Meeting Date: November 6, 2025 **Item Number:** 25-14	**From:** Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Amjad Obeid, Caltrans	**Presented By:** Johnny Bhullar, Caltrans
Description: Request for review and recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Appendices 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 Appendices 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

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

The CA MUTCD 2026 Appendices 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 Appendices 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 Appendices draft documents, are being provided as attachments.

Caltrans has prepared the draft proposal on CA MUTCD 2026 Appendices 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 Appendices documents, to revise and finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Appendices, and resubmit to CTCDC, if and as needed. Upon receiving formal CTCDC recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Appendices 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

Attachment A - Appendix A1 Congressional Actions

Attachment B - Appendix A2 Metric Conversions

ATTACHMENT A

Attachment A – Appendix A1 - Congressional Actions

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A1

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

PUBLIC LAW 102-240-DEC. 18, 1991 (INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1991)

Section 1077. REVISION OF MANUAL — Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and such other regulations and agreements of the Federal Highway Administration as may be necessary to authorize States and local governments, at their discretion, to install stop or yield signs at any rail-highway grade crossing without automatic traffic control devices with 2 or more trains operating across the rail-highway grade crossing per day.

PUBLIC LAW 102-388-OCT. 6, 1992 (DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1993)

Section 406 — The Secretary of Transportation shall revise the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to include —

(a) a standard for a minimum level of retroreflectivity that must be maintained for pavement markings and signs, which shall apply to all roads open to public travel; and

(b) a standard to define the roads that must have a centerline or edge lines or both, provided that in setting such standard the Secretary shall consider the functional classification of roads, traffic volumes, and the number and width of lanes.

PUBLIC LAW 104-59-NOV. 28, 1995 (NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT OF 1995)

Section 205. RELIEF FROM MANDATES —

(c) METRIC REQUIREMENTS —

(1) PLACEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF SIGNS — The Secretary shall not require the States to expend any Federal or State funds to construct, erect, or otherwise place or to modify any sign relating to a speed limit, distance, or other measurement on a highway for the purpose of having such sign establish such speed limit, distance, or other measurement using the metric system.

(2) OTHER ACTIONS — Before September 30, 2000, the Secretary shall not require that any State use or plan to use the metric system with respect to designing or advertising, or preparing plans, specifications, estimates, or other documents, for a Federal-aid highway project eligible for assistance under title 23, United States Code.

(3) DEFINITIONS — In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(A) HIGHWAY — The term 'highway' has the meaning such term has under section 101 of title 23, United States Code.

(B) METRIC SYSTEM — the term 'metric system' has the meaning the term 'metric system of measurement' has under section 4 of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205c).

Section 306. MOTORIST CALL BOXES — Section 111 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(c) MOTORIST CALL BOXES —

(1) IN GENERAL — Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State may permit the placement of motorist call boxes on rights-of-way of the National Highway System. Such motorist call boxes may include the identification and sponsorship logos of such call boxes.

(2) SPONSORSHIP LOGOS —

(A) APPROVAL BY STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES — All call box installations displaying sponsorship logos under this subsection shall be approved by the highway agencies having jurisdiction of the highway on which they are located.

(B) SIZE ON BOX — A sponsorship logo may be placed on the call box in a dimension not to exceed the size of the call box or a total dimension in excess of 12 inches by 18 inches.

(C) SIZE ON IDENTIFICATION SIGN — Sponsorship logos in a dimension not to exceed 12 inches by 30 inches may be displayed on a call box identification sign affixed to the call box post.
(D) SPACING OF SIGNS — Sponsorship logos affixed to an identification sign on a call box post may be located on the rights-of-way at intervals not more frequently than 1 per every 5 miles.
(E) DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT STATE — Within a State, at least 20 percent of the call boxes displaying sponsorship logos shall be located on highways outside of urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000.
(3) NONSAFETY HAZARDS — The call boxes and their location, posts, foundations, and mountings shall be consistent with requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices or any requirements deemed necessary by the Secretary to assure that the call boxes shall not be a safety hazard to motorists.

Section 353(a) SIGNS — Traffic control signs referred to in the experimental project conducted in the State of Oregon in December 1991 shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of Section 2B-4 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices of the Department of Transportation.

Section 353(b) STRIPES — Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a red, white, and blue center line in the Main Street of Bristol, Rhode Island, shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of Section 3B-1 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices of the Department of Transportation.

PUBLIC LAW 115-141-MAR. 23, 2018 (CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018) DIVISION L, TITLE I

Section 125 — For this fiscal year, the Federal Highway Administration shall reinstate Interim Approval IA-5, relating to the provisional use of an alternative lettering style on certain highway guide signs, as it existed before its termination, as announced in the Federal Register on January 25, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 4083).

Option:

Series E(modified)-Alternate may be used in place of Series E(modified) for the names of places, streets, and highways on freeway and expressway guide signs in accordance with the provisions of the following paragraph.

Standard:

The use of Series E(modified)-Alternate shall be limited to the display of names of places, streets, and highways on freeway and expressway guide signs. Words shall be composed of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters. The design and spacing of the letters shall be as provided in the "Standard Highway Signs" publication (see Section 1A.05 of this Manual). The nominal loop height of the lower-case letters shall be 84 percent of the height of the initial upper-case letter. Interline spacing, measured from the baseline of the upper line of legend to the upper limit of the initial upper-case letter of the lower line of legend, shall be at least 96 percent of the initial upper-case letters (equivalent to 84 percent of the initial upper-case letter when measured from the baseline of the upper line of legend to the upper limit of the rising stems of the lower-case letters of the lower line of legend). Edge spacing shall be as provided in Section 2E.13 of this Manual. The size of the sign shall be suitably enlarged to accommodate the larger lower-case letters and interline spacing. When the name of a place, street, or highway contains numerals, the numerals shall be composed of the FHWA Standard Alphabet Series E(modified). Other lettering on the sign, such as for cardinal directions and distance or action messages, and all numerals or special characters, shall be composed of Series B, C, D, E, E(modified), or F of the FHWA Standard Alphabets as provided in this Manual.

Series E(modified)-Alternate shall not be used for any application other than as provided in the two preceding paragraphs.

ATTACHMENT B

Attachment B – Appendix A2 - Metric Conversions

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A2
METRIC CONVERSIONS

Throughout this Manual all dimensions and distances are provided in English units. Tables A2-1 through A2-4 show the equivalent Metric (International System of Units) value for each of the English unit numerical values that are used in this Manual.

Table A2-1. Conversion of Inches to Millimeters

Inches	Millimeters
0.25	6
0.4	10
0.5	13
0.75	19
1	25
1.25	31
2	50
2.25	56
2.5	62
3	75

Inches	Millimeters
3.5	87
4	100
4.5	113
5	125
6	150
8	200
9	225
10	250
10.4	260
10.6	265

Inches	Millimeters
12	300
15	375
16	400
18	450
21	525
24	600
27	675
28	700
30	750
32	800

Inches	Millimeters
36	900
42	1050
48	1200
54	1350
60	1500
72	1800
84	2100
120	3000

Note: 1 inch = 25.4 millimeters; 1 millimeter = 0.039 inches

Table A2-2. Conversion of Feet to Meters

Feet	Meters
1	0.3
2	0.6
2.5	0.75
3	0.9
3.25	1
3.5	1.1
4	1.2
4.5	1.4
4.75	1.45
5	1.5
5.67	1.7
6	1.8
7	2.1
8	2.4
9	2.7
9.25	2.8
9.5	2.9
10	3

Feet	Meters
11	3.4
12	3.7
12.75	3.9
14	4.3
15	4.6
16	4.9
17	5.2
18	5.5
19	5.8
20	6.1
22	6.7
23.5	7.2
25	7.6
25.6	7.8
30	9
32	9.8
33	10
36	11

Feet	Meters
40	12
50	15
53	16
60	18
70	21
72	22
75	23
80	24
90	27
95	29
100	30
110	34
120	37
125	38
130	675
140	700
150	750
180	800

Feet	Meters
200	60
250	75
300	90
330	100
400	120
500	150
530	160
600	180
650	200
700	210
750	230
800	245
1,000	300
1,500	450
2,000	600
2,300	700
3,000	900

Note: 1 foot = 0.3048 meters; 1 meter = 3.28 feet

Table A2-3. Conversion of Miles to Kilometers

Miles	Kilometers
0.25	0.4
0.5	0.8
0.6	1

Miles	Kilometers
1	1.6
2	3.2
3	4.8

Miles	Kilometers
5	8
10	16
15	25

Miles	Kilometers
70	110

Note: 1 mile = 1.609 kilometers; 1 kilometer = 0.621 miles

Table A2-4. Conversion of Miles per Hour to Kilometers/Hour

mph	km/h
3	5
10	16
15	20
20	30

mph	km/h
25	40
30	50
35	60
40	60

mph	km/h
45	70
50	80
55	90
60	100

mph	km/h
65	105
65	110
80	130

Note: 1 mile per hour = 1.609 kilometers/hour; 1 kilometer/hour = 0.621 miles per hour