

Highlights from Iowa's supplement to the MUTCD

Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

Editor's note: This article is part of a series introducing sections from a new resource: Iowa Traffic Control Devices and Pavement Markings: A Manual for Cities and Counties. The manual was funded by the Iowa Highway Research Board (TR-441) and supplements the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Copies were recently furnished to all Iowa counties and to cities with populations over 1,000. If you haven't received your copy or need additional copies in either paper or CD-ROM format, contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu, or Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider, 515-294-6384, tmcdonal@iastate.edu.

This article addresses some additional topics covered in Section C, "Signs."

- The overuse of special warning signs like "CHILDREN AT PLAY," "SLOW—CHILDREN," and "DEAF CHILD," has long been a concern, especially in urban areas. We all certainly want to react to parents' requests as much as possible, but too many signs, particularly those that warn of conditions that do not occur consistently, can lead to drivers to ignore the message entirely. In the article "Children at Play Signs," the Iowa manual describes how agencies can discourage overuse of special warning signs and, when such signs are installed, how to ensure these signs remain in place for a limited time.
- Commercial developments such as shopping malls and even private residential housing subdivisions sometimes install signs and markings to control and guide traffic. Many times the traffic control devices and markings used in such private applications do not comply with standard practice as described in the MUTCD. It may not be commonly known that both Section

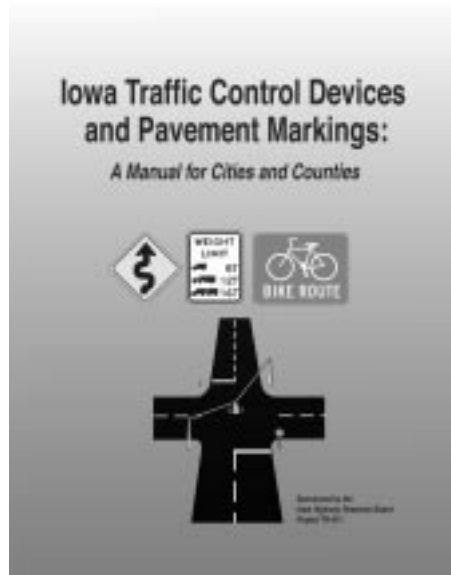
Status of millenium edition of MUTCD in Iowa

The Iowa DOT will be printing copies of the new MUTCD and anticipates shipping a **free** copy to every Iowa city and county late this fall, perhaps in November. Cities and counties will have to supply their own binders. Questions? Contact Tim Crouch, state traffic engineer, Iowa DOT, 515-239-1513, tim.crouch@dot.state.ia.us.

States have until January 17, 2003 to adopt the millenium edition of the *Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD). In Iowa, the Iowa Administrative Rules will first need to be amended. This process is beginning, with state adoption of the millenium MUTCD anticipated in early 2002. •

1A of the MUTCD and specific sections of the Iowa Code require that *all* traffic control devices, even those installed in private developments, comply with current requirements. The Iowa manual addresses this issue in the article "Commercial Developments."

- The millennium edition of the MUTCD contains many new signs and markings. One of the changes involves crossing signs, W11-1 for bicycles and W11-2 for pedestrians. The new MUTCD has eliminated the use of W11-1A and W11-2A signs at the point of crossing. Instead, a W16-7P downward pointing arrow will supplement the standard crossing signs at those locations. This change is explained in the article "Crossings." •



See the conference calendar on page 13 for dates and locations of four MUTCD training workshops scheduled in Iowa during fall 2001. These workshops will be led by Safety Circuit Rider Tom McDonald.

Iowa's supplement to the millenium MUTCD (left) addresses issues of particular importance to Iowa's city and county road departments.

The Iowa DOT will mail copies of the official millenium edition of the MUTCD (right) to Iowa cities and counties this fall.

