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Move Redmond Comments on MUTCD Update

Move Redmond is the advocate for better biking, walking, and transit in Redmond, Washington. Our member organizations represent over 100,000 people who go to work or school in Redmond every day. One out of five take the bus from across Puget Sound to Redmond. The Puget Sound Regional Council found that those who take the bus are more likely to be people of color and have longer commutes than those who drive. Bus lanes are critical to speeding up buses, shortening those commutes, and providing Redmond transit riders more time with their family and friends.

Red pavement markings are a proven tool to improve compliance with bus lanes and increase bus speeds. The draft MUTCD includes restrictions on the application of red bus lanes that will be detrimental to transit performance and transit riders, impeding efforts to make transportation systems more equitable and curb greenhouse gas emissions. Our organization recommends these revisions to section 3H.07 in the draft manual:

- Remove the requirement for an engineering study prior to implementation of red bus lanes. Instead, enumerate the benefits of red bus lanes to transit performance.
- Remove the stipulation that red pavement cannot be used for bus lanes that are part-time, allow pick-ups and drop-offs, or allow motorists to make right turns.
- Remove the mandate for red bus lane markings to be applied across the full width of the lane, and provide engineers with the flexibility to apply red bus lane markings in accordance with local design considerations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kirk Hovenkotter, Executive Director
Move Redmond