



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2026 #3

August 20, 2026

Neil Boudreau

NCUTCD Chair

It has been about two months since we wrapped up the 2026 Midyear Meeting in Mobile, Alabama, and I am pleased to say it was a successful meeting. The Convention Center worked well for us, providing good-sized meeting rooms and plenty of space for our morning breakfasts and breaks. In this message, I will share a few highlights from Mobile, provide an overview of our Fall 2026 Sponsor Item Review process, and offer updates on our membership, including a new Member Spotlight. If you are aware of a special achievement by an NCUTCD member that would be good to share with others, please reach out and let me know.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Bryan Katz, Ph.D., P.E., PTOE, RSP2O, PMP, President of toXcel, a multidisciplinary civil/transportation engineering firm that was founded in toxicology services. In addition to his many professional licenses and certifications, Bryan serves as the National Committee's Vice Chair of Research. This past May, Bryan was named a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), adding to a list of accomplishments that includes election to the rank of Fellow with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) in 2021 and receiving ITE's Wilbur Smith Distinguished Transportation Educator Award in 2023.

Congratulations also to Dan Sprengeler, who recently retired after more than 32 years of service as the Work Zone Traffic Control Engineer with the Iowa Department of Transportation. Despite all those years overseeing work zone safety for the DOT, Dan waited until he was just about ready to retire before coming to NCUTCD and applying to join the Temporary Traffic Control Technical Committee. At this past Midyear Meeting, Dan was awarded the John "Jake" Landen Memorial Highway Safety Award by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) at its annual Summer Classic on Tuesday, June 23rd.

NCUTCD Membership Update

Since my last Chair's Message, we have had several changes in our NCUTCD membership, including five members who have submitted their resignations, one member who has passed away, and four new Technical Committee members approved by the Executive Board at its June 8th meeting. The following is a recap of these membership changes and an acknowledgement of the member we have lost.

Resignations:

Bill DeSantis (Bicycle, former chair)
Rudy Gradishar (RRLRT)

Lynn Leibfried (RRLRT)
Danny Lites (RRLRT)
Meg Pirkle (AASHTO Delegation Chair)

In Memoriam

Fred Hanscom, P.E. (May 2026)

Fred was a human factors expert and long-time member of NCUTCD, serving on C&M (precursor to TTC). Fred serves as the Director of the Transportation Research Corporation providing highway transportation research and expert witness services.

New Members:

Allie Caldwell (Bicycle)
Sarah Hoffman (TTC)

Rick Jenkins (Markings)
Ken Thornwell (TTC)

2026 Midyear Meeting Recap

Heading into the final week before the meeting, registration was projected to be in the 280s. A strong registration surge in Mobile pushed us to 298 registered members, only three of whom were no-shows, along with seven additional spouse/guest registrations. It was great to see such a strong turnout for the Midyear Meeting.

From the feedback Richard and I heard from our members, people were pleased overall with the hotel accommodations, the Convention Center facilities, and the ability to walk to dinner and nightlife. Once again, our friends at ARTBA's Traffic Safety Industry Division treated us to a wonderful Summer Classic, including a seafood buffet at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. I hope everyone had a chance to attend and tour the battleship. Thank you to ARTBA TSID for your wonderful hospitality.

The Mobile Convention Center's tall ceilings also allowed Richard to arrange for larger screens in the meeting rooms. They were very well received, and although they cost a bit more, Richard will try to provide larger screens at future meetings when the venue allows. The Doubletree in Arlington has lower ceilings, so our options may be more limited at that venue, but he will see what he can fit where he can.

General Session Highlights

Kevin Sylvester provided an FHWA update related to the 11th Edition of the MUTCD. Revision 1 was released on March 5, 2026, and addressed known errors and technical corrections. Because there were no content changes associated with Revision 1, there was no need for a formal Notice of Proposed Rulemaking or public comment period. Kevin noted that FHWA is working on a future revision that will include more substantive changes and address other known errors that have been brought forward; that revision will require a formal public

comment process. Other updates included the impending publication of the Standard Signs Manual, containing 2,200 layout details for 1,026 individual signs, and clearance to post the training slides developed for the 11th Edition on the MUTCD website.

During the General Session 8 items were brought before Council and approved:

Approved Items

- 25A-EDT-01: Definitions of Highway, Roadway and Road
- 26A-EDT-01: Definition of "Plaque"
- 25A-BIK-03: Chapter 9E Technical Corrections
- 26A-MKG-01: Interim Approval for Orange Color as a Supplemental Marking
- 26A-MKG-02: Orange Color Supplemental Markings for TTC Zones
- 26A-TTC-01: AFAD Signs, Gates, and Visors
- 25B-TTC-02: Staff Height for STOP/SLOW Paddle
- 26A-CAV-01: Part 5 Review of NCHRP 1140 Appendix A Recommendations

2026 Fall Review Cycle

Since the Midyear Meeting, the Edit Committee, Technical Committees, and Joint Task Forces have been actively preparing items for consideration in the Fall 2026 (26B) Sponsor Review Cycle. We received 18 potential items for consideration. After Richard and I reviewed each proposal for readiness and considered a reasonable number to ask our Sponsors to review and comment on, we are moving forward with 14 items. We are fortunate to have this level of productivity, but I also want to remain mindful of the review time we are asking of our Sponsoring Organizations.

The schedule that we have set forth for the 2026 Fall Review Cycle is as follows:

Step in Process	Due Date
All 26B Items sent to Sponsors for Review	Wednesday, August 19th
Sponsor Comments Due (Min. 60 Days per OP VI-B)	Friday, October 23rd
Compiled Comments in Master Spreadsheet sent to TC/JC/JTF	On or before: Friday, November 6th

26B Sponsor Items

- 26B-RW-01: Mandatory Movement Lane Control Signs
- 26B-RW-02: Turn on Red Across Separated Bike Lanes
- 26B-GMI-01: Number of Allowable Supplemental Destinations
- 26B-GMI-02: Proximity of Traffic Control Devices
- 26B-GMI-03: Sign Spreading
- 26B-SIG-01: Signals for No Thru Movement

- 26B-RR-01: Advanced Warning Sign Placement
- 26B-RR-02: Active Devices at Sidewalk and Pathway Grade Crossings
- 26B-TTC-01: Driveway Assistance Devices (DAD)
- 26B-TTC-02: Typical Application Coordination
- 26B-BIK-01: Bicycle Signal Signs
- 26B-EDT-01: TCD Characteristics and Actions
- 26B-PED-01: Pedestrian Signal Heads
- 26B-PED-02: Definitions for Islands

Committee and Task Force Updates

I am introducing a new section of the Chair's Message to share general updates from our Technical Committees, Joint Committees, and Joint Task Forces. This will give these groups another opportunity to keep the full National Committee membership informed beyond the limited time available during General Session at our in-person meetings.

Rules of the Road (ROR) Joint Task Force: To try and better advance updates to the Rules of the Road, the JTF has decided to streamline their approach and form three sub-task force groups to divide the 112 Sections covered in the 13 Articles of the Rules of the Road. The sub-task force groups are made up of voting members of the JTF with representation from all Technical Committees. Their topic responsibilities are:

- Pedestrians, General, Right of Way, Grade Crossings, Streetcars
- Signals, Vehicle Operation/Movement (Turning, Passing, Parking)
- Bicycles, Micromobility, Speed Limits, Miscellaneous

Guests and non-voting members of ROR have also been assigned to participate in the sub-task force groups. Please reach out to Ronnie Bell at Ronnie.Bell@austintexas.gov if you want more information or would like to assist with this effort as a non-voting member.

Pedestrian (PED) Joint Task Force: To address changes that FHWA had made to the definition of pedestrian to include "other devices determined by local law to be equivalent", the JTF has been to work through all the various *other devices*. Pedestrians are not difficult to define uniformly. However, the range of users conflated as being equivalent to pedestrians appears to be contrary to the purpose of the MUTCD in the pursuit of uniformity.

The MUTCD should align itself with the statutes and address the burgeoning changes that have arisen due to e-mobility and micromobility. The Pedestrian Joint Task Force is working to address these complexities by providing clarity for the pedestrian as a road user distinct from bicyclists and other micromobility users. This will include a series of definition changes addressing not just pedestrians, but also micromobility and vulnerable road users.

Over the next two years these definitions will all be coming before the NCUTCD for consideration. They will be done progressively so as to not over burden sponsor reviewers but they all will be integrated, uniformly described and addressed in a manner to meet the needs of the Rule of the Road JTF and state statutes consistently. Feel free to reach out to Randy McCourt, the Pedestrian Joint Task Force Chair at 503.randy.mccourt@gmail.com if you have questions.

Chair Report

At our Midyear Meeting, I brought forward my plan to focus on Member Engagement, which the Executive Board approved as a new Executive Committee. Tim Lang, a member of Temporary Traffic Control and the Group IV Delegation Chair on the Executive Board, has graciously agreed to chair the Member Engagement Committee. Joining him from the Executive Board is Lee Austin, the NACTO Delegation Chair and a member of the Markings Technical Committee. Ethan Peterson, also from Markings, has agreed to participate, and I am looking for three more volunteers who would like to help with this effort. Ideally, we are looking for individuals who have been NCUTCD members for three or more years and are interested in fostering member engagement.

General Session of NCUTCD Council:

I have heard some frustration among our members about the uncertainty created by not having a set timeline for our General Session. This is difficult to plan for because the schedule, particularly Friday's Council session, ultimately depends on the number of proposed changes our JC, TC, and JTF groups want to bring before Council. We can anticipate a rough schedule based on the number of items sent out for Sponsoring Organization review, but we also have a backlog of items that have completed sponsor review and have yet to be brought before Council. If you have ideas for improving this process and helping us better define an anticipated end time for the meeting, I would very much welcome your suggestions.

NCUTCD Leadership Updates

Since the close of the Midyear Meeting, we have had the following leadership changes:

- Brian Walsh has retired as Vice Chair of the Roundabout Joint Task Force, and Tyrel Murfitt has moved up from Secretary to serve as Vice Chair.
- Anna Mermelstein has stepped down as Secretary of the Roundabout JTF, and David Church from TTC has agreed to serve as Secretary.
- I had incorrectly listed Kevin Schumacher as Secretary for Railroad and Light Rail Transit; Tony Creasy has volunteered to serve in that role.

- Jody Colvin has stepped down as Markings Technical Committee Vice Chair, and James Kratz will be taking over pending approval from the Executive Board.
- Katie Belt has agreed to serve as Secretary for Markings.

Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your willingness to serve in these leadership roles. The current leadership roster is listed below:

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	James Kratz	Tom Grant
				Katie Belt
	Signals	John Hibbard	Matt Duncan	Dee Taylor
	TTC	Ryan Lancaster	Marc Lipschultz	Christina Bennett
				Adam Leigh
	Railroad	JoNette Kuhnau	Nicole Jackson	Troy Creasy
	Bicycles	Rock Miller	Mike Cynecki	Stewart Robertson
Joint Committee	Research	Bryan Katz	Neal Hawkins	Mike Tantillo
	Edit	Bill Lambert	Rob Weber	Jonathan Upchurch
Joint Task Force	CAV	Roxane Mukai	Amanda Hamm	Melodie El-Zine
	Pedestrians	Randy McCourt	Lee Austin	Amanda Purcell
	Roundabouts	Scott Zehngraft	Tyrel Murfitt	David Church
	Rules of the Road	Ronnie Bell	Robert Saylor	Tricia Kovacs
Admin	NCUTCD	Neil Boudreau	Bill Lambert	Richard Moeur

Parting Thoughts

I want to thank everyone who took time to chat with me at our Midyear Meeting and offer their support as I served as NCUTCD Chair for my first meeting. I now have a much better appreciation for the effort it takes to run the meeting—not necessarily presiding over General Session in front of Council, but all of the behind-the-scenes activity that makes the meeting possible. Richard and his team, Suzanne and Duncan, are busy from sunup to nearly sundown beginning the Tuesday before our NCUTCD meeting until pack-up after the close of

the General Session. A tremendous amount of work goes into executing our in-person meetings, and I am grateful for everything Richard and the team do to make things run as smoothly as possible.

Regarding the 2028 Midyear Meeting, we have proposals from two venues that Richard is evaluating to ensure the contract is in the best interest of National Committee members. As soon as we have more information, I will be sure to share the location and dates with everyone.

Our 2027 Annual Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in the Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia, on January 6–8, 2027. Look for more information about the meeting to be posted and sent sometime in September.

As always, I welcome your feedback and engagement. Please feel free to reach out at Chair@NCUTCD.org. Thank you for your continued commitment to NCUTCD and the work we do together.