

**The next meeting date will be Wednesday, August 14, at the
Mn/DOT Waters Edge Office, Conference Room 176 from 12:30pm to 3:00pm.**

**MINNESOTA COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
JULY 10, 2013
WATERS EDGE**

Attendees:

Janelle Anderson
Joe Gustafson
Tim Plath
Ken Schroepfer
Tom Sohrweide
Will Stein

Explained Absence:

Tim Chalupnik
Howard Preston

Unexplained Absence:

Dharam Bobra
Tiffany Dagon
Rob Ege
Heather Lott
Jeff Miller
Mark Sehr
Paul St. Martin

Guests:

Peter Buchen
Ken Johnson

cc:

Susan Groth
Kristi Sebastian



Meeting started at 12:35 PM

Announcements

None

Business from the Floor

None

Correction to the Minutes

None

Old Business

1. FHWA Update

Will Stein reported that the FHWA has decided, based on responses to their recent survey, the splitting the MUTCD into 2 manuals is not feasible at this time.

There was an interpretation made regarding the Mississippi River Bike Trail, Route #45. Currently, the M1-9 and the M1-9 ALT can be used to mark this route. There is a real issue with an individual/local organization who wants their "brand" name on their portion of the bike route. This route is part of a national plan.

2. Requests for Experimentation, Condition Use and Interpretation

Janelle Anderson reported that the request for a modified continental block pedestrian crosswalk design as presented by Don Obernolte has been approved by the FHWA.

The advisory bike lane requested and installed by the City of Edina has been removed

because of issues with local citizens.

3. Motorcycle Road Guard

Dept. of Public Safety has not scheduled any new meetings to discuss this topic.

New Business

1. AASHTO-SCOTE – Update

Peter Buchen, Asst. State Traffic Engineer, participated in the recent NCUTCD and AASHTO meetings, (June 24 thru 28).

With respect to the Strategic Plan to revamp the layout of the MUTCD, Gen Hawkins is still working on the plan. Once it has been developed, Sue Groth will receive an updated draft and forward that on to this Committee.

The next FHWA MUTCD is anticipated with a release date of 2016.

Chung Eng, chair of the FHWA MUTCD Team explored with rewriting Chapter 3 to fit the proposed 2 manual format.

The Pavement Markings and Work Zone Committees talked about the use of Hawk Signals and what speed limits they should be used under.

The Work Zone Committee spent quite a bit of time discussing TPAR specifically on the width of a temporary pedestrian route (60 inch vs. 48”). Also, there was much discussion on the need for more consistency in the design and application of pedestrian routes.

Minnesota will play host to the AASHTO (June 23-25) and NCUTCD (June 25-27) meetings in 2014.

2. Relevance of Appendix B

Janelle noted that MN Statute 169.215, subd. 2 states:

The commissioner shall adopt uniform specifications for crossings for senior citizens or disabled persons. The specifications shall include criteria for determining the need for a crossing and the type and design of traffic-control devices or signals that may be used at the crossing. The specifications shall be incorporated as a part of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices required pursuant to section 169.06.

Appendix B, “*Warrants, Standards, and Guidelines for Traffic Control Devices used at Senior Citizens and Disabled Person Crossings*”, meets the stated requirements. Additionally, all of the stated requirements are also being met elsewhere in the MN MUTCD.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Appendix B can be removed from the MN MUTCD in the upcoming Revision 3 (release date of January 1, 2014). Paragraph 3 of the Commissioner’s Order will be modified to say

“Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.06, subd. 1 (2011) and 169.215, subd. 2 (2011), the Commissioner hereby ...”.

3. FHWA as Law

Janelle has drafted a letter that will be sent to the FHWA after it is reviewed by the Mn Attorney Generals Office.

The questions for the FHWA are:

Is the FHWA MUTCD legally law?

If the MN MUTCD is in substantial compliance with the FHWA is it also considered law?

4. 2014 Field Manual

Ken Schroepfer reported that work is underway to prepare a 2014 Field Manual. It will be released as part of Revision 3 to the MN MUTCD.

5. Vacant Position on the MCUTCD

The Committee was informed that Dharam Bobra, Hennepin County, has retired. This leaves an open position. Joe Gustafson said that he will contact the Metro County Engineers and ask if any are interested in serving on the MCUTCD.

6. TEO Signing Committee update

There is nothing to report at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

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