



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Mr. Hari Kalla, P.E.
MUTCD Team Leader, Office of Operations (HOTO-1)
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, E84-316
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Hari:

The draft interpretation letter that was selectively distributed on September 20, 2010, has been reviewed by a group composed of the NCUTCD Delegation Leaders from NACE, APWA, ITE, and AASHTO along with additional AASHTO Delegation members. We are enclosing the comments of this group on the proposed interpretation letter.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed interpretation. The NCUTCD strongly believes that MUTCD language (including interpretations) is best developed through a cooperative effort involving the FHWA, the agencies responsible for traffic control device decisions, and other stakeholders. We look forward to a strengthening of this cooperative relationship between the NCUTCD and FHWA.

While this proposed interpretation may be useful for some states, we do not believe that it will provide relief to all states, particularly those states that do not publish their own MUTCD. Additionally, and most importantly, it is unlikely that it will alleviate the concerns of practitioners in the local county and municipal agencies.

We, therefore, believe that rulemaking must be undertaken immediately to:

- Restore the definitions of "Engineering Judgment," "Engineering Study," and "Standard" to the definitions used before the 2009 MUTCD; and, in particular, delete the statement, added to the definition of "Standard" in Section 1A.13, that "Standard statements shall not be modified or compromised based on engineering judgment or engineering study;"
- Restore the statements previously contained in Section 1A.09, "...while this Manual provides Standards, Guidance, and Options for design and application of traffic control devices, this Manual should not be considered a substitute for engineering judgment."

We will eagerly await the opportunity to provide comments to the docket for the anticipated rulemaking.

Very truly yours,

Lee E. Billingsley, P.E.
Chair, National Committee on
Uniform Traffic Control Devices