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
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Evolution of the MUTCD
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
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
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
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
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
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 5. Low-Volume Roads – 1
- Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – 13
- Part 7. School Areas – 1
- Part 8. Grade Crossings – 4
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 5. Low-Volume Roads – 0
- Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – 7
- Part 7. School Areas – 0
- Part 8. Grade Crossings – 1
Thank You!