



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

## Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2025-#1  
January 20, 2025

Gene Hawkins  
NCUTCD Chair

What a week! The energy and excitement was evident. I hope that everyone returned home safe from our Annual Meeting and that life is returning to something approaching normal for you. While there is still some water to go under the Annual Meeting bridge, I wanted to share my thoughts and thanks before too much time passes.

### 2025 Annual Meeting Review

We had an all-time record registration of 361 for our meeting, with 350 in attendance. The weather prevented a few of those from attending, but the weather impact turned out to be less significant than first expected. The NCUTCD Council approved 23 items, one of which was a carryover from the Midyear Meeting. That is not a record, as we approved 54 at the Midyear Meeting in 2014 (requiring an all-day Saturday meeting) and 37 at the Midyear Meeting in 2016. However, we approved those 23 items in about 3.5 hours of Council time with no amending motions. Passing that many items with no amending motions is quite the accomplishment. It is a testament to the work of members in preparing quality MUTCD content. I also believe that the use of virtual meetings for the preparation of proposed changes had a significant impact on the quality of the items presented to Council. It's probably worth noting that six of the more controversial of the 28 items sent to sponsoring organizations in the fall were not presented to Council. That may also account for the efficiency of the meeting. I want to thank the chairs and members for recognizing that some of the proposed content needs additional refinement.

At the beginning of the meeting, my intent as Chair was to keep the meeting moving so that we could consider and potentially approve as many of the 28 items as possible. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we could so many in such a short period of time. As the meeting on Friday concluded, I was asking myself if I had pushed a little too hard. But as I was traveling home, I received messages from a number of people that thanked me as the early ending allowed them to get home before the bad weather arrived. I hope that is the case for others that I did not hear from. During my last two meetings as NCUTCD Chair, I will continue to try and manage the meetings as efficiently as I can. I rely upon our members to say something if they think we are moving too fast or not following proper procedures in considering an item. As we saw during our recent meeting, I do make mistakes and I do not object to anyone correcting me when I do.

Someone left a Dell USB-C laptop charger on the presenter's table in the General Session room, possibly from CAV or Ped JTF on Wednesday. If it is yours, contact Richard to see about getting it back.

We will be posting some photographs from the meeting on our Facebook page at some point in the future. If you took pictures and haven't yet sent them to Richard, please do so.

### Upcoming Deadlines and Events

With the meeting behind us, we are proceeding with the administrative items to close the book on the Annual Meeting and prepare for the Midyear Meeting. Below are the deadlines for technical committees and joint task forces:

- Friday, January 17: Submit proposed changes for review by sponsoring organizations in the spring review cycle. This deadline has passed and we are processing them for distribution.

- Friday, January 24: Submit final version of recommended changes approved by Council. These will be posted on the website with a draft meeting summary as soon as we can, but likely not before late February due to higher priority activities taking precedence. We will send the recommended changes to FHWA in the same time frame.
- Mid-February: Distribute proposed changes to sponsoring organizations for review and comment.
- Mid-April: Deadline for sponsoring organizations to submit comments (no deadline extensions).
- Early May: Sponsoring organizations' review comments posted on website.
- June 11-13: Midyear Meeting in Des Moines, IA.

The distribution date for proposed changes is dependent upon the time required for Richard to process the drafts. That processing effort typically focuses upon formatting issues, but I sometimes also provide a high-level content review. This review process typically includes some minor formatting and/or editorial changes (see section about revising proposed changes).

### Spring 2025 Review Cycle

As indicated above, the deadline for TC/JTF chairs to submit proposed changes to Richard and me for the spring review cycle has passed. This spring, the items listed below will be sent to sponsoring organizations for review and comment. The names of these items may change slightly as they are processed prior to distribution.

- 25A-RW-01: School Zone When Flashing CAV
- 25A-RW-02: North Arrow Figures
- 25A-RW-03: Photo Enforcement Signs
- 25A-GMI-01: Bus Signs
- 25A-SIG-01: Shall be Permitted Statements
- 25A-TTC-01: Work within the Traveled Way of an Urban Street
- 25A-TTC-02: Late Merge Relocation
- 25A-TTC-03: Seven Fundamental Principles
- 25A-TTC-04: TTC Zone, Work Zone, and Work Space Consistency
- 25A-TTC-05: Stop/Slow Paddles
- 25A-TTC-06: Circulating Lane Closure in a Multilane Roundabout TA
- 25A-RR-01: Technical Correction - Remove North Arrows from Part 8 Figures
- 25A-BIK-01: Ch 9B Technical Corrections
- 25A-BIK-02: Ch 9C Technical Corrections
- 25A-BIK-03: Ch 9E Technical Corrections
- 25A-BIK-04: Bike Lane Definitions
- 25A-BIK-05: Two-Stage Bike Box Double Arrows
- 25A-BIK-06: Bike Signal Visibility
- 25A-EDT-01: MUTCD Purpose and Scope
- 25A-EDT-02: Different Font for Support Statements
- 25A-PED-01: Crosswalks with TWLTL
- 25A-RAB-01: Edge Lines in Roundabouts

### Files for Revising Proposed Changes

Our internal review process for proposed changes typically results in changes to the Word file that a chair sends us. Richard sends this file back to the chair with instructions that it be used for any future revisions to the item. That file is referred to as the Base File. The Base File represents the official document sent to sponsoring organizations. At the recent meeting, we had multiple

instances where TC/JTF members revised the original file sent to Richard rather than the Base File Richard sent back. As a result, someone from those TCs/JTFs will have to go back and re-revise the Base File to reflect the revisions made by the TC/JTF and approved by Council. In the future, the failure to use the Base File when making revisions after distribution to sponsoring organizations may result in that item not being presented to Council at that meeting.

Later this spring, Richard and I will be meeting with TC/JC/JTF chairs, vice-chairs, and secretaries to address this issue and the formatting of proposed changes.

### 2025 Midyear Meeting

Our next Midyear Meeting will be earlier than it has been in the past, as we are meeting June 11-13 in Des Moines, IA at the end of the same week as the AASHTO Committee on Traffic Engineering. The meeting will be at the Downtown Marriott. Registration and hotel reservations should be announced and open by late February or early March. Between the expected 22 items that will be sent out for review this spring, along with items from past meetings that have not yet been presented to Council, the meeting could produce over 25 proposed changes being considered by Council. I expect this level of production to continue for at least a year or two.

### 2026 Annual Meeting

Although about a year away, I wanted to remind everyone that the 2026 Annual Meeting will return to our old schedule of meeting the week before the TRB Annual Meeting. Our meeting will be January 7-9, 2026 at the same Doubletree Crystal City hotel that we met in this month. The 2026 Annual Meeting will include officer elections and I promise that the NCUTCD will be electing a new Chair at this meeting. You can expect to hear more about next year's election at our Midyear Meeting and in future Chair Messages.

### Social Media Coordinator

You may not know it, but the NCUTCD has a Facebook and X account. Neither is very active as the demands of the Executive Secretary's position have limited the ability to post content. During the Annual Meeting, we asked members to take lots of photographs. We are looking for a volunteer to help us with posting content on our social media accounts. We will continue to limit our social medias posts, with all posts needing to be approved by Richard and/or me. Email Richard and me if you are interested.

### Technical Terminology

A long-time NCUTCD member recently emailed me to point out that some of our members incorrectly use the word "signage" in some of our activities. That got me to thinking about how easy it is to fall into the habit of using technically incorrect terminology when dealing with traffic control devices. Using proper terminology is foundational to our activities and we should strive to use correct terminology in all of our communications and products. The table below lists some examples of incorrect terms, along with the word that we should use instead and a note. Reach out to me if you have additional examples of terminology that need to be corrected.

Incorrect Term	Correct Term	Note
Dash Line	Broken Line	A dash line is not defined in the MUTCD.
Paint	Marking	Paint is a marking material, not a marking itself. As a verb, it should be used only if the marking material is paint.
Signage	Signs, Signing	The word signage was developed for application to on-premise signing.
Traffic Light	Traffic Signal	Lights are used to illuminate the road.

**Current NCUTCD Leadership**

The current NCUTCD leadership is listed in the table below.

Type	Unit	Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary
Technical Committee	RW Signs	Erika Lindeberg	James Sullivan	Bob Seyfried
	GMI Signs	Jason Hyatt	Ryan Hoyt	Heather Schmidt Roxane Mukai
	Markings	Paul Carlson	Jody Colvin	Tom Grant James Kratz
	Signals	John Hibbard	Matt Duncan	Dee Taylor Kathleen Jost
	TTC	Neil Boudreau	Ryan Lancaster	Adam Leigh Marc Lipschultz
	Railroad	John Dinning	JoNette Kuhnau	Nicole Jackson
	Bicycles	Bill DeSantis TBD*	Rock Miller	Stewart Robertson
Joint Committee	Research	Bryan Katz	Neal Hawkins	Mike Tantillo
	Edit	Bill Lambert	Scott Wainwright	Jonathan Upchurch
Joint Task Force	CAV	Roxane Mukai	Amanda Hamm	Melodie El-Zine
	Pedestrians	Randy McCourt	Lee Austin	Amanda Purcell
	Roundabouts	Scott Zehngraff	Brian Walsh	Anna Mermelstein Tyrel Murfitt
	Rules of the Road	Ronnie Bell	Robert Saylor	Mark Nahra
Admin	NCUTCD	Gene Hawkins	Bill Lambert	Richard Moeur

Notes: \*Assuming position after 2025 Midyear Meeting. Announcement in late spring.

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, Bill DeSantis announced that he will step down as chair of the Bicycle TC at the end of the 2025 Midyear Meeting. New leadership for the Bicycle TC will be approved by the Board this spring (to assume those roles after the Midyear Meeting). With this change, every one of the TC/JTF chairs save one will have assumed that role since publication of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition MUTCD. The [history of NCUTCD leadership](#) is on our website. This turnover in leadership is significant as we continue on the initial steps toward improving the 11<sup>th</sup> edition MUTCD.

**Operating Procedures Updates**

The Executive Board recently approved changes to several operating procedures as listed below. The updated Operating Procedures will be posted on the website soon.

- OP I-B: revised criteria for consultant to be considered a government representative.
- OP-D: clarification of qualifications for and recognition of Distinguished Member.
- OP III-E: editorial clarification of committee abbreviations.
- OP VI-F: editorial corrections of section citations.

**NCUTCD Value**

At the end of our Annual Meeting, I was talking to a good friend who had just finished his first NCUTCD meeting. When I asked him what he thought, his response was along the lines of “Man, I wish I had been coming to this meeting instead of TRB for all these years.” While I would not want to disparage the value of the TRB Annual Meeting, I have to agree that there is no better group than the NCUTCD for those practitioners who want to focus on traffic engineering and traffic control device practices. I know that most of you feel the same way, otherwise you would not continue to participate. Our record attendance and growing membership are a testament to the value of our organization.

### MUTCD News

Last week, the FHWA Office of Safety published a document entitled *Speed Limit Setting Handbook*. This handbook fulfills the commitment made in the MUTCD Final Rule to develop a resource to assist practitioners in their speed management decisions. The handbook is available [here](#). I expect the new handbook to play a role in the NCUTCD identifying content that can be removed from the MUTCD.