

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION



STOP SIGN PROCESSES AND STANDARDS

October 21, 2024



Agenda



- Review current process for all-way stop sign requests.
- Review existing standards.
- Discussion

Current Process



- Request for all-way stop
 - ▣ As part of a Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) Petition
 - TSC Petition Process (Public Process)
 - ▣ Direct request to DPW
 - ▣ DPW Observations and Judgement



TSC Petition Process

Petition developed by resident(s) and presented to TSC

Engineering Study and recommendation presented to the TSC

TSC discussion and motion to Council

DPW presents TSC's motion to Council for their vote

- From the MUTCD:
 - “Warrants are not a substitute for engineering judgment”.
 - “The fact that a warrant for a particular traffic control device is met is not conclusive justification to install or not install all-way stop control.”
 - “The decision to establish all-way stop control at an unsignalized intersection should be based on an engineering study.

- The TSC and/or Council can apply their judgement to the engineering recommendations and can apply their own recommended actions.

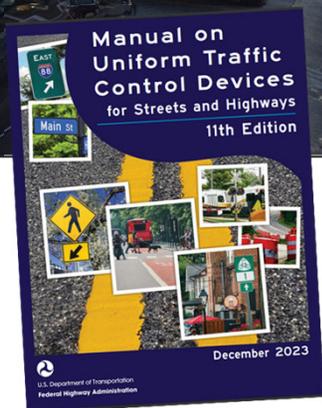
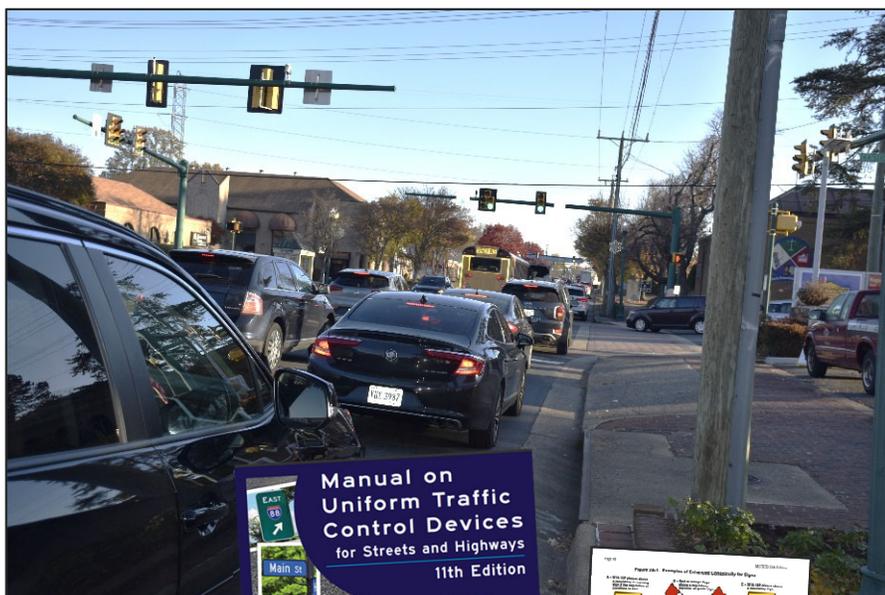
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)



- FHWA document - for all types and sizes of jurisdictions
 - ▣ Details and specification on signage and pavement markings that the Town utilizes.

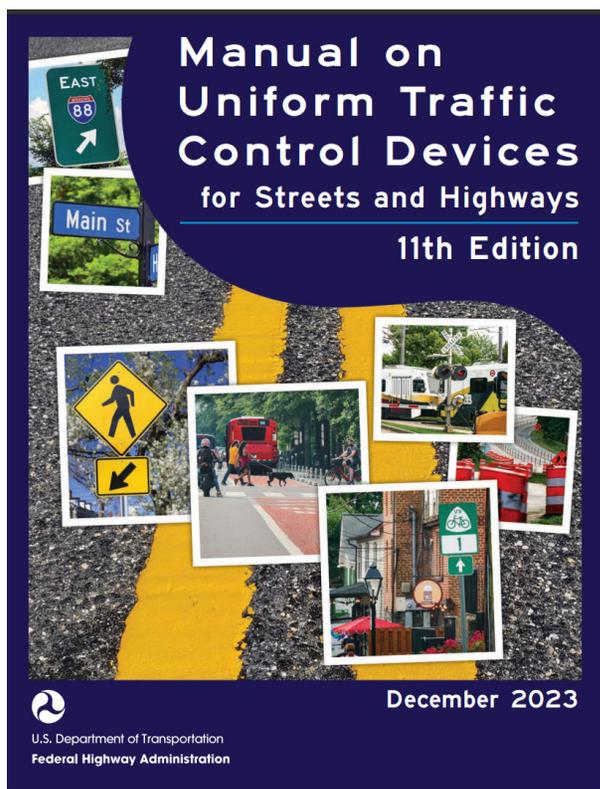


Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)



“The purpose of the MUTCD is to establish uniform national criteria for the use of traffic control devices that meet the needs and expectancy of road users on all streets, highways, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and site roadways open to public travel.”

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)



- Updated periodically – last updated December 2023
- Includes detailed requirements for all-way stops for all types and sizes of jurisdictions.



What Others Do



- All localities use the MUTCD for all-way stop standards/warrants:



- City of Fairfax
- City of Falls Church
- Town of Herndon
- Town of Vienna

Stop Signs vs Traffic Calming



- Traffic Calming - the combination of measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.

Examples:

- Speed Tables/bumps
- Road Narrowing
- Pavement marking/signage

Stop Signs vs Traffic Calming



- Stop Signs are not a form of Traffic Calming.
 - ▣ Confirmed by multiple documents and studies
- Stop signs - used to control intersection right-of-way. They are regulatory traffic control device that directs motorists to stop at all times before proceeding through an intersection.

Stop Signs vs Traffic Calming

- “Stop compliance is poor at unwarranted multi-way (all-way) stop signs.”
“Safety of pedestrians is decreased at unwarranted multi-way (all-way) stops, especially small children. It seems that pedestrians expect vehicles to stop at the stop signs, but many vehicles have gotten in the habit of running the "unnecessary" stop sign.” *(Bretherton, WM, Multi-way Stops – The Research Shows the MUTCD is Correct)*





Discussion



- Current Processes
 - DPW Recommendation → TSC motion to Council → Council Judgment/Vote
 - Direct Requests
 - DPW Observations and Judgement

- Established Standards - MUTCD