

Date: December 28, 2011

From: Charles Meyer, P.E., Branch Manager
Safety and Traffic Engineering
Colorado Department of Transportation

TO: Cities and Counties of Colorado

Subject: New Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (MUTCD)

This email is to inform the cities and counties of Colorado that a new federal MUTCD was published by the Federal Highway Administration in December 2009. On December 15, 2011, the Transportation Commission of Colorado adopted the federal MUTCD for use in Colorado. The MUTCD is a national publication that outlines the proper usage of traffic control devices. It contains national standards for the design, application, and placement of signs, signals, pavement markings and other types of traffic control devices. It describes how traffic control devices are to be used in a variety of situations, such as local street operations, bicycle and pedestrian crossings, school zones, and work zones.

Use of the MUTCD is mandatory on all public highways, roads and streets in Colorado. This is pursuant to sections 42-4-104 and 42-4-105 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. I have attached several documents that help explain the key changes in the new MUTCD, as well as the adopted Colorado Supplement to the MUTCD. The Colorado Supplement has been established to adjust and interpret, where necessary, for the proper and lawful application of the federal MUTCD in Colorado in compliance with state statutes, and to address traffic regulatory situations not provided for in the MUTCD.

- The MUTCD comes in several published formats: complete perfect bound books, loose-leaf binders with tabs, smaller books bound by chapters (1, 3, & 6 or 1, 5, & 6) and on CD-ROM. Parts 1, 5 and 6 address temporary traffic control and can be purchased separately. The electronic version, posted on the MUTCD website, <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>, is the official FHWA publication. The website version is also more efficient and reliable when revising the MUTCD. National organizations have partnered and printed hard copies of the MUTCD. These hard copies are available for sale at:
- American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) - <http://www.atssa.com/>
- American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) - www.aashto.org
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) - www.ite.org
- International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) – www.imsasafety.org

The Colorado Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD is available from the CDOT Safety and Traffic Engineering Branch at:

http://www.coloradodot.info/library/traffic/traffic-manuals-guidelines/fed-state-co-traffic-manuals/mutcd/MUTCD_2009_Colorado_Supplement.pdf/view

Please feel free to contact this office or your CDOT Regional office if you have any questions. You may also reply to this email if you need additional information. For specific questions or interpretations of the federal MUTCD, we recommend using the special FHWA Web site: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

Resources: List of Known Errors in 2009 MUTCD (updated 11/29/2011) - http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/2009mutcd_errors.pdf
Changes to the 2009 MUTCD (Compared to 2003) - <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/ser-Training.htm>
Interim Approvals Issued by FHWA - http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm