*The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). For the past 85 years, the MUTCD has provided guidance on the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. While no document is ever perfect, the manual is long overdue for an update and the process MUST continue.*

*I support those comments provided previously by AASHTO, ITE and NCUTCD, and offers the following for consideration:*

* *The MUTCD should meet the needs of all users of the transportation system in an equitable and consistent manner. This is a significant undertaking that cannot be rushed. However, it does not need to wait until a new manual is published to begin.*
* *The current process of creating wholly new MUTCD editions every 10 years is insufficient. Rapidly evolving transportation technologies and services necessitate more frequent updates. This is also true with regards to equity as highlighted in the previous bullet. The frequency of updates should be revisited alongside the process to address the changes.*
* *There have been many advancements in transportation research, technology, practice, and services not reflected in the current MUTCD. The proposed MUTCD NPA content reflects these advancements and recommendations provided by organizations such as the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Delaying the release of an update would delay new standards, guidance and practices that could increase the safety of roadway users.*
* *Given the ongoing advancement of pedestrian and bicycle accommodation, as well as needed considerations in urban versus rural areas, we would encourage the continuance of the current Interim Approval process and more frequent amendments to the MUTCD. Further, other referenced publications within the new MUTCD should also undergo more frequent amendments, and a level of consistency should be achieved across all relevant guidance documents.*
* *The MUTCD is a key tool utilized by practicing transportation professionals at all levels of government across the United States. Collectively, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices represent a broad cross-section of this constituency. I echo their sentiments regarding moving forward with the current NPA and publication of a new MUTCD as soon as possible.*