Virginia Supplement to the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

for Streets and Highways

2011 Edition

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

The PDF files posted on the VDOT website constitute the most current and official version of the Virginia Supplement to the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. The PDF files available on the VDOT website always take precedence over any potentially conflicting Virginia Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD text or figures that may occur in previously printed versions.

VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

INTRODUCTION

Legal Authority of the MUTCD

Support:

01 The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) defines the standards used nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic. It is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 655, Subpart F, and has been adopted by the FHWA as the national standard for designing, applying, and planning traffic control devices. As mandated by federal law, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has adopted the MUTCD under authority granted by §§ 33.1-12 (3) and 46.2-830 of the Code of Virginia, as the official standard for designing, applying, and planning traffic control devices in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Purpose and Adoption of the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD

Support:

02 The Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD (this Supplement), documents deviations from the MUTCD and adds Virginia-specific requirements. It contains standards, guidance, options, and support for the design, application, and placement of traffic control devices on roadways in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The National MUTCD contains Parts 1 through 9, and the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD contains Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9. Part 6 of the National MUTCD (Temporary Traffic Control) is entirely replaced by the "Virginia Work Area Protection Manual," which is legally part of, but physically separate from this Supplement. There are no Virginia-specific changes to Part 5 of the National MUTCD; therefore the National MUTCD is in effect for all sections within Part 5. Any section within the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD replaces the corresponding section of the National MUTCD, while the National MUTCD sections are still in effect for any section not in the Virginia Supplement.

03 The CTB also adopted this Supplement under the same authority. The provisions set forth in this Supplement are applicable to all roadways in the Commonwealth of Virginia maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Further, these provisions are applicable to all private roads open to public travel, such as those in

shopping centers, theme parks, airports, sports arenas, etc., in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Standard:

04 **All localities shall, by Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations and by § 46.2-1312 of the Code of Virginia, follow the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) as adopted by the FHWA and the CTB.**

Support:

05 Localities, as described in Paragraph 6, are excluded from the requirement to apply the provisions set forth in the Supplement.

Option:

06 Counties and independent cities and towns that maintain their own roadways may recognize the content of the Supplement and the "Virginia Work Area Protection Manual" as official guidance on the subject. A local jurisdiction may choose to adopt the Supplement and/or the "Virginia Work Area Protection Manual." Adopting only one of the publications does not require that the locality adopt the other publication. If this Supplement is adopted by a local jurisdiction, then all references to the "State Traffic Engineer" within this document may be interpreted to mean the maintaining authority's person responsible for traffic control devices.

Standard:

07 **The option in Paragraph 6 shall apply only to roadways under the maintenance of these localities and for private roads open to public travel within the boundaries of these localities.**

How to Use the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD

Standard:

08 **The MUTCD contains its own introduction which shall remain in force in addition to this Introduction for this Supplement.**

09 **Technical sections contained within the remainder of this Supplement shall replace the corresponding section in the MUTCD in its entirety.**

10 **If a section from the MUTCD is not contained within this Supplement, the section in the MUTCD shall remain in force.**

Support:

11 The Table of Contents for each Part of this Supplement contains a listing of each section in the MUTCD and additional sections added by VDOT. If a page number appears adjacent to a section title, that section can be found in this Supplement. If no page number appears adjacent to a section title, that section can be found in the MUTCD.

12 As in the MUTCD, Standard statements in this Supplement appear in bold text, Guidance statements appear in italicized text, and Options and Support statements appear in normal text. The definitions of Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support Statements can be found in Section 1A.13 of this Supplement. Additional information related to

implementation of Standard statements can be found in Section 1A.09 of this Supplement.

13 Within this Supplement, blue text denotes Virginia-specific text added or modified by VDOT. Black text denotes FHWA content from the MUTCD which remains in force.

14 The letter "V" from the VDOT logo appears in the left margin of any paragraph where blue Virginia-specific text related to technical content is present, and no blue text related to technical content is present in the previous paragraph. The exception to this is when a paragraph is divided into multiple sub paragraphs that expand over several pages and the blue Virginia-specific text related to technical content is confined to certain sub paragraphs. In these cases, the letter "V" from the VDOT logo will appear in the left margin of those subsections where blue Virginia-specific text related to technical content is present, and no blue Virginia-specific text related to technical content is present in the previous subsection.

15 When content is elevated from Guidance in the MUTCD to a Standard in this Supplement, or an Option to Guidance, etc., all text will appear in blue.

16 In some cases, text from the MUTCD is shown as blue strikeout text (e.g., ~~strikeout~~). When text is shown in strikeout format, it is no longer in force, and is shown for reference in cases where it is important for the reader to understand that a National MUTCD statement has been removed.

17 All references in this Supplement to other sections include an annotation indicating whether that section can be found in this Supplement or in the MUTCD.

18 Tables and Figures can be classified as:

A. Un-edited Tables/Figures from the MUTCD, which appear exactly as they appear in the MUTCD and with the same title.

B. Tables/Figures from the MUTCD with minor Virginia-specific edits or additions, which have "(VA)" appended to the Table or Figure title (i.e. Figure 2B-18(VA)). Blue text and the letter "V" from the VDOT logo denote the specific changes within the Figure or Table.

C. Tables/Figures created by VDOT for this Supplement, which appear with a blue title and the letter "V" from the VDOT logo adjacent to the title. Such Figures and Tables are numbered with the letter V in the figure number (i.e. Table 2C-V1). .

Within each Section, all Tables and Figures referenced in that Section are included for ease of use of this Supplement.

19 Within the written body of this Supplement, references to Figures and Tables appear in blue text if the Figure or Table has any modifications to it (i.e. Figure 2B-18(VA) or Table 2C-V1). If an un-edited Table or Figure from the MUTCD is referenced in this Supplement, the reference is in black text as the reader may choose to examine the Table or Figure in either this Supplement or the MUTCD.

Effective Date of the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD

Standard:

20 **Except as provided in paragraph 21, the 2009 MUTCD and this Supplement shall be effective January 1, 2012. When a traffic control device is replaced through regular roadway maintenance on or after January 1, 2012, the replacement device shall be in conformance with the 2009 MUTCD and this Supplement with adopted revisions. New traffic control devices installed on or after January 1, 2012, shall be in conformance with the 2009 MUTCD and this Supplement with adopted revisions.**

Option:

21 All projects currently underway that are advertised before January 15, 2012 may be in conformance with the 2003 MUTCD with adopted revisions and previous version of the Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD.

22 Upon adoption by the CTB, the 2009 MUTCD and this Supplement may be applied prior to the required conformance date if desired.