National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Resolution on Part/Chapter/Section Numbering Scheme for Next Edition of the MUTCD

WHEREAS:

The NCUTCD is an organization that represents a wide range of practitioners having many years of experience with traffic control devices and use of the MUTCD, and

WHEREAS:

The current Part/Chapter/Section numbering scheme has been used in the MUTCD since at least the 1961 edition, and

WHEREAS:

Most MUTCD users are extremely familiar with the numbering scheme used in the 2009 MUTCD, and

WHEREAS:

With regards to signs, the chapter letters have specific identification value (i.e., Chapter 2C is recognized as warning signs), and

WHEREAS:

The draft material provided by the FHWA divided Part 2 into 55 separate chapters numbered from 2A to 2BC, and

WHEREAS:

The FHWA recognized the challenges associated with a double letter chapter label and has indicated that an all-numeric scheme with a three digit section numbering scheme is being considered for the next edition of the MUTCD, and

WHEREAS:

The NCUTCD does not envision the potential for an MUTCD chapter to have more than 99 sections, and

WHEREAS:

Part 2 is the only part of the MUTCD significantly affected by efforts to reorganize MUTCD content from the 14 chapters in the 2009 MUTCD to 55 chapters in the proposal for the next edition of the MUTCD, and

WHEREAS:

The NCUTCD believes that 2009 MUTCD Part/Chapter/Section numbering scheme has intrinsic value and there is a desire to maintain the identification value of this scheme in the next edition of the MUTCD.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The NCUTCD recommends that the FHWA retain the time-honored and tested Part/Chapter/Section numbering scheme that has been used by generations of traffic engineers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The NCUTCD recommends that the FHWA abandon an all-numeric numbering scheme in favor of a hybrid Part/Chapter/Section numbering scheme for Part 2 and, where appropriate, other parts of the next edition of the MUTCD, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The hybrid numbering scheme allows subdivision of chapters by adding a number after the chapter letter (i.e., 2B2.03), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The NCUTCD recommends that the section number be limited to two digits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The NCUTCD believes that adoption of these recommendations will best improve the usability of the MUTCD.

Approved by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Council June 26, 2014, Minneapolis, Minnesota