



California Traffic Control Devices Committee Agenda Item Report



Meeting Date: November 17, 2025 Item Number: 25-08	From: Mario Lozano-Cisneros, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Shaila Chowdhury, Caltrans	Presented By: Mario Lozano-Cisneros, Caltrans
Description: Request for review and recommendation to finalize CA MUTCD 2026 Part 2M titled "RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS" proposed documents that have been revised in response to 11/06/25 CTCDC Meeting comments and 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 2M titled "RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS" 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

Mario Lozano-Cisneros, Caltrans / Shaila Chowdhury, Caltrans

Background

For detailed background on this item, including the previously proposed revisions upon which the CTCDC provided comments shared below were based, as well as the meeting minutes of the meeting discussions, please refer to agenda item 25-08 document and its attachments, that were included in the November 06, 2025 meeting and are available at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/ctcdc/meetings>.

This item was discussed previously in the November 06, 2025 meeting. During the meeting, CTCDC members, the public, and the FHWA CA Division representative were provided the opportunity to share their comments and concerns on the proposed revisions. The meeting discussions resulted in the CTCDC providing multiple 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. Summary of the CTCDC comments provided on

November 06, 2025, meeting and Caltrans review, response and resolution to these comments, is as follows:

1. **CTCDC Comment – Chapter 2M, 2M.02, Paragraph 41-42:**

CA MUTCD 2026 Proposal includes text:

Option:

41 The Trail (Bicycle) (D11-1) sign may be used for identifying bicycle trails located within public recreation areas.

Guidance:

42 On State highways, the Bike Lane or the Bike Route signs should be used.

CTCDC comment:

D11-1 is a "Bike Route" sign. Text should be "The Bike Route (D11-1) sign may be used for identifying bicycle paths located..." There is no definition for a "bicycle trail". If this is supposed to be referring to mountain bike trails, there should be a different sign. There is an RS sign for every other recreational activity except for bicycling.

Caltrans Response:

Concur. D11-1 should not be used to refer to trails such as mountain bike trails. Recommend to delete par 41 and 42.

2. **CTCDC Comment – Chapter 2M, 2M.10, Paragraph 14-18:**

CA MUTCD 2026 Proposal includes text:

Guidance:

14 When the highway is a State facility, the following procedure should be followed when legislation includes a provision that either memorial signs or plaques be purchased and installed at no cost to the State.

15 The District Director will:

A. Prepare an estimate of cost for the signs or plaque installation and submit the estimate to the sponsor.

B. After receipt of the funds from the sponsor, purchase and install the signs or plaque.

C. Notify the author and sponsor when the memorial signs or plaque are ready so that a dedication can be arranged.

D. Maintain all signs and plaques within the right-of-way.

16 The sponsor will:

- A. Collect donations from individuals who appreciated the services provided by the memorialized individual.
- B. Submit advance payment for the signs or plaque and installation to Caltrans.
- C. Arrange for suitable public dedication.

Support:

17 When legislation does not include the "at no cost to the State" provision, signs and plaques will continue to be furnished and installed at State expense.

18 Existing named highway facilities that have been designated with a bronze plaque are exempt from the above provisions and no signs are required.

CTCDC comment:

Do these paragraphs belong in the manual?

Caltrans Response:

The questioned guidance and support text are highly valuable to practitioners across the state, as they address many frequently asked questions. However, HQ Traffic Signs concurs that this content is not appropriately placed within the current manual.

HQ Traffic Signs will relocate paragraphs 14–17 to the Safety Programs public website under the memorial signage section where practitioners can still access this information.

3. CTCDC Comment – Chapter 2M, Section 2M.103(CA), Paragraphs 04-06:

CA MUTCD 2026 Proposal includes text:

Support:

04 Caltrans and local agencies with portions of Historic Routes under their jurisdiction, upon application by an interested local agency or private group and receiving donations from non-State sources for the cost of the sign and their installation, will place these signs as requested.

05 The Historic Route 99 (S25(CA)) sign is used to identify "Historic Route 99".

06 Caltrans and local agencies with portions of former U.S. Route 99 currently under their jurisdiction, upon application by an interested local agency or private group and receiving donations from non-State sources for the cost of the sign and their installation, will place these signs as requested.

CTCDC comment:

Caltrans needs to review whether there is any law requiring local agencies to install signs.

Caltrans Response:

Recommend switching “will” to “can”

Support:

04 Caltrans and local agencies with portions of Historic Routes under their jurisdiction, upon application by an interested local agency or private group and receiving donations from non-State sources for the cost of the sign and their installation, ~~will~~ can place these signs as requested.

05 The Historic Route 99 (\$25(CA)) sign is used to identify “Historic Route 99”.

06 Caltrans and local agencies with portions of former U.S. Route 99 currently under their jurisdiction, upon application by an interested local agency or private group and receiving donations from non-State sources for the cost of the sign and their installation, ~~will~~ can place these signs as requested.

Attachments:

Chapter 2M documents are provided on the [CTCDC website](#). Previously covered Chapters are available on the CTCDC website, under the November 6, 2025 Meeting tab.

Ch. #	Chapter Title Description	Attachment #s		
		Text	Figure	Table
2A	GENERAL	1	2	3
2B	REGULATORY SIGNS, BARRICADES, AND GATES	4	5	6
2C	WARNING SIGNS AND OBJECT MARKERS	7	8	9
2D	GUIDE SIGNS — CONVENTIONAL ROADS	10	11	12
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2F	TOLL ROAD SIGNS	16	17	18
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Ch. #	Chapter Title Description	Attachment #s		
		Text	Figure	Table
2I	GENERAL SERVICE SIGNS	25	26	27
2J	SPECIFIC SERVICE SIGNS	28	29	30
2K	TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS	31	32	33
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2M	RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL INTEREST AREA SIGNS	37	38	39
2N	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SIGNS	40	41	42