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 very deeply about my community and pedestrians everywhere, 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 kind of humane, activity-supporting street level changes that are needed in my community and others across the United States.

Grassroots advocates like myself have valuable local knowledge that is too often brushed aside by traffic engineers based on the rule-bound dictates 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 To make matters worse, much of the guidance is outdated, pseudoscientific and based on the premise that speeding cars through intersections is the most important goal.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 and other groups to ask that U.S. DOT perform a comprehensive overhaul of the MUTCD, centering safety and equity. We need a rule book that is designed to support healthier safer communities, one that:

● Ensures every urban and suburban signalized intersection has basic pedestrian infrastructure, like curb ramps, pedestrian signal heads that display “Walk” and “Don’t Walk” messages and 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.

● Offers safety and accessibility to those with disabilities who are not in vehicles

● Provides a smooth and safe experience for pedestrians accessing public transportation in order to help meet reduced emissions regulatory guidelines

I join America Walks in urging 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,

Julia Quantz