



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

## Chair's Message

**MESSAGE 2023-#1**  
**January 31, 2023**

**Gene Hawkins**  
**NCUTCD Chair**

The January 2023 meeting is now behind us. We are looking forward to a final rule and then the June 2023 meeting. In this message, I want to share my perspective on the January meeting and thoughts on what lie ahead for the NCUTCD.

### **RIP Tom Hicks, NCUTCD Honorary Member**

Tom Hicks, formerly of the Maryland State Highway Administration and long-time NCUTCD leader, passed away on January 30, 2023. We will send out an email to all our members and friends with more details once we have them.

### **January 2023 Meeting**

The recent Annual Meeting set an all-time record with over 350 registrants. This is a testament to the value of the work that the NCUTCD is doing. For the first time in about 20 years, we held the January meeting at a new hotel, the DoubleTree Crystal City. This new hotel provided expanded meeting room space, which was especially valuable in light of the record registration. We also had some spectacular views in a few of the meeting rooms. For only the second time, the NCUTCD meeting was held at the end of the same week as the TRB Annual Meeting. I know that this created some conflicts for a few members who are active in both organizations but it seems to work well for the majority of our members. Council met for only one session and heard presentations from our 21 sponsoring organizations. This was a productive use of our time as our sponsoring organizations play an important role in the NCUTCD and some of our members may not know much about a few of those 21 groups. I'm grateful that our sponsoring organizations could send representatives to share some key thoughts. The Council did not take action on any proposed changes to the MUTCD as we are awaiting the final rule before taking further action.

### **June 2023 Meeting**

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 later this spring. When we post meeting information on the website, be aware that the scheduling details are subject to change depending upon when the final rule is published. If the final rule is published before mid-June, then the focus of the meeting will be on reviewing the final rule and the schedule will have more time for technical committee meetings that usual and may not include a Council session. If the final rule is not published in time, technical committees may begin working on developing recommended changes to the MUTCD based on the NPA for the 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **Future NCUTCD Meetings**

The January 2024 and 2025 meetings will be at the same hotel as the January 2023 meeting and both will also be at the end of the week of the TRB Annual Meeting. The dates for the NCUTCD meetings are January 10-12, 2024 and January 8-10, 2025. It is likely that we will continue to meet at the end of TRB week in 2026 and beyond as the TRB Annual Meetings for the next several years are earlier in January than has been typical. The June 2024 CTE and NCUTCD meetings will be in Delaware. AASHTO has not yet determined meeting dates or a specific city for that meeting. The 2025 June meeting is likely to be in the Midwest.

### **Bylaws and Operating Procedures Revision**

Some time ago, we established an Executive Board committee to review and revise our Bylaws and Operating Procedures. This work began before the NPA but was sidelined during the NPA effort. Our Bylaws were originally developed when the NCUTCD was created in 1980 and the first Operating Procedure was not created until over 20 years later. The two documents have never been evaluated as companions to each other. A great deal of work has been done and we are getting closer to having a revised set of Bylaws and Operating Procedures. The basic goal of the effort has been to move operational content from the Bylaws to the Operating Procedures and to reduce duplication of content within and between the documents. We are also updating the content to reflect organizational activities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. At some point in the future, we will send proposed changes to the Bylaws to our sponsoring organizations for review and comment. After that, Council will vote on the proposed changes. Operating Procedures are approved by the Executive Board but we will include the Board-approved Operating Procedures with the Bylaws when they are distributed for review and comment.

The Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee is chaired by Bill Lambert. Members include Lee Billingsley, Neil Boudreau, Gene Hawkins, Tom Heydel, Richard Moer, and Jonathan Upchurch. If you have a suggestion for a change to the Bylaws or Operating Procedures, now is the time to share those thoughts. Send them to Bill Lambert and copy me and Richard Moer.

### **MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition Final Rule**

For those that were not at the January meeting, the message from FHWA is that they are on track to publish the final rule around the May 15, 2023 deadline imposed by Congress. When published, the final rule notice in the Federal Register will likely include the new edition of the MUTCD and an updated website with the new MUTCD. The new MUTCD will become effective 30 days after publication of the final rule. FHWA told us that during that 30 day period, they expect to release an updated version of the Standard Highway Signs book, provide additional updates of the MUTCD website, and summaries of significant changes in the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MUTCD.

Here's my personal take on what the future may hold. Let me first say this is not based on any inside intelligence, just my knowledge and experience with prior MUTCD rulemaking efforts. I believe FHWA when they say that the MUTCD rulemaking has broad support throughout the agency and that the FHWA MUTCD Team has been working very hard to get the 11<sup>th</sup> edition to a point where it can go through the review and approval process required for rulemaking. The review and approval process includes many groups within the USDOT and also includes the Office of Management and Budget. It is my sincere hope that the review and approval process goes smoothly and that we see the final rule by mid-May. However (and you knew there had to be a but or however), that approval process may include delays. Maybe the best way to share my expectation is that the date I entered in the final rule pool was June 23, 2023, which is the Friday before the CTE/NCUTCD meetings.

### **Leadership Transitions**

The NCUTCD has many strengths. One of the key strengths is the commitment and work of our volunteer leaders. These people guide our activities at all levels from a task force all the way to NCUTCD chair. We do it because of our passion for traffic control devices and the MUTCD. With a new edition of the MUTCD coming out in the near future, some of our leaders will be stepping down over the next three years. This includes not only technical committee chairs, but also the NCUTCD officers and leaders in other positions. As we approach these changes, we need to be continually preparing the next generation of NCUTCD leaders. While few want to take on more work, especially on a volunteer basis, I know we have dedicated individuals who are willing to step up and be leaders. I believe in shared work and ask all of the NCUTCD leadership that I deal with to delegate activities to members to spread the load. With this approach, the key

responsibility of a leader is to communicate with the members of the group they are leading. I encourage anyone that has an interest in gaining more leadership experience to contact me to explore the options.

### NCUTCD Contact Information

Here is the contact information for various NCUTCD leaders. Messages sent to these email addresses will forward to the email accounts in the NCUTCD database.

Chair, Gene Hawkins: <a href="mailto:chair@ncutcd.org">chair@ncutcd.org</a>	GMI Chair, Tom Honich: <a href="mailto:gmi-chair@ncutcd.org">gmi-chair@ncutcd.org</a>
VC - Programs, Bill Lambert: <a href="mailto:programs-chair@ncutcd.org">programs-chair@ncutcd.org</a>	Markings Chair, Jody Colvin: <a href="mailto:markings-chair@ncutcd.org">markings-chair@ncutcd.org</a>
VC- Research, Bryan Katz: <a href="mailto:research-chair@ncutcd.org">research-chair@ncutcd.org</a>	Signals Chair, John Fisher: <a href="mailto:signals-chair@ncutcd.org">signals-chair@ncutcd.org</a>
Treasurer, Kathy Falk: <a href="mailto:treasurer@ncutcd.org">treasurer@ncutcd.org</a>	TTC Chair, Neil Bourdreau: <a href="mailto:ttc-chair@ncutcd.org">ttc-chair@ncutcd.org</a>
Exec Secretary, Richard Moeur: <a href="mailto:secretary@ncutcd.org">secretary@ncutcd.org</a>	RR-LRT Chair, Rick Campbell: <a href="mailto:rrlrt-chair@ncutcd.org">rrlrt-chair@ncutcd.org</a>
RW Chair, Tom Heydel: <a href="mailto:rwstc-chair@ncutcd.org">rwstc-chair@ncutcd.org</a>	Bicycles Chair, Bill DeSantis: <a href="mailto:btc-chair@ncutcd.org">btc-chair@ncutcd.org</a>

### Final Rule Pool

At last June's meeting, I announced that we would conduct a pool to guess the date that the final rule would be published and Richard sent out an email in late summer for submitting an entry to the pool. The pool closed at the end of November and the entries we received are below. The winner will be the guess that is the closest to the actual date (before or after). We will recognize the winner at the first meeting after the final rule. There is no prize for the winner, just a round of applause at the meeting.

Date	Member	Date	Member	Date	Member
1/2/23	Roxane Mukai	5/12/23	John Sharkey	5/31/23	Shannon Bonilla
3/10/23	Mark Nahra	5/12/23	Jason Kennedy	5/31/23	Ryan Lancaster
3/14/23	John Hansen	5/12/23	Ryan Pietzsch	6/1/23	Rock Miller
3/20/23	George Butzer	5/12/23	James Harkness	6/1/23	Christina Bennett
3/21/23	Glenn Blackwelder	5/12/23	Alan Davis	6/15/23	Mark Bott
3/28/23	Connie Raezer	5/12/23	John Fisher	6/23/23	Gene Hawkins
3/28/23	Eric Perry	5/12/23	Thomas Macchione	6/26/23	Jonathan Upchurch
4/1/23	Terry Haukom	5/12/23	John Witt	6/27/23	Lee Billingsley
4/1/23	Robert Saylor	5/12/23	Neil Boudreau	6/30/23	Jason Hyatt
4/12/23	Michael Osborne	5/14/23	Thomas Honich	7/1/23	Troy Creasy
4/17/23	Timothy Crouch	5/15/23	Nataliya Schroeder	7/21/23	Timothy Haagsma
4/21/23	Rafael Riojas	5/15/23	William Lambert	8/7/23	Marco Friend
4/25/23	Joanne Conrad	5/15/23	Chi To	10/1/23	R. Jeffrey Wolfe
4/28/23	Stephen Lewis	5/15/23	Amitai Lipton	10/20/23	Marc Lipschultz
4/28/23	Robert Seyfried	5/16/23	John Schubert	11/1/23	Scott Neidert
4/28/23	Henry Ross	5/19/23	JoNette Kuhnau	11/15/23	Robert Kurka
5/4/23	Eagan Foster	5/19/23	David Woodin	12/15/23	Randy McCourt
5/5/23	Daniel Waddle	5/26/23	Stacey Beckett	12/31/23	Adam Greenstein
5/10/23	Alan Bakotic	5/26/23	Robert Ziemba	4/26/24	Susan Chrysler
5/11/23	Justin Smith	5/31/23	Anna Mermelstein		