

The MUTCD & the Role of the NCUTCD

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National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Agenda

- **The NCUTCD – History & Role**
- **Basics of the MUTCD**
- **Existing Resources related to MUTCD**
 - **Frequently Asked Questions**
 - **Official Interpretations**
 - **Interim Approvals**
 - **Official Experiments/Rulings**
- **The Next Edition of the MUTCD?**

NCUTCD (www.ncutcd.org)



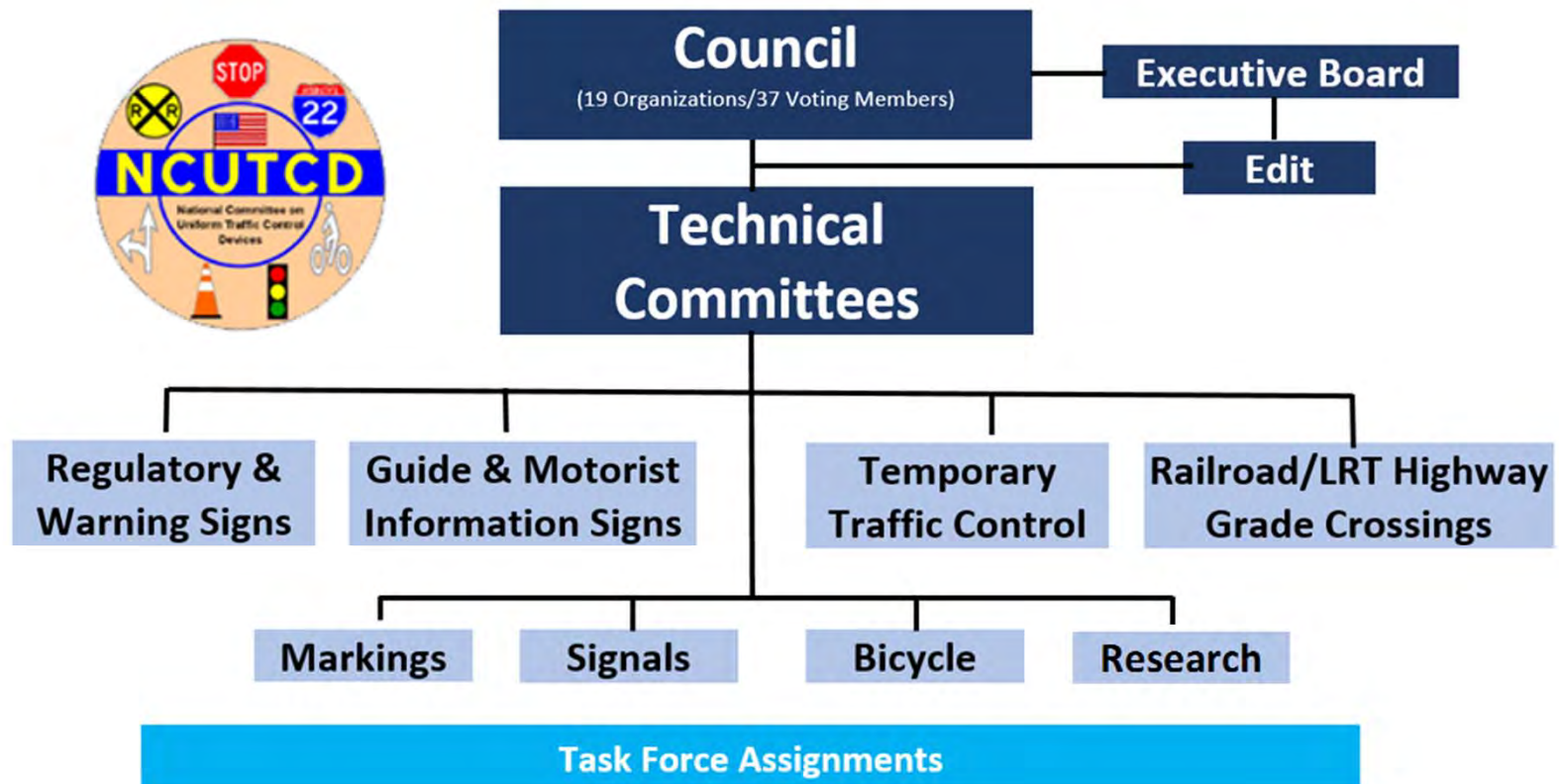
- **National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, formed 1980**
- **Predecessor committees formed in 1931; wrote the 1935 - 1971 MUTCD editions**
- **Since 1971, committees have advised FHWA on MUTCD – initiating recommended changes, reviewing proposals, submitting comments on rulemakings**



NCUTCD Structure

- **Governing By-laws**
- **Sponsoring Organizations (19)**
- **Council (votes on proposals) *37 voting members representing 19 sponsoring organizations***
- **Executive Board**
- **8 Technical Committees**
- **250+ Professional Volunteer Members from cities, states, counties, academia, industry, user groups - *open to those engaged in practices related to TCD's and roadway safety***

NCUTCD Organization



NCUTCD Organization

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Group I: Agencies
(22 members)
8 AASHTO
8 ITE
3 APWA
3 NACE

Group II: National Organizations
(8 members)
1 APTA
1 AREMA
1 AAR
1 APBP
1 ASCE
1 IACP
1 IBTTA
1 IMSA

Group III: Public
(4 members)
1 AAA
1 HFR
1 LAB
1 NSC

Group IV: Industry
(3 members)
1 AHUA
1 ARTBA
1 ATSSA

Council
(37 members)

Executive Board

Secretary

Technical Committees
(8 committees)

Task Forces

Edit

Research

Regulatory and Warning Signs

Guide and Motorist Information Signs

Markings

Signals

Temporary Traffic Control

Railroad and Light Rail Transit Highway Grade Crossings

Bicycle

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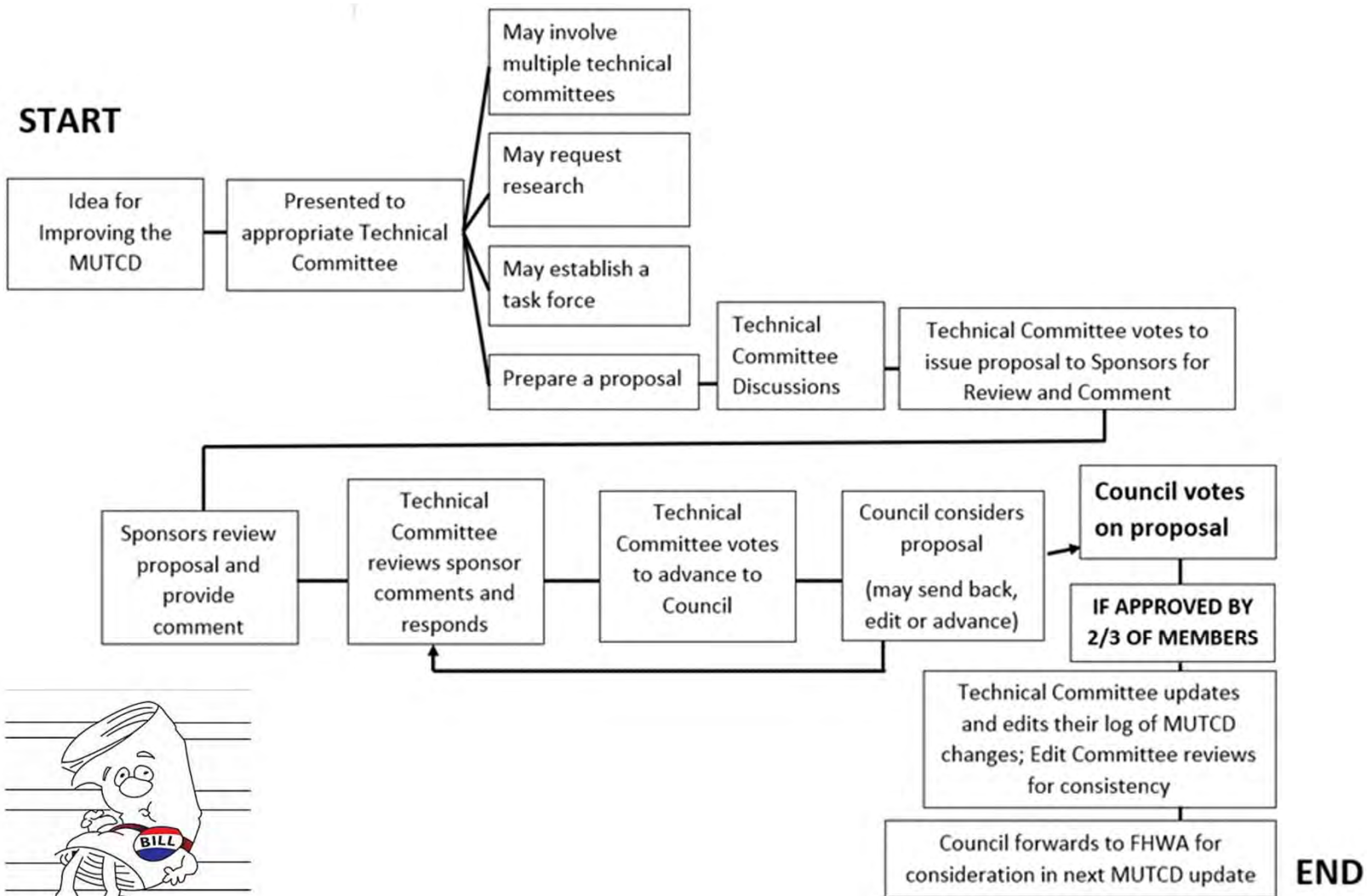




NCUTCD (sponsoring organizations)

- American Assoc. of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- American Public Works Association (APWA)
- American Railway Engineering & Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA)
- American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)
- Association of American Railroads (AAR)
- Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)
- American Highway Users Alliance (AHUA)
- Human Factors Resources (HFR)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Association (IBTTA)
- International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)
- League of American Bicyclists (LAB)
- National Association of County Engineers (NACE)
- National Safety Council (NSC)

NCUTCD Process for Changes



USDOT MUTCD Team



FHWA MUTCD Team
Kevin Sylvester
Team Leader

Marty Calawa
GMI (2)

Eric Ferron
RW (2), Low
(5), TTC (6),
Schools (7)

Dave Kirschner
Markings (3),
Bikes (9)

Duane Thomas
Signals (4),
Rail (8)

Vacant

Evolution of the MUTCD

Over 80 years & 10 Editions



Working
Toward
20??
MUTCD

1935

Future

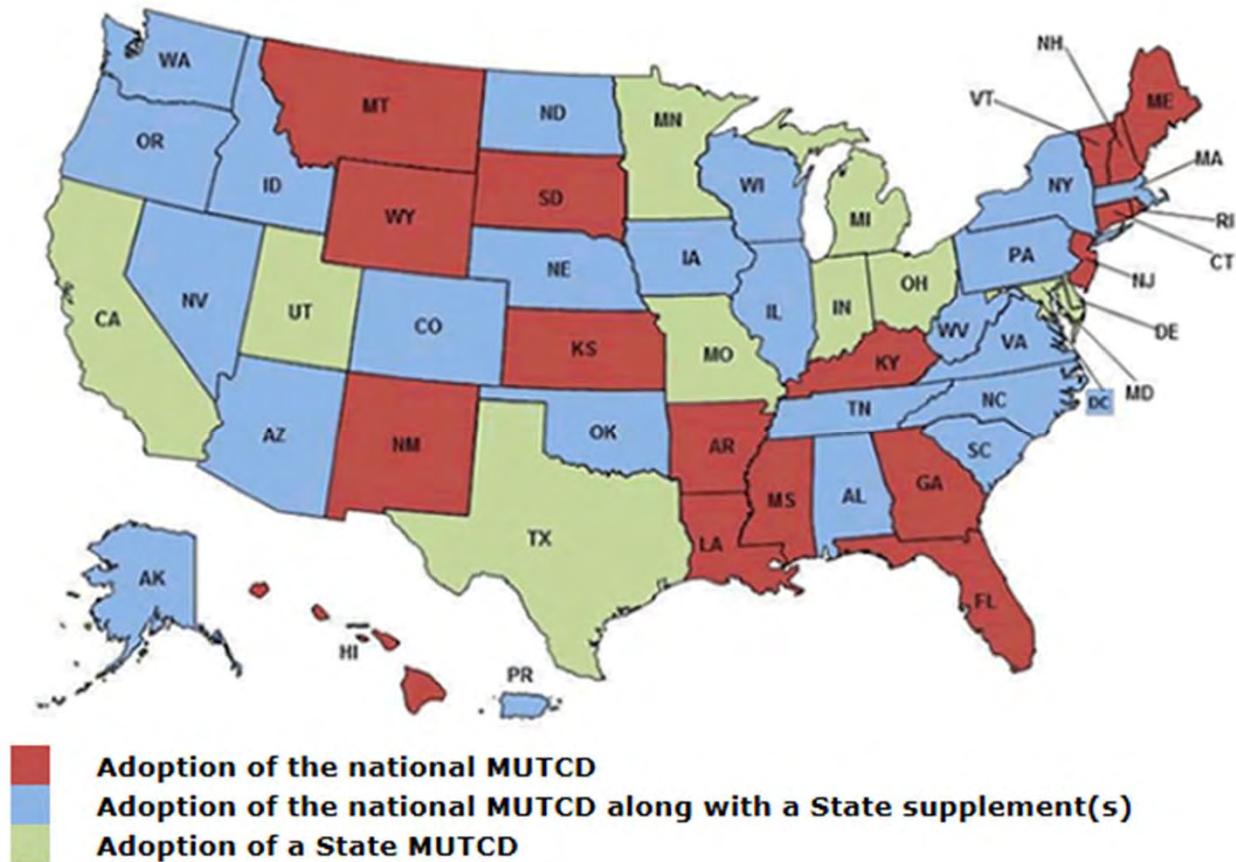


2009 MUTCD

Important dates for the 2009 MUTCD:

- **1/2/2008 – Notice of Proposed Amendments to the 2003 MUTCD**
- **12/16/2009 – Final Rule and publishing of 2009 MUTCD; 23 CFR 655**
- **1/15/2010 – Effective date of 2009 MUTCD**
- **1/15/2012 – Date by which all States & US jurisdictions were required by Federal law to adopt the MUTCD**

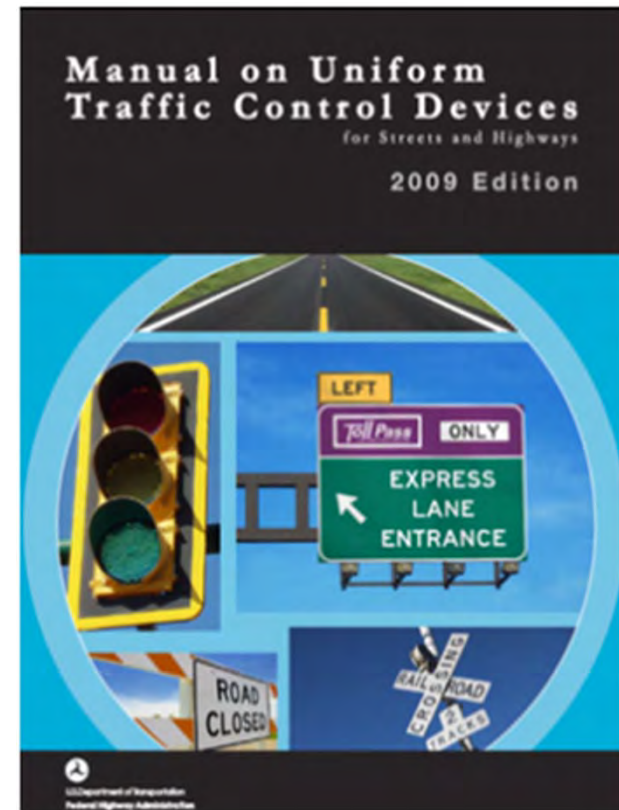
2009 MUTCD



Availability of the 2009 MUTCD

Free downloading from the
MUTCD web site
(<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>)

Printed copies from the
bookstores of partner
organizations including ITE,
AASHTO, ATTSA, and IMSA





Existing Revisions to the 2009 MUTCD

The 2009 MUTCD has been officially revised two times, with both revisions being published on the same day in May 2012:

- **Revision 1 – Application of engineering judgment in the selection and use of traffic control devices**
- **Revision 2 – Revisions to compliance dates, including the elimination of 46 of the original 58 compliance dates**



Key Elements of MUTCD Website

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**
- **Official Interpretations Issued by FHWA**
- **Interim Approvals**
- **Experimentations**
- **Official Rulings**



Official Interpretations

A total of **83** official interpretations have been issued since the 2009 MUTCD was published, with the following distribution by parts:

- Part 1. General – **2**
- Part 2. Signs – **18**
- Part 3. Markings – **5**
- Part 4. Highway Traffic Signals – **28**
- Part 5. Low-Volume Roads – **1**
- Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – **16**
- Part 7. School Areas – **1**
- Part 8. Grade Crossings – **7**
- Part 9. Bicycle Facilities – **7**

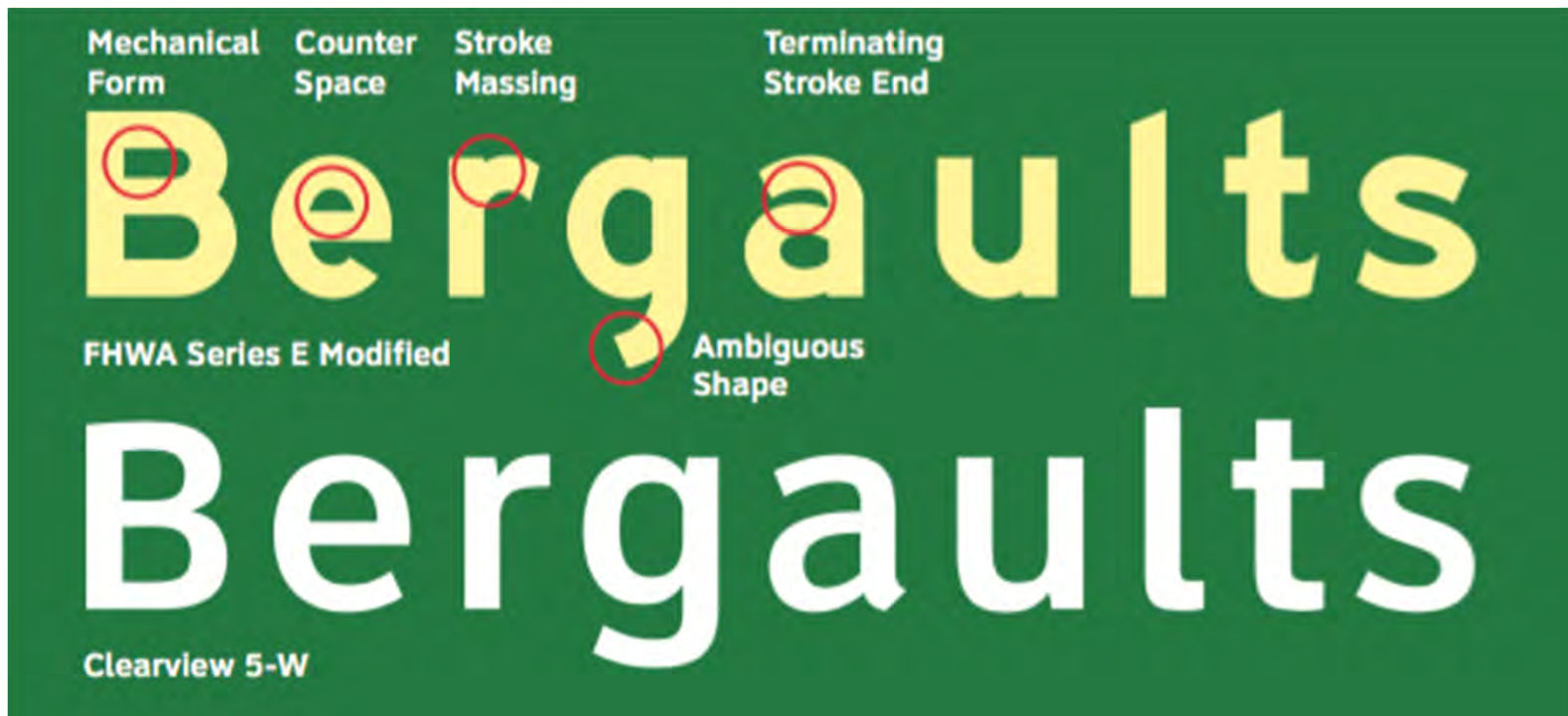
Interim Approvals

- A total of 20 Interim Approvals since 2003; ten have been issued since the 2009 MUTCD was published
- Examples:
 - Bike Boxes
 - Bike Signals
 - Green Bike Lanes
 - Several updated signs
 - New Crash Warrant
- Clearview Font
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon



Clearview Font (IA-5)

- Issued September 2, 2004
- Rescinded January 25, 2016
- Reinstated March 28, 2018



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

- Issued July 16, 2008 (IA-11)
- Rescinded December 17, 2017
- “Reinstated” March 20, 2018 (IA-21)



Official Experiments

It starts with an idea...





Official Experiments

Current active approved MUTCD experimentations, with the following distribution by parts:

- **Part 1. General – 0**
- **Part 2. Signs – 11**
- **Part 3. Markings – 21**
- **Part 4. Highway Traffic Signals – 16**
- **Part 5. Low-Volume Roads – 0**
- **Part 6. Temporary Traffic Control – 15**
- **Part 7. School Areas – 0**
- **Part 8. Grade Crossings – 4**
- **Part 9. Bicycle Facilities – 71**



Next Steps for NCUTCD

- **Continue reviewing research/experimentation and recommending MUTCD revisions/improvements**
- **Identify and eliminate redundant or unnecessary text**
- **Reorganize content where opportunities for improving flow are identified**
- **Reassess each standard and retain, delete or downgrade**
- **Assist FHWA by reviewing and commenting on requests for interpretation and new devices**
- **Urge FHWA to continue use of Interim Approvals**



Next Steps for NCUTCD

Ideas from 2013 RFC (smart search apps; cross indexing; fact sheets; new figures or tables; expanded hotlinks, etc.)

Recommendations from NCUTCD strategic plan and vision

- Focus on ideas for enhancing future editions**
- Encourage FHWA to take actions based on RFC and comments received**

Request research and monitor results for changes to the Manual



20?? MUTCD

A new edition of the MUTCD, with many new devices and applications, is coming, but ...

Unsure when! No indication it will move forward under the new administration, until ????

Meanwhile, keep an eye out for additional Interim Approvals, Official Interpretations and perhaps small revisions to the 2009 edition

Thank you!

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www.ncutcd.org

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