



March 19, 2021

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

Dear Acting Federal Highway Administrator Pollack:

On behalf of the American Highway Users Alliance (Highway Users), a 300-member coalition representing the interests of drivers and the motoring public, including AAA clubs, truck and bus companies, motorcyclists, and a diverse range of businesses that serve as the united voice of the roadway users' community, we write to both thank you for extending the Proposed Rule / NPA comment period for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and to request that you proceed with the current rulemaking process and issue the new MUTCD as planned.

According to preliminary data from the National Safety Council, approximately 42,060 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2020. This represents a steep spike in fatalities despite plummeting travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so our nation's traffic fatality rates have truly skyrocketed. This is simply unacceptable. Safety is a top priority for the Highway Users and the MUTCD is a key tool for safety practitioners to help drive down fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. The MUTCD governs the use of traffic control devices and the principles for their use with the goal of promoting highway safety and efficiency. Every roadway user – motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, in both urban and rural environments - will benefit from the updated MUTCD edition being released as soon as possible, especially since it has been over a decade since the last edition was issued.

Today's roadways and technology continue to evolve, and we must not lose the years of work that have been invested in the proposed MUTCD changes. Since the last edition of the MUTCD was issued, significant advancements in safety have been developed that are not included in the 2009 MUTCD. Due to that fact, many of these new tools are not yet being implemented on our nation's roadways, and the motoring public continues to suffer.

The federal rulemaking process for the MUTCD NPA has been open, transparent, and inclusive of all levels of government and private stakeholders as well. The Highway Users encourages you to reject the suggestions of some organizations to rescind the NPA and start over. It would be a travesty to wait too long to get this updated edition issued when new practices could save more lives.

We urge the Federal Highway Administration to continue on the path to finalizing the rulemaking for the new MUTCD as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to working with you to make our roadways safer.

Sincerely,

Laura Perrotta

Laura Perrotta, CAE
President and CEO
American Highway Users Alliance