

I have concern that the deadline of compliance with this proposed change to the MUTCD of seven years is unreasonable. For middle to large size Cities that had to give up sign replacment maintenance programs during the economic down turn of the late 80's and early 90's, redeveloping such a program will take time to obtain support and funding from community leaders.

From an engineering perspective, I agree these changes are needed to help our aging population, however, we esitmate that we will have to change out approximately 60,000 signs in our City with a popluation of just over 600,000. To accomplish this will require additional staff and equipment.

Historically we have relied on Type I sheeting for our ground mounted green series signs. We have already started adjusting our annual purchase contracts for the new letter height requirement already contained in the MUTCD. But these material costs will be even higher with the elimination of Type I sheeting from street name signs.

Obtaining the additional funds for the materials budget, the staff budget and the purchase of additional vehicles, fuel and sign fabrication equipment will require a year or more budget submittals, presentations and documentation. This leaves only six years or less to meet the required deadline.

I request consideration been giving to extending the compliance date to 2014 or nine years.