



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2025-#2

April 8, 2025

Gene Hawkins

NCUTCD Chair

We are about two months from our Midyear Meeting and I wanted to reflect on where we are and what lies ahead.

2025 Midyear Meeting Information

Our Midyear Meeting will be June 11-13, 2025 at the Marriott Downtown in Des Moines, IA. Registration is open (<https://ncutcd.org/meetings/2025-midyear-meeting/>). While the deadline for hotel reservations is not until May 19, the hotel room block is quickly filling up and rooms may not be available until that time. The deadline for early registration is May 2. After that date, the registration fee increases. Registration must be paid by this date to receive the early registration fee. At this time, we do not have any information about the Tuesday night ARTBA social event. We will share that information when it becomes available.

I do not expect the General Sessions to go as quickly as they did at our Annual Meeting in January. We are starting to get into more challenging content in our proposed changes, which is likely to generate more discussion and potential disagreement. While we will have a number of items that sail through Council like they did in January, I think we may have some that generate significant discussion and amendments. All Council Members and Associate Members should be familiar with the proposed changes that were distributed for review so that we can discuss the items from an informed perspective. If you have not read the entire proposed change prior to the General Session, I would hope that you would not try to suggest changes to the content for that change. Our best work is reflected through an informed and thoughtful process.

Council Delegate Multi-Tasking

While I am on the subject of informed and thoughtful deliberation of proposed changes, I want to speak to a related issue. In my prior Chair's Message, I talked about how quickly Council processed the proposed changes that were presented to them in January. I received some input from members that one of the reasons things went so quickly was that some Council delegates were multi-tasking and not fully engaged with the business before Council. I hope that is not the case and have not observed that from where I stand. Nevertheless, I want to encourage all Council delegates to be fully engaged with the NCUTCD business being presented or shared.

Revised Proposed Changes

As mentioned in the previous section, the NCUTCD practice is to distribute revised versions of proposed changes to Council Members and Associate Members on the night before they are presented to Council. We have had requests in the past to distribute those to all NCUTCD members or post them on the website. While I understand the desire to have that information, there are many reasons why we do not distribute the material beyond Council. We will continue to limit distribution of revised proposed changes to Council Members and Associate Members.

Sponsoring Organizations Comments on Spring 2025 Proposed Changes

On February 10, the NCUTCD sent the 23 proposed changes listed below to sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Comments are due by April 10. Within two weeks of that deadline, we will post the comments on the NCUTCD website. You will see a link to the comments on the home page in the News section.

- 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

Revising Proposed Changes for Council Consideration

THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT!

When revising the original proposed change to address sponsor comments, it is required that you use the Word file provided by Richard to the TC/JTF chair. Richard typically makes minor formatting and editorial changes to items before they are sent to sponsors for review. The file sent to sponsors is referred to as the base file. He sends the base files to each chair after they go out to sponsors. If you don't use the base file when making revisions, then your committee may not be able to present the proposed changes to Council until you use the base file.

NCUTCD Leadership Meeting

In mid-March, I held a virtual meeting with the leadership of all the NCUTCD units (joint committees, technical committees, and joint task forces). Chairs, vice-chairs, and secretaries were invited. The two-hour meeting was productive as most all of our leaders have assumed their position in the last two years. I covered some of the basics of conducting business and identified a few expectations for all of the units. Some of the key expectations that I identified include:

- Chairs are expected to conduct at least one virtual meeting between each set of face-to-face meeting.
- Chairs are expected to have the vice-chair preside a meeting for at least an hour each time we meet face-to-face.
- I would like each unit to develop a vision or strategy for the future. There are no specific guidelines on how to do this. Essentially, I want each unit to think about future impacts and needs affecting the types of TCDs they are responsible for and to create a plan for addressing those impacts and needs. In some respects, this is a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats).
- Develop proposed changes that reflect their vision/strategy.

- Joint task forces are expected to get formal approval of technical committees on proposed changes before they are sent to sponsoring organizations for review and comment. While the revised Operating Procedures allow JTFs to send out proposed changes for review without technical committee approval, that should be the exception and used only when there are extenuating circumstances or impending deadlines.
- Technical committees are expected to continue to accept qualified new members. There is growing interest in participating in NCUTCD activities and we cannot tell interested individuals that are otherwise qualified that they cannot participate because a committee has gotten too big. If a committee wishes to limit its size, then they need a means of removing/rotating current members off of the committee to accept new members.
 - ♦ Side note: This is a challenging issue to address. No one wants to tell a 20-year member that they need to step aside to make room for a newbie. However, we cannot ignore the continuing interest in our organization. While we are not yet at the point of having 80 people present, we may be in the future. This is likely to be an issue for the next NCUTCD Chair to address.
- Identify individuals who have the skills and interest needed to be a future leader in the NCUTCD and help develop them to assume such roles.

Social Media Coordinator

I mentioned this in my last Chair's Message and wanted to mention it again. 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.

Terminology Updates

In my last Chair's Message, I listed some terms that we sometimes use that are technically incorrect. Those terms are listed below. That part of my message generated several comments with suggestions for additional terms to add to the list. Below, you will also find a list of new terms that we need to make sure we used correctly. Please continue to send me suggestions related to proper use of TCD terminology.

In addition to the terms listed above, I recently became aware of an appendix in a new NCHRP report (<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/28851/chapter/1>). Richard distributed the appendix to NCUTCD members in an email sent on April 2. The 14-page appendix provides valuable insights into crafting language for a technical guideline document. It divides words/phrases into the categories listed below. For each category, I've listed a few of the words/terms identified in the appendix for that category.

- Subjective Terms and Phrases Expressing Personal Opinion
 - ♦ Desired/desirable, excessive, inadequate/insufficient, safe/unsafe
- Vague and Ambiguous Terms and Phrases
 - ♦ Care should be taken, use with caution
- Terms and Phrases That Are Directive or Mandatory
 - ♦ Essential/imperative/necessary, need/needs
- Terms and Phrases Setting up for Failure
 - ♦ Always, ensure, possible
- Terms and Phrases That Are Pejorative and Have Liability Implications
 - ♦ Danger/dangerous, hazard/hazardous

New Terms

Incorrect Term	Correct Term	Notes
Stop Bar	Stop Line	It is not a bar, it is a line.
Justified	Warranted	Terms are not interchangeable. Warrants imply a set of criteria that are met or not met based on data. Justification of an action may be based on a broader analysis than meeting warranting criteria, including the use of engineering judgement.
Illegal or Non-standard	Not Compliant	When a TCD does not meet MUTCD criteria, it is best described as a non-compliant device rather than an illegal or non-standard device.
Draft change	Proposed change	Within the NCUTCD process, a change sent to sponsors for review and comment is referred to as a proposed change. If it is revised for presentation to Council, it is a revised proposed change. If it is approved by Council, it is a recommended change. Draft change is not used in any of our processes.
Fog Line	Edge Line	Some parts of the country refer to an edge line as a fog line. While common in some areas, the term is not used in the MUTCD.

Previously Identified

Incorrect Term	Correct Term	Notes
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.

Future NCUTCD Meetings

Here is what we can share about our future meetings:

- 2025 Midyear Meeting: See section at the beginning of this CM for details.
- 2026 Annual Meeting: January 7-9, 2026, DoubleTree Crystal City, Arlington, VA.
- 2026 Midyear Meeting: Meeting being coordinated with CTE. We are working on a contract with a selected location and hope to make an announcement at or before we meet in Des Moines. We will not share any details until we have a contract.
- 2027 Annual Meeting: January 6-8, 2026, DoubleTree Crystal City, Arlington, VA.
- 2027 Midyear Meeting: We are trying to coordinate the meeting with CTE and hoping to coordinate it with another meeting of one of our sponsoring organizations that would meet about the same time in the same city. Meeting will likely be in a western state.
- 2028 Annual Meeting: January 5-7, 2026, DoubleTree Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Note the early time frame in January for this meeting.

Current NCUTCD Leadership

The current NCUTCD leadership is listed in the table below. As mentioned in my last Chair's Message, Bill DeSantis announced that he wanted to step down as chair of the Bicycle Technical

Committee. The Board recently approved new leadership for that committee as shown below. These changes take effect at the end of the 2025 Midyear Meeting.

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 Rock Miller*	Rock Miller Christy Staudt*	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 Zehngraft	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.