

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices



Annual Report 2021

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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. 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, 2021):

Chair: Gene Hawkins, Ph.D., PE, Texas A&M University

Vice Chair for Programs: Bill Lambert, PE, New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation

Vice Chair for Research: Bryan Katz, Ph.D., PE, toXcel

Executive Board

Group I: **AASHTO:** Meg Pirkle, PE, Georgia Dept. of Transportation

ITE: Steve Jewell, PE

APWA: Steve Oliver, PE, City of Garland, Texas

NACE: Lee Billingsley, PE, Lee E. Billingsley PA

NACTO: Patrick Baxter, PE, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Group II: Rick Campbell, PE, Alfred Benesch & Co.

 Peter Koonce, PE, City of Portland, Oregon

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 Fisher, PE, City of Culver City, California

Temporary Traffic Control: John Leonard, PE, Utah Dept. of Transportation

Railroad and Light Rail Transit: Rick Campbell, PE, Alfred Benesch & Co.

Bicycle: Bill DeSantis, PE, VHB

Edit: Bill Lambert, PE, New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation

Research: Bryan Katz, Ph.D., PE, toXcel

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 2021.

NCUTCD Council

(as of December 31st, 2021):

Sponsor Voting Members

AAA Jeff Bagdade, Atkins
AAR Tony Bellamy, CSX Transportation
AASHTO Meg Pirkle, Georgia DOT, Chair
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

AHUA Jonathan Upchurch
APBP Peter Koonce, Portland OR
APTA Maurice Palumbo, Golden Gate BTD
APWA Steve Oliver, Garland TX, Chair
Monica Suter, Santa Ana CA
Bob Garbacz, Alexandria VA
AREMA Cayela Wimberly, Norfolk Southern
ARTBA Tim Cox, Cox Transportation
ASCE Robert Bryson
ATSSA Donna Clark, ATSSA
HFR Bryan Katz, toXcel
IACP Richard Campbell, Benesch
IBTTA Shannon Bonilla, Dewberry
IMSA Paul Ciupa, AECOM
ITE Steven Jewell, Chair

Dongho Chang, Washington St DOT
Kathy Falk, Kimley Horn
John Fisher, Culver City CA
Eagan Foster, Dublin OH
Gene Hawkins, Texas A&M Univ
Brent Ogden, Kimley Horn
Zoubir Ouadah, San Diego County
ITS America Ed Bradley, Toyota
LAB Rock Miller, R E Miller
NACE Lee Billingsley, L E Billingsley, Chair
Jeff Blue, Champaign County IL
Tim Haagsma, Kent County MI
NACTO Patrick Baxter, Cambridge MA, Chair
Uyen Dang, DDEC
Katy Sawyer, Toole Design
NSC Dan Magri, NSC

Associate Members

Mark Wilson, Atkins
John Dinning, Illinois Central
Christina Bennett, South Dakota DOT
Cindy Cramer, West Virginia DOT
John Hibbard, Georgia DOT
Ryan Lancaster, Idaho TD
Erika Lindberg, Connecticut DOT
James Sullivan, Mississippi DOT
Trey Tillander, Florida DOT
Dan Waddle, Nebraska DOT
Paul Carlson, Automated Roads
Tom Bertulis, KTUA
Christina Jung, APTA
Rich Deal
Ralph Norwood, Maine Turnpike
Dennis Randolph, Grandview MO
Adam Gerhardstein, Union Pacific
Susan Reiss, Impact Recovery Sys
Jon Esslinger
Eric Perry, ATSSA
Fred Hanscom, Transp. Research

Tom Macchione, Pennsylvania Tpk
Lenny Addair, IMSA
Ahmed Aburahmah, San Diego CA
Michael Cynecki, Lee Engineering
Marc Jacobson, San Antonio TX
Scott Kuznicki, Modern Traffic
Amitai Lipton, Massachusetts DOT
Scott Wainwright, Wainwright Traffic
Pete Yauch, Iteris

Tim Drake, ITS America
Blair Tomten, Avenue Consultants
Jon Krieg, Hennepin County MN
Mark Nahra, Woodbury County IA
Gary Smart, Santa Barbara Cty CA
Elijah Ferrari, New York City NY
Dan Nabors, Arlington VA
Mike Sallaberry, San Francisco CA
Ryan Pietzsch, NSC

Living Honorary Members

George Butzer
Tom Hicks
Ken Kobetsky
Jim Pline

Bob Garrett
Bruce Ibarguen
Dick Luettich
Dave Kuemmel (emeritus)

2021 In Review

In January 2021, COVID-19 restrictions were still in full effect, making in-person meetings infeasible. NCUTCD held an all-virtual meeting in January with record-breaking participation by more than 420 registered attendees. Unlike an in-person meeting, sessions were staggered across the entire month to allow for maximum participation while also allowing attendees the ability to attend to other tasks. This meeting was focused on analyzing the December 2020 Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) for the proposed 11th Edition of the MUTCD, and developing a strategy of thoroughly reviewing the draft and drafting detailed comments for submittal to the rulemaking docket. The existing contract for the in-person meeting in Crystal City, VA was successfully renegotiated to January 2022.

From February until mid-May 2021, NCUTCD continued to meet virtually at all levels to complete a very thorough review of the draft of the proposed 11th Edition of the MUTCD. Committees and working teams reviewed every single page of the draft MUTCD, and developed comment responses for every significant proposed revision. Over these months, the NCUTCD Council met virtually to vote on these responses. Once approved by Council, the Executive Secretary assembled these comments into submittal packages by MUTCD Chapter, applied uniform and clear formatting, and submitted them to the Federal rulemaking docket. All comments were submitted prior to the May 14, 2021 rulemaking deadline. Of all the more than 17,000 comments, NCUTCD was the single most prolific contributor to the docket in terms of number of comments and total pages of comments, and the only organization that submitted detailed comments on every chapter and section.

In 2021, for the first time in decades, NCUTCD did not hold a summer meeting. COVID-19 restrictions still precluded in-person meetings through most of 2021. The Executive Board determined that the members had completed all needed work in the spring NPA meetings, and that members had earned a break thanks to their exceptional work. The Executive Secretary successfully negotiated a contract change to defer the originally-scheduled in-person meeting in Virginia Beach until summer 2022.

In November 2021, Congress passed and the President signed the Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act (IIJA). This major surface transportation reauthorization bill affected the MUTCD by establishing a deadline of May 2023 for updating the current MUTCD and setting forth a requirement to update the MUTCD at least every 4 years. The Act specifically acknowledges the work of NCUTCD and its relationship with FHWA of recommending proposed MUTCD content.

At the end of 2021, the total membership in NCUTCD stood at 343 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.

NCUTCD NPA Response - By The Numbers

- 647** major changes listed in the NPA
- 86** draft Chapters (including appendices)
- 1,016** draft Sections (including appendices and individual TAs)
- 17,250+** total docket comments from the public
- 35,000+** individual comments from the public
- 200+** hours of technical committee and working group session time
- 8,000+** person-hours of NCUTCD volunteer time at the committee level
- 48** hours of Council virtual General Session time
- 402** NCUTCD Council e-mail votes
- 237** NCUTCD Council virtual General Session votes
- 1,543** pages of comments submitted by NCUTCD

Forecast for 2022 and Beyond

In 2022, NCUTCD plans to return to in-person annual and summer general membership meetings. In-person meetings provide the best forum for interpersonal interaction, and create a shared sense of belonging and purpose that can't easily be replicated virtually. NCUTCD still intends to leverage the value of virtual meetings as well, with numerous virtual technical committee, task force, and working group meetings to prepare material for the semi-annual in-person meetings, allowing members to readily communicate with minimal impacts on schedule or ability to travel. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for the Hilton Crystal City on January 12-14, 2022, and the Summer Meeting is scheduled for the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach on June 15-17, 2022.

The National Committee has been meeting at the Hilton Crystal City since 2001, but the organization's growth and other factors have led to a search for a new hotel to host our January meetings from 2023 forward. NCUTCD is working with the Washington DC and Arlington convention bureaus to obtain proposals from potential host hotels, with the Board expected to make a final decision in early 2022.

In 2022, NCUTCD intends to commence publication of a Traffic Control Device Research Journal under the purview of the Research Committee. The first call for manuscripts is expected in early spring 2022.

The IJJA sets a deadline of mid-2023 for the publication of the 11th Edition of the MUTCD by FHWA, and announcements by the FHWA MUTCD Team are consistent with this timeframe. Until the 11th Edition is published, NCUTCD is pivoting from developing detailed MUTCD content to instead take a bigger-picture view of a future MUTCD of the 12th Edition and beyond. This includes envisioning the format, structure, size, scope, and focus of future editions, with a "clean sheet" viewpoint that encompasses changes in technology, electronic document capabilities, new devices, treatments, and user types, and many other factors.

Once 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 membership remains strong. Technical committee chairs will complete their biennial reappointment of members in January, 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 on national traffic control standards and guidelines.



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