




U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Status of MUTCD  
Compliance Dates Rulemaking

Date: JAN 20 2012

From:   
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In Reply Refer To:  
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To: Directors of Field Services  
Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers  
Division Administrators

On August 31, 2011, FHWA published a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) that proposed to eliminate, revise, or extend existing compliance dates for traffic control devices in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD). The comment period for the NPA closed on October 31, 2011. The FHWA is currently analyzing the comments received and expects to publish the final rule in the summer of 2012.

Until then, State and local agencies should focus their efforts on long-range planning for the maintenance and upgrade of existing traffic control devices, rather than focusing on compliance dates that may be extended or eliminated.

In advance of the publication of the final rule, FHWA Division Offices are likely to receive inquiries from the public concerning the status of this rulemaking. Please use this memorandum to further clarify the status of the MUTCD compliance dates rulemaking.

In the NPA, FHWA proposed to eliminate the compliance dates for 46 items (8 that had already expired and 38 that had future compliance dates) and to extend and/or revise the dates for 4 items. The vast majority of the comments that FHWA received were supportive of the NPA proposal, particularly the proposal to eliminate or revise certain compliance dates. The changes proposed in the NPA were intended to provide State and local governments with the flexibility to allocate scarce financial resources based on local conditions and the useful service lives of traffic control devices. The changes also were intended to reduce the costs and impacts of compliance dates on State and local highway agencies and to streamline and simplify the information in the 2009 MUTCD.

The FHWA is completing its analysis of the comments received and intends to provide flexibility and reduce costs and impacts as we prepare the final rule for publication this

summer. It is important to note that the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations Act prohibits the U.S. Department of Transportation from using funds to enforce compliance dates for certain requirements related to sign retroreflectivity and minimum letter heights for street name signs.

For further information, please contact me at [Jeffrey.Lindley@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Lindley@dot.gov) or 202-366-9210.

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