



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**June 11, 2003**

Refer to: HOTO-1

Ms. Brenda Herl  
1423 Shawnee Court  
Arnold, MO 63010

Dear Ms. Herl:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a change in standards for traffic control devices to add a strip around regulatory traffic signs with the legend "LOOK TWICE - MOTORCYCLES PEDESTRIANS BICYCLES." Please accept our sincere condolences on the death of your only brother in an intersection-related motorcycle and car crash.

For record keeping purposes, we have assigned the following official ruling number and title to your request for change: "Request Number 2-521(c), Notice Strip Around Border of Select Regulatory Signs to Warn of Motorcycle and Pedestrian Traffic." Regulatory traffic signs and their designs are detailed in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD is adopted by reference in accordance with Title 23, United States Code, Section 109(d) and Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655.603, and is approved as the national standard for all traffic control devices installed on any street, highway, or bicycle trail open to public travel. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for developing the standards contained in the Manual with input from traffic and safety experts, and the general traveling public.

The process for a change to the design of the stop sign is set forth in the MUTCD Section 1A.10 entitled, Interpretations, Experimentations, and Changes. A copy of this process is enclosed with this letter for your information. Please note that on page 1A-10, one of the requirements for a request for change is supporting research data. This research data may be obtained through evaluation or experimentation with the proposed idea. A request to experiment must be submitted by a public agency or private toll authority responsible for the operation of the road or street on which the experiment is to take place.

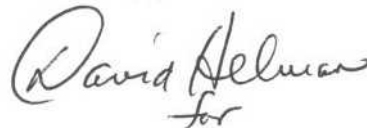
The millennium edition of the MUTCD published in 2000 expanded the standards for traffic control devices to improve signing for school children, pedestrians, and motorcyclists. In May of 2002, FHWA proposed more than 1,000 changes to the MUTCD. These proposed changes include modifications to existing traffic control devices and new devices such as the new "TURNING TRAFFIC MUST YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS" sign and the in-roadway "STOP/YIELD FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALK" sign. Your requested change to "remind" drivers to look for other roadway users at intersections is of interest to FHWA, and we share your concerns.



The next step in the process for considering a change to the MUTCD is to carry out experimentation with the proposed traffic control device to gain an assessment of its safety and operational benefits. We would urge you to work with a public highway or transportation agency in your area to produce the needed research basis for your idea.

Thank you for your letter and for your interest in traffic safety; the MUTCD team at FHWA appreciates your interest in the vital role that traffic signs serve in supporting safe driving. Please feel free to contact Mr. Fred Ranck of the MUTCD team at [fred.ranck@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:fred.ranck@fhwa.dot.gov) or by telephone at 708-283-3545.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Helman" with "for" written below it.

**Shelley J. Row, P.E.**  
**Director, Office of Transportation**  
**Operations**

**Enclosure**