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## It's here! (well, almost) MUTCD: Millennium Edition

Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

THE MILLENNIUM edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) has finally been published on the Internet, but actual implementation is still some time off. The new manual will be published in a three-ring binder format and will offer many new features, including presentation in both English and metric units. Many revisions, some quite substantial, have been made that will affect local signing and pavement markings. Following are some highlights.

### Revisions to the MUTCD

The millennium edition of the MUTCD contains changes to Part 2, Signs, such as revised explanations for stop and yield sign applications and for curve and turn sign usage. The manual includes new warning signs, as well as changes in pedestrian and school signing.

Part 3, Markings, presents use of a new blue color, changes in center line and edge line marking requirements, and new markings for such applications as speed humps and advance yield locations.

Part 6, Temporary Traffic Control, also includes some revisions in guiding principles, locations, new regulatory and warning signs as well as other devices, temporary markings, and duration of use. Two new typical applications have been added, and almost all others have been revised to some extent.

### MUTCD additions and omissions

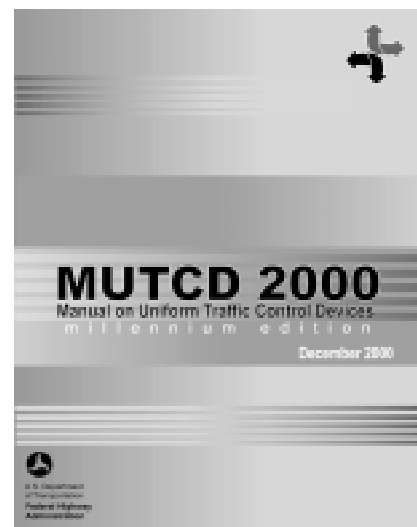
Two new sections have been added to the millennium edition of the MUTCD. Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads, should be of high interest here in Iowa, but Part 10, Traffic

Controls for Highway-Light Rail Transit Grade Crossings, probably won't have much application here for a few years, at least.

Minimum retroreflectivity standards for both signs and markings are still under consideration and are not included in the new edition.

### Effective date

Although the new MUTCD will be adopted in the near future, the FHWA will allow a phase-in period of two years for state and local agencies,



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*Attend the  
Millennium MUTCD  
videoconference, March 20.  
See page 2.*

Preparation of this newsletter was financed through the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). LTAP is a nationwide effort financed jointly in Iowa by the Federal Highway Administration and the Iowa Department of Transportation. The mission of Iowa's LTAP: To foster a safe, efficient, environmentally sound transportation system by improving skills and knowledge of local transportation providers through training, technical assistance, and technology transfer, thus improving the quality of life for Iowans.

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The opinions, findings, or recommendations expressed here are those of the Center for Transportation Research and Education and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Highway Administration or the Iowa Department of Transportation.

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## MUTCD videoconference: learn from national experts

THE MILLENNIUM MUTCD Videoconference will be held in Ames on March 20 from 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Room 179 of Iowa State University's Scheman Building. The live satellite broadcast, hosted by the American Traffic Safety Services Association, will focus on recent changes and updates to the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD).

The changes and updates will be presented in the nationwide broadcast by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives who drafted the new MUTCD. Panel members will also hold a live question-and-answer session via toll-free phone lines that will be in place at the videoconference sites.

The broadcast is being brought to the Ames videoconference site through the sponsorship of the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Center for Transportation Research and Education, and Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program's Safety Circuit Rider.

Because the FHWA is underwriting the costs associated with the videoconference, attendance fees will not be charged. However, registration is required. For more information contact Sharon Prochnow, 515-294-8103, [prochnow@iastate.edu](mailto:prochnow@iastate.edu).

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and some applications may have phase-in periods of three to 10 years.

#### **For more information**

A recent session at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington, D.C., addressed the status of the new MUTCD and offered some insight on what to expect in the future for this important document. Copies of the TRB presentations can be found on the web at <http://transops.tamu.edu/>. Or you can contact Tom McDonald, 515-294-6384, [tmcdonal@iastate.edu](mailto:tmcdonal@iastate.edu).

## Other MUTCD training opportunities

TRAINING workshops on the MUTCD changes will be offered through the Iowa Department of Transportation and Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program. Workshops are expected to begin late this summer. Eight-hour and four-hour training workshops will be offered, in addition to 90-minute executive sessions. The varied formats will give transportation personnel the opportunity to attend the training best suited to their needs.

Locations of the training workshops have not yet been decided. Any local transportation agencies, schools, enforcement professionals, or others with an interest in traffic control devices and pavement markings can get more information on scheduling millennium MUTCD workshops by contacting Tom McDonald at the Center for Transportation Research and Education, 515-294-6384, [tmcdonal@iastate.edu](mailto:tmcdonal@iastate.edu).

