



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2019-#3
July 2, 2019

The Columbus meeting is behind us and I wanted to summarize the meeting results and the road ahead as we prepare for the NPA. There is a lot of information to share after our meeting.

June 2019 NCUTCD Meeting Information

- **Approved Recommendations:** The following items were approved by Council. They will be posted to the website soon. These include:
 - ♦ 19A-EDOT-01: NCUTCD Draft Strategic Plan
 - ♦ 19A-RW-01: Reducing Wrong Way Movements - NCHRP 881
 - ♦ 19A-RW-02: Hill Blocks View Sign
 - ♦ 19A-RW-03: Bicycle/Pedestrian Version R1-6 and R1-9 In-Street Signs
 - ♦ 19A-TTC-01: Background Color for W11-1 and W11-2 Signs in Work Zones
 - ♦ 19A-TTC-02: Typical Applications for Roundabouts
 - ♦ 19A-RR-01: Mounting Height of Crossbuck and Tracks signs on Flashing Light Signals
 - ♦ 19A-RR-02: Clearance from Flashing Light Signal with or without Automatic Gate to Track
 - ♦ 19A-RR-03: Definition and Application of Right-of-Way Transfer Time for Traffic Control Signals at Grade Crossings
 - ♦ GMI Resolution on the Use of Messages on Changeable Message Signs
- **Executive Secretary Announcement:** Perhaps the most significant news from the meeting was Bob Garrett's announcement that he will be stepping down as the NCUTCD Executive Secretary in Spring 2020.
 - ♦ The NCUTCD will soon distribute to members a request for proposals for individuals or organizations that are interested in serving as the next Executive Secretary. September 1, 2019 is the deadline for submitting a proposal.
- **Potential Addition of Sponsoring Organizations:** At its meeting, the Executive Board approved two applications for organizations wanting to become sponsoring organizations. The Board approval will lead to a proposed Bylaws change that will be submitted to the sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Then Council will vote on the proposed Bylaws change at the January 2020 meeting. If approved by Council, the Bylaws change would take effect at the end of the January meeting. The two organizations and the proposed impact on Council are:
 - ♦ The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) would join as a member of Group 1 with 3 members and 3 associate members.
 - ♦ The Intelligent Transportation Society of America would join as a member of Group 2 with 1 member and 1 associate member.

- **NCUTCD Strategic Plan Approved:** posted on website thanks to PD and the task force (list)
- **ARTBA Social:** Many thanks to the ARTBA Traffic Safety Industry Division for the social activity on Tuesday evening. The event was at the Columbus Clippers baseball game and I had many individuals comment to me that it was the best social event they have attended.

January 2020 NCUTCD Meeting Information

- **Expected Recommendations:** I expect that the technical committees will be sending out the following proposals for sponsor review and comment. These proposals should be distributed by early- to mid-August. Deadline for comments are expected to be in early- to mid-October. Titles below are subject to change.
 - ♦ **RW:**
 - 19B-RW-01: Street Name plaque with W1-10 Series Signs and W10 series signs, Sections 2C.11, 2C.46, 2C.58 and 8B.06
 - ♦ **GMI:**
 - None
 - ♦ **Markings:**
 - 19B-MKG-01: "Chapter 3H - Channelization Devices Used for Emphasis of Pavement Marking Patterns"
 - 19B-MKG-02: "Chapters 3A.06, 3B.04 and 3B.05 related to pavement marking width, pattern and standardization"
 - ♦ **Signals:**
 - 19B-SIG-01: Use of Straight-Through GREEN ARROW
 - 19B-SIG-02: Alternatives to Traffic Control Signals
 - 19B-SIG-03: Pedestrian Pushbutton Locations
 - ♦ **TTC:**
 - 19B-TTC-01: Circulating Lane Closure in a Multi-Lane Roundabout
 - 19B-TTC-02: Use of Positive Protection in Work Zones
 - ♦ **RR:**
 - None
 - ♦ **Bikes:**
 - None
- **Possible Extension of January Meeting:** Depending upon the timing of the NPA, the January meeting may be extended by a day. A formal announcement of the January meeting schedule is expected in mid- to late-September. If the meeting is extended, technical committees would be meeting Wednesday afternoon/evening, all day/evening Thursday, and Friday afternoon/evening with general sessions on Friday morning and all day on Saturday.

Future NCUTCD Meeting Dates

- **January 2020:** The next meeting will be January 8-10, 2020 at the Crystal City Hilton. As mentioned above, we may extend the meeting through January 11.
- **June 2020:** The meeting will be in Virginia Beach June 17-19, 2020.

- **January 2021:** TRB recently announced it was moving its Annual Meeting for 2021 up a week. As the NCUTCD is already under contract with the hotel for this meeting, the Executive Board voted to keep the dates for this meeting as January 27-29, 2021. This is Wednesday-Friday of the same week as the TRB Annual Meeting.
- **June 2021:** The meeting will likely be in the Northwest. The city and dates will be determined in the future.
- **January 2022:** The Executive Board voted to hold the January 2022 meeting on Wednesday-Friday the same week as the TRB Annual Meeting. The dates will be January 12-14, 2022.

NCUTCD Activities and Actions

- **Website Improvements:** The long-awaited improvements to the NCUTCD website are continuing. Look for specific email announcements about improvements and features. Hats off to Marc Jacobson for leading this effort. Among the most significant features:
 - ♦ **Linking the member database to the website.** This enables the log in feature and other features. This is an essential background feature. Marc and Bob have been working on this critical issue throughout the spring.
 - ♦ **Public Access to Roster:** The NCUTCD roster has been removed from the NCUTCD website. In the near future, the roster will be accessible in some fashion to NCUTCD members after they log in.
 - ♦ **Listserves.** We now have listserves for use by technical committees and other long-term groups within the NCUTCD. Only current members of a technical committee/group are included in the listserve. The technical committees are developing criteria for creating an emeritus/friends listserve for each technical committee/listserve.
 - ♦ **Member accounts.** In the near future, each member will be able to log into the website to edit their contact information and other protected information. Individuals' contact information will no longer be accessible on the website without logging in to a valid NCUTCD account.
 - ♦ **Portals.** Technical committees and selected other groups will have portals where they can save files for viewing by individuals linked to the committee/group in the database.
- **Review of Bylaws and Operating Procedures:** The Executive Board established a new committee to review the existing Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Members are Bill Lambert (chair), Neil Boudreau, Lee Billingsley, Jonathan Upchurch, Gene Hawkins, Tom Heydel. Given some of the recent changes we have implemented and those suggested in the strategic plan, this effort is needed. It has been almost 20 years since the last thorough review.
- **Technical Committee Reappointment:** The technical committee chairs will be reappointing technical committee members after the January meeting. The reappointment process is an important part of our process, as it provides an opportunity to address technical committee members who are not contributing to the efforts of the committee or who have missed three consecutive meetings.

Expected MUTCD NPA

- **NPA Preparations:** At the June meeting, the FHWA did not indicate a time frame for publication of the NPA. Based on input from the technical committee chairs, we will be sending items to sponsors for review and comment in early August based on an assumption that we can get those items reviewed before we will be sending NPA items to sponsors. I have provided the technical committee chairs with details on how to process the NPA. In essence, it boils down to determining whether the NPA content is consistent with a previously approved NCUTCD recommendation. If it is, then we can comment to the docket that we agree and Council action is not required. If we want to comment on an NPA item that is not consistent with a prior Council action, then the Council will have to approve that docket comment. The timing for that Council vote will depend upon the relationship between the docket comment period and our January meeting. Details will be sent to NCUTCD members soon after publication of the NPA.

Administrivia

- Check out the NCUTCD's website (ncutcd.org) and our Facebook and Twitter accounts (www.facebook.com/ncutcd and twitter.com/ncutcd).
- **Suggestion Box:** A reminder that the NCUTCD website now has a suggestion box that members can use to offer suggestions associated with the organization. The suggestion box is intended for organizational suggestions, not technical ones. Suggestions to the Chair and Executive Secretary.
 - ♦ <http://ncutcd.org/suggestion-box>