

February 19, 2021

Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. FHWA-2020-0001; NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES; THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES FOR STREETS AND HIGHWAYS; REVISION

Dear Ms. Pollack:

The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition is a non-profit organization that advocates for all clean transportation fuels. We applaud your work raising awareness about the need to reduce emissions from transportation through clean energy initiatives in the transportation sector.<sup>i</sup> We hope you will review one pending decision your agency made during the previous administration to change the FHWA's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to severely limit alternative fueling station roadway signage eligibility. It is our view that alternative fueling stations should have parity with petroleum stations when it comes to signage. As you know, low public awareness about the availability of domestically produced alternative transportation fuels is one of greatest barriers to faster adoption. Highway signage is one clear step the government can easily take to promote the increasing availability of alternative transportation fuels which will lead to greater adoption of cleaner burning transportation fuels and all the associated benefits for the country—environmental security, energy security, and economic security.

We agree strongly with your previous statements that our country needs to 'adopt innovative and collaborative approaches' to 'bend the curve on transportation greenhouse gas emissions, which continue to be the largest and fastest growing source of climate-altering pollution.'<sup>ii</sup> There are currently 34,857 non-gasoline fueling stations open to the public.<sup>iii</sup> In simple terms, those stations should have signage parity with petroleum fueling stations for the reasons outlined in this letter.

Our views are consistent with the purpose stated in the law when Congress established the Alternative Fuels Corridor program through Section 1413 of the FAST Act.<sup>iv</sup> According to the text of the law, Congress created the corridor program "to improve the mobility of passenger and commercial vehicles that employ electric, hydrogen fuel cell, propane, and natural gas fueling technologies." In this sense, we understand the term 'mobility' to be referring to the need to expand motorist 'access' to the fuels in order to be able to move freely and to enhance transportation options for motorists.

FHWA published goals of the alternative fuel corridor program in the federal register in 2016 and they include: to 'promote the build out of a national network,' to 'develop national signage and branding to help catalyze applicant and public interest,' to 'promote and advance alternative fuel corridor designations,' and because

'alternative fuel corridors with support for lower-emitting vehicles can assist in the effort towards 'achieving reductions in [greenhouse gas] emissions...from transportation sources.'

We are including below a summary of our recommendations as well as a summary of changes proposed by your agency staff. We hope your office will conduct a serious review of this pending policy decision prior to the May 14, 2021 deadline and revise the MUTCD to create signage parity for alternative fuel stations.

In addition to our submission of this comment on the FHWA docket, it is our plan to reach out to your office to request a meeting to share our concerns directly. We would appreciate an opportunity to organize a listening session for which we would prepare an agenda and include well-known clean transportation sector stakeholders from across the country who share our views.

#### **ALABAMA CLEAN FUELS COALITION RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FHWA PROPOSAL:**

- Change the word GAS to FUEL and define GAS and FUEL in the manual to include alternative fuels. These terms should be defined to include at least the fuels Congress included in the FHWA Alternative Fuels Corridor Program (electric, hydrogen fuel cell, propane, natural gas) under 23 U.S.C. 151. Precedent for this recommendation already exists, some states that have changed GAS to FUEL in their own version of the manual.
- States should have the flexibility to use either General Service or Specific Service signs for Alternative fuel stations. If a state desires to incorporate alternative fueling stations into their existing logo programs, they should not be prohibited from doing so by FHWA. States that wish to incorporate alternative fueling station signage into their program using General Service signs should also have this option.
- Businesses with logo panels in categories other than GAS should be permitted to include a supplemental message indicating the availability of an alternative fuel at their location. For example, a coffee shop should not be prohibited from including a supplemental message on their Specific Service sign panel indicating the availability of electric vehicle charging at their location.
- States should be permitted to use the Alternative Fuels Corridor identification sign as a way of notifying road users that they are on an existing corridor without a requirement to also utilize General Service and/or Specific Service signs.

#### **UNACCEPTABLE CHANGES FHWA HAS PROPOSED TO THE MUTCD:**

- Alternative Fuel stations will be prohibited from using Specific Service signs unless they are also a gasoline station. *The only transportation fueling station permitted to display their logo on a highway sign will be a gasoline station.*
- Alternative fuels can only be listed on specific service signs as a supplemental message along the bottom of a gasoline station logo sign panel. *For example, a gasoline station could indicate on their GAS sign logo they have propane Autogas or electric vehicle charging available but a standalone, non-gasoline vehicle fueling station has no way to include their logo on a sign.*
- Categories of businesses other than gasoline stations with logo signs (FOOD, LODGING, ATTRACTION) will be prohibited from including a supplemental message indicating they offer an alternative fuel. *For example, a coffee shop will be prohibited from adding a supplemental message on the FOOD sign indicating they have EV charging available at their location. Likewise, a hotel would be unable to indicate on the bottom of their sign they offer EV charging.*

- Signing for alternative fueling stations will only be permitted using General Service signs. *This is against the wishes of many states that would prefer to sign for alternative fueling stations using Specific Service signs.*
- It is understandable that the FHWA proposal designates that Alternative Fuels Corridor sign(s) shall only be installed on highways officially designated as Alternative Fuel Corridors. *States should not, however, be prohibited from using the Alternative Fuels Corridor sign for the sole purpose of raising corridor awareness in a manner consistent with what FHWA published in the federal register in 2016 under the administration of President Barack Obama.*<sup>vi</sup>

We are confident you will agree with our positions if they are presented to you without bias. We also appreciate your service to our country and stand ready to assist you to achieve our mutual goals.

Sincerely,



Michael Staley  
President, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition

**ENCLOSURES:**

- ACFC Webinar slides – January 08, 2021
- ACFC Fuels Fix Article -Federal Highway Administration proposes sign regulation changes, raises concern<sup>vii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.metrowestdailynews.com/opinion/20171217/pollack-and-beaton-massachusetts-is-committed-to-future-of-clean-transportation>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/statements-state-leaders-launch-tci-p>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/#/find/nearest?country=US>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/22/text/enr>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-07-22/pdf/FR-2016-07-22.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-07-22/pdf/FR-2016-07-22.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.fuelsfix.com/2021/01/alternative-fuel-signage-in-danger-with-proposed-sign-regulation-changes/>

# Federal Highway Administration proposes sign regulation changes, raises concern

By [Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition](#)

January 22, 2021



*The Specific Service Signs in the image above showing drivers how to reach FOOD and GAS establishments near an exit off the Interstate.*

In December 2020, the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) proposed changes to regulations states must follow when installing signs informing drivers which services—including food, gas, and lodging—are available at highway exits. Despite the current count of 34,857 non-gasoline fueling stations open to the public, the U.S. Department of Transportation's [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) has announced a pending decision that advocates say does not incorporate alternative fuel signage fairly into existing sign regulations.



*The map above shows 34,857 publicly accessible alternative fueling stations that provide either Biodiesel, Compressed Natural Gas, Electric Vehicle Charging, Ethanol, hydrogen, liquefied natural gas or Propane. (Source: [here](#))*

The FHWA issued a public notice of proposed changes to the [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) or MUTCD. The MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways and private roads open to public travel.

The FHWA plans to prohibit non-gasoline fueling station logos from appearing on Specific Service signs. Under the new rules, states would only be allowed to display alternative fuel signage using General Service signs. Also, the FHWA will only allow a new Alternative Fuels Corridor identification sign to be used by states if they pair it with a series of General Service signs.

Michael Staley, president of the [Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition](#) (ACFC), said these MUTCD changes proposed by the FHWA are inconsistent with laws passed by Congress and goals the FHWA has published in [the federal register](#) and on their [Alternative Fuel Corridors](#) website.

Staley says states should be given the flexibility to incorporate non-gasoline fueling stations into both their General Service and Specific Service sign programs—giving alternative fuel signage parity with gasoline stations.

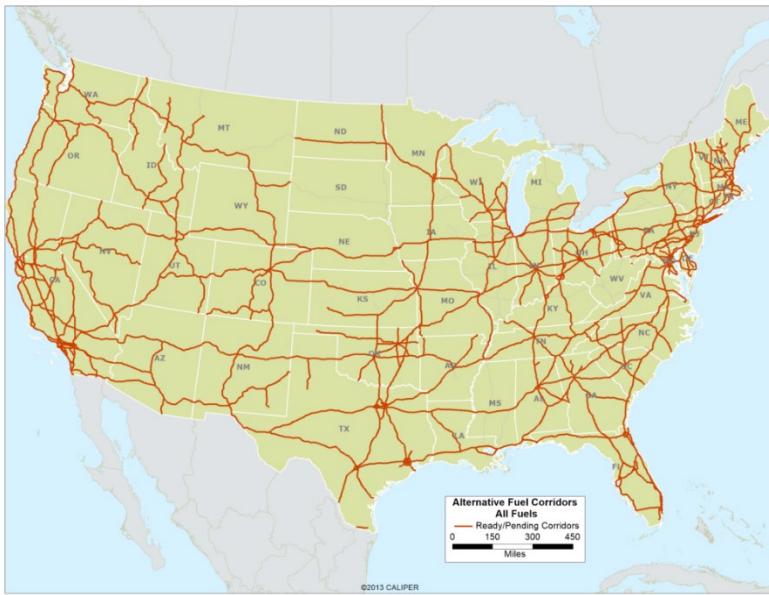
“This action by the FHWA is not only contrary to the goals of the Alternative Fuel Corridors program but it also goes against everything else going on in the transportation industry,” Staley said. “There is tremendous growth in the adoption of non-gasoline fuels by consumers and commercial users, so it doesn’t make sense for the federal government to be making it more difficult for drivers to find fuels other than gasoline.”



*This General Service Sign informs a driver that a hospital is ahead and to the right. (Source: [here](#))*

Since the MUTCD was last updated in 2009, Congress established the Alternative Fuel Corridors program through Section 1413 of the [FAST Act](#). Between 2016 and 2020, more than 149,000 miles of the national highway system were designated with more designations expected in 2021. The [law](#) that created this program established a clear intent to improve access to fuels for passenger and commercial vehicles that employ electric, hydrogen fuel cell, propane and natural gas fueling technologies across the U.S.

The FHWA has maintained in writing that it intends to support the expansion of the Alternative Fuel Corridors program by developing “national signage and branding to help catalyze applicant and public interest” and “promote the ‘build-out’ of a national network.”



The FHWA proposal does include a new Alternative Fuels Corridor identification sign that could be used to inform drivers of the existence of a designated corridor. However, states will be prohibited from using this new sign unless they also install a series of General Service signs.

Staley said states may choose not to sign for alternative fuels if they are only allowed to do so using General Service signs.

John Barnett, manager of the [propane autogas program](#) at U-Haul International, said it is important for autogas to have the ability to be signed for on Specific Service signs as more fleets are converted to clean-burning fuels over time.



Above is an example of an Alternative Fuels Corridor General Identification sign the FHWA proposes but will only allow it to be used in conjunction with General Service signs.

"Most of the vehicles utilizing propane autogas are fleet vehicles running long routes on the freeway. Drivers exiting the freeway may not realize that U-Haul is the business providing the alternative fuel they need, and they could become distracted trying to locate generic symbols and

arrows to find their service station,” Barnett said. “A logo sign indicating that U-Haul has propane autogas for sale will result in much clearer instruction, less distracted drivers and safer roads for everyone.”

Jonathan Overly, executive director of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition, co-leads a group with ACFC called the Southeast Corridor Council. Overly said that changing “GAS” to “FUEL” and allowing states to sign for alternative fueling stations on both General Service and Specific Service signs is a reasonable solution.

“We’ve been studying this issue for over two years and it appears that some at FHWA don’t understand our collective need in the USA to start supporting the rapid expansion in the use of alternative fuels, and the signage that needs to support it,” Overly said. “The transportation sector accounts for the largest percentage of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and this proposal makes it look like the federal government is picking gasoline as the winner over all other fuels. The government should create a fair playing field where different fuels can compete against each other, instead of picking winners and losers.”

*See more about the alternative fuel corridors project [here](#).*

*To reach Michael Staley to please email [michael@alabamacleanfuels.org](mailto:michael@alabamacleanfuels.org).*

**January 8, 2021**

**The following presentation was delivered on January 8, 2021.**

**To understand the full context of the slides, view the video recording at the following link:**

**[https://zoom.us/rec/play/qV21he2yGef40XIiqkGEIQ4wPL0laW4V-sd8NzuN\\_wOh1Rxeoq0GzpwBb-kfsM2v0E8MRLQD55RDgVvK.SaeOh2bDcCe5p99J](https://zoom.us/rec/play/qV21he2yGef40XIiqkGEIQ4wPL0laW4V-sd8NzuN_wOh1Rxeoq0GzpwBb-kfsM2v0E8MRLQD55RDgVvK.SaeOh2bDcCe5p99J)**

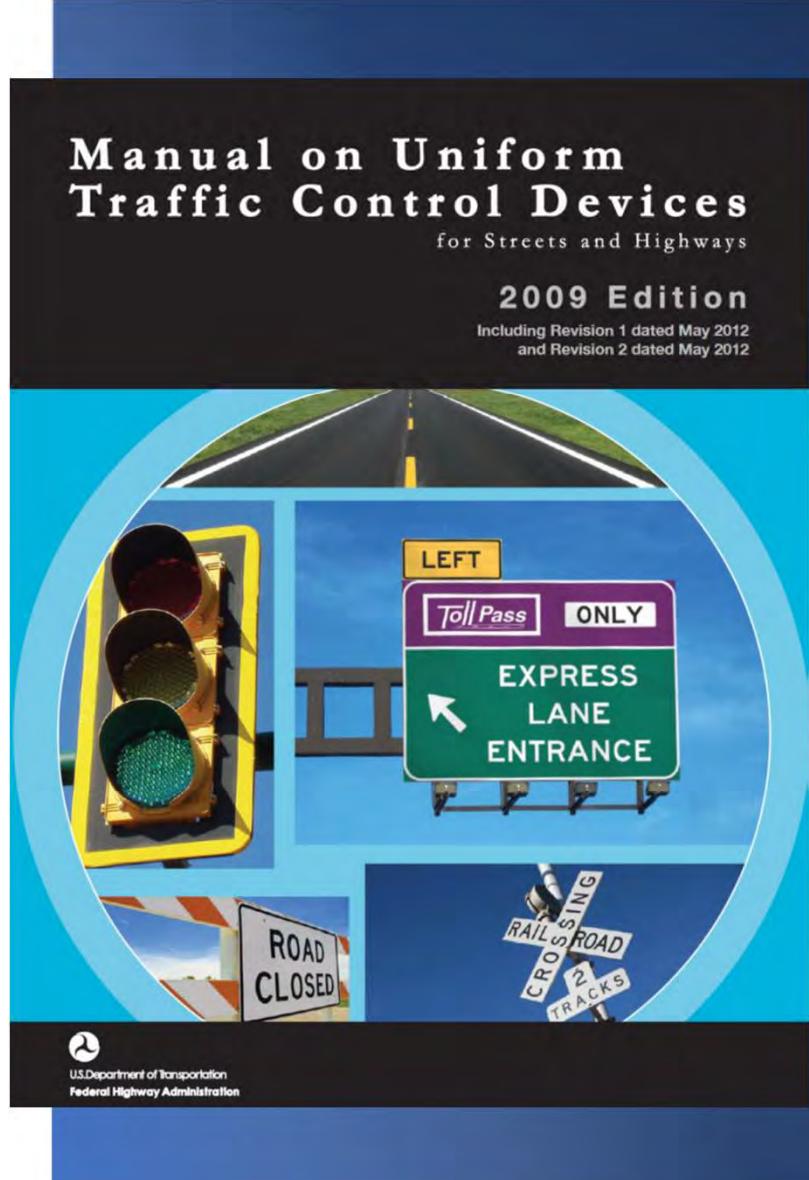
**If you have any questions about the content of the slides or the presentation, please email [michael@alabamacleanfuels.org](mailto:michael@alabamacleanfuels.org).**

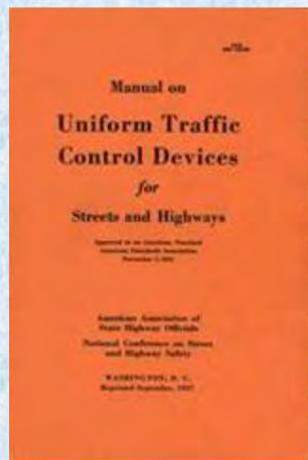
**We are working to develop action-oriented materials to circulate soon.**

**Sign up to receive future updates: <https://forms.gle/4EeRqA2rGAYr5NUCA>**

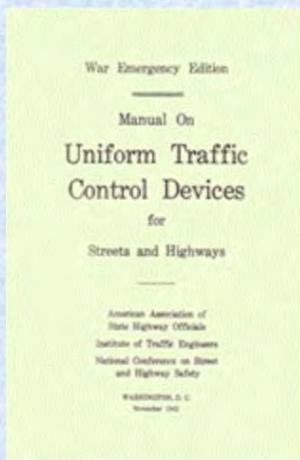
# Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Alternative Fuels Signage

Educational Webinar  
January 8, 2021





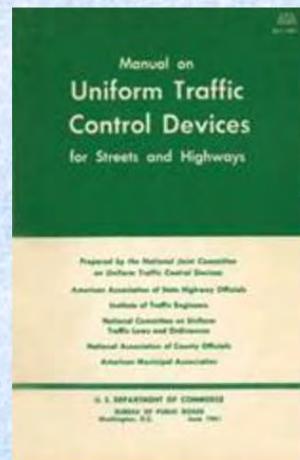
1935



1942



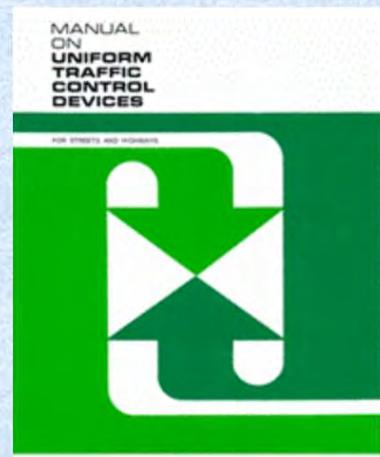
1948



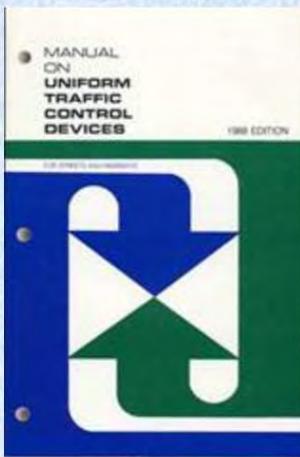
1961



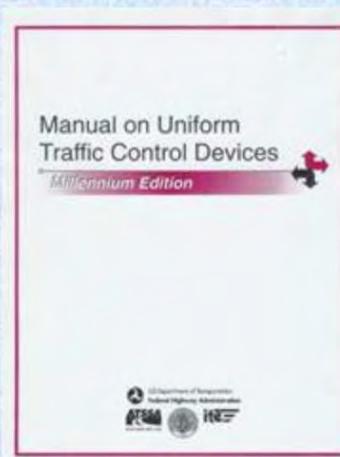
1971



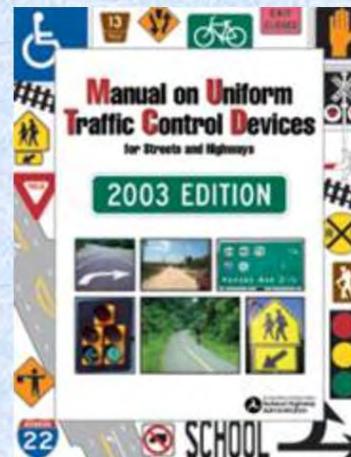
1978



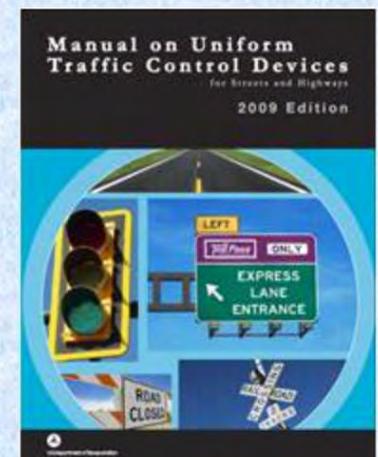
1988



2000



2003



2009

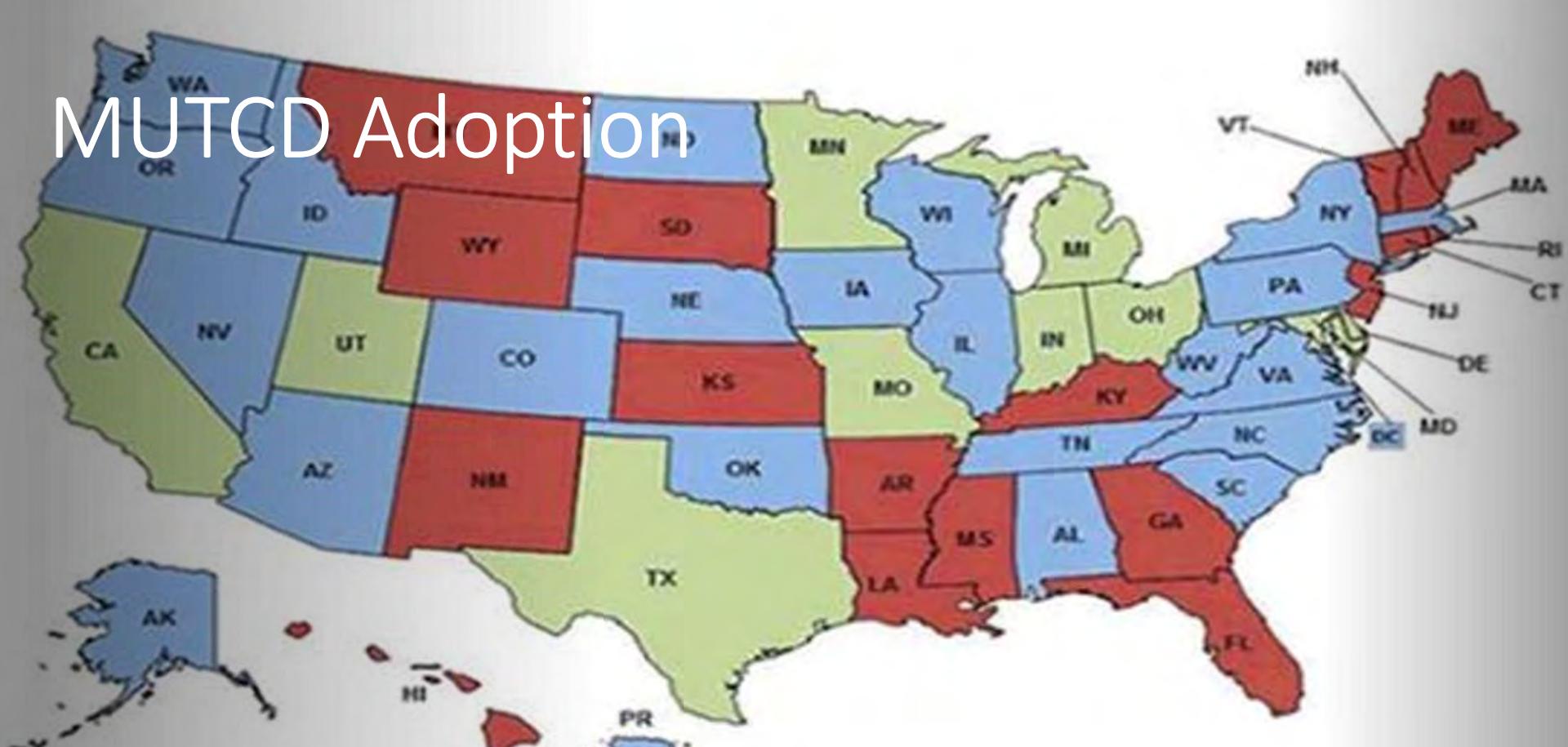
SOURCE <http://ceprofs.civil.tamu.edu/ghawkins/MUTCD-History.htm>

FHWA Notice of  
Proposed  
Amendment  
(NPA) to MUTCD

Public comment  
until March 15,  
2021 (90-day)

Agency/Docket  
Number FHWA-  
2020-0001

# MUTCD Adoption



Adoption of the national MUTCD

Adoption of the national MUTCD along with a State supplement(s)

Adoption of a State MUTCD



## Ways to Update the MUTCD

1. **USDOT process** – 1935, 1942, 1948, 1961, 1971, 1978, 1988, 2000, 2003, 2009
2. **National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD)** – AASHTO, AAA, APTA, APWA, AREMA, ARTBA, ASCE, ATSSA, AAR, APBP, AHUA, HFR, ITE, ITSA, IACP, IBTTA, IMSA, LAB, NACTO, NACE, NSC
3. **Congressional Lawmaking** - Congress has a history of providing direction to USDOT regarding certain aspects of the MUTCD

Congress  
Passed Law  
12-21-20

**Congress passed a law containing this report language:**

*Manual of uniform traffic control devices (MUTCD).*-The agreement directs the FHWA to provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with a report outlining key changes and safety implications in the forthcoming MUTCD. This information shall also be made available to the public. The agreement also directs FHWA to allow the use of specific service signs for electric vehicle charging stations in the publication of the MUTCD.

<https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20201221/BILLS-116RCP68-JES-DIVISION-L.pdf>

# Terminology of the MUTCD

- The MUTCD Provides traffic engineers with several types of statements....
- Support – informational statement
  - ‘shall’, ‘should’, and ‘may’ not used
- **Standard- required, mandatory, or prohibitive**
  - ‘shall’ typical, ‘should’ and ‘may’ are not used
- *Guidance – recommended, not mandatory*
  - ‘should’ typically used, ‘shall’ and ‘may’ not used
- Option – permissive condition, not required
  - ‘may’ typically used, ‘shall’ and ‘should’ not used



# SUPPORT OPTION STANDARD GUIDANCE

## **02 General Service Signs for Conventional Roads**

Support: **INFORMATIONAL STATEMENT**

<sup>01</sup> On conventional roads, commercial services such as gas, food, and lodging generally are within sight and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover, General Service signing is usually not required in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement assistance, tourist information centers, and camping.

Option: **PERMISSIVE CONDITION**

<sup>02</sup> General Service **signs (see Figure 2I-1) may be used** where such services are infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Standard: **REQUIREMENT**

<sup>03</sup> All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background.

Guidance: **RECOMMENDED, NOT MANDATORY**

<sup>04</sup> General Service **signs should be installed at a suitable distance** in advance of the turn-off point or intersecting highway.

<sup>05</sup> **States that elect to provide General Service signing should establish a statewide policy or warrant for its use, and criteria for the availability of services. Local jurisdictions electing to use such signing should follow State policy for the sake of uniformity.**

Option: **PERMISSIVE CONDITION**

<sup>06</sup> Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.

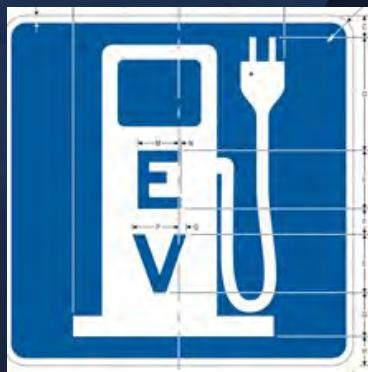
GENERAL  
SERVICE SIGN

SPECIFIC  
SERVICE SIGN

SUPPLEMENTAL MESSAGE



# 2011 ‘Interim Approval’ for EV Charging General Service Sign



- WA and OR requested approval to use a **General Service** sign to direct road users to EV charging facilities
- FHWA granted ‘Interim Approval’ for ‘Optional use of an Alternative Electric Vehicle Charging General Service Symbol’
- FHWA Evaluation indicates support for ‘directing road users to an **electric vehicle charging** station without the use of a word legend or supplemental plaque, **reducing the informational load** presented to the observer and promoting a uniform symbol for this **general service**.’

SOURCE: [https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim\\_approval/ia13/](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ia13/)

# 2015 FAST Act Alternative Fuels Corridor Program

The Fast Act is the most recently passed ‘surface transportation authorization, covering FY2016 – FY2020 and funding our nation’s transportation infrastructure

- Section 1413 created the national electric vehicle charging and hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling corridors
- Congress directed Secretary of DOT to designate these corridors ‘to improve the mobility of passenger and commercial vehicles ...’
- ‘...that employ electric, hydrogen fuel cell, propane, and natural gas fueling technologies across the United States

SOURCE: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/22/text>

# Alternative Fuels Corridor Program Goals

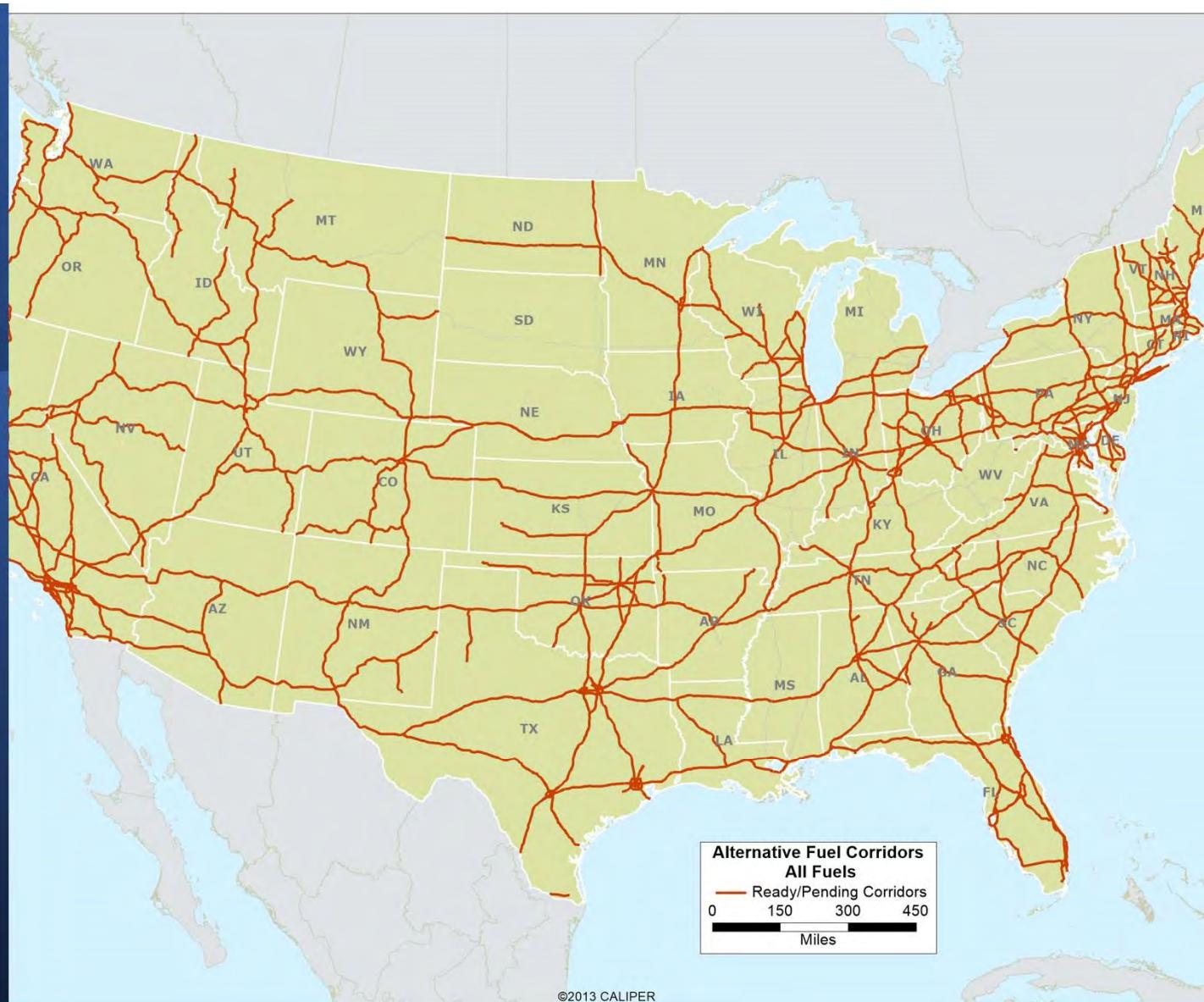
Published in Federal Register July 22, 2016 by FHWA...

- Create and expand a national network of alternative fueling and charging infrastructure along NHS corridors
- Promote build out of a national network
- National signage and branding to help catalyze applicant and public interest
- Encourage multistate and regional cooperation
- Promote and advance alternative fuel corridor designations in conjunction with DOE
- Tailpipe GHG emissions from transportation sources accounted for 27% of total US GHG emissions

SOURCE: <http://govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-07-22/pdf/FR-2016-07-22.pdf>

49 States + D.C.  
144,000+ miles  
119 Interstates  
100 Highways

# HYDROGEN, FUEL CELL, PROPANE, NATURAL GAS, ELECTRIC



Select and Query Data [Links and Resources](#)



AFDC TransAtlas

Data  
Layers

Legend

Query

Turn Off All Layers

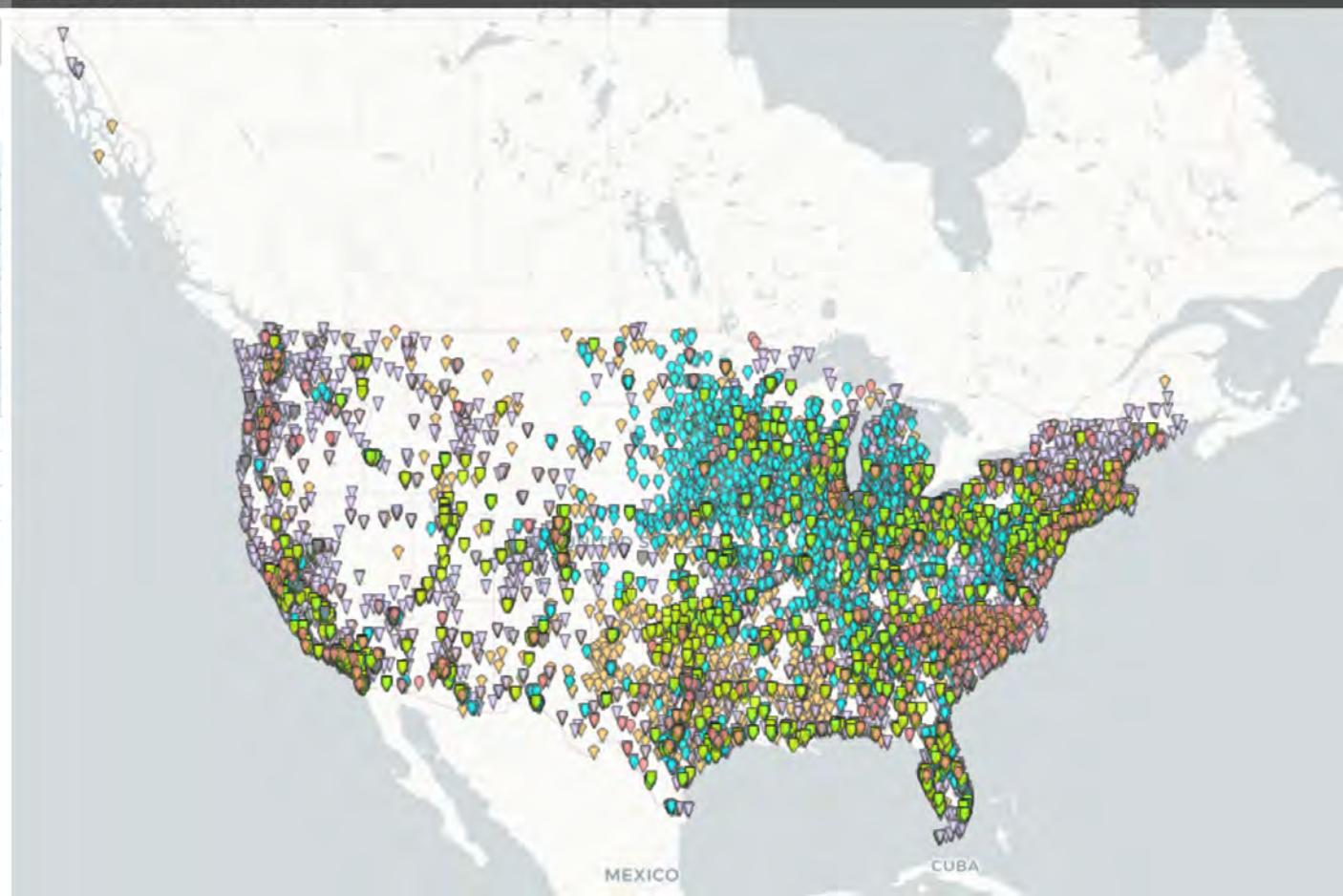
Alternative Fuel Stations

- Biogas Stations
- CNG Stations
- E85 Stations
- Electric Stations
- Hydrogen Stations
- Liquified Nat. Gas Stations
- Propane Stations

Boundaries

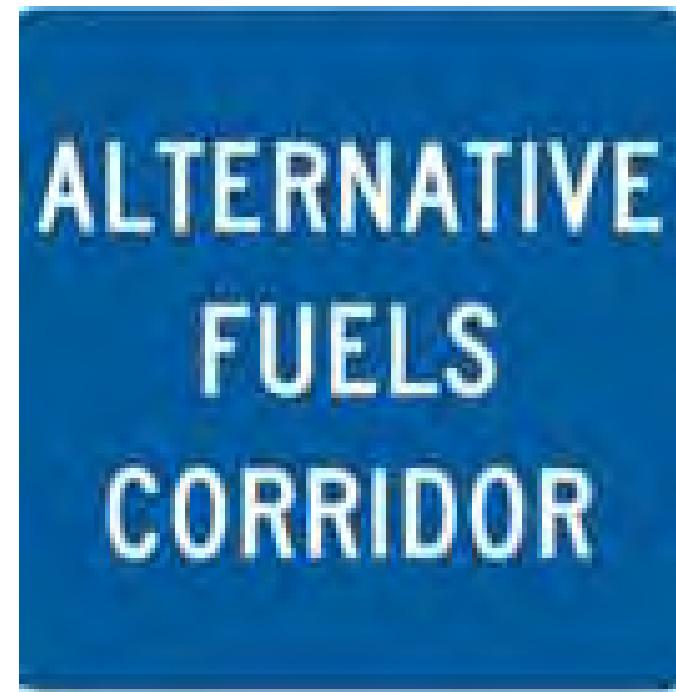
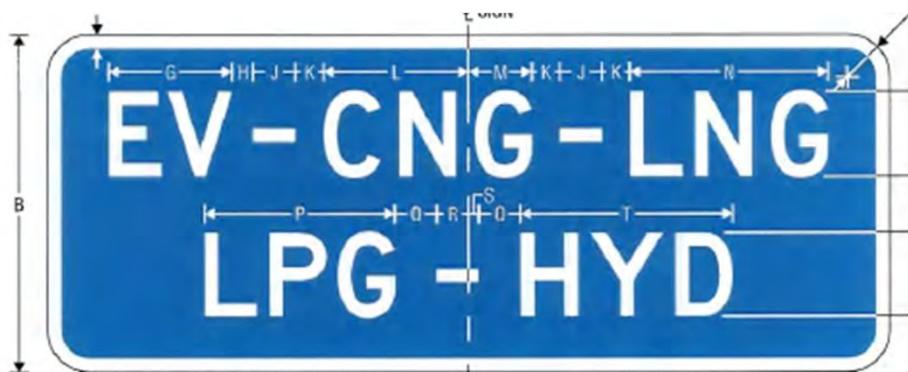
Production Facilities

Vehicle Density



# 2016 FHWA Memorandum – General Service Signs

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## Alabama Example

### MAP LEGEND

Corridor  
Identification Sign  
(50-75 Miles Apart)



Identification  
Near Interchange



# General Service Signs Under Current MUTCD



## 02 **General Service Signs for Conventional Roads**

Support:

<sup>01</sup> On conventional roads, commercial services such as gas, food, and lodging generally are within sight and are available to the road user at reasonably frequent intervals along the route. Consequently, on this class of road there usually is no need for special signs calling attention to these services. Moreover, General Service signing is usually not required in urban areas except for hospitals, law enforcement assistance, tourist information centers, and camping.

Option:

<sup>02</sup> General Service signs (see Figure 2I-1) may be used where such services are infrequent and are found only on an intersecting highway or crossroad.

Standard:

<sup>03</sup> All General Service signs and supplemental sign panels shall have white letters, symbols, arrows, and borders on a blue background.

Guidance:

<sup>04</sup> General Service signs should be installed at a suitable distance in advance of the turn-off point or intersecting highway.

<sup>05</sup> States that elect to provide General Service signing should establish a statewide policy or warrant for its use, and criteria for the availability of services. Local jurisdictions electing to use such signing should follow State policy for the sake of uniformity.

Option:

<sup>06</sup> Individual States may sign for whatever alternative fuels are available at appropriate locations.



# What about Specific Service Signs?



## FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridor Frequently Asked Questions

- **FAQ 6.5: Can an alternative fuel station/facility be included on Specific Service signs?**
- **A:** No. Alternative fuel stations/facilities are not eligible for Specific Service signing as they do fit into one of the restricted categories for these signs. This would require a rule making change to the MUTCD.

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative\\_fuel\\_corridors/resources/faq/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/resources/faq/)

# Current MUTCD & Specific Service Signs

## Specific Service Signs

**Standard:** Specific Service signs shall be defined as guide signs that provide road users with business identification and directional information for services and for eligible attractions. Eligible service categories shall be limited to gas, food, lodging, camping, attractions, and 24-hour pharmacies.

*Guidance: If State or local agencies elect to provide Specific Service signing, there should be a statewide policy for such signing and criteria for the availability of the various types of services. The criteria should consider the following:*

- A. *To qualify for a GAS logo sign panel, a business should have:*
  1. *Vehicle services including gas and/or alternative fuels, oil.....*
  2. *Continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per....*
  3. *Modern Sanitary facilities.....*
  4. *Public Telephone....*

# DEFINITIONS: What is GAS or FUEL, anyways?

## Definitions

- Section 1A.13 - MUTCD lists 259 definitions (*yield line, wrong-way arrow, etc.*) and 41 acronyms (*FHWA, EV*)
- “GAS” and “FUEL” are not defined anywhere in MUTCD

76. **Flashing Mode**—a mode of operation in which at least one ~~traffic~~ signal indication in each vehicular signal face of a highway ~~traffic~~ signal is turned on and off repetitively.
77. **Freeway**—a divided highway with full control of access.
- 77.78. **Fuel – NO DEFINITION IN MANUAL**
79. **Full-Actuated Operation**—a type of ~~traffic~~ control signal operation in which all signal phases function on the basis of actuation.
- 78.80. **Gas – NO DEFINITION IN MANUAL**
- 79.81. **Gate**—an automatically-operated or manually-operated ~~traffic~~ control device that is used to physically obstruct road users such that they are discouraged from proceeding past a particular point on a roadway or pathway, or such that they are discouraged from entering a particular grade crossing, ramp, lane, roadway, or facility.
- 80.82. **Grade Crossing**—the general area where a highway and a railroad and/or light rail transit route cross at the same level, within which are included the tracks, highway, and ~~traffic~~ control devices for ~~traffic~~ traversing that area.
- 81.83. **Guide Sign**—a sign that shows route designations, destinations, directions, distances, services, points of interest, or other geographical, recreational, or cultural information.
- 82.84. **High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)**—a motor vehicle carrying at least two or more persons,

# Current MUTCD & Supplemental Logo Sign Panels



## Supplemental Logo Sign Panels

### Option

<sup>05</sup> A portion of a logo sign panel may be used to display a supplemental message horizontally along the bottom of the logo sign panel, provided that the message displays essential motorist information (see Figure 2J-3).

### Standard:

<sup>06</sup> All supplemental messages shall be displayed within the logo sign panel and shall have letters and numerals that comply with the minimum height requirements shown in Table 2J-1.

### Guidance:

<sup>07</sup> A logo sign panel should not display more than one supplemental message

<sup>08</sup> The supplemental message should be displayed in a color to contrast effectively with the background of the business sign or separated from the other legend or logo by a divider bar.

<sup>09</sup> State or local agencies that elect to allow supplemental messages on logo sign panels should develop a statewide policy for such messages.

### Support:

<sup>10</sup> Typical supplemental messages might include DIESEL, 24 HOURS, CLOSED and the day of the week when the facility is closed, ALTERNATIVE FUELS (see Section 2I.03), and RV ACCESS.

Changes  
Proposed by  
FHWA on  
December 14

**GENERAL INFORMATION SIGNS:** Add a new section for the Alternative Fuel Corridor Sign and provide Standard, Option, Guidance, and Support Provisions for the use of Alternative Fuels Corridor Identification Signs





### Alternative Fuels Corridor General Information Signs

- Allowed only on officially designated Alternative Fuels Corridors
- Acknowledgment of any sponsors prohibited
- If more than three fuels are available, the symbols must be changed to letter abbreviations
- One sign allowed at or near the beginning of the Alternative Fuel Corridor in each direction of travel
- Signs allowed beyond interchanges where availability of one fuel discontinues but others remain



## Alternative Fuels Corridor General Information Signs

- Must be accompanied by 'arrow signs' directing users to the station
- Cannot be installed alone as way to catalyze public interest & promote/expand corridor designations



## FHWA REMOVING ALTERNATIVE FUELS FROM SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGN QUALIFICATIONS



### SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGNS:

*To qualify for a GAS ~~logo~~ business identification sign panel, a business should have:*

1. Vehicle services including gas~~oline~~ and/or ~~alternative fuels~~, oil, and water;
2. Continuous operation at least 16 hours per day, 7 days per....
3. Modern Sanitary facilities.....
4. Public Telephone....

**“FHWA also proposes to remove alternative fuels from the qualifications for a GAS business identification sign panel to eliminate any potential driver expectancy confusion should a facility offer one or more of the many alternative fuels only and not gasoline” (Discussion item #284, [NPA](#))**

FHWA WILL ONLY  
ALLOW GASOLINE  
STATIONS TO USE  
BUSINESS  
IDENTIFICATION SIGN  
PANELS TO PROMOTE  
ALTERNATIVE FUELS



**STANDARD:** A business that does not offer gasoline but offers alternative fuels shall not be signed using GAS Specific Service signs.

Option: A business that does not offer gasoline but offers alternative fuels may be signed using General Service signs for the alternative fuel provided.

**FHWA WILL NOT ALLOW  
BUSINESSES OUTSIDE OF  
GAS CATEGORY TO USE  
SUPPLEMENTAL  
MESSAGES FOR  
ALTERNATIVE FUELS ON  
SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGNS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL MESSAGES:** Clarify that supplemental messages identifying an alternative fuel available may only be added to GAS Specific Services signs ONLY for a gasoline station that also provides an alternative fuel



# DEFINITION UPDATES PROPOSED BY FHWA

## Definitions

- Updated manual will contain 287 definitions versus 259 definitions in the current manual
- Definitions added for terms like Toll Road, Swing Gate, Shoulder, Professional Engineer, and On-Street Parking
- Still no definition for GAS, Alternative Fuel, or Fuel



Mock-up by John Briggs, *Green Car Reports*

NOTE: During the 1-8-21 presentation, this sign was incorrectly portrayed as an actual sign. The sign above is a mock-up developed by Green Car Reports.

GAS - EXIT 26



Mart/Diesel



DIESEL



DIESEL

FOOD - EXIT 26



# GAS-EXIT 67



# FUEL - EXIT 67



Paths to  
Solution



FHWA



Congress

# Helpful Links

Sign up for our Updates:

[Google sign-up form](#)

Current MUTCD -

[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf\\_index.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf_index.htm)

Current Notice of Proposed Amendment to MUTCD:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2020-0001-0001>

FHWA-Proposed Revised MUTCD showing markup:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2020-0001-0038>

Comments already Submitted to Current Docket:

<https://beta.regulations.gov/document/FHWA-2020-0001-0001/comment>

2009 Amendment Process with 211 day Comment Period:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2007-28977-0001>

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