



Virginia's Adoption of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2009 Edition

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Raymond Khoury P.E.

State Traffic Engineer

Overview

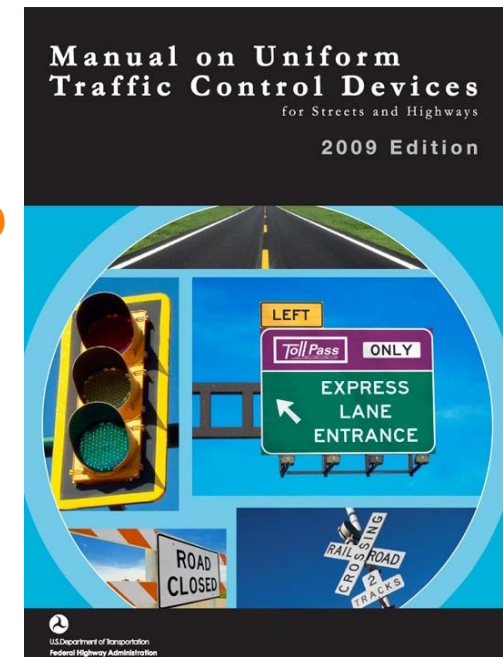
- What is the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**.
- What is the **Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD**.
- Stakeholder Input Process.
- Compliance with MUTCD.
- Managing the Impacts of the updated MUTCD.
- Request for CTB Action - on December's Regular Agenda.



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National MUTCD

- National standards for uniform application and placement of traffic control devices.
- Administered by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Applicable to all roadways in the U.S. open to public travel.
- States are required to adopt and implement MUTCD by January 2012 – 23 CFR, Part 655, Subpart F.
- The Current Edition was issued in December 2009, with 9 Parts:
 - 1 – General
 - 2 – Signs
 - 3 – Markings
 - 4 – Signals
 - 5 – Low-volume Roads
 - 6 – Temporary Traffic Control
 - 7 – Traffic Control for School Areas
 - 8 – Railroad and Light Rail
 - 9 – Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities



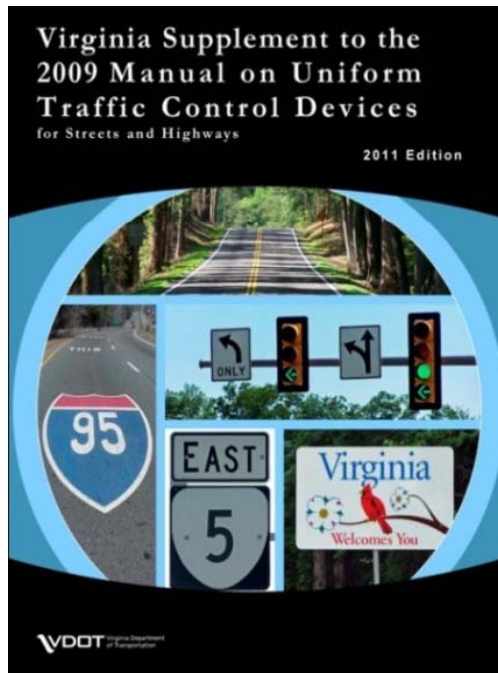
Virginia Supplement

Purpose:

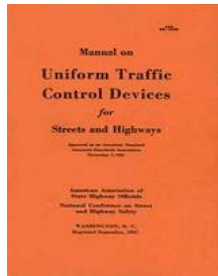
- Incorporates Virginia-specific deviations from the National MUTCD

Benefits:

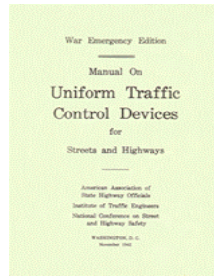
- Removes conflicts with Virginia laws on particular traffic control devices.
- Provides more flexibility and options in applying MUTCD.
- Improves consistency of traffic control devices with policies & best practices developed by Virginia MUTCD Technical Review Committees.
- Virginia-specific Signs:



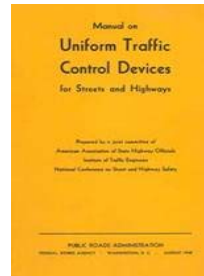
Previous MUTCD Editions Adopted by the CTB in: 1979, 1989, 2002 and 2005



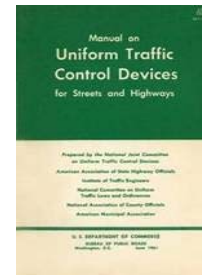
1935



1942



1948



1961



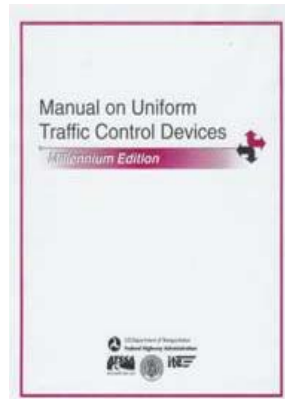
1971



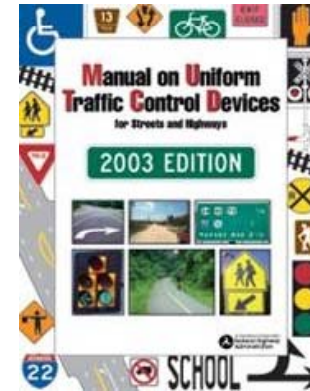
1978



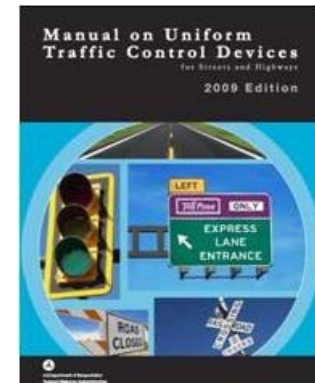
1988



2000



2003



2009

Stakeholder Input

- **13** statewide professional technical review committees.
- **Statewide: localities, industry, and VDOT multidisciplinary review.**
- **Federal Highway Administration engaged throughout.**

Technical Expertise Committees

FHWA

VDOT

Virginia State Police

Industry Professional Organizations

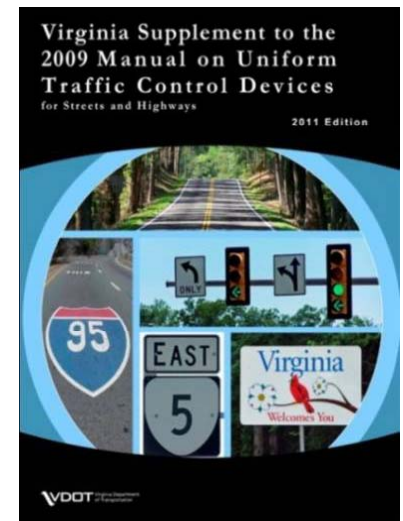
VDRPT

Virginia DMV

VCTIR

All Virginia Municipalities & Counties

Independent Toll Facilities



Compliance Dates Update


- **MUTCD specified series of compliance dates.**
- **FHWA has recognized potential impacts in compliance dates.**
- **FHWA re-opened the formal comment process on compliance dates:**
 - VDOT requested elimination or extension of compliance dates.
 - VDOT identified potential resource constraints to meet compliance.
 - VDOT requested that engineering judgment and statistical data-driven practices be permitted, rather than specific compliance dates.
- **FHWA issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments August 31, 2011:**
 - Proposed **elimination of 46** compliance date requirements.
 - Proposed **extension of 4** compliance dates.
 - **Street Name Signs can remain until they reach the end of their useful life and the new Standard applies when replaced.**

Anticipated Impacts


- **Minimal impacts with proposed removal of many Compliance Dates. Maintenance & Construction practices will change over time to adapt.**
- **Compliance Dates Extended - Proposed Rule:**
 - Sign Management Method - Implement an assessment/management method to maintain retroreflectivity of Warning and Regulatory signs (2 years from the effective date). VDOT is preparing for this requirement.
 - Clearance Timing - Use Engineering practices to set duration of yellow and all-red clearance intervals (5 years from the effective date or when retiming adjustments are made). VDOT's current practice.
 - Pedestrian Timing - Update Pedestrian change intervals (5 years from the effective date or when retiming adjustments are made). VDOT is preparing for this change.
 - Rail Grade Crossing Signs - Add Retroreflective strip on Crossbuck sign and support at Passive Rail Grade Crossings (extended to December 31, 2019). VDOT is preparing for this change.
- **Flexibility will be available to apply engineering judgment and statistical practices rather than specific compliance dates.**
- **In summary, compliance would be met over time as part of maintenance-replacement of devices, using the available resources.**

Managing the Changes

- Promoting advance awareness through informative statewide website & publication.
- Conducting a new educational outreach program statewide.
- Examining changes in business practices to meet compliance.
- Incorporating changes into Maintenance Budget Planning Process.



Document Review & Comment Website
 » Virginia Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD



» Home

» Review Document

» Submit Comments

For questions regarding the review files, comment process, or use of the website, contact Michelle Smith [via email](#).

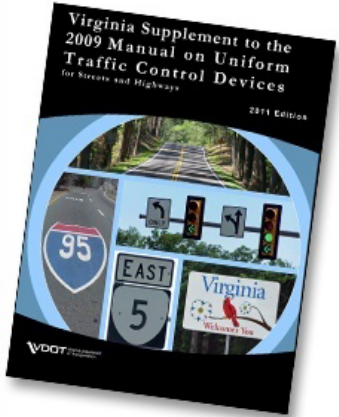
For questions regarding the Supplement, please contact VDOT [via email](#).

Welcome Reviewers

This page contains the draft edition of the 2011 Virginia Supplement to the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The 2011 Virginia Supplement, along with the 2009 National MUTCD, will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for adoption in summer 2011. We appreciate your expertise and valuable feedback toward the completion of this publication. The document is in "draft" form and therefore it is not yet ready for use or widespread distribution. When the publication is finalized, it will be available for free download from the VDOT website, with no printed copies planned.

Virginia's Adoption of the 2009 MUTCD and its Influence on Transportation

Traffic control devices installed on highways within the Commonwealth of Virginia are required to conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Deviations from the Federal MUTCD are documented in the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD. This requirement is established by the Code of Virginia (see §§ 33.1-12 (3) and 46.0-830) and the Virginia Administrative Code (see 24VAC30-561-10 and 24VAC30-300-10.) The current version of the MUTCD officially adopted in Virginia is the 2003 Edition.



Summary and Request for Action

- Updated MUTCD must be **implemented by January 2012**.
- Updated Virginia Supplement captures deviations from MUTCD to remove conflicts with Virginia laws, provide additional clarification, flexibility and options in applying MUTCD, and improve safety in Work Zones.
- **In December, VDOT will request Commonwealth Transportation Board Action:**
 - Adoption of updated National MUTCD and VA Supplement.
 - Adoption of the consolidated regulation combining three Virginia Administrative Codes into one regulation (24 VAC 30-315).
 - Repeal of 24 VAC: 30-310, 30-520, 30-561 and rescission of prior resolutions concerning these regulations to improve efficiency.

Questions

