

Meeting Date: October 2, 2025 Item Number: 25-09	From: Mike Malyy & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Amjad Obeid, Caltrans	Presented By: Mike Malyy & Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Description: Request for review and recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 titled "Markings" draft documents as part of 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.	

Recommendation:

Motion by committee, recommending Caltrans to finalize and prepare the CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 titled "Markings" draft documents and incorporate them into 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:

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
- 23 CFR Part 655, Subpart F, which includes:
 - National MUTCD as the national standard
 - State MUTCDs and substantial conformance requirements
 - Supplemental documents conformance requirements
 - Dates and deadline for compliance
 - Compliance of existing devices and in construction projects
- California's review and adoption process, including:
 - Timelines and schedules

- Subject Matter Experts Workgroup member reviews
- Public review and process for submitting comments
- CTCDC agenda items, meetings, and meeting minutes
- Submitting comments directly on the webpage
- Downloadable forms for submitting comments
- Contact information for CA MUTCD Team
- CA MUTCD 2026 development, including:
 - Draft documents of the individual parts
 - Chapter content files for text, figures and tables
 - Compare documents with markups
 - Phase specific versions of chapter contents
 - Status of individual parts and progress towards finalization

Caltrans began the process to review National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) for adoption in California in January of 2024 by soliciting CA MUTCD practitioners statewide to form Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workgroups based on the individual parts and topics included in the MUTCD. These SME Workgroups were led by the individual topic owners, who have knowledge, expertise, and statewide responsibility on these specific topics of the CA MUTCD.

The SME Workgroup members reviewed their respective CA MUTCD topics in their weekly/bi-weekly meetings and discussions. SME Workgroup members also conducted individual reviews and provided comments and resolutions to other comments in shared documents.

This review conducted by CA MUTCD topic owners and SME Workgroup members for each individual part, included:

1. Comparing the new National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) revised text contents with the current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 text contents (which are based on National MUTCD 2009 (10th Edition)), with the primary focus being on changes to Standard and Guidance statements. In order to meet the required 2-year timeline schedule, these text reviews included only changes to some Option statements, not all changes to the Option statements. The purpose of reviewing changes to text contents was to assess potential conflicts with state law, current policy and/or current practice and potential impacts of adopting these changes for California agencies.
2. Comparing the new National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition) figures and tables with the respective and relevant current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 figures and tables (which were based on National MUTCD 2009 (10th Edition)). The purpose of comparing the figures and tables was to identify newly added figures and tables, changes to current figures and tables, and deleted figures and tables,

and assess any potential impacts of adopting these changes for California agencies.

3. Review of the current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 text contents, with primary focus on California specific text additions (**shown in blue color text and blue margin lines**) and California specific text revisions of the National MUTCD 2009 (10th Edition) text, which are **shown as black strikethrough text and blue margin** in current CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9. The purpose of this review was to identify duplicate, similar or conflicting text and eliminate redundancies. Another purpose was to assess and reevaluate these revisions of the National MUTCD, many of which were allowed during the initial adoption of the national MUTCD in 2004. The need to retain any of these California specific **text additions** or **reflected in CA MUTCD 2014 Revision 9** was evaluated before including them in the CA MUTCD 2026 version. For any additions and revisions that were being retained, ensured purpose served, and they are in substantial conformance with the National MUTCD 2023. This additional review was performed to improve consistency and clarity and help practitioners understand the use and applicability of the manual, while promoting uniformity in its' application.

Pursuant to these meeting reviews and discussions, SME Workgroup members provided comments and recommendations to Caltrans. Caltrans topic owners reviewed these comments and recommendations, conducted follow up activities to provide resolutions and dispositions.

These draft documents developed for CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 titled "Markings" are based on the SME WG reviews and resolution and dispositions of the provided comments and recommendations. These draft documents are included as attachments to this agenda item request and also posted on California's National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts web page, available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/nmutcd>

These CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 draft documents are being made open to public for formal review and comments, to fulfill Caltrans' obligation to consult with local agencies and conducting public hearings, in compliance with California Vehicle Code (CVC) 21400 provisions.

This CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 final draft combines the National MUTCD 2023 and current California MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 (effective April 1, 2025) documents. 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 9 are available on the following websites:

- National MUTCD 2023 - <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- California MUTCD 2014 Revision 9 - <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd>

All CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 draft documents, which include all text, figure, and table contents, are being provided in this agenda item as attachments. Refer to Attachments #1 thru #24.

CA MUTCD 2026 draft version uses the current California MUTCD format, which is similar to the National MUTCD format. It incorporates National MUTCD in its entirety and explicitly shows which portions thereof are applicable or not applicable in California.

Format of the text, figure and table contents of CA MUTCD 2026 draft is as follows:

- **Unedited black text** - The unedited National MUTCD 2023 text is shown in “Times New Roman” font and black color
- ~~**Strikethrough black text**~~ - Text portions of the National MUTCD 2023 contents 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.
- **Blue “X”** – Figures and Tables of the National MUTCD 2023 contents, in entirety or a portion thereof, that are not applicable in California are shown with a [Blue “X”](#) and [a blue margin line on the right side](#).

In addition to the draft documents prepared for CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 text, figure and table contents, compare documents with markups are also being prepared to share the changes with practitioners, for ease in reviewing and for comparison purposes. These compare documents, due to their large sizes, are not included in this agenda item. They will be posted, once they are ready, on the National MUTCD 2023 review and adoption efforts web page, available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/nmutcd>

Caltrans has prepared the draft proposal on CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 for all individual chapters, and it is attached to this agenda item. It is being provided to the CTCDC members and the public to review and provide comments to Caltrans. Caltrans will

review comments submitted on Part 3 documents, to revise and finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3, and resubmit to CTCDC, if and as needed. Upon receiving formal CTCDC recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3 proposal, it will be revised as per the CTCDC passing motion details and then submitted to FHWA CA Division for review and determination of "substantial conformance" finding with the National MUTCD 2023 (11th Edition).

Attachments:

Due to the number of individual chapters in CA MUTCD 2026 Part 3, and each chapter further separated for text, figure and table contents, to facilitate review and allow for ease in referencing these attachments, instead of providing them in the listing format, they are being provided in the tabular format below.

Ch. #	Chapter Title Description	Attachment #s		
		Text	Figure	Table
3A	General	1	2	NA
3B	Pavement and Curb Markings	3	4	5
3C	Crosswalk Markings	6	7	NA
3D	Circular Intersection Markings	8	9	NA
3E	Preferential Lane Markings for Motor Vehicles	10	11	12
3F	Markings for Toll Plazas	13	NA	NA
3G	Delineators	14	15	16
3H	Colored Pavement	17	18	NA
3I	Channelizing Devices Used for Emphasis of Pavement Marking Patterns	19	20	NA
3J	Marking and Delineation of Islands and Sidewalk Extensions	21	22	NA
3K	Rumble Strip Markings	23	24	NA