

ROAD SIGNAGE HANDOUT



Road signage requirements are defined by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Nationwide, road managers use these standards to install and maintain devices on all streets and highways.

The MUTCD contains all national design, application, and placement, standards, guidance, options, and supports provisions for traffic control devices. The purpose of the MUTCD is to provide uniformity of these devices, which include signs, signals, and pavement markings, to promote highway safety and efficiency on the Nation's streets and highways. Counties are expected to comply with these standards as they are recognized as "best practice".

PURPOSE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

- The purpose of traffic control devices is to promote road safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users throughout the nation.
- Traffic control devices notify road users of regulations and provide warning and guidance needed for the reasonably safe, uniform, and efficient operation of all elements of traffic.

PRINCIPLES OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

- MUTCD contains the basic principles that govern the design and use of traffic control devices for all roads open to public travel. It is important that these principles be given primary consideration in the selection and application of each device.
- To be effective, traffic control devices should meet five basic requirements:
 - Fulfill a need
 - Command attention
 - Convey a clear, simple meaning
 - Command respect from road users
 - Give adequate time for proper response
- The proper use of traffic control devices should provide the road user with the information necessary to safely and lawfully use the roads, pedestrian facilities, and bikeways.



PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

- Placement of a traffic control device should be within the road user's view so that adequate visibility is provided.
- The traffic control device should be appropriately positioned with respect to the location, object, or situation to which it applies.



- The location of should be such that the road user has adequate time to respond properly in both day and night conditions.
- Unnecessary traffic control devices should be removed.
- Traffic control devices should be placed and operated in a uniform and consistent manner.
- Any unauthorized traffic control device or other sign or message placed on the road's right-a-way by a private organization or individual constitutes a public nuisance and should be removed.
- All unofficial or nonessential traffic control device, sign, or message should be removed.
- All regulatory traffic control devices shall be supported by laws, ordinances, or regulations.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

- Functional maintenance of traffic control devices should be used to determine if certain devices need to be changed to meet current traffic conditions.
- Physical maintenance of traffic control devices should be performed to retain the legibility and visibility of the device, and to retain the proper functioning of the device.
 - Clean, legible, properly mounted devices in good condition command the respect of the road users.
- Each agency should have an inspection program ensuring that all signs are posted and in good repair. Failing to ensure that signage is properly posted and in good repair is a great liability exposure to County's.
 - Agencies should have a log documenting calls or complaints regarding signage, and the action taken to correct potential problems.
 - In addition, agencies should document efforts to regularly inspect signage and devices.

