle Pineda  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
(949) 361-5063  
FAX (949) 361-9205  
www.traffixdevices.com

TITLE:  
**PREMIER PANEL  
OVERALL DIMENSIONS**

DRAWN BY: Felipe Amoroso	DATE: 04-11-08	SIZE <b>B</b>	DWG. NO. <b>504</b>	REV -
CHECKED BY:	DATE:			
APPROVED BY:				SHEET 3 OF 3