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(71) Applicant: **UNIVERSAL SAFETY RESPONSE, inc.**
[US/US]; 48 Arrandale Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
(US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GELFAND, Matthew, A.** [US/US]; 184 Lake Club Court, Suite 401, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (US). **VELLOZZI, Joseph** [US/US]; 1 Croton Court, Ardsley, NY 10502 (US).

PANER, John, S. [US/US]; 3 Hillside Parkway, Lancaster, NY 14086 (US). **MACKENZIE, NORMAN, D.** [US/US]; 12180 S. Blossom Lea Drive, Alden, NY 14004 (US). **RUAN, Shubin** [CN/US]; 103 Bassett Road, Williamsville, NY 14221 (US). **BULLARD, Jr., D. Lance** [—/US]; 21 Ranchero Drive, College Station, TX 77845 (US). **ALBERSON, Dean, C.** [—/US]; 9191 Hensarling Avenue, Bryan, TX 77808 (US).

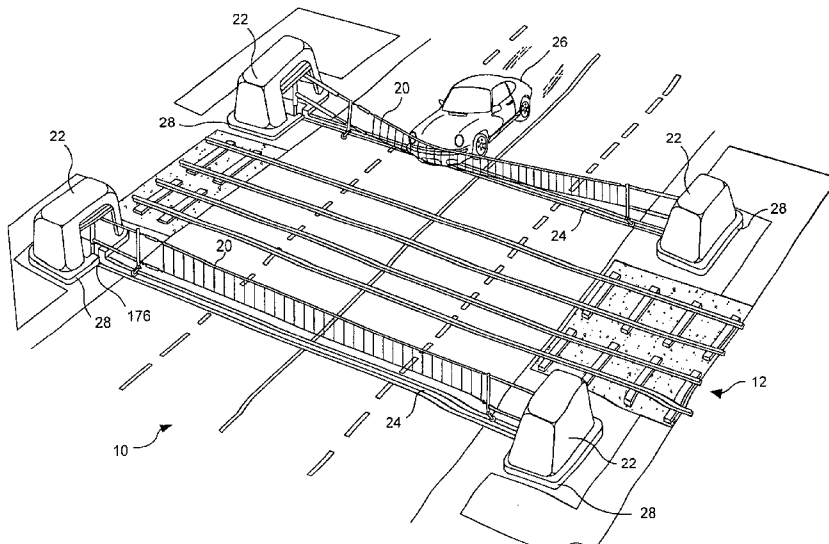
(74) Agent: **KASS, Lawrence, T.**; Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, One Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, NY 10005-1413 (US).

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(54) Title: **ENERGY ABSORBING SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: A heavy duty ground retractable automobile barrier for a railroad crossing (12). Concrete bunnies (30) are placed at each side of a roadway (10). An upstanding concrete-fill steel pipe (32) fixed in each bunker (30) has a sleeve (72) for rotational and axial movement. Shock absorbers (84) are mounted on each sleeve (72). A net (20) extends across the road (10) and is attached to the opposite ends of the shock absorbers (84). Collision of an automobile (26) with the net (20) creates tensile forces in the net (20). The shock absorbers (84) expand while rotating about the pipe's axis in response to tensile forces from the net (20) that meet or exceed a minimum threshold. Forces from the net (20) pass through the axis of the steel pipe. The net (20) is stored in a pit (38) transverse the roadway (10) parallel to the railroad tracks (12) and is raised and lowered as appropriate. The net (20) includes a cable that extends across the road in a wave pattern, having peaks, valleys and midpoints.

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