

**RESCINDED
JANUARY 2024**
This Recommended
Change to the MUTCD
was rescinded by the
NCUTCD Council on
January 12, 2024.

ATTACHMENT No. 1

ROR UVC No. 1

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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.

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

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

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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.

49 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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AFFECTED SECTIONS OF UVC: Chapter 11, Section 202, 203 and Section 403.

SUMMARY:

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.
69
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

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102
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- 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.

2. Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal indication⁷³, exhibited ~~shown~~ alone or in combination with another traffic signal indication may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications exhibited ~~shown~~ at the same time. ~~Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.~~

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. 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 or sign as provided in §11-203, pedestrians facing any circular green signal indication, may proceed across the roadway within any associated marked or unmarked crosswalk. Such pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard at the time that the green signal indication is first exhibited.

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

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

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(b) Steady yellow indication⁷⁴

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

RESCINDED
JANUARY 2024
149
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January 12, 2024.
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A steady red signal indication may be exhibited immediately thereafter when subsection (c) Steady red indication shall apply. Or a flashing arrow may be exhibited immediately thereafter, whereby the movement being modified may continue under the rules applicable to the flashing arrow being then exhibited.

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

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

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

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

(c) **Steady red indication**

1. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication exhibited alone 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 before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown except as provided in subsection (c)3.
2. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow, and unless entering the intersection to make a movement permitted by another signal, 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 before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until an indication, steady, permitting the movement indicated by such red arrow indication is shown exhibited, ~~except as provided in subsection (c)3.~~
3. Except when a traffic control device is in place prohibiting a turn on red or a steady red arrow indication is ~~displayed~~ exhibited, vehicular traffic facing ~~any~~ a steady circular red signal indication may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street, after stopping as required by subsection (c)1 ~~or subsection (c)2. After stopping the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so~~

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

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

(d) Flashing yellow arrow signal indications⁷⁵

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

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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:

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- a. Pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an associated crosswalk, and
 - b. ~~To~~Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection, or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard, and
 - c. ~~To~~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.

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

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(e) Flashing red arrow signal indications⁷⁵

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1. Vehicular traffic facing a flashing red arrow signal indication, exhibited alone or in combination with another signal indication, if intending to turn in the direction indicated by the arrow, shall stop before a clearly marked stop line; but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if none, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. After stopping the driver shall proceed only in the direction indicated by the arrow indication and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

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2. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §11—203, pedestrians facing a flashing red arrow signal indication, may cautiously proceed

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242
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243
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244
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245
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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 at the time that the flashing red arrow signal indication is first exhibited.

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

252 § 11—203—Pedestrian-control signals⁷⁶

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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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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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286
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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.

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

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336 Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign 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 the intersection it. After having stopped, the driver shall yield the right of way to: ~~any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.~~ Such driver shall yield the right of way to pedestrians within an adjacent crosswalk.

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

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

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

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344 (c) The driver of vehicle approaching a yield sign shall in obedience to such sign slow down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions, and if required for safety to stop, 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 the intersection it. After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right of way to: ~~any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.~~ Such driver shall yield the right of way to pedestrians within an adjacent crosswalk.

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

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

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

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

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

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378
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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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Others comments ignored:
O: #25: Put orig. UVC ON WEB We agree, will do

- 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
- 399

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