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## National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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**NOTE:** The Rules of the Road Committee (RORC) was created by the Executive Committee as an ad hoc committee of the NCUTCD to address changes to the “Rules of the Road” of the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC). This occurred because the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances (NCUTLO), which prepared the UVC, went into hiatus pending a viable funding source in June of 2009. Since no other technical or professional group has come forward to sponsor this activity, copies of the UVC are no longer available to provide guidance on such model laws and rules for States and local governments. This left a void that the NCUTCD believes must be filled in order for its goal of uniformity of traffic control devices to be achieved.

As amendments to the UVC are proposed by the technical committees, they will be presented on the NCUTCD web site for review and comment by the public and NCUTCD sponsors. Final recommended language, as approved at a regular meeting of the NCUTCD, will be posted on the NCUTCD web site as model law for use by States and local jurisdictions wishing to have their Rules of the Road consistent with the national standard recommendation of the NCUTCD. The recommendations, not being a part of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, have no status with the FHWA.

The RORC is composed of representatives from each of the Technical Committees of the NCUTCD. Please see the NCUTCD web site for information about them.

<b>COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN:</b>	Rules of the Road Committee (RORC)
<b>STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:</b>	Posted for Sponsor and Public Comment
<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>Rules of the Road, UVC Ch. 11, Sections – 202, 203, 204, &amp; 403</b>
<b>RORC Approval:</b>	Jan. 2014
<b>Transmitted to Sponsors:</b>	Proposed June 2013
<b>Council Approval:</b>	_Jan.10, 2014

**ORIGIN OF REQUEST:**  
This request is the culmination of work by the Signals Technical Committee to introduce and define the

46 use and meaning of flashing yellow and red arrows in otherwise steady indication sequences in the 2009  
47 MUTCD. Since then many states have begun using the flashing arrows, and there is no guidance in the  
48 previous UVC covering the actions of pedestrians and vehicles facing such indications.  
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50 In preparing the new language for flashing arrows in Section 202, it was noted that reformatting of the  
51 language governing the stopping point for vehicles approaching a traffic signal required stop and a stop  
52 sign was desirable so that each is consistent with the others. It was also noted that pedestrian response  
53 should be reformatted and made consistent as well. Sections 203, 204 and 403 are being included for  
54 that purpose.  
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56 **AFFECTED SECTIONS OF UVC: Chapter 11, Section 202, 203 and Section 403.**

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58 **SUMMARY:**

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60 The primary purpose of this document is to set forth language referencing the use of flashing  
61 red and yellow arrows in traffic signal sequences that contain steady indications as well.

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63 A consistence of meanings is carried forward in each section, to make it clear to all road users  
64 what they are required to do. This is also carried over to their actions at stop and yield signs.

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66 It is noted that the ROR for countdown pedestrian signal and the bicycle signals are not  
67 included in this document since neither appears in the current MUTCD. Both will be addressed  
68 in due time.

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70 The existing language from the UVC Chapter 11 is included in black, with additions and  
71 amendments proposed in underlined red. Appropriate footnotes from the existing UVC have  
72 been modified and retained where appropriate.

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75 **CHAPTER 11**  
76 **Rules of the Road**

77 **§ 11—202—Traffic —Control Signal legend**

78 ~~In the event an official traffic— control signal is erected and maintained~~ **operated** at a place  
79 ~~other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those~~  
80 ~~provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a~~  
81 ~~sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of~~  
82 ~~any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.~~ **before a clearly marked stop**  
83 **line, but if none, before entering the associated crosswalk, or if none, at a location as designated**  
84 **by a traffic control device. In the absence of both pavement markings and other traffic control**  
85 **devices, the required stop shall be made at a point prior to the point of conflict with pedestrian**  
86 **and/or vehicular traffic.**

87 Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic—control signals exhibiting different colored lights,  
88 or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors Green,  
89 Red and Yellow shall be used, except for special pedestrian signals carrying a legend and said  
90 lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and **to** pedestrians as follows:

91 (a) Green indication:

- 92 **1.** Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal **indication** may cautiously proceed  
93 straight through or turn right or left **or make a U-turn movement except as such**  
94 **movements are modified or prohibited by other traffic control devices, unless a sign**  
95 **at such place prohibits either such turn**

96 ~~But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of~~  
97 ~~way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an~~  
98 ~~adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.~~

99 **At the time such signal indication is exhibited, vehicular traffic, including vehicles**  
100 **turning right or left or making a U-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:**

- 101 **a. Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and**

- 102                    b. ~~To~~Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection, or approaching so closely  
103                    as to constitute an immediate hazard, and  
104                    c. ~~To~~Other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to  
105                    constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is  
106                    moving across or within the intersection.

- 107  
108                    2. Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal indication<sup>73</sup>, exhibited ~~shown~~ alone or in  
109                    combination with another traffic signal indication may cautiously enter the  
110                    intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other  
111                    movement as is permitted by other indications exhibited ~~shown~~ at the same time.  
112                    ~~Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within~~  
113                    ~~an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.~~

114                    At the time such signal indication is exhibited, vehicular traffic, including vehicles  
115                    turning right or left or making a U-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:

- 116                    a. Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and  
117                    b. ~~To~~Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection, or approaching so closely  
118                    as to constitute an immediate hazard, and  
119                    c. ~~To~~Other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to  
120                    constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is  
121                    moving across or within the intersection.

- 122  
123                    3. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal or sign as provided in §11-  
124                    203, pedestrians facing any circular green signal indication, may proceed across the  
125                    roadway within any associated marked or unmarked crosswalk. Such pedestrians  
126                    shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as  
127                    to constitute an immediate hazard at the time that the green signal indication is first  
128                    exhibited.

- 129  
130                    4. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11-203,  
131                    pedestrians facing only a green arrow signal indication shall not enter or cross the  
132                    roadway.

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136                    \_\_\_\_\_  
137                    73 It is recommended that the exhibition ~~display~~ of a turning green arrow  
138                    indication alone or with another indication should indicate that during this display  
139                    the turning movement is not interfered with by oncoming traffic, which simultaneously  
                         should face a red signal.

140  
141                    (b) Steady yellow indication<sup>74</sup>

- 142                    1. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow ~~or yellow arrow~~ signal indication is  
143                    thereby warned that the related green movement or the related flashing arrow  
144                    movement is being modified or terminated. ~~or that a red indication will be exhibited~~  
145                    ~~immediately thereafter.~~ The rules set forth concerning vehicular and pedestrian  
146                    operation under the movement(s) being modified or terminated shall continue to  
147                    apply while the steady circular yellow signal indication is exhibited.  
148

149 A steady red signal indication may be exhibited immediately thereafter when  
150 subsection (c) Steady red indication shall apply. Or a flashing arrow may be  
151 exhibited immediately thereafter, whereby the movement being modified may  
152 continue under the rules applicable to the flashing arrow being then exhibited.  
153

- 154 2. Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow arrow signal indication is thereby warned  
155 that the related green arrow movement or the related flashing arrow movement is  
156 being modified or terminated. The rules set forth concerning vehicular and  
157 pedestrian operation under the movement(s) being modified or terminated shall  
158 continue to apply while the steady yellow arrow signal indication is exhibited.

159 A steady red signal indication may be exhibited immediately thereafter when  
160 subsection (c) Steady red indication shall apply. Or a flashing arrow may be  
161 exhibited immediately thereafter whereby the movement being modified may  
162 continue under the rules applicable to the flashing arrow being then exhibited.  
163

- 164 3. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in §11—203,  
165 pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal indication, are  
166 thereby ~~advised~~ warned that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before the  
167 next signal indication ~~a red indication is shown~~ is exhibited and no pedestrian shall  
168 then start to cross the roadway.

169  
170 74 It is recommended that the color yellow not be used ~~only before red~~ ~~if yellow is~~  
171 ~~used following the circular red.~~ Traffic facing the signal notified of a pending green  
172 or flashing arrow indication has a tendency to start before the green or flashing  
173 arrow signal ~~appears~~ indication is exhibited, causing interference with cross traffic  
174 clearing the intersection.

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176  
177 (c) Steady red indication

- 178 1. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication exhibited alone shall  
179 stop at before a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk  
180 on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then before entering the intersection,  
181 and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown except as provided  
182 in subsection (c)3.
- 183 2. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the  
184 intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow, and unless entering the  
185 intersection to make a movement permitted by another signal, shall stop at before a  
186 clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side  
187 of the intersection, or if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain  
188 standing until an indication, steady, permitting the movement indicated by such red  
189 arrow indication is shown exhibited, ~~except as provided in subsection (c)3.~~
- 190 3. Except when a traffic control device is in place prohibiting a turn on red or a steady  
191 red arrow indication is ~~displayed~~ exhibited, vehicular traffic facing any a steady  
192 circular red signal indication may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or  
193 to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street, after stopping as required  
194 by subsection (c)1 ~~or subsection (c)2.~~ After stopping the driver shall yield the right-  
195 ~~of-way to any vehicle or in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so~~

196 ~~closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving~~  
197 ~~across or within the intersection or junction of roadways. Such driver shall yield the~~  
198 ~~right of way to pedestrians within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk right to~~  
199 ~~proceed with the turn shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at~~  
200 ~~a stop sign.~~

- 201  
202 4. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11—203,  
203 pedestrians facing a steady circular red or red arrow signal indication exhibited  
204 alone shall not enter ~~or cross~~ the roadway.  
205

206 **(d) Flashing yellow arrow signal indications<sup>75</sup>**

- 207 **1. Vehicular traffic facing a flashing yellow arrow signal indication, exhibited alone or**  
208 **in combination with another signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the**  
209 **intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or other such**  
210 **movement as is permitted by other signal indications exhibited at the same time.**

211  
212 **At the time such signal indication is exhibited, vehicular traffic, including vehicles**  
213 **turning right or left or making a U-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:**

- 214 **a. Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and**  
215 **b. ~~To~~Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection, or approaching so closely**  
216 **as to constitute an immediate hazard, and**  
217 **c. ~~To~~Other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to**  
218 **constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is**  
219 **moving across or within the intersection.**
- 220  
221 **2. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11—203,**  
222 **pedestrians facing a flashing yellow arrow signal indication may proceed across the**  
223 **roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall**  
224 **yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as to**  
225 **constitute an immediate hazard at the time that the flashing yellow arrow signal**  
226 **indication is first exhibited.**

227  
228 **(e) Flashing red arrow signal indications<sup>75</sup>**

- 229 **1. Vehicular traffic facing a flashing red arrow signal indication, exhibited alone or in**  
230 **combination with another signal indication, if intending to turn in the direction**  
231 **indicated by the arrow, shall stop before a clearly marked stop line; but if none,**  
232 **before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if none, at the**  
233 **point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching**  
234 **traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. After stopping**  
235 **the driver shall proceed only in the direction indicated by the arrow indication and**  
236 **the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a**  
237 **stop sign.**
- 238  
239 **2. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11—203,**  
240 **pedestrians facing a flashing red arrow signal indication, may cautiously proceed**  
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242 across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Such  
243 pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or  
244 so close as to constitute an immediate hazard at the time that the flashing red arrow  
245 signal indication is first exhibited.

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249 75 This section applies only to flashing indications that are a part of an otherwise steady indication  
250 sequence. For locations where all exhibited indications flash see § 11--- 204.

251  
252 § 11—203—Pedestrian-control signals<sup>76</sup>

253 Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the “Walk” or “Don’t Walk” or  
254 symbols of a “walking person” or “upraised hand” are in place, such signals shall indicate as  
255 follows:

- 256 (a) ~~Flashing or steady Walk or Walking Person~~ — Any pedestrian facing the this signal  
257 indication may proceed across the roadway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk in the  
258 direction of the pedestrian-control signal and every driver of a vehicle shall yield the right  
259 of way to such pedestrian. Such pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles  
260 lawfully within the intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard at the  
261 time that this pedestrian signal indication is first exhibited.
- 262
- 263 (b) ~~Flashing or Steady Don’t Walk or Upraised Hand~~ — No pedestrian shall start to cross  
264 the roadway in the direction of the this flashing or steady signal indication, but any  
265 pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the walking person signal  
266 indication shall proceed to a paved or unpaved sidewalk or ~~safety island~~ a pedestrian  
267 refuge area while the ~~don’t walk or upraised hand~~ signal indication is exhibited  
268 showing.
- 269
- 270 (c) For the purposes of this section, a WALK indication may replace the Walking Person  
271 indication and a DONT WALK indication may replace the Upraise Hand indication.

272 -----  
273 76 In jurisdictions where pedestrian-control signals using the word  
274 legends are still in use, subsection (c) should be continued in the  
275 law until they are all replaced.

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278 11—204—Flashing traffic signals

279 (a) Application

- 280 1. This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of  
281 vehicles and of all other road users approaching railroad grade crossings shall be  
282 governed by the rules as set forth in §11—701 of this code.
- 283 2. This section shall not apply to the flashing arrow indications of official traffic-  
284 control signals as set forth in §11—202 of this code except when all illuminated  
285 signal indications thereat are illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes.

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3. In the event an official flashing traffic signal is operated at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made before a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the associated crosswalk, or if none, at a location as designated by a traffic control device. In the absence of both pavement markings and other traffic control devices, the required stop shall be at a point prior to the point of conflict with pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic.

b) Whenever ~~an illuminated~~ a flashing red or yellow indication light is exhibited used in an official traffic signal, ~~or with a traffic sign~~ it shall require obedience by ~~vehicular traffic~~ drivers and pedestrians as follows:

1. *Flashing red (stop signal)*—When a circular red lens signal indication or a red arrow indication is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles facing said indications shall stop at before a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it the intersection. The right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a STOP sign. In addition, when stopped in a lane controlled by a red arrow indication, drivers shall proceed only in the direction indicated by the red arrow.

2. *Flashing yellow (caution signal)*—When a circular yellow lens signal indication or a yellow arrow indication is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles facing said indications may ~~proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution~~ cautiously enter the intersection to proceed straight through or turn right or left or make a U-turn except as such movements are modified or prohibited by other traffic control devices. In addition, when in a lane controlled by a yellow arrow indication, drivers shall proceed only in the direction indicated by the yellow arrow.

At the time such signal indication is exhibited, vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a U-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:

- a. ~~To p~~Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk,  
and
- b. ~~To o~~Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection, or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard, and
- c. ~~To o~~Other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.

3. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11—203, pedestrians facing a flashing signal indication, may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Such pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.



332 (a) Preferential right of way may be indicated by stop signs or yield signs as authorized in  
333 §15—109 of this code.

334 (b) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a  
335 stop sign shall stop at **before** a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the  
336 crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the  
337 intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting  
338 roadway before entering **the intersection** it. After having stopped, the driver shall yield the  
339 right of way to: ~~any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so~~  
340 ~~closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving~~  
341 ~~across or within the intersection or junction of roadways. Such driver shall yield the right of~~  
342 ~~way to pedestrians within an adjacent crosswalk.~~

343 **(1) Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and**

344 **(2) ~~To a~~Any vehicle moving within or across the intersection, and**

345 **(3) ~~To o~~Other vehicles approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an**  
346 **immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the**  
347 **intersection or junction of highways.**

348 (c) The driver of vehicle approaching a yield sign shall in obedience to such sign slow down to a  
349 speed reasonable for the existing conditions, and if required for safety to stop, shall stop at  
350 **before** a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side  
351 of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the  
352 driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering **the**  
353 **intersection** it. After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right of way to: ~~any~~  
354 ~~vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an~~  
355 ~~immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving across or within the intersection or~~  
356 ~~junction of roadways. Such driver shall yield the right of way to pedestrians within an~~  
357 ~~adjacent crosswalk.~~

358 **(1) Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and**

359 **(2) ~~To a~~Any vehicle moving within or across the intersection, and**

360 **(3) ~~To o~~Other vehicles approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an**  
361 **immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the**  
362 **intersection or junction of highways.**

363  
364 If such a driver after driving past a yield sign is involved in a collision with a vehicle in the  
365 intersection or junction of roadways or with a pedestrian in an adjacent **associated**  
366 crosswalk, such collision shall be deemed prima facie evidence of the driver's failure to yield  
367 right of way.

368 (d) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching  
369 a stop sign located at a railroad crossing shall stop **before** at the clearly marked stop line,  
370 but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the crossing, or if none, then  
371 within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and while so  
372 stopped shall listen and look in both directions along such track for signals indicating the  
373 approach of a train or other vehicle, and shall not proceed until it is safe to do so. After  
374 stopping as required herein and proceeding when it is safe to do so, the driver shall cross  
375 only in such gear of the vehicle that there will be no necessity for manually changing gears  
376 while traversing such crossing, and the driver shall not manually shift gears while crossing  
377 the track or tracks.

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380 **DISCUSSION:RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO “RULES OF THE ROAD, UVC”**

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382 It is important to get this out for comment and/or adoption, as three years have elapsed since the 2009

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384 VOTE ROR Comm. 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions 1/8/2014

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386 VOTE STC Comm: 30 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions 6/20/2013

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388 VOTE NCUTCD: Unanimous For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

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390 Others comments ignored:  
391 AASHTO: #25: Put orig. UVC ON WEB We agree, will do  
392 #

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394 Votes: AASHTO: 25 Affirmative, 4 affirmative with conditions, 1 negative, 1 No Vote  
395 ITE: 17 Affirmative, 4 Concur in part, 1 Object  
396 APBP: Concur in Part  
397 HFR: OBJECT, doesn't want NCUTCD to handle  
398 Individual comments all covered in ITE summary  
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