

FHWA-2003-15149

National Standards for Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways;
Maintaining Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity

To Whom It May Concern

Let me begin by commending FHWA for taking steps to provide the motorists with better signing for drivers during night time hours. I think that you will be contributing to the decrease of injuries and fatalities, which occur at an alarming rate on our streets and highways.

I am pleased that I am able to offer comments on the FHWA's NPA to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. I am very concerned about the lack of maintenance that exists today on our traffic signs. This is a nationwide problem. Additionally, it seems that there is not enough being done for the older driver who is capable of driving at night but may need brighter signs for guidance. It appears that you are proposing that the minimum maintained levels would be available in a separate document, outside of the MUTCD. Not having that reference readily available within the MUTCD is a disservice for the smaller cities and counties who won't invest the time to secure this document.

Furthermore, in section 2A.22, the existing language in the MUTCD states the signs should be maintained. I feel the "should" condition must be replaced with a "shall" condition. By using "should" instead of "shall", agencies could continue to neglect the retroreflectivity as they currently are doing. I urge you to make this a mandatory "shall" requirement in hopes that we can save more lives. Thank you for allowing me to comment on this important regulation.

Sincerely,
Mark Houdmann