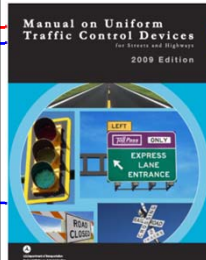


## 20-Year Vision for the MUTCD: What Do You Think?



Gene Hawkins  
Presented to ATSSA  
Chicago, IL  
August 2013



## Why a Vision and Strategic Plan (VSP)?

- MUTCD grown in size and complexity
- Most MUTCD changes developed on individual basis without strategic coordination
- Critical unknowns not yet defined:
  - *MUTCD purpose (why it exists)*
  - *MUTCD target user (who written for)*
  - *MUTCD basic content concepts (what goes in it)*
- 2009 MUTCD issues
  - *Size of NPA and coordination of revisions*
  - *Specificity of content mandates*
- Where does the MUTCD need to go over the next 20 years?

## VSP Access

- Vision & Strategic Plan (VSP) website:
  - <http://mutcd.tamu.edu>
  - *Page presenting VSP document*
  - *Page for submitting comments*
- VSP going to NCUTCD sponsoring organizations in Fall 2013 for review and comment
  - *Individuals not affiliated with the NCUTCD sponsors can comment through website*
- Comments due 10/15/2013
- Revised version to be posted in Dec 2013
- NCUTCD to vote on VSP at Jan 2014 meeting in Arlington, VA

## Making Comments


- Submit comments through NCUTCD sponsors or the MUTCD VSP website
  - <http://mutcd.tamu.edu/comments>
- Read comment instructions on website
- Use item # to comment on content in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 (i.e., 519.b.i)
- Comment on good and bad
- Comments are identified by name and viewable on website

## Document Structure

- 80 pages
- Front matter
- Ch 1: Introduction
- Ch 2: MUTCD Opinions, Challenges, Needs, and Questions
- Ch 3: Recommended Vision
- Ch 4: Recommended Strategic Plan
- References and Appendices

## Structure: Opinions, Challenges, Needs, and Questions (Ch 2)

- Categories:
  - *TCDs as independent elements*
  - *MUTCD as authoritative reference document*
  - *Structure and organization*
  - *Content*
  - *Use and users*
  - *Administration*
  - *Technology influence*
- Groups for each category:
  - *Opinions*
  - *Challenges*
  - *Needs*
  - *Questions*




### Highlights: Opinions, Challenges, Needs, and Questions (Ch 2)

- Series of thoughts related to category
  - *Opinions and challenges generally lead to needs and questions*
  - *Needs and questions generally lead to recommendations in the Vision chapter*
- Need to read this chapter so you know the basis for the Vision recommendations
- There are 121 items (#1-121)



### Structure: Vision (Ch 3)

- This chapter recommends what MUTCD should be
- Chapter structure:
  - *Fundamental assumptions*
  - *Fundamental recommendations*
  - *Guiding rules for the MUTCD content*
  - *Recommended MUTCD language*
  - *MUTCD content*
  - *MUTCD structure*
  - *MUTCD revisions*
- There are 54 items (#501-554)




### Highlights: Vision (Ch 3)

- Keep as one document
  - *Proposed alternative structure concept*
- Define TCD activities
- More levels of mandate
  - *Distinguish uniform and consistent standards*
- Distinguish user content
  - *Engineer (decision)*
  - *Non-engineer (instruction)*
- Better coordinate content
  - *Needs more than hyperlinks*
  - *Concept of "smart tags"*
- Limits on size of rulemaking




### Structure: Strategic Plan (Ch 4)

- Phase I: complete strategic plan
  - *Activities that are beyond volunteer abilities*
  - *Additional outreach*
- Phase II: 2018 MUTCD
  - *Content improvement*
  - *No major changes*
- Phase III: 2025 MUTCD
  - *Restructuring mandates*
- Phase IV: 2033 MUTCD
  - *Content coordination*
  - *Need to start in near future to finish by 2033*
- Key thought: MUTCD stability is important
  - *Don't want to make all the changes at once*



### Structure: Appendices

- A: Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 655
- B: History and Growth of the MUTCD
- C: Revising the MUTCD
- D: National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- E: Future of Traffic Control Devices
- F: Target Group of Road Users



### Perspectives

- Need to read the entire document
  - *Pieces are interrelated*
  - *Don't just read the Vision chapter*
- MUTCD future is important
  - *Not something to be rushed through in 20 minutes*
- Comments should be useful
  - *Indicate agreement or recommend specific changes in language*
  - *Indicating agreement is vital to process*
- This effort is independent of the FHWA notice on splitting the MUTCD