

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 the program coordinator for Marin Safe Routes to Schools to raise serious concerns about the current draft MUTCD under revision by the agency. The MUTCD needs to be brought into the 21st century recognizing the needs of all road users. Here are some of the changes that are needed to create a safe environment for children, the elderly and all bicyclists and pedestrians:

* Ensures every urban and suburban signalized intersection has accessible pedestrian infrastructure, including curb ramps, audible and tactile signals, pedestrian signal heads that display “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” messages, and painted crosswalks.
* Gives local residents a voice in what kind of infrastructure is needed.
* Gives engineers flexibility to design urban streets that are safe enough for children to navigate.
* abandon the outdated 85% rule which allows automobiles to continue to travel at unsafe speeds while creating an unsafe environment for other road users
* Allow for creative crosswalk designs that can give a community a unique look without hindering road safety
* Make it easier to create bike facilities including cycle tracks which are especially useful in school zones.

I am 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,

Wendi Kallins

Marin Safe Routes to Schools