

Patrick K. McKenna, Director

April 6, 2021

Ms. Stephanie Pollack
Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Federal Highway Administrator Pollack:

We are writing to voice our support with AASHTO, ITE, NCUTD and others to encourage you to stay the course in obtaining public comment on the NPA and expediting the issuance of a new MUTCD.

The MUTCD is a very important resource to state DOTs and local jurisdictions to help ensure uniform application of traffic control devices and to improve the safety of our roadways. Many have been looking for a new version of the manual to come out for a very long time to see innovations and improvements published in the new rule. There has been a tremendous amount of effort and energy spent on new content through requests for experimentation, pooled fund study research, and the NCUTCD.

Rescinding the NPA and completely rewriting the manual would be a major step backwards in advancing safety. We understand there are groups requesting this action be taken; however, the time it would take to do a rewrite of the manual would add years if not another decade to the release of a new manual. While there is always room for improvement to the manual, continuing with the NPA process and publishing the 11th addition and then working to improve the manual from that point would be far more effective and efficient.

As shared by AASHTO, ITE and NCUTCD, we also support a full reexamination of the structure, process, and content of the MUTCD, but not at the expense of delaying a new edition. Transportation technology is advancing too quickly, and new editions of the manual will need to be released much faster than in the past to keep up and allow advancements to make it to our roadways more quickly. The needs of all users must be addressed, but in a way that doesn't negatively impact any one mode.

We appreciate the efforts FHWA and countless others have put towards a new manual and hope those efforts will not be wasted and their benefits delayed unnecessarily. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hood

Nicole Hood, P.E.
State Highway Safety and Traffic Engineer



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