



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

17200 West Bell Road No.1135 * Surprise, Ariz. 85374
Telephone (623) 214-2403 * e-mail: ncutcd@aol.com

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Markings
TOPIC: Adding New Language re: Aesthetic Treatments within Crosswalks
STATUS: Approved by Markings, June 2012
Distributed as sponsor ballot, Fall 2012
Approved by Markings, January 10, 2013
Approved by Council, January 11, 2013
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: FHWA request
AFFECTED PORTIONS OF MUTCD: Chapter 3G

Summary:

FHWA had received a number of inquiries regarding the use of decorative artwork within crosswalks and at intersections. While some of the artwork was plain and unobtrusive, other artwork was more elaborate and resulted in eroding the effectiveness of other markings used for traffic control. Utilizing some of the interpretations written by FHWA on the topic, the Markings Technical Committee embarked on an effort to develop policy that would address the use of markings for aesthetic appeal rather than traffic control.

The task force assigned to develop the new section decided that it would initially focus on aesthetic treatments within a crosswalk as that constitutes the majority of the applications. At a later date, aesthetic treatments within an intersection will be reviewed and recommendations for new language will be made. Therefore, this ballot presents recommendations for adding a new section: Section 3G.02 Aesthetic Treatments within Crosswalks.

Recommended Changes to the MUTCD:

The proposed changes to Section 3G.02 are shown in the following pages. [Additions](#) are indicated by blue underline.

1 **CHAPTER 3G. COLORED PAVEMENTS**

2
3 **Section 3G.02 Aesthetic Treatments within Crosswalks**

4 Support:

5 01 Aesthetic treatments within marked crosswalks are used at some locations.

6 Option:

7 02 Aesthetic treatments may be used within the boundaries of the two transverse crosswalk lines as
8 defined in Section 3B.18.

9 Standard:

10 03 Aesthetic treatments located between the two transverse crosswalk lines shall meet the
11 following requirements:

12 A. Aesthetic treatments shall not resemble or be considered a traffic control device
13 and shall not change the meaning of the crosswalk.

14 B. Material used in the aesthetic treatments shall not be retroreflective.

15 C. Surface material of the aesthetic treatments shall be firm and stable.

16 D. Advertisements shall not be allowed within the crosswalk.

17 E. Aesthetic treatments within crosswalks shall not be placed on roadways unless
18 specifically permitted or authorized by the public agency or official having
19 jurisdiction.

20 Guidance:

21 04 Aesthetic treatments should not degrade the contrast of the white crosswalk lines.

22 05 To create contrast, a gap of at least one half of the width of the transverse white line should be
23 present between the white line and the aesthetic treatment, such as unmarked pavement or a black
24 contrast line.

25 06 Aesthetic treatments within crosswalks should only be allowed on roads with a speed limit of 30
26 mph or less.