

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-86 **Effective:** August 17, 2026

Subject: Protective Fencing on Overpass Bridges

Purpose: To establish a policy for consideration for protective fencing

Primary Department: Engineering

Bridges over Interstate facilities, controlled access primary routes, and special cases such as bridges with significant height over bodies of water have the opportunity to pose challenges to the travelling public; both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The inclusion of a physical barrier may restrict access by pedestrians to the facility below, protects traffic on the facility below and prevents the potential for objects to be thrown from a bridge onto traffic below.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) shall consider the use of protective fencing when developing a project to be let to construction, in the following instances to include but not be limited to:

- Overpasses over Interstate facilities within municipal limits;
- Overpasses over controlled access Primary routes within municipal limits;
- Bridges of significant height over any facility or body of water;
- Bridges over railroads when fencing is a requirement of the railroad

As SCDOT develops interstate interchange or interstate overpass projects within municipal limits, considerations for project enhancements shall include a determination on the use of protective fencing as part of the project. When reviewing a location to determine the need for protective fencing the presence of existing sidewalks or high volumes of pedestrian traffic may be a consideration for the addition of protective fencing.

Should SCDOT determine the enhancement to be necessary, SCDOT shall include a standard fencing application within the scope and budget of the project. If a local government refuses to approve a municipal agreement due to inclusion of the Department's standard fencing, SCDOT can either remove the fencing from the project to advance it to construction, or a local government may propose a different form of fencing.

If a different form of fencing is prescribed by the local government in order to gain an approved municipal agreement, the local government shall be responsible for funding the difference in the cost versus standard fencing for construction and shall be responsible for maintenance of the fencing via a maintenance agreement executed between both agencies.

Recommended by: John Boylston, P.E.
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Approved by: Rob Perry, P.E.
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

History: Issued on August 17, 2026