

Meeting Date: July 8, 2025 Item Number: 24-12	From: Mike Malyy & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Amjad Obeid, Caltrans	Presented By: Mike Malyy & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Description: This draft version of the proposed CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 document titled "Traffic Control for School Areas" has been finalized in response to the CTCDC recommendation provided to Caltrans in April 3, 2025 meeting and is being submitted to Federal Highway Administration's California Division for review and determination of "substantial conformance" finding with the National MUTCD 2023 (11 th Edition).	

Recommendation:

None.

This item is informational and is in follow up to the CTCDC recommendation provided to Caltrans during the April 3, 2025, meeting.

Agency Making Request/Sponsor:

Mike Malyy & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans / Amjad Obeid, Caltrans

Background:

The National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) 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 (January 18, 2026, deadline).

The webpage on California's National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts is available per below and provides details and information on:

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

- National MUTCD 2023,
- FHWA's substantial conformance requirements,
- Dates and deadline for compliance,
- California's review and adoption process, including:
 - Timelines and schedules,
 - Subject Matter Experts Workgroup member reviews,
 - Public review opportunities,
 - CTCDC engagements, and

- CA MUTCD 2026 draft documents

CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 draft proposal documents were initially discussed in the November 7, 2024, meeting. During the meeting, several CTCDC members and FHWA CA Division representative shared their comments and concerns on the proposed revisions. The meeting discussions resulted in the CTCDC providing 16 specific comments to Caltrans and requesting Caltrans to review and address these comments, as appropriate. Caltrans was asked to revise these draft documents based on review of the CTCDC comments and provide them to CTCDC for review and discussion in a future meeting. These CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 proposed documents and the meeting minutes of the meeting discussions and comments provided to Caltrans during the November 7, 2024, meeting are available (refer to agenda item 24-12 document and its attachments) at:

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

Caltrans reviewed the 16 specific comments provided in the November 7, 2024, meeting on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7. Based on the review of comments shared during the November 7, 2024, meeting, Caltrans then revised the CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 proposal and prepared responses on resolutions and dispositions of the 16 specific comments. The revised proposal, including response to previous comments, was then included as an agenda item in the April 3, 2025, meeting. During this meeting, CTCDC members thanked Caltrans for addressing their comments and revising the proposal and bringing it back to the committee.

These CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 revised proposed documents and the meeting minutes of the meeting discussions during the April 3, 2025, meeting are available (refer to agenda item 24-12 document and its attachments) at:

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

In the April 3, 2025, meeting, CTCDC members shared three comments on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 revised proposal. In the meeting, Caltrans agreed with the change proposed in one comment, disagreed on one comment by providing satisfactory response and the third comment was an offer from a CTCDC member to Caltrans to assist with a potential future change in policy. This meeting resulted in the CTCDC passing a motion, making a recommendation to Caltrans as per below:

MOTION: Mr. Welday made a motion to approve Part 7 as revised. Mr. Sharf seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

This motion is for the proposed text revisions included in the agenda item shared by Caltrans in the April 3, 2025, meeting. It includes the condition to review and address one comment shared in the meeting.

Caltrans reviewed the April 3, 2025, meeting discussions and the three comments shared in the meeting, and the resulting CTCDC motion with the recommendation to Caltrans.

Summary of the three comments shared by CTCDC members in April 3, 2025, meeting and Caltrans review, response and resolution to these comment, is as follows:

1. **CTCDC Comment – Chapter 7A, Section 7A.02, para #03:**

CA MUTCD 2026 Proposal includes:

03 *Bicycle use as a mode of transportation, as applicable, should also be considered if ~~there are~~ students biking to and from school ~~are not allowed to use the sidewalks along the pedestrian route.~~*

CTCDC member comment: Suggest minimizing the edit by just adding a period after the word “considered” in this statement. Reason is that with the strikethrough of the text shown above, which was talking about bicyclists riding on sidewalks, and leaving the phrase, “if ~~there are~~ students biking”, that’s already covered by the text “as applicable”. The text shown in above proposal is suggesting it twice, that bicyclists may or may not be present. The first one, as applicable, covers whether bicyclists are present or not. The second one is redundant and implies that they may not be there.

Caltrans agrees with comment and the proposal text has been revised as follows:

03 *Bicycle use as a mode of transportation, as applicable, should also be considered. ~~if students biking to and from school are not allowed to use the sidewalks along the pedestrian route.~~*

2. **CTCDC Comment – Chapter 7B, Figure 7B-1(CA):** In lower figure titled “Urban Locations and Rural Locations with Sidewalk”, minimum clear width of travel or lateral path width was missing. In the November 7, 2024 meeting, it was suggested to include the minimum width of the pedestrian access route that needs to be maintained. This suggestion was not to include a specific distance such as 4-foot minimum, that was included in the revised proposal as a resolution to the comment. The suggestion was to include a reference, such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) or similar regulation, as the actual dimension would be subject to change depending on the specific situation.

Caltrans response to the comment which was shared in the agenda item in the April 3, 2025, meeting included reviewing the NMUTCD 2023 Section 2A.16 titled “Lateral Offset”, Figure 2A-2 titled “Examples of Heights and Lateral Locations of Sign Installations” and Figure 2A-3 titled “Examples of Locations for Some Typical Signs at Intersections” and figures 2M-3, 6F-1, 8B-2 and 8B-3 and determining the minimum or clear width for pedestrian path was not included. Further comparing Figure 7B-1(CA) lower figure for urban locations with NMUTCD 2023 Figure 2A-3 sub-heading “D – Urban Intersections” the signpost appeared to be in between the sidewalk and the roadway. If a lateral width dimension were to be added to this Figure 7B-1(CA) lower figure, it will not cover the sidewalk, as it will be between the

roadway and signpost. The text under Notes “[A 4-foot minimum unobstructed pedestrian access route should be maintained.](#)” was added based on review of NMUTCD 2023 Figure 4I-2 Note #3.

Caltrans explained that the reason for not including reference to ADAAG or PROWAG is that they are guidelines issued by Department of Justice and not federal regulations, while the National MUTCD is a federal regulation. Department of Transportation at the national level is pursuing efforts towards issuing a final rule to adopt PROWAG, thus making it a regulation rather than a guideline. FHWA plans to include PROWAG into the National MUTCD once PROWAG is adopted as a regulation. Caltrans plans to wait for these actions at the national level to occur, before adopting and incorporating the PROWAG into CA MUTCD.

3. **CTCDC Comment – Chapter 7D, Section 7D.01, para #07 & #08:** CTCDC member thanked Caltrans for restoring the deleted para #04 and #05 text (in previous proposal) of the current CA MUTCD 2014R9, which included the topic of criteria for adult crossing guards. CTCDC member offered Caltrans their staff to assist with any future discussions on this topic and for any potential future revisions of this topic.

Caltrans acknowledges the offer to assist with future policy revisions on this topic. Caltrans resolution, restoring this text and topic while including it as “Support” statements, was based on previous CTCDC member comments that many local agencies did use the criteria and conditions to identify crossing guard locations. Removal of this criteria and conditions, and the absence of a document where this criteria and conditions would be available once it was deleted from the current manual, would have posed a significant issue for many local agencies that currently used this criteria and conditions.

Subject Matter Expert Work Group (SME WG): Caltrans staff had shared the details of the CTCDC November 7, 2024, and April 3, 2025, meeting discussions with the members of the SME WG on Part 7. Caltrans plans to share the outcome of the review and decisions in response to CTCDC motion on this item with the SME WG members to make them aware of it.

Caltrans has prepared the finalized proposal on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7, incorporating CTCDC recommendation and Caltrans decisions, and it is attached to this agenda item. It is being provided as an informational item to inform the CTCDC members and the public to share Caltrans decisions on the CTCDC recommendations that were provided. This finalized CA MUTCD 2026 Part 7 proposal **will be submitted to FHWA CA Division for review and determination of “substantial conformance”** finding with the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition).

Attachments:

[Attachment A – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7A Draft \(Text\)](#)

[Attachment B – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7A Draft \(Figure Mark-ups\)](#)

[Attachment C – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7B Draft \(Text\)](#)

[Attachment D – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7B Draft \(Figure Mark-ups\)](#)

[Attachment E – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7B Draft \(Table Mark-ups\)](#)

[Attachment F – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7C Draft \(Text\)](#)

[Attachment G – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7C Draft \(Figure Mark-ups\)](#)

[Attachment H – CA MUTCD 2026 Chapter 7D Draft \(Text\)](#)