

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:

I write, as a supporter of America Walks, and a person who cares deeply about my community, Syracuse, New York, to raise serious concerns about the current draft MUTCD under revision by the agency. The MUTCD, an obscure technical document, is a major obstacle to the development of, and return to, humane, activity-supporting streets that are needed in my community and others across the United States.

Advocates, planners, and concerned citizens have valuable local knowledge that is too often ignored by traffic engineers in their nervousness to deviate from the rule-bound and car-centric priorities of 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 To make matters worse, much of the guidance is outdated, pseudoscientific and based on the premise that speeding cars through intersections is the most important goal.

I join America Walks, NACTO, ITE, League of American Bicyclists, NRDC and countless other organizations to ask that U.S. DOT perform a comprehensive overhaul of the MUTCD, centering on safety, equity, and accessibility. We need a rule book that is designed to support healthier safer communities, one that:

- Puts the needs and comfort of the most vulnerable road users first, without compromise.
- Ensures every urban and suburban signalized intersection has accessible pedestrian infrastructure, including curb ramps, audible and tactile signals, pedestrian signal heads, and painted crosswalks.
- Sets speed limits based on safety and desired outcomes relative to context, not based on how fast cars are driving on the road.
- Gives local residents a voice in what kind of infrastructure is needed.
- Gives transportation experts (planners and engineers) the flexibility and support needed to design urban streets that are safe enough for children to navigate.

**I join many of my fellow Americans 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.**

Thank you,

**Neil Burke**  
*Transportation Planner*