

Holland Nuclear Security Summit

A4 Highway | Dedicated Freeway Lanes for Event Management



ROAD ZIPPER™

Moveable Barrier Used to Transport and Protect NSS Delegates

This year, The Netherlands hosted the world's third Nuclear Security Summit. On March 24th and 25th, leaders from 53 countries around the world joined 5,000 delegates and over 3,000 journalists to discuss the shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. A major focus of the Summit was strengthening nuclear security and preventing terrorists and criminals from acquiring nuclear materials that could be used in nuclear weapons. Among the high-profile world leaders in attendance were US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Maximum security measures were undertaken from Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam, where the representatives arrived, to the Summit meeting in The Hague. The A4 highway was used to transport the delegates from arrival to destination, and partial sections of the highway were closed during specific time periods to ease transportation and security. Just southeast of Schiphol Airport near Hoofddorp, a 3.3 km stretch of the

A4 needed to be quickly closed to regular traffic to create a dedicated lane for the delegates. For security reasons, the closure had to be crashworthy, and to avoid major traffic delays the closure had to be flexible enough to reopen to traffic in one hour. The only technology that provided crashworthy separation and the flexibility to meet the demanding timeline was moveable barrier.

In order to make the tight transfer schedule, two Barrier Transfer Machines (BTMs) were required. The machines were shipped in from Belgium and Russia, with spare parts and tools supplied from moveable barrier operations in the UK. This global effort was completed by the arrival of four machine operators from the United States.

On the day before the Summit opening ceremonies, the barrier was moved out to create a dedicated two-lane section of highway for the delegates to use. To start the barrier transfer, the two BTMs ran in tandem, transferring the barrier laterally 26 ft (8m) at a speed of approximately 7 mph (11 km/h). The machines then split off, with one

machine looping back to complete the opening 42 ft (13m) transfer while the other continued on to the end of the barrier wall. The following day, the lanes were returned to general purpose traffic with the total barrier transfer taking less than one hour. This opening and closing process was repeated during the following two days as more delegates arrived and departed.

The moveable barrier operation was completely successful in meeting the Dutch Department of Transportation's goals for transfers and timelines. The moveable barrier created a crashworthy, dedicated "freeway within a freeway" to keep our world leaders out of traffic and out of harm's way. The moveable barrier system also generated a great deal of local interest and press coverage, and it was featured on the nightly news throughout The Netherlands during the Summit.

While very unique, this project proved that moveable barrier can be used successfully for event management as well as construction and managed lanes applications.



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