



We're leading the movement to build a Bicycle-Friendly America for Everyone

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January 26, 2021

Stephanie Pollack
Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack,

The League of American Bicyclists (League) respectfully requests that the FHWA extend the comment period in Docket No. FHWA-2020-0001 – National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways; Revision – by 90 days. We also ask that this decision is made as soon as possible. An extension would facilitate the ability of our members and the general public to engage with the proposed revisions and any comments prepared by organizations such as the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD).

The League is a membership organization dedicated to Building a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone and has over 350 advocacy organization members who advocate for the safety of people who bike and walk in all 50 states. The League has been a sponsoring organization of the NCUTCD for over a decade. An extension would be helpful for our ability to engage with the NCUTCD, with our members and the public, and with other organizations who have an interest in improving the MUTCD for people who bike and walk.

In our initial review of the proposed MUTCD we identified an issue of great interest to the bicycling public. That issue was a striking of the words “shall not be construed to” that would have provided a basis for banning, not planning for, or not designing for the safety of people bicycling on roadways without marked bicycle lanes. We thank the FHWA for quickly correcting the drafting error identified with the December 29, 2020 correction. An extension would facilitate a thorough review of the proposed MUTCD to ensure that this update that provides traffic engineers, planners, and advocates for safer streets with the tools to reverse recent increases in bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities in the United States, which now make up nearly 20% of traffic fatalities. Addressing the safety of people outside of cars and trucks through better street design, using the tools provided in the MUTCD, should be a priority for the FHWA.

For all of these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the docket period be extended by 90 days and that the decision to extend is made as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Please contact me at ken@bikeleague.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ken McLeod
Policy Director