



## National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

12615 West Keystone Drive \* Sun City West, AZ, 85375  
Telephone (623)680-9592 \* e-mail: ncutcd@aol.com

### **Ten Thoughts on Future NCUTCD Initiatives** **Gene Hawkins, NCUTCD Chair**

The following represent a few thoughts regarding future NCUTCD initiatives. I welcome any and all suggestions on how to improve the NCUTCD.

1. The primary strength of the NCUTCD is its consensus-building process. Any major changes in activities and/or direction for the NCUTCD should be based on the results of this strength. While these thoughts may represent new initiatives and activities, those that represent major changes will be implemented only after approval by the Council or Executive Board, as appropriate.
2. At this point in time, one, if not THE, primary focus of the NCUTCD is to keep our organization and the MUTCD relevant to the profession. The lack of revisions to the MUTCD since 2009 creates a challenge that needs to be addressed. I pledge to work with NCUTCD members, sponsoring organizations, FHWA partners, and other MUTCD stakeholders to identify and evaluate options for keeping the MUTCD up-to-date with current practices and needs.
3. As chair, I will continue to visit all of the technical committee meetings to stay informed and provide support to members in the same manner as I have done as Vice-Chair of Programs.
4. Each spring and fall, I will have a conference call with the technical committee chairs so that we can identify priorities and promote collaboration and timely advancement of critical proposals.
5. At least once each year, I will have a conference call with the leadership of NCUTCD sponsoring organizations to summarize recent NCUTCD activity and identify future priorities.
6. At least once each year, we will meet with representatives of FHWA leadership to summarize NCUTCD activities and identify future priorities. A key issue for the near-future meetings is to identify options for publishing revisions to the MUTCD or taking other actions to implement NCUTCD recommendations for changes to the MUTCD.
7. I will work with technical committee chairs and others so that we can identify individuals who are potential future leaders in the NCUTCD and to give those individuals opportunities to develop and refine their leadership skills.
8. I will encourage turnover in all positions of leadership when it is appropriate and we have qualified individuals to fill positions.
9. I will create a Chair Advisory Council that consists of prior NCUTCD chairs and Honorary Members. At least twice each year, I will have a conference call with those Advisory Council members who choose to participate to discuss NCUTCD strategic issues and to seek the counsel and wisdom of those that have served the NCUTCD for many years.
10. I plan to advance several issues of importance to the future of the NCUTCD through task forces, Executive Board action, Council resolutions, and/or other actions as appropriate. These include:

- a. Create an NCUTCD webinar series whereby a webinar is conducted after each NCUTCD meeting to summarize the items passed at the meeting and the upcoming proposals expected to be sent to sponsors for review. These webinars may be coordinated with our sponsoring organizations and might be available beyond our sponsoring organizations.
- b. Encourage conducting on-line technical committee meetings approximately midway between the two regular NCUTCD meetings. This could include participation by non-voting members, or affiliate members, of technical committees, if such participation is broadly supported within the NCUTCD. The affiliate member category is in the current bylaws (§4.4).
- c. Collaborate with our sponsoring organizations to increase the diversity of individuals participating in the NCUTCD.
- d. Encourage participation by individuals representing organizations that are outside those of our current sponsoring organizations.
- e. Evaluate options for modernizing the NCUTCD process for developing MUTCD recommendations, particularly when recommendations must be developed in a compressed time frame. This might include on-line Council meetings.
- f. Increase awareness of the NCUTCD throughout the profession.
- g. Update the MUTCD strategic plan that I prepared in 2014 to address implementation of NCUTCD recommendations in light of limited MUTCD rulemaking by FHWA.
- h. Encourage the Research Committee to create and publish a journal on the NCUTCD website presenting traffic control device research. The journal would be peer-reviewed by members of the NCUTCD. Its purpose would be to advance the state-of-the-art in traffic control device practices/technologies and to identify items for future NCUTCD action.