

**OPSS 740 – Construction Specification for Concrete Barrier**

Date: April 2026

**Comments received by TCP:**

Comment ID	Organization	TCP Comment	MTO Response
469-1	Individual	<p><b>OPSS 740.07.01 (b)</b></p> <p>Why is precast asymmetric concrete barrier not automatically permitted for use?</p>	<p>It is more practical to use cast-in-place for asymmetric wall to account for height variations, grading tolerances and site-specific conditions.</p>
469-2	Individual	<p><b>OPSD 740.07.01 (c)</b></p> <p>Why must ALL concrete barrier be of only one type of construction on a project? On larger projects, there are going to be innumerable situations that may call for different types of construction and having to specify in the Documents that mixed types are permitted will be problematic; chances are, designers would want to include an NSSP to permit this in practically every contract. I could understand requiring some reasonable consistency in any given run of barrier, but requiring all barrier to be of one construction method seems excessive.</p>	<p>Agree, specification is revised to include minimum lengths of a given type of construction.</p>
469-3	Individual	<p><b>OPSS 740.07.06.04.02</b></p>	<p>This is the detail that MTO specifies where there is separation of joint barrier at bridge piers or other relatively short</p>

		Treatment at Bridge Piers ALSO refers to “other locations where separation...is required”; this clause CAN be read to mean that you CANNOT place topsoil and seed the area between ANY separated concrete barriers. I suggest that asphalt be placed where the concrete barriers are less than 3 m apart and permit the use of grass for larger separations.	separations. For longer areas of separation, where use of seeded topsoil is permitted, these would be tendered as separate walls.
469-4	Individual	<b>740.07.06.08.02</b> requires contraction joints on each side of a drainage structure, which would be within 2 m of one another; this condition should be explicitly excluded where it says “...joints shall not be within 2 m of each other...”.	Agree, clause 740.07.06.08.01 of the specification has been modified as follows:  Joints shall not be within 2 m of each other, <b>except for joints on each side of the outside perimeter of sub-surface components.</b>
Additional changes made since TCP posting			MTO has reverted to the current item names for concrete barrier. MTO had considered changing the item names in this update but had decided not to, to avoid confusion.

**Comments received by email:**

Date	Organization	Email Comment	MTO Response
Sept 30, 2025	Juan Mendoza, CRH Canada	Hello, MTO team,  I was just made aware of this upcoming revision (screenshot below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement, although a material requirement, is related to design and safety, as this is the wall design that has been crash</li> </ul>

		<p>The current 740 asks for crushed stone only for slip-formed concrete, but this proposal is asking for crushed stone for all methods, including pre-cast</p> <p>This is quite the change. Is there a reason why this is being proposed?</p> <p>Thanks!</p>	<p>tested (see FHWA Letter B-19), and therefore acceptable to the Highway Design Office from a design perspective. HDO sets the design standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirement for the coarse aggregate to have all faces crushed for tall wall barrier is not a new requirement, and is what is currently specified in OPSS 740 (cast-in-place concrete barrier) and in the NSSP for precast tall wall barrier (since 2012).</li> <li>• This requirement has not changed; it has always been in place for both cast-in-place (majority of MTO wall) and precast (when MTO uses it). There was no change made to this requirement for the OPSS 740 update. The only change for this update was to merge the precast specification into the cast-in-place specification, for concrete barrier, so now OPSS 740 covers both.</li> <li>• Note, temporary concrete barrier (TCB), covered by OPSS 741, does not have the same requirement.</li> </ul>
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<p>Nov 10, 2025</p>	<p>OSSGA</p>	<p>Below please see the change in language, before it was for slip formed tall walls (not precast), now crushed material is required for all the types of Barrier Wall.</p> <p>c) Coarse aggregate shall have all faces crushed when tested according to LS-607.</p>	<p>Please see response above.</p>
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