



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2020-#3
June 4, 2020

Gene Hawkins
NCUTCD Chair

I hope that this message finds the members of the NCUTCD family doing well. I know that many of you are dealing with stressful and challenging situations, whether they be at home, with family/relatives, professionally, in the community, or financially.

As various parts of our country try to get back to a “normal” routine while other parts are still struggling with uncertainty in what tomorrow will bring, I want to share information on a few critical NCUTCD issues of interest.

June 2020 NCUTCD Meeting

Given that many parts of the country are still shut down and that travel is restricted in many ways by organizations, airlines, and/or various government jurisdictions, I believe that we made the correct decision to cancel the in-person meetings associated with the June 2020 meeting. However, we will still be having virtual technical committee meetings and a few other activities.

- **Virtual Meetings:** All seven technical committees will be having virtual meetings on one or more days. The Executive Board will also be having a virtual meeting. Several task forces have scheduled virtual meetings as well. The schedule for these virtual meetings is listed on the next page.
- **General Session(s):** There will not be any General Sessions during the week of our meeting. The decision to cancel the General Session(s) was based on the lack of information about publication of the MUTCD NPA, the challenges of making the General Session open to all NCUTCD members, and the small number of proposals that had been distributed to sponsors for review and comment.
- **Ancillary Activities:** Obviously, with all meetings being limited to the virtual format, we will not be having breaks, breakfast, or the ARTBA Tuesday night social. One of the most valuable aspects of NCUTCD involvement is the professional interactions that occur outside of the formal meetings, as well as during the meetings. I know that I have gained a tremendous amount of technical insight over the years from discussions that occurred during breaks or over meals. I will certainly miss that aspect of our meeting.

June 2021 NCUTCD Meeting

Our new Executive Secretary, Richard Moeur, has been working very hard to deal with the challenges associated with the June meeting and repercussions of canceling our presence in Virginia Beach. He certainly was put through a couple of extra cycles in the wash dealing with everything. He has done a great job with all of it. To avoid potential financial penalties associated with canceling the meeting, we have rescheduled our June 2021 meeting to be in Virginia Beach at the same hotel. More details will be announced about the June 2021 meeting in the future. By doing this,

the NCUTCD saved tens of thousands of dollars. It also means that our meeting in Seattle has been pushed back to June 2022.

January 2021 NCUTCD Meeting

As of today, our plan is to meet in person at the Crystal City Hilton in January. We will continually evaluate the situation throughout the fall and make necessary adjustments as/if they become necessary. For those that may not recall, this meeting will be the same week as the TRB Annual Meeting. TRB is Sunday-Thursday and the NCUTCD is Wednesday-Friday.

MUTCD NPA

As I send out this message, we have received no word on when the NPA for a new edition of the MUTCD will be published. I have told the technical committee chairs to assume that it will not be out before the June virtual meetings.

SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2020 NCUTCD VIRTUAL MEETINGS

All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

Tuesday, June 16

- 10:00-12:00: Edit

Wednesday, June 17

- 10:00-11:30: CAV Task Force
- 1:00-5:00: RW
- 1:00-5:00: Signals
- 1:00-5:00: TTC
- 1:00-5:00: Bikes
- 2:00-6:00: GMI
- 5:00-8:00: Executive Board
- 5:00-7:00: Pedestrian Task Force

Thursday, June 18

- 1:00-5:00: RW
- 1:00-5:00: Signals
- 1:00-5:00: TTC
- 1:00-5:00: Bikes
- 1:30-4:30: Markings

Friday, June 19

- 11:00-1:00: RR/LRT

Tuesday, June 23

- 12:00-2:00: Research

NCUTCD Leadership Biography

Name: Rick Campbell

NCUTCD Positions: Chair of the Railroad & Light Rail Transit Technical Committee since January 2006 and the AREMA Delegate from 2006 to 2017. In 2018, I was appointed the delegate for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. I attended my first NCUTCD meeting in June 1992 in New Orleans, when I attended the Signals Technical Committee. I joined the Railroad and Light Rail Transit Technical Committee in 1996.

Where you live: I have lived in and near Fort Worth, Texas since 1978 and currently reside in Aledo, Texas.

Professional Positions: I have been involved with traffic control devices for 49 years, the first 23 years in the traffic signal industry in various roles providing design, application, operation and maintenance of traffic signals. During that time, I developed an interest in designing all types of traffic signal preemption systems from railroad to emergency vehicle to drawbridge through all phases of technology. In 1994 I began working in the railroad signal industry progressing from maintenance to installation and design of railroad signals. I have been qualified as an expert in grade crossings and signal systems in both state and federal courts.

Professional Affiliations: ITE Member, AREMA Member and former of chair for 13 years of Committee 36 (Grade Crossings) Sub-committee 1 (Grade Crossing Warning System Controls), NCUTCD Member, Technical Committee chair and Executive Board Member, Life Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Member of APTA and a Member of Operation Lifesaver National Advisory Council.

Family Information: Mindy and I have been married for 24 years. We have three adult children, Bonnie, Sarah and Tyler. Bonnie works in the railroad signal industry following in dad's footsteps, Sarah works in accounting and Tyler is our golf pro who works in HVAC sales.

Interests: I am a Lieutenant with the sheriff's office in Parker County. I have been with the sheriff's office for 14 years. My law enforcement career spans 34 years including almost 10 years as a railroad police officer. I provide training for law enforcement officer safety around railroads. Mindy and I are actively involved in our church where I lead Bible studies and serve on the church emergency response team. Our greatest excitement comes from our 6 grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 19. They fill our lives with their youth and inquisitive nature, always ready to love unconditionally.

Transportation History: With my background in traffic signals and preemption, I was strongly impacted by the tragic crash between a commuter train and school bus in 1995 which resulted in the death of 7 students. Following a request to provide training on railroad preemption by the Oklahoma DOT in 1996, I have provided over 200 training seminars for various departments of transportation, local road authorities, railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration, the FHWA and Transport Canada. I firmly believe that these types of crashes are preventable with proper engineering.

Advice to Young Professionals: Follow your passion in your career for if you do, you will never work a day in your life. Spend time on the street corner. You can model anything, but it takes working knowledge gained from the field to truly grasp real traffic operations. Finally, we are losing the "Art of Signal Operations." I remember agonizing with colleagues over a tenth of a second for a gap setting. It seems now that we routinely accept poor signal operations without a second thought and that truly is sad.