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Washington, DC 20590-0001

May 12, 2021

Attn: Kevin Sylvester, P.E., PTOE  
Office of Transportation Operations – MUTCD Team Lead

Subject: FHWA Docket No. FHWA–2020–0001  
National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control  
Devices for Streets and Highways; Revision

Dr. Mr. Sylvester,

I thank FHWA for developing the draft Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and for the opportunity to provide comments. I ask and encourage FHWA to complete the rulemaking process. As a practitioner, I am anxious to begin using the new Manual.

I present you with my personal comments to the docket. As a matter of background information, I am a licensed professional engineer, a professional traffic operations engineer (PTOE), and an associate member of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). I have sixteen years of professional experience, and have a master's degree in transportation engineering. I hope that you will find my comments constructive as you and the MUTCD team complete the final rule. Overall, I am very satisfied with the content and organization of the draft Manual. FHWA has made many additions and revisions that will improve the uniform application of traffic control devices. I have made many comments that I hope will further refine and improve an already excellent draft.

In addition to my comments, I encourage FHWA to incorporate comments made by the NCUTCD and by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). I was involved in the development of comments for both of these organizations and I generally support the comments from those organizations. The NCUTCD and AASHTO comments were developed by committed traffic control device professionals in nationwide organizations and I respect the effort that was made to develop comments from those organizations.

When this rulemaking is complete, I hope FHWA will make plans for making frequent updates and revisions to the MUTCD. I am hopeful that frequent updates will result in fewer significant revisions between editions and therefore simplify the rulemaking process for FHWA and for commenters like me.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will be happy to answer any questions that may arise through my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan D. Lancaster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "L".

Ryan D. Lancaster, P.E., PTOE