

**The next meeting date will be Wednesday, February 13, at the
Mn/DOT Waters Edge Office, Conference Room 176 from 12:30pm to 3:00pm.**

**MINNESOTA COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
JANUARY 9, 2013
WATERS EDGE**

Attendees:

Janelle Anderson
Tim Chalupnik
Tiffany Dagon
Rob Egge
Joe Gustafson
Heather Lott
Tim Plath
Howard Preston
Paul St. Martin
Ken Schroepfer
Mark Sehr
Will Stein

Explained Absence:

Tom Sohrweide

Unexplained Absence:

Dharam Bobra
Jeff Miller



Guests:

Melisa Barnes
Ken Johnson
Don Obernolte

cc:

Susan Groth
Kristi Sebastian

Meeting started at 12:31 PM

Announcements

Melisa Barnes was introduced as the MnDOT Bicycle and Safety Engineer. She will be addressing statewide bikeways and pedestrian issues.

Business from the Floor

None

Correction to the Minutes

None

Old Business

1. FHWA Update

Will Stein reported that there are several noteworthy items:

- a. With respect to rule making for minimum levels of retroreflectivity for pavement markers, the proposed rule is a long term effort.
- b. There will be a release in an upcoming issue of the Federal Register regarding format options for the future MUTCD. There are several options for dividing the MUTCD into two documents. This should be released within the next week. Notices will be sent out to all Committee members when this appears.

2. Requests for Experimentation, Condition Use and Interpretation

Janelle Anderson reported there have been no new requests. Also, there has been no word from national FHWA on the City of Minneapolis request to use red flashing beacons to supplement crosswalk warning signs.

3. Motorcycle Road Guard

Ken Johnson presented the proposed changes to MN Laws Chapter 7422 – Motorcycle Road Guard Certification. See Attachment 1.

The reason for concern is that additions were made to MN Statute 169.01, subd. 4, item g (see Attachment 2) at the last legislative session regarding Motorcycle Road Guards. MN Statute was amended in 2012 by MN Session Laws 2012 Chapter 287, article 3, section 27,43.

Ken has been working with a task force to review the Rules and possible include text and a figure in the MN MUTCD.

He felt that information regarding Motorcycle Road Guards should be included in the MN MUTCD. This would include text and figure(s). There was a lengthy discussion on this topic. It was the consensus of those attending that information on Road Guards did not belong in the MN MUTCD for several reasons. One reason was that Road Guards like flaggers and enforcement officers are not considered a traffic control device. Another reason brought up was potential tort issues for the road authorities having jurisdiction over the road where the road guard was controlling traffic.

There was a concern that the entire issue should be handled through an application for a permit monitored by the Department of Public Safety.

Ken pointed out the road guards will be required to take a course and be certified. It was acknowledged that this was an excellent idea. However, how would a road authority or local enforcement agency be informed of the event, the route, the date, and the time it would take place. There was also concern about the road guards ability to control traffic at a signalized intersection.

Ken agreed to take these concerns back to the Motorcycle Road Guard task force.

New Business

1. LOOK FOR TRAINS sign

Ken Schroepfer noted that there has been some discussion regarding the removal of this sign from the MN MUTCD. Heather Lott stated that the FHWA was opposed to the mixing of text and arrows on signs unless the design of the sign was found in the FHWA Signs and Marking Manual.

In an email from Sue Aylesworth (Manager, MnDOT Railroad Administration), she said that since the railroads “are installing STOP and YIELD signs at crossings, a ‘look for trains’ sign would just add to the clutter issue” of signs along our roadways.

Mark Sehr stated that he has numerous rail grade crossings with gravel roads in his county. These crossings have neither a STOP nor a YIELD sign mounted on or near a railroad crossbuck. At these crossings, this sign does provide additional notice to the motorist that there may be a train approaching.

Joe Gustafson was asked to review Section 8B.61 for possible text changes. Will Stein will forward the Eric Ferrin email addressing alternatives to this sign.

2. New Crosswalk Design

Don Obernolte(MnDOT Office of Environmental Planning and Design) made a presentation regarding his proposed Request to Experiment for the use of a modified continental block designed pedestrian crosswalk.

The purpose of the request is to make is safer for pedestrians to cross the street at crosswalks. When there is water, frost and snow covering continental blocks, they become slippery for pedestrians. Don’s proposal would reduce the amount of surface material in a continental block by removing 60% of the material. The block would then be composed of alternating transverse strips 3 feet long and 4-inch wide with a 6-inch gap between them. This would continue for the entire length of the 6-foot block. See Attachment 3

Don answered an assortment of questions.
He will make a final review of the proposal and then submit it.

3. Guide to Establishing Speed Limits in School Zones

Janelle mentioned that she received a letter from a county engineer questioning including the Guide to Establishing Speed Limits in School Zones in the MN MUTCED. He felt that this is not a requirement but only a guide. It was pointed out that prior to inclusion in the MN MUTCD, it was approved by a Commissioner’s Order. This has the same effect on the document as when it is included in the MN MUTCD.

4. TEO Signing Committee update

Heather Lott reported that the TEO Signing Committee has approved the installation of 30” x 18” Yellow Ribbon City signs below each City Population Sign (I2-3).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

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