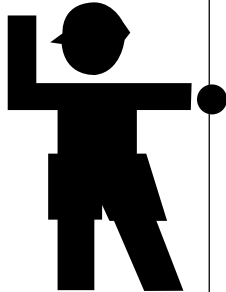


safety shorts



Complying with the millenium MUTCD

by Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

CHANGES and new features in the millenium edition of the MUTCD won't become official in Iowa until the state adopts the new edition. The Iowa DOT anticipates that Iowa's Administrative Code will be so modified later this year. However, even that action won't require local agencies to comply immediately with many of the more substantial and potentially costly requirements.

In recognition of local budgetary constraints, the FHWA has provided 3- to 15-year phase-in compliance periods for 22 new MUTCD standards. For example, agencies won't have to comply with a

change in reduced speed ahead signing (Section 2B.16) for seven years—January 17, 2008. And agencies will have 15 years from January 9, 1997, to comply with minimum letter size requirements for street name signs (Section 2D.38).

Please note that, regardless of the date Iowa adopts the millenium edition of the MUTCD, most compliance periods began with the effective date of the new MUTCD: January 17, 2001.

A calendar of compliance phase-in periods is shown on page 13 and on the FHWA's web page, <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>. Future issues of *Technology News* will contain periodic reminders of these compliance dates. •

New Iowa guide supplements the MUTCD

by Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX for your hot-off-the-press copy of a valuable new resource for your shop: *Iowa Traffic Control Devices and Pavement Markings: A Manual for Cities and Counties*.

Funded by the Iowa Highway Research Board Project (TR-441), this manual was developed with the invaluable assistance of a hard-working advisory committee of city, county, and Iowa DOT staff, as well as vendors and other safety professionals.

Iowa's manual supplements the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD), which includes requirements and recommendations for signs, devices, and markings used on public roads. In addition to providing the Iowa angle on these topics, Iowa's manual also provides advice on specific issues of local interest. It also contains hundreds of detailed, color illustrations.

Beginning with this issue of *Technology News*, I'll introduce sections

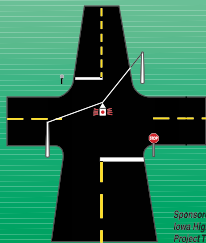
from Iowa's new manual. The following topics are thoroughly covered in the section on "Signs":

- purpose and basic requirements of signs as defined in the MUTCD, including elements to consider in the design and installation of signs and a description of sign types
- providing adequate visibility, including recommendations for sign dimensions, lettering size, and sign orientation (These factors are especially important at night, particularly for older drivers.)
- a list of common colors and a detailed description of the many types of sheetings for signs, with features (including substrate or backing type), cost, performance, and popular vendors
- the benefit of insisting on appropriate warranties from vendors for new sign materials
- advantages of recycling deficient and/or vandalized signs and devices

The Iowa Highway Research Board is providing free copies of the manual to Iowa's counties and cities. In addition, the manual is available for loan (P1524) or in portable document format (.pdf) digital files on CD-ROM through CTRE's library; contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu. Digital files will also be available on the web, www.ctre.iastate.edu/. •

Iowa Traffic Control Devices and Pavement Markings:

A Manual for Cities and Counties



Sponsored by the Iowa Highway Research Board Project TR-441

Phase-in compliance schedule for millenium MUTCD

FOLLOWING is a list of compliance dates for the millenium edition of the MUTCD. Consult the Federal Register (accessible from FHWA's web page, <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>) for detailed information regarding specific sections.

January 3, 2003

Section 3B.01—Yellow Centerline and Left Edge Line Pavement Markings and Warrants
Section 3B.07—Warrants for Use of Edge Lines

January 17, 2004

Section 2B.04—STOP Sign
Compliance period of 3 years

January 17, 2005

Section 4E.06—Accessible Pedestrian Signals
Compliance period of 4 years
Section 4E.08—Accessible Pedestrian Signal Detectors
Compliance period of 4 years

January 17, 2006

Section 9B.04—Bicycle Lane Signs
Compliance period of 5 years
Section 10—Automatic gates, flashing-light signals, and blank-out signs
Compliance period of 5 years
Section 10C.11—Highway-Rail Advance Warning Signs: Removal of existing W10-6 series signs
Compliance period of 5 years

January 17, 2007

Section 2B.49—High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes
Compliance period of 6 years
Section 2B.50—High Occupancy Vehicle Sign Applications and Placement
Compliance period of 6 years
Section 9—Deletion of preferential lane symbol (diamond) for bicycles and pavement markings
Compliance period of 6 years

January 17, 2008

Section 2B.16—Reduced Speed Ahead Sign
Compliance period of 7 years
Section 2B.32—ONE WAY Sign
Compliance period of 7 years
Section 2C.02—Application of Warning Signs
Compliance period of 7 years
Section 2E.29—Interchange Exit Numbering
Compliance period of 7 years
Section 2E.31—Advance Guide signs
Compliance period of 7 years

January 17, 2011

Section 2C.24—Shoulder Signs
Compliance period of 10 years
Section 2C.37—Crossing Signs
Compliance period of 10 years
Section 2F.05—Size of Lettering
Compliance period of 10 years
Section 8B.02—Highway-Rail Grade Crossing (Crossbuck) Sign
Compliance period of 10 years

January 9, 2012

Section 9B.15—Bicycle Crossing Warning Signs
Compliance period of 7 years
Section 2D.38—Letter Size of Street Name Signs
Compliance period of 15 years from Jan. 9, 1997