



**PROTECTING YOUR
RIGHT TO ROAM**

May 3, 2021

MUTCD Revision

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack and Secretary Buttigieg:

Oregon Walks is a pedestrian advocacy organization that works to make walking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option in every community in Oregon, for every Oregonian. We encourage broader changes in the MUTCD that give clearer direction to create safe places for walking and revise outdated car-oriented approaches. We encourage changes in the MUTCD that would better support cost-effective, sustainable, and equitable city street design and improve safety and accessibility for the most vulnerable users.

Changes we encourage include:

- Move away from the “85th percentile rule” that sets speed limits based on current traffic movement and moving toward methods that prioritize safety for all users.
- Revise the standards for evaluating whether signals are warranted at intersections; current standards set a high threshold for pedestrian crossing rates that don’t necessarily reflect local knowledge about local land uses, dangerous conditions, and other factors.
- Incorporate more allowances for alternative pedestrian designs and other active transportation elements like red transit lanes and bicycle infrastructure.
- Provide clearer direction to maintain vision clearance standards at intersections and sufficient crosswalk width.
- Emphasize pathways for street safety without relying on policing.
- Emphasize street lighting for pedestrian safety.
- Incorporate sign standards that support legibility for the greatest diversity of users, including high-contrast and graphic designs.
- Prioritize pedestrian safety when incorporating new guidance for automated modes.

We ask FHWA to reframe and revise the MUTCD to better center active modes and safety for all.

Sincerely,
Tabitha Boschetti

Oregon Walks Plans and Projects Committee

Oregon Walks | PO Box 2252 | Portland, OR 97208 | www.oregonwalks.org