

CAMUTCD 2026

California Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices



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The California MUTCD is available on the following Caltrans webpage:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF SAFETY PROGRAMS
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January 14, 2026

Mr. Robert W. Bronkall, Chair
California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Representative
County Surveyor, Humboldt County Public Works
3033 H Street, Room 17
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. Bronkall:

Effective January 18, 2026, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will issue the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) 2026 to provide uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices in California. CA MUTCD 2026 will replace the current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 to meet substantial conformance with the National MUTCD 2023. This action was taken pursuant to the provisions of California Vehicle Code Section 21400 and the recommendations of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC). Caltrans' issuance of the CA MUTCD 2026 complies with the two-year window from the January 18, 2024 effective date of the FHWA's final rule, as permitted under Title 23 CFR § 655.603(b)(3).

Caltrans has received a letter dated January 13, 2026, from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) confirming substantial conformance of the CA MUTCD 2026 edition with the 2023 Edition of the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways, as required by title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, section 655.603(b)(1).

FHWA's final rule adopting the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 18, 2024. In January 2024, Caltrans began the process to review the National MUTCD 2023 by forming 10 Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workgroups, consisting of over 80 CA MUTCD practitioners, representing Caltrans, the California Public Utilities Commission, cities, counties, and private consultants, and conducting the SME Workgroup review meetings throughout 2024 and 2025.

Caltrans drafted the CA MUTCD 2026 documents based on reviews and recommendations from the SME Workgroups and the California Traffic Control Devices Committee and requirements in the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition).

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Mr. Bronkall, CTCDC Chair, County Surveyor, Humboldt County Public Works
January 14, 2026
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The CA MUTCD 2026 finalized draft documents were submitted to the FHWA CA Division office for review of substantial conformance finding in compliance with 23 CFR 655.603(b). FHWA reviewed the finalized draft documents and provided comments, which were resolved. CA MUTCD 2026 has been revised accordingly.

The CA MUTCD 2026 will be posted on the Internet at
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>.

Caltrans is grateful to the CTCDC members for providing invaluable time, support, guidance, and direction in the development of the CA MUTCD.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (909) 764-4915 or
paul.chung@dot.ca.gov.
Sincerely,

Paul Chung
PAUL CHUNG
Road Safety Division Chief (acting)

Attachments:
None

c:
Godson Okereke, Acting Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans
Duper Tong, Division Chief, Division of Traffic Operations, Caltrans
Shaila Chowdhury, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Johnny Bhullar, CA MUTCD Editor, Office of Safety Systems and Devices, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Timothy Kong, Transportation Engineer, Office of Safety Systems and Devices, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Kelli Hutnick, Chief of Staff, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans
Daniel Rubinstein, Chief of Staff, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans

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California Division

January 13, 2026

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001
HDACA@dot.gov

In Reply, Refer To:
HDA-CA

ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE ONLY

Dina El-Tawansy
Director, California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: California Division to review the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices 2026 Edition Substantial Conformance Determination

Dear Director El-Tawansy,

This letter is in response to your Dec. 29, 2025, request to find the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways 2026 Edition (CA MUTCD) to be in substantial conformance with the national Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, 11th Edition (MUTCD 11th Edition).

In December 2023, the Federal Highway Administration published the MUTCD 11th Edition, which became effective on Jan. 18, 2024. As required by 23 CFR 655.603, the State of California must revise the CA MUTCD to be in substantial conformance with the MUTCD 11th Edition. Our office has reviewed the proposed revisions to the CA MUTCD, to be published on Jan. 18, 2026, and we find it to be in substantial conformance with the MUTCD 11th Edition.

We commend the efforts of Caltrans to update the CA MUTCD. Over the last two years, Caltrans staff lead a group of subject matter experts to update and revise the entire CA MUTCD to ensure compliance with the MUTCD 11th Edition. We recognize that California had some long-established practices that required modification, and we appreciate the state's efforts to modernize the CA MUTCD. We would also like to recognize the men and women that worked on this effort. At the risk of overlooking certain people, we would like to acknowledge the hundreds of hours dedicated to this project by Johnny Bhullar, Mario Lozano-Cisneros, Ejaz Shaikh, Jaime Sanchez, Jeri Fabian, Timothy Kong, Vitality Tertahnyi, Michael Robinson, Florencia Allenger, Caroline Chen, Kevin Murai, Diane Dostalek, Mike Mally, and many others.

We recognize that many other documents that Caltrans uses to implement the CA MUTCD will need to be updated. We look forward to working with your staff to update those documents in the coming months, and to continuously improve the quality of the CA MUTCD to enhance the safety of the state's roadways.

For questions, please contact Steve Pyburn, PE, Design Program Manager, at steve.pyburn@dot.gov or call (916) 498-5057.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS 
RICHARD HECOX Date: 2026.01.13 10:03:52
Douglas R. Hecox -08'00'
Deputy Division Administrator
FHWA California Division

To (via email):

Dina El-Tawansy
Dina.El-Tawansy@dot.ca.gov

CC (via email):

Dave Moore, Acting Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans
Godson Okereke, Acting Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans
Paul Chung, Acting Chief Safety Officer, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Duper Tong, Chief, Division of Traffic Operations, Caltrans
Shaila Chowdhury, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Johnny Bhullar, CA MUTCD Editor, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Timothy Kong, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Kelli Hutnick, Chief of Staff, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans
Daniel Rubinstein, Chief of Staff, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Eric Ferron, Acting Technical Services Director, California Division, FHWA
Steve Pyburn, Design Program Manager, California Division, FHWA

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CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

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December 29, 2025

Mr. Doug Hecox, Acting California Division Administrator
Attention: Eric Ferron, Acting Director of Technical Services
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hecox:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) California Division review the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) 2026 Edition for substantial conformance with the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways 2023 (11th Edition), as required by title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, section 655.603(b)(1).

FHWA's final rule adopting the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) was published in the Federal Register on December 19, 2023, with an effective date of January 18, 2024. This proposed CA MUTCD 2026 will replace the current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 to meet substantial conformance with the National MUTCD 2023. Caltrans plans to issue the CA MUTCD 2026, on or before January 18, 2026 (within 2 years of the effective date of final rule), as allowed by title 23 CFR section 655.603(b)(3).

In January 2024, Caltrans began the process to review the National MUTCD 2023 by forming 10 Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workgroups, consisting of over 80 CA MUTCD practitioners, representing Caltrans, the California Public Utilities Commission, cities, counties, and private consultants, and conducting the SME Workgroup review meetings throughout 2024 and 2025.

Caltrans drafted the CA MUTCD 2026 documents based on reviews and recommendations from the SME Workgroups and the California Traffic Control Devices Committee and requirements in the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition).

The CA MUTCD 2026 finalized draft documents were submitted to the FHWA CA Division office for initial review of substantial conformance finding in compliance with 23 CFR 655.603(b). Your division office program manager, Steve Pyburn, reviewed the finalized draft documents and provided comments, which have been resolved with

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Mr. Hecox, Acting Federal Highway Administration California Division Administrator
December 29, 2025
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input from the CA MUTCD topic owners. The final CA MUTCD 2026 documents have been revised accordingly.

The final CA MUTCD 2026 will be issued after Caltrans receives FHWA's determination on finding the CA MUTCD 2026 documents to be in substantial conformance with the National MUTCD 2023. The CA MUTCD 2026 will be posted on the Internet at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>.

Caltrans would like to acknowledge the efforts of Steve Pyburn for participating in Subject Matter Expert Workgroup meetings and partnering with the Caltrans Division of Safety Programs staff, including Johnny Bhullar and Timothy Kong, to review these CA MUTCD 2026 final draft documents.

Please provide your response on the substantial conformance finding to Paul Chung, acting Division Chief of Caltrans Division of Safety Programs, by email to paul.chung@dot.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Chung at (909) 764-4915 or paul.chung@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Dave Moore (Dec 29, 2025 15:41:33 PST)

FOR DINA A. EL-TAWANSY
Director

Attachment: CA MUTCD 2026

C:

Dave Moore, Acting Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans
Godson Okereke, Acting Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans
Paul Chung, Acting Chief Safety Officer, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Duper Tong, Chief, Division of Traffic Operations, Caltrans
Shaila Chowdhury, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Safety Programs, Caltrans
Johnny Bhullar, CA MUTCD Editor, Division of Safety Program, Caltrans
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