

April 1, 2021

Federal Highway Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Serious concerns about the MUTCD in its current form

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack and Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of BikeWalkKC and the countless pedestrians and cyclists who call Kansas City home, **I have drafted this letter to raise serious concerns about the current draft of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) under revision by the agency.** This document is a major obstacle to the kind of humane, activity-supporting street level changes that are needed here and in communities across the United States.

Advocates like us have valuable local knowledge which is too often brushed aside by traffic engineers based on the rules detailed in 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 To make matters worse, **much of the guidance is outdated, pseudoscientific, and based on the premise that speeding cars through intersections is the most important goal.** This has manifested serious problems, such as a lack of access to opportunity, poor health outcomes because of inadequate infrastructure for multimodal users, and lives lost or changed forever by traffic violence.

We need a rule book which is designed to support healthier communities, one that:

- Ensures every urban and suburban signalized intersection has basic pedestrian infrastructure, like curb ramps, pedestrian signal heads that display “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” messages and 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 flexibility to design urban streets that are safe enough for children to navigate; and
- Encourages communities to consider historical inequities as part of the equation of making streets safer.

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.

Respectfully,



Michael Kelley
Policy Director
BikeWalkKC

Our mission is to redefine our streets as places for people to build a culture of active living.