

Mobile Barrier Interview Transcripts-Fall 2010

Finlay Buchanan: This is Finlay Buchanan from the Executive Director's office and I'm here with Ted Phillips, Geotechnical Engineering Supervisor for Eastern Region. And we're out here on Highway 115 watching a mobile traffic barrier in operation. And Ted – could you tell me first how you were able to learn about the mobile traffic barrier?

Ted Phillips: Sure, Finlay. For about four or five years, our function has been looking at ways to meet Traffic Protection Requirements Book 7, with some of our preventative treatments such as rout and seal and whatnot. And this past January, I was fortunate to attend the TRB session in Washington. And just coincidentally, [I] was standing at a display one day and got talking to a fellow that ended up being the Chairman of the Workzone Protection Sub-Committee. [I] started asking him about technologies to protect workzones; we were aware of a unit out of California called the Balsi Beam. He told me that night that there was going to be a presentation on a much more updated mobile barrier [with] higher safety specifications, etc. and said I was welcome to attend the Sub-Committee session. So I popped in and saw an excellent presentation from a gentleman from Texas using these pieces of equipment on the Texas tollway. And came back with the idea to Kingston and talked to our P&D people and the rest is history – working with our consultant and head office traffic section, they developed a system to put this in a contract.

Finlay Buchanan: That's great! Thanks, Ted.