MEMO

December 1, 2025

To: District Engineers

From: George Villarreal, P.E.
Director, Traffic Safety Division

Signed by: George Villarreal, P.E.
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Subject: Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) 2025 Compliance – Transition Activities

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This memorandum directs a phased transition from the current Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2), to the adopted 2025 TMUTCD. The TMUTCD applies to all traffic control devices (TCDs) installed upon Texas streets, highways, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and site roadways open to public travel. TxDOT's Traffic Safety Division (TRF) updated the TMUTCD to be in conformance with the new MUTCD 11th Edition (national MUTCD).

Table 1: 2025 TMUTCD Phased Implementation*

Date	Transition Activity
July 3, 2025	TxDOT posted the draft TMUTCD on the TxDOT.gov TMUTCD website
November 13, 2025	The Texas Transportation Commission adopted the 2025 TMUTCD, effective January 18, 2026.
January 18, 2026	2025 TMUTCD effective date, deadline mandated by FHWA.
January 18, 2026 – June 30, 2026	All projects letting during this period *should* comply with the 2025 TMUTCD. At the discretion of the District Engineer, to minimize impacts to scope, schedule, or budget late in the design process, traffic control devices may conform to the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2. All Districts are encouraged to use the 2025 TMUTCD as soon as possible after the effective date.
On and after July 1, 2026	All projects letting on or after this date *shall* comply with the 2025 TMUTCD.

*Applies to new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, or maintenance projects and maintenance activities. Non-compliant devices on existing facilities shall be brought into compliance as part of replacement/maintenance/upgrading activities. Traffic control devices (TCDs) purchased or contracted for purchase prior to the effective date (January 18, 2026) of the 2025 TMUTCD may be installed if they conform to the 2011 TMUTCD - Revision 2.

Examples:

- The El Paso District has an on-going, multi-year construction project that let prior to 2026. Since the TCDs in the plan set do conform to the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2, ELP does not have to update the plan set. Ultimately, the District Engineer determines that change-ordering the TCDs to conform to the 2025 TMUTCD does not result in an unacceptable project delay or cost to the State and directs the change order.
- The Tyler District has a project letting in February 2026 and on tight schedule to open to the public by August 2026. Since the TCDs in the plan set do conform to the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2, ELP does not have to update the plan set. The District Engineer determines that change-ordering the TCDs to conform to the 2025 TMUTCD results in an unacceptable project delay and cost to the State.
- The Pharr District notes a non-compliant sign during a regular sign inspection. PHR staff notes that the device is still serviceable and does not cause an identifiable issue communicating to road users. Staff verifies that the sign type is not one covered in the 2025 TMUTCD Table 1B-1 regarding targeted compliance dates by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (see Table 2 below). PHR staff identifies this sign as one to be brought into compliance as part of regular replacement, maintenance, or upgrading activities.
- The Abilene District has signs in stock purchased prior to January 18, 2026, for its maintenance crew to replace existing, damaged signs. These signs conform to the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2 but are not in compliance with the 2025 TMUTCD. The District Engineer determines that ABL is allowed to install these signs but finds budget to start installing compliant signs earlier.

Major Changes to the TMUTCD

The Manual Notice listing changes to the 2025 TMUTCD since the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2 will be available on TxDOT's TMUTCD website. Major changes to the TMUTCD were primarily based on conforming to the national MUTCD and include:

- Re-organization
- Revisions to reflect advances in:
  - Technologies
  - Operational practices
- Revisions to:
  - Standard sign designs and practices
  - Pavement markings, including colored pavement and aesthetic treatments
  - Signalization, including new bicycle signal faces
  - Typical applications (TAs), including new TAs
  - School zone practices
- Replacing the previous Part 5 with "Considerations for Automated Vehicles"
- Revisions throughout related to considerations for vulnerable road users, including visually impaired pedestrians
- Revisions related to bicycle facilities

FHWA Target Compliance Dates

FHWA sets additional compliance dates for statewide implementation of specific traffic control devices. These are shown in Table 2 (Table 1B-1 in the 2025 TMUTCD).

Table 2: Target Compliance Dates Established by the FHWA

TMUTCD Sections	Subject Area	Specific Provision	Compliance Date
2B.64	Weight Limit Signs	Paragraph 6 – Requirement for additional Weight Limit sign with the advisory distance or directional legend in advance of applicable section of highway or structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2)	Paragraph 1 – Required posting of the Low Clearance Advance (W12-2) sign in advance of the structure	January 18, 2029
2C.25	Low Clearance Signs (W12-2a, W12-2b)	Paragraph 18 – Recommended posting of Low Clearance Overhead (W12-2a or 12-2b) signs on an arch or other structure under which the clearance varies greatly	January 18, 2029
3A.05	Maintaining Minimum Retroreflectivity	Implementation and continued use of a method that is designed to maintain retroreflectivity of longitudinal pavement markings (see Paragraph 1 of Section 3A.05)	September 6, 2026
8B.16	High-Profile Grade Crossings	Paragraphs 3 and 7 – Recommended installation of Low Ground Clearance and/or Vehicle Exclusion signs and detour signs for vehicles with low ground clearances that might hang up on high-profile grade crossings at locations with a known history	January 18, 2029
8D.09 through 8D.12	Highway Traffic Signals at or Near Grade Crossings	Assessment and determination of appropriate treatment to achieve compliance (preemption, movement prohibition, pre-signals, queue cutter signals)	January 18, 2034

Former Interim Approval Devices

The Federal Highway Administration terminated all interim approvals under the 2009 MUTCD when the Final Rule for the national MUTCD, 11th Ed., became effective January 18, 2024. New installations of devices previously subject to interim approval must now comply with the 2025 TMUTCD. Existing installations that do not comply with the 2025 TMUTCD must be brought into compliance through systematic replacement and upgrade of traffic control devices. See Table 3.

Table 3: Statewide Interim Approvals Issued under the 2011 TMUTCD – Revision 2

Description	Terminated Interim Approval	2025 TMUTCD
Clearview font	IA-5	Section 2A.08
Green colored pavement for bike lanes	IA-14	Section 3H.06
Bicycle signal face	IA-16	Chapter 4H
3-section Flashing Yellow Arrow signal face	IA-17	Chapter 4F
Intersection bicycle boxes	IA-18	Section 9E.12
2-stage bicycle turn boxes	IA-20	Section 9E.11
Rectangular rapid flashing beacons	IA-21	Chapter 4L
Red-colored pavement for transit lanes	IA-22	Section 3H.07

Related TxDOT Guidance Materials

TRF is updating TxDOT Traffic Standard Plan Sheets to be consistent with the 2025 TMUTCD. TRF continues to update other manuals and publications.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Russell, TRF Policy & Standards Branch Manager, at (512) 416-3120, or me at (512) 416-3200.

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