

May 23, 2011

Johnny Bhullar  
MUTCD Supplement Branch, MS-36  
Office of Signs, Markings & External Support,  
Caltrans, Division of Traffic Operations  
P.O. Box 942874,  
Sacramento, CA-94274-0001  
Johnny.Bhullar@dot.ca.gov

Members of the  
California Traffic Control Devices  
Committee (CTCDC )  
c/o Devinder Singh  
CTCDC Executive Secretary  
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001  
Devinder.Singh@dot.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Bhullar and Members of the CTCDC:

On behalf of the Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC), I would like to express our strong support for the inclusion of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Device (RRFB) into the CA MUTCD that is currently undergoing public review, with comments due June 30, 2011.

This device received interim approval from FHWA almost three years ago and missed being included in the 2009 MUTCD by only a few months. The interim approval was granted after review of the results of Requests to Experiment showed it to be a highly effective device, and in fact was more effective than several approved devices currently in the MUTCD and CA MUTCD. We do not see how approval of this device precludes experimentation of other shapes, which was the reason for the CTCDC denial at their September 2008 meeting.

Being that the RRFB is more effective and less expensive than other options, local agencies could likely afford this device and would have an affordable effective tool at their disposal which is especially important in these dire fiscal times. If this window of opportunity is missed, California agencies will be denied the option of using an affordable effective device for another 4 to 5 years until the next revision of the MUTCD and CA MUTCD. This is unacceptable from the point of view of pedestrian safety and fiscal accountability.

At the May 18, 2011 PAC meeting, we voted unanimously to urge you to include this federally approved device in the 2011 CA MUTCD.

Sincerely,



Michelle DeRobertis, P.E.  
Chair, Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: Robert Copp, Chief, Division of Traffic Operations, Caltrans Headquarters  
Wayne Henley, Chief, Sign, Markings and External Support, Division of Traffic  
Operations, Caltrans Headquarters  
Steve Takigawa, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, Caltrans Headquarters  
Beth Thomas, Pedestrian Coordinator, Community Planning Branch Chief /  
Office of Transit & Community Planning, Caltrans District 4  
Jean Finney, Chief, Office of Transit & Community Planning, Caltrans District 4