



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2026-#1
February 17, 2026

Neil Boudreau
NCUTCD Chair

Welcome

Welcome to my first Chair's Message since being elected as the 5th Chair of NCUTCD. I am honored and humbled by the confidence you have placed in me to serve in this role. I am excited to get started and look forward to building on the strong foundation that makes this organization so impactful.

2026 Election Recap

The election of officers for the 2026–2027 term was held on January 8th during the Annual Meeting. The following officers took office immediately after adjournment on January 9th:

Chair: Neil Boudreau

Vice-Chair: Bill Lambert

Research Chair: Bryan Katz

Treasurer: Monica Suter

I would like to sincerely thank Jonathan Upchurch for his continued dedication to the National Committee. Although not elected Chair, Jonathan remains highly engaged through his work on the Edit Committee, leading the new member orientation session, and contributing to the draft 12th Edition Vision document. His commitment to NCUTCD is greatly appreciated.

2026 Annual Meeting Recap

We welcomed **334 attendees** to Arlington, VA this January. While not our highest attendance, it was still a strong showing and a clear indication that interest in the National Committee remains strong.

This was our first meeting with financial support to help offset operating costs. Feedback from members was positive, and we will continue evaluating how best to support future meetings. Special thanks to our Executive Secretary, Richard Moeur, for ensuring everything ran smoothly—including enhanced breakfast options and well-stocked breaks.

General Session Highlights

The FHWA provided its customary update on the state of the MUTCD and upcoming rulemaking efforts. We continue to await the 11th Edition update that will address a substantial portion of known errors. We anticipate that this will be followed by additional rulemaking to address more complex issues requiring public review and comment.

During the General Session, 11 items were brought before Council:

- 8 Approved and to be forwarded to FHWA
- 2 Failed
- 1 Tabled

Approved Items

- 25A-BIK-05: Two-Stage Bike Box Double Arrows
- 25A-BIK-06: Bike Signal Visibility
- 25B-GMI-01: Removal of "Shall Be / Shall Not Be Permitted" Statements
- 25B-TTC-01: Blasting Zones
- 25B-TTC-02: Miscellaneous TTC Zone Signs
- 25B-RR-01: Removal of Defined Length and Width of Retroreflective Strip
- 25B-BIK-01: Smaller Sized Regulatory Signs for Separated Bikeways
- 25B-CAV-01: Dotted Edge Line Consistency Between Parts 3 and 5

Failed

- 25A-EDT-02: Different Font for Support Statements
- 25B-RR-02: LRT Signal Indications

Tabled

- 25B-PED-01: Definitions of Pedestrian and Wheelchair

Additionally, three Fall Cycle (25B) items were not brought forward in January and are being refined to address sponsor feedback before returning to Council.

- 25B-RW-01: Lane Reduction Signing
- 25B-MKG-01: Lane Reduction Markings
- 25B-SIG-01: Traffic Control Signals at Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalks

We currently have seven backlog items that have been submitted since publication of the 11th Edition that have not yet been presented to Council. I anticipate several may be ready for the June Midyear Meeting.

2026 Spring Review Cycle (26A)

The call for proposed changes for the 2026 Spring Review Cycle closed on January 30th. We received eight potential items; however, one requires additional refinement and will not move forward at this time. Richard worked diligently to review and prepare the 7 items that we have for Sponsor review and was able to push this out earlier than we had projected. The notice for the 26A Sponsor Items was distributed on Wednesday, February 11th with a due date for comments/disposition on the item due back by **5:00 PM Pacific on April 17th**.

26A Sponsor Items

- 26A-BIK-01 – Bikeway Speed Limit Signs
- 26A-CAV-01 – Part 5 Review of NCHRP 1140 Appendix A Recommendations
- 26A-EDT-01 – Definition of “Plaque”
- 26A-MKG-01 – Interim Approval for Orange Color as a Supplemental Marking
- 26A-MKG-02 – Orange Color Supplemental Marking
- 26A-TTC-01 – AFAD Signs, Gates, and Visors
- 26A-TTC-02 – STOP/SLOW Paddle Height

A unique aspect of this cycle involves coordinated proposals from a Multi-Committee Task Force of the Markings and Temporary Traffic Control Committees. Proposal 26A-MKG-01 seeks review and concurrence of language for an Interim Approval on the supplemental use of orange pavement markings in a TTC Zone, while the companion item proposes permanent MUTCD language for a future update to the Manual. Research completed to date suggests the supplemental use of orange markings provides measurable benefit to road users in temporary traffic control zones.

Focus Areas for 2026

As I begin my term as Chair, I would like to highlight several priorities for the year ahead.

Productivity

Our committees have demonstrated strong productivity since publication of the 11th Edition. My goal is to help sustain and streamline that momentum with continued advancement of the fine technical work being done. This starts with ensuring attention to detail in terms of proposal formatting, consistency with previously approved items, and adherence to established templates. This not only helps with the efficiency of the process that Richard follows to check each proposal, but it will also allow him to ready the documents to go out for Sponsor review in a timelier fashion.

Virtual Meetings

Advance planning is key to strong participation. I encourage committees to schedule virtual meetings before adjourning in-person sessions so members can reserve the dates early.

Virtual meetings are excellent opportunities for:

- Task Force updates
- Previewing potential Sponsor proposals
- Inviting guest speakers who can participate without travel

Content Management

Cross-committee coordination remains critical. Early collaboration prevents conflicts and improves proposal quality. We should also continually ask: *Is this change necessary? Are we enhancing clarity and uniformity—or introducing unnecessary variation?* Let research and practitioner/road user benefit guide decisions.

Member Engagement

At my first Executive Board Meeting I brought up the concept of the National Committee doing more in the way of member engagement. Many long-serving members have contributed greatly to NCUTCD but will not be here forever. As future retirements approach, we must identify and prepare the next generation of leaders.

In particular, Members and Associate Members from our Sponsoring Organizations should consider succession planning within their organizations and begin engaging future leaders now. We need new members to learn what it is that we do on National Committee and engage them to become more involved.

Mentoring

I am exploring development of a structured mentoring approach to help integrate new members beyond the orientation session. Our goal should be to ensure new members feel welcomed, supported, and actively engaged in committee work.

Regular dialogue with committee leadership, Honorary Members, and Distinguished Members will help ensure NCUTCD remains strong, relevant, and rewarding for all who volunteer their time.

Leadership Updates

Several leadership transitions have occurred:

- Sonya LaGrand and Wes Pierce join the Regulatory & Warning Signs Committee leadership as Secretaries after Bob Seyfried's long tenure in this role.

- The Executive Board approved Ryan Lancaster as the new Chair of Temporary Traffic Control and Marc Lipschultz as the new Vice Chair. Christina Bennett has agreed to become TTC's second Secretary.
- The Edit Committee welcomes Robert Weber as Vice Chair following Scott Wainwright who stepped down.

Thank you to Bob Seyfried and Scott Wainwright for their many years of service and dedication to NCUTCD.

Type	Unit	Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary
Technical Committee	RW Signs	Erika Lindeberg	James Sullivan	Sonya LaGrand Wes Pierce
	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
	TTC	Ryan Lancaster	Marc Lipschultz	Christina Bennett Adam Leigh
	Railroad	John Dinning	JoNette Kuhnau	Nicole Jackson
	Bicycles	Rock Miller	Christy Staudt	Stewart Robertson
Joint Committee	Research	Bryan Katz	Neal Hawkins	Mike Tantillo
	Edit	Bill Lambert	Robert Weber	Jonathan Upchurch
Joint Task Force	CAV	Roxane Mukai	Amanda Hamm	Nagham 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	Vacant
Admin	NCUTCD	Neil Boudreau	Bill Lambert	Richard Moeur

Parting Thoughts

As I shared after being elected, I am committed to maintaining open dialogue with our members. If you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out at:

Chair@NCUTCD.org

I look forward to working with each of you as we continue advancing the mission of NCUTCD.

Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for the NCUTCD Mid-Year Meeting Registration and lodging details at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel from June 24-26, 2026.