



**California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)  
Agenda Item Report**



<b>Meeting Date:</b> August 03, 2023 <b>Item Number:</b> 23-09	<b>From:</b> Gurinderpal (Johnny) Bhullar, PE, TE, Secretary, CTCDC
<b>Sponsored By:</b> Yue Wang, PE, Caltrans	<b>Presented By:</b> Johnny Bhullar, PE, TE, Secretary, CTCDC and Janelle Halog, PE
<b>Description:</b> Caltrans process in adopting Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) soon to be issued 11 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)	

**Recommendation:**

None.

**Agency Making Request/Sponsor:**

Johnny Bhullar, PE, TE, Secretary, CTCDC / Yue Wang, PE, Caltrans, CTCDC Member

**Background:**

Caltrans process in adopting FHWA's soon to be issued 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the National MUTCD is being shared for informational purposes with traffic control device practitioners in California to solicit input and provide advance details on these upcoming efforts.

Information from FHWA's MUTCD website offers background and more details, per excerpts and web links below:

*The USDOT has been working diligently on a final rule for the next edition of the MUTCD. With the vast input submitted through the public docket, and the commitment to implementing the provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we want the new edition of the MUTCD to be as responsive as possible. We share in your enthusiasm for a new MUTCD and it remains a top priority for the USDOT. The next edition will be available soon.*

*A Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) to issue a new edition of the MUTCD was published in the Dec. 14, 2020, Federal Register for public comment. More than 17,000 entries submitted to the public docket comprise over 35,000 individual comments, and these comments will inform this rulemaking action and the 11th Edition of the MUTCD. In addition, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act directs USDOT to update the MUTCD within 18 months of its enactment, and at least every 4 years thereafter to promote the safety, inclusion, and mobility of all road users.*



## California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) Agenda Item Report



*The 11th Edition of the MUTCD will be a comprehensive update, incorporating the results of nearly 200 Official Experiments of novel traffic control devices and applications, Official Interpretations, Interim Approvals, and other research conducted both independently and by the Traffic Control Device Consortium Pooled Fund.*

- FHWA MUTCD Website:  
<https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- Status of Rulemaking for the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the National MUTCD:  
<https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/mutcd11status.htm>
- FHWA Informational Webinars:  
[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/mutcd\\_news.htm#apr\\_02\\_21](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/mutcd_news.htm#apr_02_21)

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A – Caltrans Process to Adopt National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition



# ATTACHMENT A

## Attachment A – Caltrans Process to Adopt National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

### Caltrans Process in adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

Key Steps involved in adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California:

1. Identify HQ Owners/SMEs of the following CA MUTCD topics/categories:
  - Traffic Signs (includes signs in TTC workzones, school areas, railroad/LRT grade crossings and bicycle facilities)
  - Pavement Markings (includes markings in TTC workzones, school areas, railroad/LRT grade crossings and bicycle facilities)
  - Traffic Signals (includes traffic signal control elements in TTC workzones, railroad/LRT grade crossings and bicycle facilities)
  - Active Transportation (includes all parts Vulnerable Road Users, pedestrians, bicyclists)
  - Automated Vehicles (new Part proposed for 11<sup>th</sup> Edition)
2. MOU/Agreement with, or acknowledgement by HQ owners external to Safety Programs to agree that they are the HQ Owners/SMEs on the specific CA MUTCD topics with authority and responsibility.
3. Caltrans engages FHWA CA Division office to nominate staff to participate in these SME workgroups to provide guidance in the workshop discussions.
4. HQ Owners/SMEs establish Caltrans statewide (HQ & Districts) SMEs group for their specific topic, comprising of Caltrans experts with knowledge and expertise to advise on the adoption of the 11th Edition changes and represent Caltrans in the technical workshops conducted with externals.
5. Inform all CA MUTCD practitioners (Caltrans, CTCDC & Subscription List contacts) of National MUTCD 11th Edition release and share Caltrans planned process to adopt it for CA.
6. HQ Owners/SMEs, utilizing their respective statewide (HQ & Districts) SMEs groups, begin reviewing the changes in National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition and compare them with current CA MUTCD contents for the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition changes to Standard, Guidance and Option topics:
  - Does CA MUTCD have a higher standard, mitigating the need to adopt? Or
  - Does it conflict with pre-existing (prior to NMUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition issuance) California law or regulation? Or
  - Does it conflict with current policy?
  - Any other potential safety or operational concerns preventing recommendation to adopt?
7. Caltrans engages CA MUTCD practitioners via CTCDC, SHSP, CA MUTCD Subscription List contacts and through other outreach efforts to solicit SME volunteers external to Caltrans, representing local agencies, private consultants, and technical practitioners to form SME work groups for the specific CA MUTCD topics/categories.
8. CA MUTCD topics/categories work groups begin reviewing and discussing the National MUTCD 11th Edition changes in a series of technical workshops to make recommendations on adopting, modifying before adopting or not adopting these changes resulting in revisions to CA MUTCD to address the adoption of National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. These technical workshops on the individual CA MUTCD topics/categories are planned to be conducted:
  - For Signs, Markings & Signals topics (estimate only):
    - Virtual on-line workshops – 1 to 3 workshops, with durations of 1 to 2 days each



## California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) Agenda Item Report



- In-Person workshops in Northern California – 1 workshop, with duration of 1 to 2 days
  - In-Person workshops in Southern California – 1 workshop, with duration of 1 to 2 days
  - For Active Transportation & Automated Vehicles (estimate only)
    - Virtual on-line workshops – 1 to 2 workshops, with durations of 1 to 2 days each
    - In-Person workshops in Northern California 1 workshop, with duration of 1 to 2 days
    - In-Person workshops in Southern California 1 workshop, with duration of 1 to 2 days
9. Prepare individual draft revision proposals for CA MUTCD for each topic/category to address and adopt the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, based on the outcome of the technical workshops and recommendations made by the SME groups.
  10. Share these individual draft revision proposals for each topic/category with Caltrans management, highlighting significant changes, potential safety benefits of implementation and any challenges or issues/concerns that management needs to be aware of.
  11. Pursuant to Caltrans management guidance to proceed, post these individual draft revision proposals for CA MUTCD for each topic/category on website to open it for public comments, providing an appropriate review and comment period and deadline to submit comments.
  12. Publicize the posting of these individual draft revision proposals by informing CA MUTCD practitioners via CTCDC, SHSP, CA MUTCD Subscription List contacts and through other outreach efforts to solicit public review and comments.
  13. Individual CA MUTCD topics/categories work groups review and address all public comments received and finalize their specific revision proposals, along with a summary of the comments received and their resolutions.
  14. These individual finalized revision proposals are then used to prepare CTCDC agenda items for these individual draft revision proposals for each topic/category, as they are finalized and include them for the next scheduled CTCDC meeting.
  15. In the CTCDC meeting, for the agenda item on the individual finalized revision proposal for each topic/category, Caltrans presents the proposal and helps answer any questions CTCDC members may have on it. The goal of the agenda item is to gain CTCDC recommendation to incorporate the finalized revision proposal into CA MUTCD as part of the Caltrans process to adopt the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California and issue a newly revised CA MUTCD Edition.
  16. The CTCDC agenda item on the individual finalized revision proposal for each topic/category could potentially overlap more than one CTCDC meeting before it gains a passing motion from the CTCDC members.
  17. Caltrans makes changes to the CTCDC agenda item for the finalized proposal based on the discussions and the final motion and prepares it for inclusion in the new CA MUTCD Edition that will be issued to adopt the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition in California.
  18. Caltrans prepares the “Change List” comparing current version of CA MUTCD with the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition that is planned to be issued.
  19. Once all CTCDC agenda item for the finalized revision proposal for each topic/category are completed, then Caltrans ensures that all of them are incorporated into the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition.
  20. Caltrans submits the finalized and newly revised CA MUTCD Edition adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California to FHWA’s CA Division office accompanied by a letter requesting “substantial conformance” in order for Caltrans to proceed with issuing it as official CA MUTCD Edition.



## California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) Agenda Item Report



21. FHWA CA Division office reviews the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California and provides the finding of “substantial conformance” via letter to Caltrans.
22. Caltrans receives FHWA CA Division office’s letter, finding the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California to be in “substantial conformance” with the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.
23. Caltrans officially issues the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition by informing the CTCDC via letter and posting the newly revised CA MUTCD Edition on the CA MUTCD website, thereby adopting the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California.
24. This constitutes completion of Caltrans task to adopt the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California.

**Note:** Based on the above key steps involved in this task, some required by law, it is anticipated that the time frame required to adopt the National MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> Edition for California will need a minimum of 18 months, and most likely the full 2-year time period allowed by FHWA for States to adopt the National MUTCD. Trying to deliver in a shorter time frame than this, will potentially risk in the adoption process resulting in adopting the CA MUTCD Edition such that it would require changes immediately after it is issued, causing confusion for practitioners, and losing credibility of the manual.