

**(57) Abstract:** An energy absorbing system with one or more energy absorbing assemblies is provided to reduce or eliminate the severity of a collision between a moving motor vehicle and a roadside hazard. The energy absorbing system may be installed adjacent to a gore area and other relatively wide roadside hazards. One end of the system facing outgoing traffic is relatively narrow. The width at an opposite end of the system may be varied to accommodate relatively wide or large roadside hazards. A sled assembly may be provided with a cutter plate such that a collision by the motor vehicle with the sled assembly will result in the cutter plate tearing or ripping the energy absorbing element to dissipate energy from the motor vehicle collision.