



California Traffic Control Devices Committee Agenda Item Report



Meeting Date: November 7, 2024 Item Number: 24-11	From: Stan Slavin, Caltrans HQ Traffic Operations & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans HQ Safety Programs
Sponsored By: Amjad Obeid, Caltrans	Presented By: David Guan, Caltrans HQ Traffic Operations & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans HQ Safety Programs
Description: Request for review and recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 titled "Traffic Control Device Considerations for Automated Vehicles" draft document as part of CA MUTCD 2026 version that is being prepared to adopt Federal Highway Administration's National MUTCD 2023 (11 th Edition) before the January 18, 2026, deadline.	

Recommendation:

Motion by committee to approve CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 titled "Traffic Control Device Considerations for Automated Vehicles" draft document and include it in CA MUTCD 2026 version that is being prepared to adopt Federal Highway Administration's National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) before the January 18, 2026, deadline.

Agency Making Request/Sponsor:

Stan Slavin & Johnny Bhullar (Caltrans) / Amjad Obeid, CTCDC Member.

Background:

The National MUTCD 2023 is published by Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F. On December 19, 2023, a Final Rule adopting the National MUTCD 2023 was published in the Federal Register with an effective date of January 18, 2024. States must adopt the National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years from the effective date.

Caltrans began the process to review National MUTCD 2023 for adoption in California by soliciting CA MUTCD practitioners statewide to form Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workgroups based on the individual Parts of the MUTCD.

Initial draft documents are being prepared by Caltrans to revise current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 and develop CA MUTCD 2026 version that will be in substantial conformance with FHWA's National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition). These initial draft documents are developed pursuant to SME Workgroup members review of their respective MUTCD part in the weekly/bi-weekly meetings, when comparing the new National MUTCD 2023 with California revised contents of the National MUTCD 2009 (10th Edition) in the current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8. The SME Workgroup meeting reviews and discussions focus on assessing potential impacts of adopting these



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National MUTCD 2023 changes in California and provide comments and recommendations to Caltrans, which are used by Caltrans to finalize these initial draft documents.

CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 titled “Traffic Control Device Considerations for Automated Vehicles” initial draft documents were developed and shared with the traffic control device practitioners in California beginning June 10, 2024. These documents were made available for review and open to the public to provide comments by posting them on the new California’s National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts webpage. The public review period on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 initial draft documents ended with the closing of comments on September 2, 2024.

The new webpage with California’s National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts, including CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 initial draft documents is available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/nmutcd>

The new webpage on California’s National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts provides details and information on the National MUTCD 2023, FHWA’s substantial conformance requirements, deadline for compliance, California’s review and adoption process, timeline and schedules, workgroup member reviews, public review opportunities, CTCDC engagements, and CA MUTCD 2026 draft documents.

Compare documents with markups to share the changes and for ease in reviewing and comparison that have been prepared for other parts are not available for Part 5 as Part 5 is completely new material in the National MUTCD with no previous contents to compare it with. Part 5 in the previous version was titled “Traffic Control Devices for Low Volume Roads”. Relevant portions of previous Part 5 have been moved to other Parts of the National MUTCD and similarly the CA MUTCD 2026 draft and comparison documents, as appropriate. The webpage also includes a feature within the website for submitting comments directly from within the website, while also providing downloadable forms which can be submitted electronically or through the regular mail.

All public comments received on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 initial draft documents were discussed with the Part 5 SME Workgroup members for resolution and response. The outcome of the public comment dispositions were used to revise the CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 initial draft documents to prepare this Part 5 final draft.

This CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 final draft is prepared as an agenda item for the upcoming California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) meeting and again being made open to public for formal review and comment, to consult with local agencies and conduct public hearings using CTCDC established process and in compliance with California Vehicle Code (CVC) 21400 provisions.



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This CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 final is based on the National MUTCD 2023 Part 5. Though every effort has been made by Caltrans to ensure accuracy of this document, the inherent variances between National MUTCD and California MUTCD, along with moving of contents and reorganization undertaken by FHWA in the National MUTCD 2023, there may be unintentional errors or omissions in this document, or some contents may have been overlooked.

The official versions of the National MUTCD 2023 and California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 are available on the following websites:

- National MUTCD 2023 - <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- California MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>

All CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 final draft documents, which include all text, figure, and table contents, are being provided in this agenda item as attachments. Refer to Attachments A thru D.

As stated previously, no compare documents for Part 5 are available as it is a new topic and part in National MUTCD.

All Text changes reflected in CA MUTCD 2026 draft version, when compared to current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 8 and National MUTCD 2023, are provided as follows:

- **Unedited black text** - The unedited National MUTCD text is shown in “Times New Roman” font and black color.
- **Strikethrough black text** - Text portions of the National MUTCD content that are not applicable in California are shown with a strikethrough of the black text and [a blue margin line on the right side](#).
- **Blue text** - The California text additions, including new paragraphs, and enhancements are incorporated into the combined document at appropriate locations and shown in “Arial Narrow” font and [blue color with a blue margin line on the right side](#).
- **California topics with no corresponding National MUTCD section** – Sections are given a number that begins with number 101 and increases in sequence, followed with a “(CA)” to indicate that this is a California created section.

Attachments:

- [Attachment A – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 5A Draft \(Text\)](#)
- [Attachment B – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 5A Draft \(Table\)](#)
- [Attachment C – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 5B Draft \(Text\)](#)
- [Attachment D – CA MUTCD 2026 Part 5 – Public comments](#) submitted, including responses/resolutions