



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Item No.: 21B-ROR-00

NCUTCD Proposal for Rules of the Road

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:	Rules of Road Joint Task Force
ITEM NUMBER:	21B-ROR-00
TOPIC:	NCUTCD Chair Notes on ROR Effort
ORIGIN OF REQUEST:	Rules of Road Joint Task Force
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD:	NA – applies to the NCUTCD effort to update portions of the Uniform Vehicle Code

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DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

- 7 • Prepared by NCUTCD Chair to accompany ROR content for sponsor review
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DISCUSSION:

11 The Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) is referenced throughout the 2009 MUTCD and also in the
12 2020 NPA for the 11th edition of the MUTCD. The UVC has existed since at least the mid-
13 1940s and provided model traffic laws for states to consider including in their state statutes. The
14 UVC was created and maintained by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and
15 Ordinances (NCUTLO) until that group disbanded in 2008. NCUTLO was an NCUTCD
16 sponsor until they disbanded. At the time NCUTLO disbanded, the 2000 UVC was the current
17 edition. While many groups have indicated a need for some organization to maintain the UVC, it
18 remains a document that has no current mechanism for being updated. When NCUTLO
19 disbanded, no group stepped forward to assume responsibility for maintaining the UVC. Other
20 organizations were contacted to see if they would be interested in helping to maintain the UVC,
21 but in the end no other organization would agree to this task. Given the critical relationship
22 between traffic laws and traffic control device practices, the NCUTCD Executive Board directed
23 the NCUTCD to update and maintain that portion of the UVC that relates to traffic control
24 device practices and this effort was assigned to the Rules of the Road Joint Task Force
25 (RORJTF). The Executive Board has approved publication of a Rules of the Road (ROR)
26 publication that will be posted on the NCUTCD website.

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28 The documents being distributed to sponsors for review and comment are the first step in the
29 process of developing, updating, and publishing rules of the road related to traffic control device
30 practices. The NCUTCD is not assuming responsibility for updating and maintaining the
31 entirety of the UVC, only selected portions. It is a subtle, but important, distinction. We are
32 only addressing that portion of the UVC related to traffic control devices.

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34 The four documents distributed to sponsors for review and comment are the first step in the
35 process of creating an NCUTCD ROR publication. As sponsors review the four documents, I
36 ask that you consider the following:

- 37 • The RORJTF has developed the document and is sending it to sponsors without prior
38 action by the individual technical committees. Due to the unique nature of this
39 document, there is no one technical committee that is suited to leading the ROR effort.
- 40 • The NCUTCD is not updating the UVC. We are creating a different document (ROR)
41 that is related to our work on the MUTCD. There is a great deal of content in the UVC
42 that we will not be addressing or including in the ROR document.
- 43 • This is the first step in a multi-step process. We are not going to create the final
44 published version of the ROR in one meeting.
- 45 • The intent of Council action at the January 2022 meeting is to establish a base
46 document that reflects the definitions and rules of the road as they existed in the 2000
47 UVC, make some minor revisions to reflect prior NCUTCD action on related content,
48 and then make necessary changes to the definitions so that they are consistent with prior
49 Council action related to the MUTCD/NPA. Once the base document has been created,
50 the RORJTF will begin the process of updating the ROR to address advances and new
51 practices.
- 52 • The January 2022 meeting is not the appropriate time to make revisions that incorporate
53 advances and new practices.
- 54 • The Council action at the January 2022 meeting will consist of the following steps:
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 - 56 1. The RORJTF chair will present 21B-ROR-01, which is definitions and content from the
57 2000 UVC with one editorial correction.
 - 58 a. After a motion is made, discussion will focus on whether to accept this as a base
59 document.
 - 60 b. I will rule out of order any amending motions to change the content unless the motion
61 is an editorial change.
 - 62 c. Essentially, this vote is whether Council wants to establish an NCUTCD ROR
63 document and to create a starting point that is based on the 2000 UVC.
 - 64 2. If 21B-ROR-01 is approved, the RORJTF will present 21B-ROR-02, which is the -01
65 document with prior NCUTCD Council actions incorporated into it.
 - 66 a. Council previously approved changes to the UVC in two meetings. This document
67 reflects those prior approvals, which are:
 - 68 i. June 2012 meeting: 12A-UVC-01 - Definition of a Pedestrian and 12A-ROR-01 -
69 Elimination of the definition of "Flashing Walk" Indication from the Rules of the
70 Road, UVC.
 - 71 ii. January 2014 meeting: 14A-ROR-01 - Rules of the Road, UVC Ch. 11, Sections
72 202, 203, 204, & 403.
 - 73 b. As this is previously approved content, I will discourage amending motions unless the
74 motion is making an editorial correction.
 - 75 c. The material for the prior Council actions were developed by a predecessor of the
76 current RORJTF.
 - 77 3. If 21B-ROR-02 is approved, the RORJTF chair will present 21B-ROR-03, which
78 proposes to delete sections of the ROR that are not related to traffic control device
79 practices.

- 80 4. After Council concludes consideration of 21B-ROR-03, the RORJTF chair will present
81 21B-ROR-04, which is the RORJTF recommendation for changes to the definitions.
82 a. This is the document where it is acceptable to make amending motions to the content,
83 if the amending motion is revising content that was sent to sponsors for review.
84 b. I will rule out of order amending motions to add entirely new content that was not
85 distributed to sponsors for review and comment
86 i. I realize that the document that will be put before Council does not contain all of
87 the recommended laws that some would like to see. There will be an opportunity
88 to add that content in the future as work on the NCUTCD ROR document will
89 continue. If you have content you want to see added to the ROR document,
90 contact the RORJTF and work through them to add it in a future recommendation.
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92 Upon conclusion of Council action at the January 2022 meeting, the RORJTF will evaluate the
93 Council action and continue work toward creating/updating an NCUTCD ROR document. How
94 that proceeds will depend somewhat on the specific actions of Council at the meeting.
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96 This effort is an ambitious undertaking. It will take some time to realize the ultimate goal of
97 having current recommendations for rules of the road that states can use as a model for
98 creating/updating their states' traffic laws. There will be opportunities beyond January 2022 for
99 all pertinent changes to be considered. I am not trying to prevent any voices from being heard
100 or block any content from being added to the rules of the road. I am simply trying to provide a
101 process whereby changes are made in a logical and thoughtful manner.
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104 Gene Hawkins
105 NCUTCD Chair