



Austin Transportation Department

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January 20, 2021

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

Re: Request Extension of Commenting Period for Docket No. FHWA-2020-0001

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack:

On behalf of the City of Austin, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) requests an extension of the docket period from 90 days to 180 days for the Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) for the upcoming 11th Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) is committed to providing the most safe, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable roadway, bikeway, walkway and transit systems for our City. As a rapidly growing city with limited right-of-way to increase vehicular capacity, ATD has a priority of promoting transit and other similar modes that promote the safe effective movement of people and goods. To further our goals, ATD is very interested in having sufficient opportunity to review the proposed MUTCD changes and provide comment on any elements that may inadvertently conflict with our priorities for increasing multimodal & freight transportation.

The Notice of Proposed Amendment proposed 647 changes to the current MUTCD. The marked-up text is 784 pages long and includes many additional pages of new illustrations and tables. As it incorporates over 150 Official Experiments of new traffic control devices and applications, Official Interpretations, Interim Approvals, and other research outcomes, the resulting text has changes incorporated in every chapter. To review this volume of material thoroughly, will take time for even the most dedicated of engineers and transportation departments.

As noted by our fellow National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) sister city, New York City, the 2008 NPA had a docket period of 180 days, nearly twice the time allocated by FHWA to the current NPA. We concur with New York that "the availability of a satisfactory time to review the docket is of utmost importance to develop the highest quality version of the Final Rule."

The City of Austin respectfully requests the docket period be extended from 90 days to 180 days for the subject NPA.

Sincerely,

Robert Spillar, P.E.
Director, Austin Transportation Department

Cc: Al Alonzi, FHWA Texas Division Administrator