

Dear MUTCD 2021 Review Committee

May 14, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed recommended language changes and modifications for the 2021 MUTCD Section 2D.55 Community Wayfinding Signs (formerly Section 2D.50 in the 2009 MUTCD).

We have assembled a working group to respond better to the proposed recommended changes and modifications to the current language. Working together on behalf of our profession, we have identified this working group as “The Community Wayfinding Professional Group”, which includes researchers, engineers, designers and sign industry experts. As a group, we have designed hundreds (100’s) of Community Wayfinding Programs (dating back to the 1990’s). Our attached comments are a collective of observations, examples and requests that we hope the MUTCD Team will consider.

In 2009, Section 2D.50 Community Wayfinding was added to the MUTCD to provide State and Local Engineers, as well as Planners and Designers a description of the general intent of these types of programs, and more importantly a common set of engineering criteria for the physical design of Community Wayfinding signs.

The inclusion of this section in the MUTCD has been a great success for American cities of all sizes and aspirations. It has also provided a reasonable baseline of information for both engineers and designers to work together to design effective signs.

Prior to 2009, the MUTCD was silent on Community Wayfinding Programs, creating confusion and conflict between approving agencies, municipalities and designers who were attempting to implement these unique sign programs.

Now, that the Community Wayfinding section has been in-use for more than 10 years, we have gathered a lot of lessons learned and understand better what criteria works and which requirements provide challenges in real-world situations.

Our goal is to assist the MUTCD Team improve the Community Wayfinding Section, to better serve engineers and designers in reaching reasonable solutions, for what can often be unique and complex problems.

The COMMUNITY WAYFINDING PROFESSIONAL GROUP

We deeply appreciate your consideration of the information we are presenting and hope you may grant us a meeting to discuss these topics in more detail. We believe these adjustments to the current text, will create a more effective Community Wayfinding Section for everyone involved in the planning, design, administration and approval of these types of sign programs.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY WAYFINDING PROFESSIONAL GROUP

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Jen Bressler, Hunt Design

John Bosio, Merje Design

Sapna Budev, Sign Research Foundation

Keith Davis, KRD Design

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Philip Garvey, Garvey & Associates

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