



May 3, 2021

Federal Highway Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Serious concerns about the MUTCD in its current form

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack and Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to you on behalf of Southern California Families for Safe Streets (SoCal FSS) as supporters of America Walks, and as an organization who cares very deeply about our community, Los Angeles, California, to raise serious concerns about the current draft MUTCD under revision by the agency. The MUTCD, an obscure technical document, is a major obstacle to the kind of humane, activity-supporting street level changes that are needed in my community and others across the United States.

SoCal FSS is an organization whose members are individuals who have lost loved ones or been injured in traffic crashes, SoCal FSS offers support and opportunities for action to people who share our unique grief. We seek to make it socially unacceptable to drive recklessly and press for solutions like safe multi-modal streets to prevent other loved ones from enduring injury or harm. We envision a city where pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles safely co-exist by encouraging the rapid implementation of Vision Zero.

Grassroots advocates like us have valuable local knowledge that is too often brushed aside by traffic engineers based on the rule-bound dictates of the MUTCD. To make matters worse, much of the guidance is outdated, pseudoscientific and based on the premise that speeding cars through intersections is the most important goal.

We join America Walks and other groups to ask that U.S. DOT perform a comprehensive overhaul of the MUTCD, centering safety, equity and accessibility. We need a rule book that is designed to support healthier safer communities, one that:

- Ensures every urban and suburban signalized intersection has accessible pedestrian infrastructure, including curb ramps, audible and tactile signals, pedestrian signal heads that display “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” messages, and painted crosswalks.
- Gives local residents a voice in what kind of infrastructure is needed.
- Gives engineers flexibility to design urban streets that are safe enough for children to navigate.

We join America Walks in asking that FHWA reframe and rewrite the MUTCD, creating a path for guidance that more closely aligns with the equity, safety, and sustainability goals of American cities, as well as those of the Biden Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Dye Lynch".

Jeri Dye Lynch, Co-Chair
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