

Re: Docket No. TR-981102

Ms. Dobyms,

Highways and Local Programs Service Center is a branch of WSDOT with its primary focus in serving cities, counties, and other local transportation systems owners across the state. Our role is to assure compliance with federal law and regulations when those agencies use federal funds, and we try very hard to do so in a manner consistent with both federal and state requirements. Construction operations oversight is a very big part of our responsibility and proper signing is critical to construction zone safety.

The suggested revisions regarding traffic control devices are definitely in the right direction in order to assure reasonable continuity in work zone operations as our highway users travel through the various jurisdictions having responsibility over our public rights of way. We appreciate the time you have taken to try to standardize with what every city and county, as well as WSDOT, is already required to follow under RCW. It should help improve highway safety, which is one of our goals.

We would suggest one addition. WSDOT, under RCW 47.36, adopts uniform standards for traffic control devices across the state. As a part of that responsibility, WAC 468-95 is published to supplement the MUTCD for Washington State. It would certainly seem to me that 468-95 should also be incorporated by reference. It contains a number of clarifications that would help assure the consistency intended through the MUTCD.

Toby Rickman (cc'd) is our State Traffic Engineer and I'm sure would be willing to assist in this effort to the extent needed. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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