

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and FHWA Acting Administrator Stephanie Pollack
Federal Highway Administration (USDOT)
1200 New Jersey Ave SE,
Washington, DC 20590

April 16, 2021

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack and Secretary Buttigieg:

I write, as a supporter of [America Walks](#), and a person who cares very deeply about my community, Irving, Texas, 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.

Grassroots advocates like myself 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 To make matters worse, much of the guidance is outdated, pseudoscientific, and based on the premise that speeding cars through intersections is the most important goal.

I 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.
- Set speed limits based on safety, not based on how fast cars are driving on the road
- Gives local residents a voice in what kind of infrastructure is needed.
- Gives engineers the flexibility to design urban streets that are safe enough for children to navigate solo.
- Prioritizes the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists over cars
- Encourages designs that minimize the need for traffic enforcement (particularly enforcement done by police departments) to help address racial bias in traffic enforcement
- Supports designing streets that encourage public acts of joy

I 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.

Thank you,


Nicole McGrath (Texas)