



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2019-#1
January 28, 2019

Although it seems like we have only just returned from the January meeting, I wanted pass along the following information about what we approved and what lies ahead.

Thoughts from the Chair

- **Thanks:** I want to express my sincere appreciation for everyone's hard work at the January meeting. We had a lot of material to review, revise, and approve. Due to everyone's effort, we were able to finish our work in a very timely manner. I attribute the quick work to our technical committee members' focus and commitment. Thank you!
- **Attendance:** We set a record attendance, shattering our prior highest attendance by about 10 percent. I believe the attendance reflects the importance of our work and the contributions we are making to the safety and efficiency of our transportation system.
- **NCUTCD Strategic Plan:** The NCUTCD draft strategic plan will be sent to sponsoring organizations for review and comment this spring. It will also be sent to technical committee chairs to share with their members. It is critical that our sponsors and technical committee members give the strategic plan a critical and thoughtful review.
- **NCUTCD Elections:** Council members who might be interested in running for NCUTCD office should contact Bob Garrett by the end of February. We are looking at potential revisions of the nomination and election processes. The speed at which these changes are implemented will depend upon whether there will be contested offices for the January 2020 election.

January 2019 NCUTCD Meeting Information

- **Approved Recommendations:** We sent 15 items to sponsors for review. Thirteen of them were presented to Council and all of the recommendations put before Council were approved. Council also approved the NCUTCD docket comment on patented/proprietary products. All of these are now posted on the NCUTCD website. The approved items include:
 - ♦ 18B-RW-01: Crosswalk Stop on Red Sign
 - ♦ 18B-RW-02: Left Turns Yield on Flashing Yellow Arrow Sign
 - ♦ 18B-RW-03: Speed Limit Procedures
 - ♦ 18B-GMI-01: Exit Numbering
 - ♦ 18B-MKG-01: Remove Outdated References
 - ♦ 18B-SIG-01: Pedestrian Signal Requirements
 - ♦ 18B-SIG-02: Bike Signal Faces
 - ♦ 17B-TTC-01v3: Double Headed Arrow to Indicate Interior Lane Closure
 - ♦ 18B-BIK-01: Turning Vehicles Yield R10-15

- ♦ 18B-BIK-02: Bike Pass Clearance Sign
- ♦ 18B-BIK-03: Vehicle Prohibition Sign
- ♦ 18B-BIK-05: Buffered Bike Lane Markings
- ♦ 18B-BIK-06: Bike Detector Marking
- ♦ NCUTCD docket comment on the use of patented/proprietary products

June 2019 NCUTCD Meeting Information

- **Expected Recommendations:** I expect that the NCUTCD will distribute the following proposals to our sponsoring organizations this spring for review and comment. Titles are subject to change.
 - ♦ Edit
 - NCUTCD Draft Strategic Plan
 - ♦ RW
 - 19A-RW-01: Reducing Wrong Way movements
 - 19A-RW-02: Hill Blocks View Sign
 - 19A-RW-03: Bicycle/Pedestrian combination R1-6 and R1-9 signs
 - ♦ GMI
 - No items to send to sponsors
 - ♦ Markings
 - 19A-MKG-01: Channelizing Devices
 - ♦ Signals
 - No items to send to sponsors
 - ♦ TTC
 - 19A-TTC-01: Color for W11-1 and W11-2 Signs in Work Zones
 - 19A-TTC-02: Typical Applications for Roundabouts
 - ♦ RRLRT
 - 19A-RR-01: Mounting height of Crossbuck and Tracks signs on Flashing Light Signals
 - 19A-RR-02: Clarification to Figure 8C-1
 - 19A-RR-03: Clearance from Flashing Light Signal with or without Automatic Gate to Track
 - 19A-RR-04: Application of the Right-of-Way Transfer Time for Traffic Control Signals at Grade Crossings
 - 19A-RR-05: Definition of Right-of-Way Transfer Time
 - ♦ Bikes
 - No items to send to sponsors
- **Strategic Planning for Future MUTCD:** While we expect to see an NPA this year for a new edition of the MUTCD, it is not too early to start thinking about what the MUTCD needs are over the next decade. I have asked the technical committee chairs to devote some portion of their June meeting to strategic discussions about the MUTCD of the late 2020s. Changing user needs and advances in technologies may create the opportunity and/or need to make fundamental changes in the MUTCD. Please give some high-altitude thought to the strategic issues the MUTCD will need to address over the next decade.

Expected MUTCD NPA

- **NPA Preparations:** As mentioned at the January meeting, FHWA has announced plans to publish an NPA for a new MUTCD edition. That NPA should come around mid-year. It is likely that our technical committee members will need to devote significant effort to evaluating the content of the NPA and developing draft docket comments for the Council to consider. By now, each technical committee should have, or be finishing preparation of, a single file that incorporates all changes approved by Council since the June 2008 meeting. This will help in making comparisons between our recommendations and the NPA language. Each technical committee should also have, or be developing, experience in using the web meeting technologies that we have access to. The experience will prove useful when we are “on the clock” for developing our docket responses. This spring, we should roll out improvements to the website, which should include the creation of listserves for technical committees and password protected file sharing capabilities. Finally, each technical committee member should be aware of the topical content of the NPA that they will be responsible for reviewing once it is published. If you have additional suggestions on how to prepare for the NPA, please share those with your technical committee chair.

NCUTCD Activities and Actions

- **Suggestion Box:** A reminder that the NCUTCD website now has a suggestion box that members can use to offer suggestions associated with the organization. The suggestion box is intended for organizational suggestions, not technical ones. Suggestions to the Chair and Executive Secretary.
 - ♦ <http://ncutcd.org/suggestion-box>
- **January 2025 NCUTCD Meeting:** I have confirmed that the TRB Annual Meeting in 2025 (yes 2025) will start on Sunday, January 4. For the NCUTCD to meet the week before TRB that year, the NCUTCD meeting would have to start on January 1. That is not practical or desirable. The Board will be identifying and evaluating options for the meeting that year. If you have thoughts on what to do about the 2025 meeting, please submit them through the NCUTCD suggestion box on the website.
- **NCUTCD Website Updates:** The long-awaited improvements to the NCUTCD website will start rolling out this spring. Look for specific announcements through email about improvements and features. Hats off to Marc Jacobson for leading this effort. Among the most significant features:
 - ♦ **Member accounts.** Each member will be able to log into the website to edit their contact information and other protected information. Individuals' contact information will no longer be accessible on the website without logging in to a valid NCUTCD account.
 - ♦ **Linking the member database to the website.** This enables the log in feature and multiple other features.
 - ♦ **Listserves.** We will be creating listserves for use by technical committees and other long-term groups within the NCUTCD. Individuals will be assigned to listserves based on the technical committee they are a member of and other groups (such as Council, Board, and selected task

forces). For those that are not familiar with a listserve, it is an email address that distributes email messages to everyone associated with that listserve. This should make it easier for technical committee communications.

- ♦ **Portals.** Technical committees and selected other groups will have portals where they can save files for viewing by individuals linked to the committee/group in the database.

Administrivia

- A link to the Chair's Message is/will be posted on NCUTCD's Facebook and Twitter accounts after they are sent to members (<https://www.facebook.com/ncutcd> and <https://twitter.com/ncutcd>).