

April 12, 2021

Ms. Stephanie Pollack
Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington DC 20590

Dear Ms. Pollack:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) appreciates the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) leadership and support and look forward to coordinating further on efforts related to the new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). We are writing to you to express support for the FHWA to continue with obtaining stakeholder comments on the Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA), and to proceed with the rule making process culminating with a Final Rule and the release of a new edition of the MUTCD.

It is our understanding that the FHWA has received limited feedback calling for the amendment process to be terminated and requesting the FHWA to rewrite the MUTCD. While we support a full reexamination of the structure, content, and process for updating or revising the MUTCD, we recommend that the NPA review process continue to avoid delays on the release of the next MUTCD. MDOT strongly believes that the ongoing NPA comment period, and remaining rulemaking procedures are necessary steps to move this process forward. The MUTCD contains the national standards governing all traffic control devices and helps to reduce crashes and congestion, thereby improving the safety and efficiency of the surface transportation system. MDOT recognizes that the MUTCD is more than 10 years old and many advancements in the transportation industry have occurred and an update is needed without further delay. For example, recent and upcoming advances in automated vehicle technologies highlight a key area which the NPA is poised to address. MDOT believes that through the ongoing comment period, FHWA will obtain timely and relevant input on proposed changes and many suggestions on how to improve or restructure the MUTCD.

Thank you for considering this recommendation to continue with the amendment process. If you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-787-5815, toll-free 1-888-963-0307, or via email at cward@mdot.maryland.gov. I would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Cedric Ward, P.E., PTOE,
Director of Traffic and Safety