

Jeffrey S. Bagdade, PE, P.Eng.
3000 Bloomfield Park Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

May 12, 2021

Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: COMMENTS FOR DOCKET NO. FHWA-2020-0001

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack:

As a licensed professional engineer in both the United States and Canada, I have more than two decades of experience using and applying the guidance within the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Up to date guidance within the MUTCD is essential for practitioners who prepare engineering designs and studies. In addition, the MUTCD allows practitioners to apply engineering judgment more effectively in decisions related to traffic control devices which impact the safety of all road users. As such, I would like to express appreciation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for publishing this Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) for a new edition of the MUTCD. I would also like to express my appreciation to FHWA for extending the comment period to allow careful and thorough consideration of the NPA proposals by all stakeholders.

The current MUTCD reflects a now outdated state of the practice that existed more than eleven years ago (when the current 2009 edition was adopted). There have been a multitude of significant advancements in traffic control device practices over the past eleven years that are not in the 2009 MUTCD. Thus, in many cases precluding their use on the nation's streets and highways. Many of those significant advancements can improve traffic safety and have been included in the NPA.

I support proceeding with the current rulemaking process, culminating in a Final Rule. This represents the best path to incorporating those significant advancements in a national standard as soon as possible. Thus, this will allow these advancements and innovations to be deployed to improve traffic safety. I would also support an examination of the MUTCD scope, structure, process, and content to meet the needs of all users in an equitable manner, but not at the expense of delaying a new edition of the MUTCD.

I have been actively involved the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) since 2003. Over the past several months the NCUTCD has reviewed every proposed change outlined in the NPA. This process involved many stakeholders from across the traffic engineering and safety community. The NCUTCD process allowed practitioners to discuss and debate the merits of each change. Thus, I would encourage FHWA to incorporate the NCUTCD docket comments into the final rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Jeffrey Bagdade, PE, P.Eng.