

in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

List of Subjects in 23 CFR Part 655

Design standards, Grant programs—Transportation, Highways and roads, Incorporation by reference, Signs, Traffic regulations.

(23 U.S.C. 109(d), 114(a), 315, and 402(a); 23 CFR 1.32; 49 CFR 1.48)

Issued on: June 4, 1998.

Gloria J. Jeff,

Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-15607 Filed 6-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

23 CFR Part 655

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-98-3643]

Revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices: Request for Comments on the MUTCD Outreach Effort

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments on the MUTCD Outreach Effort.

SUMMARY: The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is incorporated by reference in 23 CFR part 655, subpart F, approved by the Federal Highway Administrator, and recognized as the national standard for traffic control on all public roads. The FHWA announced its intent to rewrite and reformat the MUTCD on January 10, 1992, at 57 FR 1134. The FHWA plans to publish and distribute a new edition of the MUTCD in the year 2000. The purpose of this request for comment is to: identify the role of the MUTCD in our customer and partner organizations and develop a comprehensive outreach strategy to ensure that information within the revised MUTCD reaches the appropriate audiences in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Signed, written comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday,

except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Linda Brown, Office of Highway Safety, Room 3414, (202) 366-2192, or Mr. Raymond Cuprill, Office of the Chief Counsel, Room 4217, (202) 366-0834, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

Internet users can access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the **Federal Register** Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register**'s home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs.

The proposed text for the MUTCD 2000 is available from the FHWA, Office of Highway Safety (HHS-10). It is also available on the FHWA home page at the following URL: <http://www.ohs.fhwa.dot.gov/devices/mutcd.html>.

Background

The current 1988 MUTCD is available for inspection and copying as prescribed in 49 CFR Part 7, appendix D. It may be purchased for \$44 (Domestic) or \$55 (Foreign) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, Stock No. 650-001-00001-0. This request for comment is being issued to provide an opportunity for public comment on the best manner in which to disseminate information contained in the next edition of the MUTCD.

The Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the standard for design, application, and placement of traffic control devices used on all roads open to public travel. The MUTCD contains principles for the design and installation of signs, signals, pavement markings and other traffic

control devices. Roadway safety is one of FHWA's primary focus areas. Single-vehicle run-off-road crashes account for about one-third of all highway fatalities annually and motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists account for another 15 percent of all highway fatalities annually. To make an impact on our strategic safety objective of reducing the number of highway-related fatalities and injuries, the FHWA is focusing resources in these areas that have the most significant impact in achieving roadway safety. Providing all users of the highway system with better guidance tools is a critical element in addressing run-off-road, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic crashes. Traffic control devices (TCDs) are the roadway guidance tools that ensure safety by providing for the orderly and predictable movement of all traffic throughout the Nation's transportation system. TCDs such as pavement markings, signs, and signals are the language with which we communicate to the road users.

With the Interstate highway system near completion and the growth in roadway traffic volumes and congestion increasing, our Nation is at the crossroads of its transportation development. The FHWA recognizes the need to infuse new ideas and technology into the highway program—ideas that will help us solve our current and future highway safety challenges. We also recognize that the policies and technologies that we implement today will have a strong impact on our citizens and industries well into the 21st century. The FHWA is in the process of publishing a new MUTCD for the next millennium. The Agency's goal for the "MUTCD 2000" is to enhance the mobility of all road users, promote uniformity, improve traffic safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, reduce the potential for run-off-road incidents, and incorporate technology advances in traffic control device application.

Marketing and public outreach are recognized as important elements in this effort. In this new era of transportation, we realize that marketing and public outreach are very necessary components of developing, promoting, and implementing effective programs. As the FHWA began to identify our outreach audience, it became apparent that: (1) the MUTCD affects a large and varied audience, and (2) many of our partners and customers are relatively uninformed about principles and techniques for the proper design and application of traffic control devices. Additionally, the general public has little understanding of the respective roles of the Federal, State, and local transportation agencies

in operating and maintaining transportation facilities and services. The daily interaction of the general public with the physical components of our transportation system, particularly the installation of proper and effective traffic control devices, provides an ideal opportunity for creating public awareness and understanding of the safety benefits inherent in our transportation system. Outreach and interaction have the following benefits:

1. Encourages commitment to and compliance with the established goals and methods of managing and improving our transportation system;
2. Provides a rich amount of information about ways to improve the transportation system and make it safer for travel; and
3. Provides an opportunity to measure the quality of service we deliver.

As part of the "MUTCD 2000", the FHWA envisions a comprehensive outreach effort to the widest possible audience. Our goal is to expand our traditional network of customers and partners and provide information contained in the MUTCD to other groups, such as State departments of motor vehicles, drivers' education classes, law enforcement personnel, governors' highway safety representatives, emergency response providers, state and local officials, and community civic leaders.

Our Agency customers and partners are often in the best position to provide information to transportation users and providers because they routinely interact with city, county, and local officials. The Agency's commitment to marketing and outreach provides a unique opportunity to work cooperatively to identify methods of disseminating information to businesses, organizations, public agencies, and others that may be affected by the proposed changes to the MUTCD.

The FHWA plans to provide the MUTCD 2000 in a variety of formats: a hard copy manual, a CD-ROM version, and a version available through the Internet. In addition, both internal and external customers have suggested that the Agency consider the following as part of the MUTCD 2000 release: video presentations to highlight the changes; training course and materials; exhibit booth graphics and kiosks; brochures and other promotional materials.

The purpose of this request for comments is to identify what role the MUTCD plays in your organization and specifically seek your ideas on ways to effectively disseminate the MUTCD 2000, as well as receive your comments on ways to expand the Agency's target

audience. To stimulate an exchange of ideas, the following questions have been developed:

1. What is your primary interest in the MUTCD?
2. How do you currently use the MUTCD?
3. How would you envision utilizing the information in the MUTCD in the future?
4. How often do you receive inquiries regarding the MUTCD and what is the nature of these inquiries?
5. Whom would you identify as the audience for the MUTCD?
6. Are there missing pieces of information the MUTCD should cover?
7. Does your organization have a knowledge gap the MUTCD can fill?
8. Does your organization wish to partner with FHWA by publishing/printing the MUTCD after the final text has been approved by the FHWA?
 - (a) Do you wish to provide this service alone or with other organizations?
 - (b) How much would your organization contribute to the initial printing setup cost?
 - (c) Are there any conditions or requirements your organization has for this service?
 - (d) Are there any conditions or requirements your organization has for its logo, title, credits, etc. to be placed in the MUTCD 2000?
9. Does your organization wish to partner with FHWA by developing training videos for traffic engineers, technicians, drivers (drivers' education), pedestrians, bicyclists, elder citizens and/or children in the MUTCD 2000?
10. Does your organization wish to partner with FHWA by developing public information press releases, printed articles, radio announcements, or videos on "What's new in the MUTCD 2000"?
11. Does your organization wish to partner with FHWA by developing other training courses and materials for the MUTCD?
12. Do you have other suggestions to include in the MUTCD 2000 outreach effort?
13. Does your organization have access to the Internet and/or facilities for using a CD-ROM version of the MUTCD?
14. What trade publications or journals do you commonly receive and what trade conferences do you attend?
15. What are your professional and civic affiliations?

The FHWA welcomes input and encourages responders to expand on these questions with other suggestions.

List of Subjects in 23 CFR Part 655

Design standards, Grant programs—transportation, Highways and roads, Incorporation by reference, Signs, Traffic regulations.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 101(a), 104, 105, 109(d), 114(a), 135, 217, 307, 315, and 402(a); 23 CFR 1.32; and 49 CFR 1.48(b).

Issued on: June 5, 1998.

Kenneth R. Wykle,

Federal Highway Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

46 CFR Part 27

[CG 97-064]

RIN 2115-AF-53

Towing Vessel Safety

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Correction to notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document contains a correction to the notice of proposed rulemaking (CGD 97-064) which was published Friday, October 6, 1997, [62 FR 52057]. The rules are intended to improve the safety of towing vessels and tank barges.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before August 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA/3406) (CG-97-064), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, or deliver them to room 3406 at the same address between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-267-1477.

The Executive Secretary maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Markle, Project Manager (Fire Protection) 202-267-1076; or Mr. Allen Penn, Project Manager (Emergency Control Systems) 202-267-2997, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION