



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE #2
April 18, 2018

Now that we have dealt with our tax returns (or extensions), I want to share a few quick announcements and other tidbits of information related to the MUTCD and the NCUTCD.

MUTCD Updates and Actions

- **RRFB IA:** On March 20, the FHWA issued a new Interim Approval (#21) that restores the ability to use Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at uncontrolled marked crosswalks. The MUTCD website has additional information about this IA. The new IA became possible because the RRFB patents have been expressly abandoned. A key point is that this is a new IA, so agencies wishing to install new RRFBs will have to apply for the new Interim Approval, even if they had approval under the previous one.
- **Clearview IA:** In March, Congress passed a budget bill that included a provision to reinstate the Interim Approval for the use of Clearview. As a result, FHWA reinstated IA #5 on March 28. The memo on the reinstatement is at the following line and is also on the IA page of the MUTCD website.
https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ia5/ia5_reinstatement.pdf
- **CAV RFI:** During February, the NCUTCD Connected/Autonomous Vehicle Task Force developed a draft response to an FHWA Federal Register Request for Comments regarding autonomous vehicle infrastructure. Because the docket period was approximately six weeks, the NCUTCD used an accelerated process to develop, review, and approve the NCUTCD submission to the docket. The draft document was sent to both sponsors and Council for concurrent review and approved by the NCUTCD Council through an email ballot. You can access the NCUTCD docket response, along with all 122 docket responses at:
<https://www.regulations.gov/docketBrowser?rpp=50&so=DESC&sb=commentDueDate&po=0&dct=PS&D=FHWA-2017-0049>

June NCUTCD Meeting Information

- **Date:** Our next meeting is June 20-22 in Denver. Details are on the website.
- **Registration:** The early registration deadline is May 27.
- **Recommendations:** On February 22, Bob Garrett sent 9 recommendations from technical committees to sponsors for review. Comments from sponsors are due to Bob Garrett by April 30. Both the distribution and deadline for response are earlier than normal. The change in schedule was made to provide task forces and technical committees more time to review and respond to sponsors comments before the NCUTCD meeting. The items are:

- ♦ 17B-RW-01: TC Guideline for Curves
- ♦ 18A-RW-01: Section 2B.11 R1-5 Series signs
- ♦ 18A-RW-02: Section 2C-36 Advance Traffic Control Signs
- ♦ 18A-GMI-01: Incident Rerouting Signs
- ♦ 18A-GMI-02: R3-44 & R3-44a Signs
- ♦ 18A-STC-01: Protected Only Mode
- ♦ 17B-TTC-01: Double Headed Arrow
- ♦ 18A-RR-01: Another Train Coming
- ♦ 18A-Edit-01: Definition for Busway
- **ARTBA Social:** I have just learned that the ARTBA Traffic Safety Industry Division social on Tuesday evening will be at the Denver Stapleton Punch Bowl Social. This is the location of the former air traffic control tower and associated building at the old Denver Stapleton Airport. Bob Garrett will send out more details in a future message.
- **Light Rail Connection:** There is light rail transportation between the airport and a station near the hotel. Bob took it when visiting the hotel in February and said that it works quite well. You catch it right at the airport and get off at the station a few blocks from the hotel. The hotel shuttle then picks you up there and it's just a couple of minutes to the hotel.
- **Baseball Game:** Those that know me know that I'm a baseball fan. While I won't be able scratch a new ballpark off my list in Denver (I've been to Coors Field twice before), I do plan on going to at least one game. They are in town all week. Mets Monday-Thursday and Marlins Friday-Sunday. The Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday games are at 7:10 local time. The Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday games are at 1:10 local time.
- **Related Meetings:** Two other groups will be meeting before and after the NCUTCD meeting.
 - ♦ The AASHTO Committee on Traffic Engineering (formerly SCOTE), will meet Sunday-Wednesday (June 17-20) in the same hotel as the NCUTCD meeting. You must register for the CTE meeting to sit in on the meeting or to partake of the AASHTO refreshments. The meeting website is:
 - <http://www.cvent.com/events/2018-aashto-committee-on-traffic-engineering-annual-meeting/event-summary-1baad28399a5440e964927b9c4ffd1f2.aspx>
 - ♦ The ITE Joint Western and Texas District meeting is Sunday-Wednesday after the NCUTCD meeting in Keystone, CO. The meeting website is:
 - <http://itekeystone2018.com>.

NCUTCD Activities and Actions

- ITE has made several changes to its delegation. Kathy Falk has become a full member and Mike Cynecki, Scott Kuznicki, and Ross Oyen have been added as associate members. I would like to recognize the contributions of Paul Carlson and Herman Hill for their years of service on the ITE delegation, as they have been rotated off the ITE delegation.

- The AASHTO delegation has a new chair, Megan Pirkle, Chief Engineer of the Georgia DOT. She is also the chair of the AASHTO Committee on Traffic Engineering (formerly SCOTE). She fills the vacancy created when Dave Woodin retired from NYSDOT and takes over the chair position from Mike Holder, who retired last September.
- IACP appointed Rick Campbell as its delegation on our Council. As a result, we now have a full Council for the first time in several years.
- On February 13, I held a teleconference with the chairs of the technical committees. This call provided an opportunity for the NCUTCD leadership to discuss several issues, particularly those related to the recommendations that are currently out for sponsor review. I expect to have similar calls at least once between each meeting.
- I will soon begin contacting the headquarters of our sponsoring organizations.

Administrivia

- To the extent possible, I have asked Bob not to send out broad distribution emails (to members, Council, sponsors) after 3:00 pm eastern Monday-Thursday and not after noon eastern on Friday. I hope this will reduce the potential for emails being lost in the inbox clutter due to arriving during non-business hours. We may not always be able to follow this guideline if a message is time sensitive.
- I would like for us to use our NCUTCD graphic in some additional ways. Do any of the members have the original artwork used to create the graphic?
- You may have noticed that Bob is now sending out emails to the membership by putting the distribution email addresses in the BC field.
- A link to the Chair's Message is posted on NCUTCD's Facebook and Twitter accounts after they are sent to members (<https://www.facebook.com/ncutcd> and <https://twitter.com/ncutcd>).