

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices



Annual Report 2023

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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Purpose of the NCUTCD

The National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) or the “National Committee” is an organization whose purpose is to assist in the development of standards, guides and warrants for traffic control devices and practices used to regulate, warn and guide traffic on streets and highways. The NCUTCD recommends to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to other appropriate agencies proposed revisions and interpretations to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and other accepted national standards related to traffic control devices. NCUTCD develops public and professional awareness of the principles of safe traffic control devices and practices and provides a forum for qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints to exchange professional information.

NCUTCD Leadership

(as of December 31st, 2023):

Chair: Gene Hawkins, PhD, PE, Kittelson LLC, Texas A&M University (emeritus)
Vice Chair for Programs: Bill Lambert, PE, New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation
Vice Chair for Research: Bryan Katz, PhD, PE, toXcel

Executive Board

Chair: Gene Hawkins, PhD, PE
Group I: **AASHTO:** Meg Pirkle, PE, Georgia Dept. of Transportation
ITE: Steve Jewell, PE
APWA: Steve Oliver, PE, City of Garland, TX
NACE: Lee Billingsley, PE, Lee E. Billingsley PA
NACTO: Lee Austin, PE
Group II: Rick Campbell, PE, Alfred Benesch & Co.
Peter Koonce, PE, City of Portland, OR
Group III: Jeff Bagdade, PE, Atkins
Group IV: Jonathan Upchurch, Ph.D., PE

Technical Committee Chairs

Regulatory and Warning Sign: Tom Heydel, PE, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
Guide & Motorist Information Sign: Tom Honich, PE, Missouri Dept. of Transportation
Markings: Jody Colvin, PE, Louisiana Dept. of Transportation & Development
Signals: John Hibbard, PE, Georgia Dept. of Transportation
Temporary Traffic Control: Neil Boudreau, PE, Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation
Railroad and Light Rail Transit: Rick Campbell, PE
Bicycle: Bill DeSantis, PE, VHB

Edit: Bill Lambert, PE
Research: Bryan Katz, PhD, PE
Executive Secretary: Richard C. Moeur, PE

Sponsoring Organizations

Group I

State, county and municipal highway officials having the legal responsibility of administering public highway programs.

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- American Public Works Association (APWA)
- National Association of County Engineers (NACE)
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

Group II

National organizations with a membership that includes officials directly associated with traffic operations and regulations.

- Association of American Railroads (AAR)
- Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA)
- International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)
- Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America)

Group III

Organizations representing the general public and/or private highway user groups.

- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- Human Factors Resources (HFR)
- League of American Bicyclists (LAB)
- National Safety Council (NSC)

Group IV

Industry-oriented organizations including but not limited to manufacturers, distributors, and installers of traffic control devices and related equipment, and industry highway users groups.

- American Highway Users Alliance (AHUA)
- American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
- American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)

There was no change in sponsoring organizations in 2023.

NCUTCD Council

(as of December 31st, 2023):

Sponsor	Voting Members	Associate Members
AAA	Jeff Bagdade, Atkins	Michelle Schofner, Atkins
AAR	Tony Bellamy, CSX Transportation	John Dinning
AASHTO	Meg Pirkle, Georgia DOT, Chair Mark Bott, Michigan DOT Neil Boudreau, Massachusetts DOT Jody Colvin, Louisiana DOTD Maysa Hanna, Arizona DOT Tom Honich, Missouri DOT Bill Lambert, New Hampshire DOT Lee Roadifer, Wyoming DOT	Christina Bennett, South Dakota DOT Dongho Chang, Washington St DOT John Hibbard, Georgia DOT Jason Hyatt, Kentucky TC Ryan Lancaster, Idaho TD Sara Peters, Kansas DOT James Sullivan, Mississippi DOT Dan Waddle, Nebraska DOT (vacant)
AHUA	Jonathan Upchurch	Paige Anderson, Pittsburgh PA
APBP	Peter Koonce, Portland OR	Christina Jung, APTA
APTA	Gary Howard, Houston Metro	Rich Deal
APWA	Steve Oliver, Garland TX, Chair Bob Garbacz, Alexandria VA Monica Suter, Santa Ana CA	Ralph Norwood, Maine Turnpike Robert Weber, Suffolk VA
AREMA	Cayela Wimberly, Norfolk Southern	Adam Gerhardstein, Union Pacific
ARTBA	Tim Cox, Cox Transportation	Susan Reiss, Impact Recovery Sys
ASCE	Robert Bryson	Jon Esslinger
ATSSA	Donna Clark, ATSSA	Eric Perry, ATSSA
HFR	Bryan Katz, toXcel	Fred Hanscom, Transp. Research (vacant)
IACP	Richard Campbell, Benesch	Tom Macchione, Pennsylvania Tpk
IBTTA	Shannon Bonilla, Dewberry	Lenny Addair, IMSA
IMSA	Paul Ciupa, AECOM	Ahmed Aburahmah, San Diego CA
ITE	Steven Jewell, Chair Michael Cynecki, Lee Engineering Kathy Falk, Kimley Horn Eagan Foster Gene Hawkins, Texas A&M Univ Marc Jacobson, San Antonio TX Brent Ogden, Kimley Horn Zoubir Ouadah, LLG Engineers	Karen Hankinson, RailPros Scott Kuznicki, Modern Traffic Amitai Lipton, Massachusetts DOT Roxane Mukai, Maryland DOT Venu Nemani, Seattle WA Joey Paskey, Las Vegas NV Pete Yauch, Iteris
ITS America	Paul Carlson, Automated Roads	Bobby McCurdy, ITS America
LAB	Rock Miller, R E Miller	Blair Tomten, Avenue Consultants
NACE	Lee Billingsley, L E Billingsley, Chair Jeff Blue, Champaign County IL Tim Haagsma, Kent County MI	Jon Krieg, Hennepin County MN Mark Nahra, Woodbury County IA Gary Smart, Santa Barbara Cty CA
NACTO	Lee Austin, Austin TX, Chair Uyen Dang, DDEC Katy Sawyer, Toole Design	Elijah Ferrari, New York City NY Dan Nabors, Arlington VA (vacant)
NSC	Dan Magri, NSC	Ryan Pietzsch, NSC

Living Honorary Members

(as of December 31st, 2023)

George Butzer	Bob Garrett
Ken Kobetsky	Bruce Ibarguen (emeritus)
Dave Kuemmel (emeritus)	Scott Wainwright

In Memoriam

The NCUTCD lost several Honorary Members in 2023. Those individuals are recognized below.

Tom Hicks

Tom Hicks passed away on January 30, 2023. Tom had been a member of NCUTCD since 1962. He served for 10 years as the NCUTCD Vice Chair for Programs, and for 14 years as the Chair of the Construction and Maintenance Technical Committee. In 2013, Tom was awarded the position of Honorary Member in NCUTCD. He was the first state traffic engineer in the history of Oklahoma, then worked for the Maryland State Highway Administration for 44 years, retiring as Deputy Chief Engineer for Traffic and Safety in 2012. Tom earned numerous awards in his career, including the ITE Matson Award and the ATSSA National Safety Award. In September 2023, Maryland SHA dedicated their Office of Traffic & Safety facility in the memory of Tom Hicks.

Jim Pline

Jim Pline passed away on April 29, 2023. Jim attended every meeting of the NCUTCD (and its predecessors) between June 1969 and June 2019. He was one of NCUTCD's first Honorary Members and a prior vice chair for research. He served as an editor for the Traffic Control Devices Handbook. He was well-known within the entire North American traffic engineering profession, was a former ITE International President and Marsh Award recipient, and won numerous other national awards in his long career.

Richard “Dick” Luetlich

Dick Luetlich passed away on November 15, 2023. Dick was the first NCUTCD Chair and played a critical role in the creation of the NCUTCD in 1980 after the National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices was dissolved by the Federal government. He served as the first NCUTCD Chair for 10 years, then served as the first chair of the Regulatory & Warning Sign Technical Committee from 1992-2002 after the Sign Committee was split into RW and Guide & Motorist Information Signs. Dick was involved in the NCUTCD and its predecessor organizations from the early 1950s to the early 2000s. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the NCUTCD and its predecessor organizations, Dick was named the first NCUTCD Honorary Member in 2003.

2023 In Review

In January 2023, NCUTCD held a successful Annual Meeting at the Doubletree Crystal City, which was a new site after over two decades at another hotel. The Doubletree provides increased space for committee and task force meetings and a larger number of rooms, which should be able to accommodate the growth of the organization for many years to come. There were over 340 attendees, setting a new record for Annual Meeting attendance, and very positive feedback from the membership regarding the new venue.

In January 2023, the NCUTCD Research Committee published the first issue of the Journal of Traffic Control Device Research (JTCDR), with three manuscripts along with other material.

The 2023 Midyear Meeting was held at both the Marriott Tacoma Downtown and the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. There were 261 attendees, with a modified schedule due to NCUTCD still being in "awaiting Final Rule" mode at the time.

Another long-term project nearing completion in 2023 was a thorough review and update of the NCUTCD Bylaws and Operating Procedures, the governing documents of the organization. The draft Bylaws and OPs were sent out for final review by Council in fall 2023.

On December 19, 2023, the long-awaited 11th Edition of the MUTCD was published by FHWA, with an effective date of January 18, 2024. The 11th Edition included many of the proposed changes recommended by NCUTCD, and reflected some of the comments submitted by NCUTCD in rulemaking. As with past editions, NCUTCD will analyze the new MUTCD and develop recommended changes to the new document.

The National Committee continues to leverage the value of virtual meetings by holding numerous electronic task force, working groups and technical committee meetings throughout each year. The ability to meet virtually and in person has improved NCUTCD's ability to make progress on initiatives and issues, and improved overall productivity.

At the end of 2023, the total membership in NCUTCD stood at 339 members from all across the United States. These members represent state, county, and local governments, plus private-sector consultants, practitioners, and vendors, and community and safety organizations.

Forecast for 2024 and Beyond

In 2024, NCUTCD plans to continue the practice of in-person Annual and Midyear Meetings of the full membership. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for the Doubletree Crystal City on January 10-12, and the Midyear Meeting is scheduled for the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, ME on June 26-28. NCUTCD also intends to continue the extensive use of virtual meeting technology, with technical committees meeting electronically at least once in between each in-person meeting, and monthly or biweekly meetings for working groups and task forces.

The proposed revisions to the NCUTCD Bylaws and Operating Procedures are expected to be voted on by Council in January 2024.

Now that the 11th Edition of the MUTCD is published, NCUTCD will return to its expert role in recommending improvements and additions to the MUTCD, using its deep expertise to evaluate new and revised traffic control concepts and applications to draft appropriate standards and guidance for possible inclusion in the MUTCD. NCUTCD members are expected to be active in state adoption and implementation of the 11th Edition, including any state MUTCDs or supplements, and in agency substantial conformance reviews prior to the January 2026 adoption deadline.

NCUTCD membership and interest in NCUTCD by prospective members remains strong. Our base of volunteer expertise from both the public and private sectors continues to remain steady, recognizing the value of NCUTCD's role in advising FHWA on national traffic control standards and guidelines.



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