



FHWA Report on MUTCD Activities

**Chung Eng, FHWA Office of Transportation Operations
NCUTCD Meeting – June 26, 2014**



Agenda

- **Team Responsibilities**
- **The Next Edition of the MUTCD**
- **Standard Highway Signs Book**
- **Updated Sponsorship Policy**
- **Interim Approvals**
- **Official Interpretations / Experiments**

MUTCD Team Responsibilities

Chung Eng	Part 1 – General Information MUTCD Rulemaking Activities AASHTO SCOTE Support
Kevin Dunn	Part 3 – Markings Part 9 – Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities MUTCD Peer-to-Peer Program MUTCD Outreach
Eric Ferron	Part 2 – Regulatory and Warning Signs Part 5 – Low-Volume Roads Part 7 – Traffic Control for School Areas
Bruce Friedman	Part 4 – Traffic Signals Part 8 – Traffic Control for RR and LRT Crossings MUTCD Official Rulings MUTCD Issues Related to ADA
Kevin Sylvester	Part 2 – Guide, General Info, Service, TOD, Rec & Cultural Interest, Changeable Message Signs (Regulatory, Warning backup) Std Hwy Signs & Markings Book / Colors, General Sign Design Traffic Control for Toll & Managed Facilities Traffic Control Devices Pooled Fund Study
Ken Wood	Part 6 – Temporary Traffic Control

Evolution of the MUTCD



Working
Toward
2017
MUTCD

1935

Future

Planned Approach

Proposed Enhancements to 2017 Edition:

- Incorporate routine updates
- Reassess each standard and retain, delete or downgrade
- Identify and eliminate redundant or unnecessary text
- Reorganize content where opportunities for improving flow are identified
- Reorganize / reconfigure existing figures to better correlate with text

Estimated Time Line for 2017 Edition

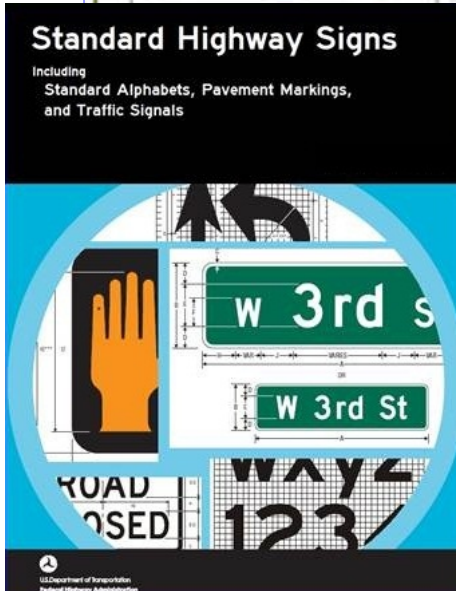
Based on Rulemaking being treated as a Significant Regulatory Action:

- **June 2014 – Last NCUTCD meeting for generating recommendations for the next NPA (Due end of July)**
- **August 2014 – Complete final draft of NPA to update MUTCD, including economic analysis of proposed changes**
- **Sept 2014 – April 2015: Internal, OMB and OST Reviews**
- **May 2015 – Publish NPA in Federal Register**
- **November 2015 – End of the 6-month docket comment period**
- **October 2016 – Finalize the MUTCD and the Federal Register notice**
- **November 2016 – April 2017: Internal, OMB and OST Reviews**
- **May/June 2017 – Publish the Final Rule for a new edition of the MUTCD**

Continued Exploration/Development of Additional Concepts

- Ideas from 2013 RFC (smart search apps; cross indexing; fact sheets; new figures or tables; etc.)
- Ideas from TRB white papers
- Recommendations from strategic plan and vision
 - Focus on ideas for enhancing future editions
 - Publish RFC to solicit broad input

Standard Highway Signs



2012 Supplement – Rev. 1 (June 2014):

- Remaining new/revised signs
- Symbols, Pavement Markings
- Details for Standard Arrows, Borders, Sign Blanks (tabulated)

Future revision:

- Technical corrections to sheets retained from the 2004 edition
- Revised and expanded Sign Design Guidelines

Future:

- New edition w/ 2017 MUTCD
- Sign layouts available in electronic format for direct fabrication

Updated Sponsorship Policy

April 7, 2014

Major items addressed include the following:

- **Acknowledgment of sponsorship of rest areas;**
- **Display of sponsors on changeable message signs;**
- **Sizes of acknowledgment signs or plaques and sponsor logos (both on highways and on shared-use paths);**
- **“Naming rights”; and**
- **Official sponsor logos, business names, and promotional advertising.**

Policy and FAQ's on MUTCD Website
<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-policy.htm>

Interim Approvals

Five interim approvals have been issued since the 2009 MUTCD was published:

- Alternative Traffic Signal Photo Enforced sign
- Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging sign
- Green colored pavement for bike lanes
- Alternative U.S. Bicycle Route sign
- Bicycle Signal Faces - *Added Dec 2013*

Two interim approvals issued prior to the 2009 MUTCD are still in effect:

- Clearview font on guide signs
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

Interim Approvals

The following are the number of agencies (as of 5/14/2014) that have requested and received the FHWA's permission to use these interim approved devices:

- Clearview font on guide signs – 30
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons – 142
- Alternative Traffic Signal Photo Enforced sign – 5
- Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging sign – 9
- Green colored pavement for bike lanes – 55
- Alternative U.S. Bicycle Route sign – 6
- Bicycle Signal Faces – 6

Official Interpretations

A total of 65 official interpretations have been issued since the 2009 MUTCD was published, with the following distribution by parts:

- **Part 1. General – 1**
- **Part 2. Signs – 14**
- **Part 3. Markings – 4**
- **Part 4. Highway Traffic Signals – 22**
- **Part 5. Low-Volume Roads – 1**
- **Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – 13**
- **Part 7. School Areas – 1**
- **Part 8. Grade Crossings – 4**
- **Part 9. Bicycle Facilities – 5**

Official Experiments

A total of 68 official experiments have been approved since the 2009 MUTCD was published, with the following distribution by parts:

- Part 1. General – 0
- Part 2. Signs – 4
- Part 3. Markings – 9
- Part 4. Highway Traffic Signals – 11
- Part 5. Low-Volume Roads – 0
- Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – 7
- Part 7. School Areas – 0
- Part 8. Grade Crossings – 1
- Part 9. Bicycle Facilities – 36

Thank You!