



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2022-#3
November 28, 2022

Gene Hawkins
NCUTCD Chair

The January 2023 meeting will be in the books in less than two months. This will be one of my shorter Chair's Messages as we are largely in a waiting pattern until the MUTCD final rule is published.

January 2023 Meeting

The January 2023 NCUTCD Annual Meeting will be January 11-13 at the DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA. This will be the first time for us to meet at this hotel so we will all be familiarizing ourselves with the facility. We are contracted to meet there in January through 2025. As with last year's January meeting, we are meeting at the end of the same week as the TRB Annual Meeting. That may create some conflicts for our members who attend both meetings, but it may also provide an opportunity for some who do not normally attend TRB to do so.

The basic format for the January meeting will be task force meetings on Wednesday afternoon, technical committee meetings all day on Thursday, and the Council general session on Friday morning. There will be no NCUTCD meetings on Wednesday morning (to reduce conflicts with TRB) with the exception that some sponsoring organizations may have delegation meetings on Wednesday morning. Multi committee task force and task force meetings on Wednesday are limited to one hour in length. The focus of task force meetings should be on voting related to content developed prior to the January meeting. Joint task force meetings are limited to 1.5 hours in length with the same focus. Multi-committee task forces and task forces can also meet on Wednesday or Thursday evenings. A more detailed agenda for the January meeting will be posted on the website in the near future.

The Friday general session will include the normal reports that we have at each Council meeting but will also include presentations from our sponsoring organizations about their membership and activities. Depending upon how many of our 21 sponsoring organizations make presentations, I think we should finish during or slightly after the end of the lunch hour.

MUTCD 11th Edition Final Rule

We continue to await the final rule for the 11th edition of the MUTCD. As indicated on the FHWA MUTCD website, Congress established a deadline of May 15, 2023 for publishing an update to the 2009 MUTCD. We have no idea of the actual date that the final rule will be published. It could be considerably before or after the deadline. As soon as I can share information, I will do so.

Final Rule Pool

Don't forget about our final rule publication date pool. This is your chance to predict when the federal government will publish the final rule for the long-awaited 11th edition of the MUTCD. To submit your guess, log into the NCUTCD website using your member credentials (pool open to NCUTCD members only), then go to this link and enter your date: <https://ncutcd.org/mutcd-final-rule-pool/>. You only get one guess, so make it a good one. Deadline to submit your guess is December 21, 2022. We will probably (no guarantees) have a list of pool guesses at the registration desk at the January 2023 meeting. We plan to recognize the winner(s) at the first NCUTCD meeting after the final rule is published.

June 2023 Meeting

We appreciate everyone's patience in waiting for information about next summer's meeting. Contracts have now been signed. The 2023 Midyear Meeting will be June 28-30, 2023 in Tacoma, Washington at the Marriott Tacoma Downtown and the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. Look for more information about the meeting to be posted on our website in the future.

It is my fervent hope that the MUTCD final rule will have been published before the June 2023 meeting. If that is the case, then the focus of that meeting will be upon reviewing the NPA and identifying issues that the NCUTCD will want to address in future recommended changes.

June 2024 Meeting

AASHTO has indicated that the June 2024 CTE and NCUTCD meetings will be in Delaware. A specific city has not yet been selected.

NCUTCD Strategic Plan

In June 2019, the NCUTCD approved a strategic plan for the organization (<https://ncutcd.org/wp-content/uploads/meetings/2019B/Attach02.19A-EDIT-01.NCUTCDStrategicPlan.pdf>). We have already accomplished a number of the goals of that plan. In order to keep our eyes focused on strategic issues, the Executive Board is forming a group to continually review and update the strategic plan and to make recommendations to the Chair on implementation priorities. I am looking for a few volunteers to serve on this group. If you are interested, send me a message (chair@ncutcd.org) before December 15, 2022.

NCUTCD Merchandise

Richard is working to develop some merchandise that members can order. Look for some announcements in a future message from him. Suggestions for items or leads on possible vendors can be sent to him at secretary@ncutcd.org.