National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Resolution
Regarding Implementation of Traffic Control Device Guidelines Not in the MUTCD

WHEREAS, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has been in existence for 80 years, with a single purpose of traffic safety over that period of time, and

WHEREAS, the MUTCD’s purpose is to assure traffic safety through the design, use and application of standard traffic control devices in a uniform and consistent manner, and

WHEREAS, the MUTCD is the product of the thinking and wisdom of all levels of government and stakeholders having the responsibility for the design, use and application of traffic control device strategies and devices, and

WHEREAS, these government and stakeholder representatives have formed a National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) to develop the MUTCD, maintain its content, and consider changes and modifications for preparing recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and

WHEREAS, there are formal processes for considering recommended MUTCD changes and modifications that, to the extent practicable, are data-based and well debated by the Technical Committees in preparation for presentation to the NCUTCD Council for approval for forwarding on to the FHWA, and

WHEREAS, in instances where supporting research activities are deemed to be insufficient for full justification of a recommended MUTCD text change or modification, the FHWA has established an “Interim Approval” process which allows for in-the-field testing and evaluation of a particular request, greatly reducing the ultimate approval time, and

WHEREAS, the Nation’s interest in highway transportation is expanding to encompass interest groups that may not be part of the NCUTCD, yet have a role to play in assuring that all road users are safely accounted for in the MUTCD provisions, and

WHEREAS, the use of the MUTCD and the adherence to its provisions is mandated by Federal and State Law, and the several States and their local jurisdictions and other bodies having traffic control responsibilities are legally obligated to follow these laws, and

WHEREAS, there are safety risks, and the possibilities of litigation if the provisions of the MUTCD are not followed, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NCUTCD recommends that a Task Force be established with the FHWA to explore the noted issues and develop options for addressing the identified needs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Task Force present its recommended actions at the forthcoming Summer 2015 Meeting of the NCUTCD

Approved by NCUTCD Council, January 8, 2015