



VIRGINIA MUTCD **IMPLEMENTATION AND ADOPTION**

What YOU need to know!

Robert Cochrane, P.E.

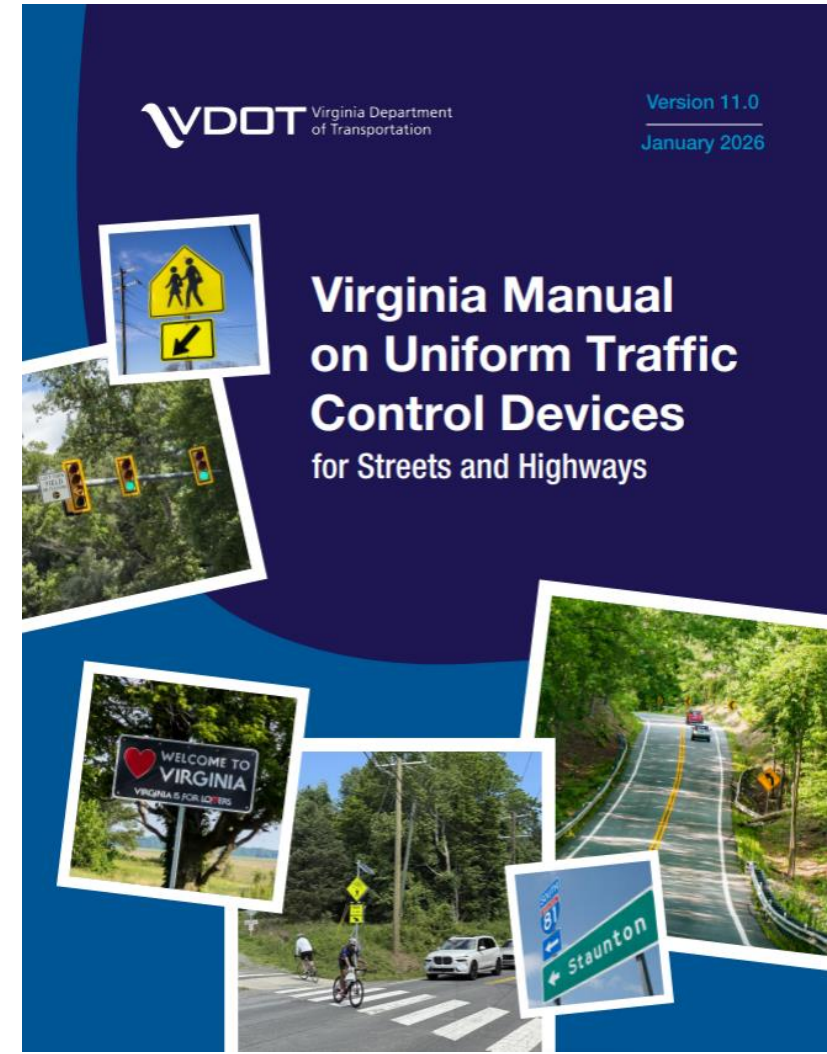
 Rashmi Patel, P.E. PTOE

Mike Tantillo

June 18, 2025

Agenda

- Icebreaker and Introduction
- Introducing the Virginia MUTCD
- Key Virginia MUTCD content



Introduction

QUIZ

What is wrong with this picture?



New development in East Stroudsburg, PA

What is wrong with this picture? Quite a bit, actually!

1. Stop Here To Peds
(should be “For Peds”)
2. Arrow pointing wrong way
3. R1-5 series not used at stop-controlled intersections
4. Mounted on same post as STOP sign
5. Bent crosswalk
6. R1-5a (Yield To) used in same development
(This is in a “Yield To” state)



When in doubt, hire a traffic engineer, and read the MUTCD!

Why is the MUTCD Important?

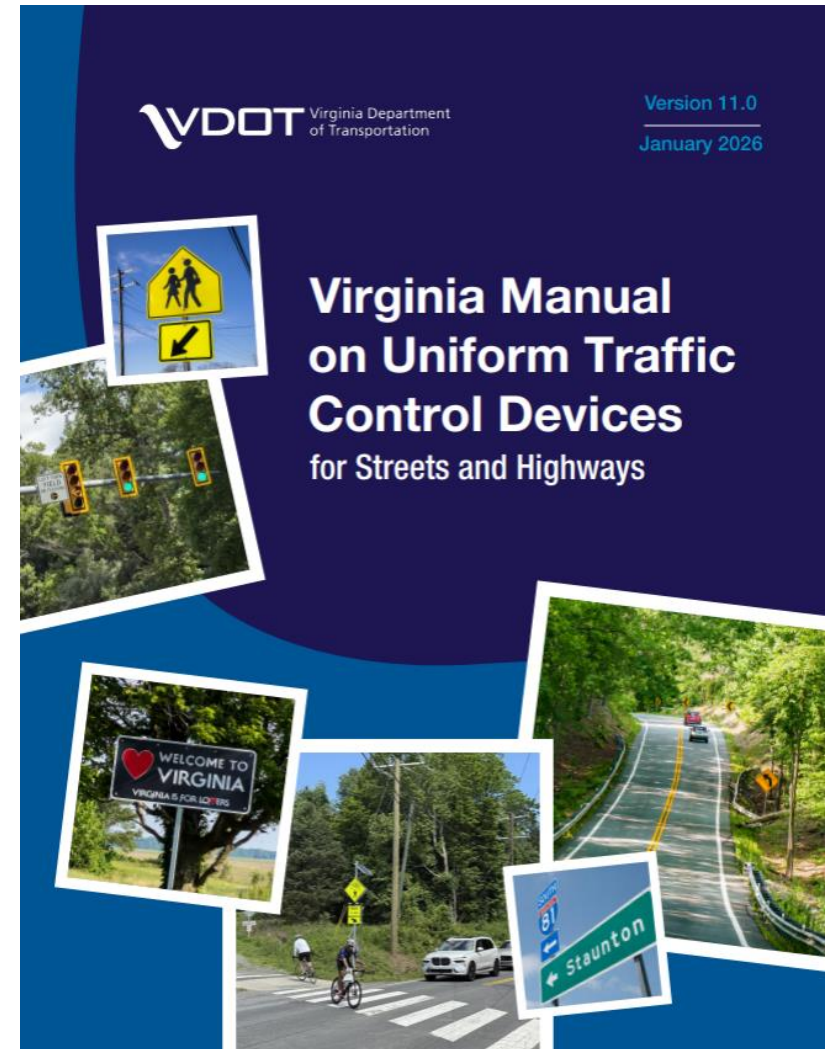
- Safety through uniformity
- Road users' expectations and experiences are the same across jurisdictions
- Legal enforceability of motor vehicle laws depends on proper TCDs
- Tort liability minimized
- Efficient operation of transportation system
- Requirement to qualify for funding



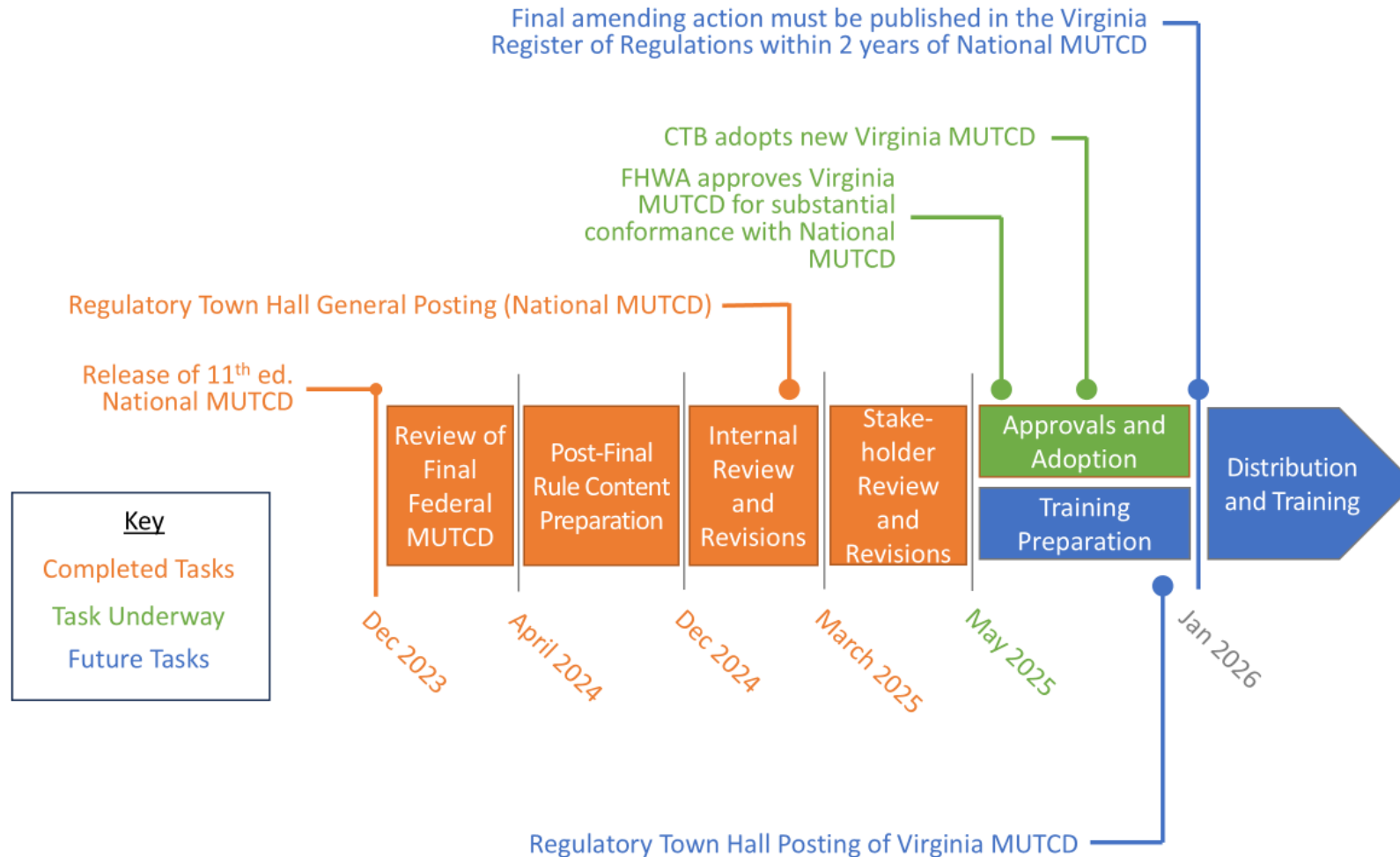
Introducing the Virginia MUTCD

Virginia MUTCD

- **The new Virginia MUTCD is here!**
 - Version 11.0 – same version as Federal
 - Effective date: January 2026
 - All-in-one document: Federal and Virginia content in one place!
- **Preparing for formal adoption**
 - Draft version posted on VDOT webpage
 - Projects advertised for construction on or after January 2026 must be in compliance



Virginia MUTCD Development and Adoption Timeline



Note: This is the anticipated schedule and is subject to change

Virginia MUTCD Adoption

Target Date	Proposed - Implementation or Deadline
June – July 2025	CTB Workshop & Action
October 1, 2025	Design-Bid-Build Projects – Advertised <u>submissions</u> submitted to Construction Division after this date shall comply with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & <u>VWAPM</u> .*
	Design-Build Projects - RFP Packages under development may begin using specific language requiring compliance with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.
	Land Use Projects – Locality plans, developer plans, and permit packages under development will begin using specific language requiring compliance with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.
January 1, 2026	Locally Administered Projects – Projects advertised after this date shall comply with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.
	New Maintenance Projects – maintenance and district-wide contracts advertised after this date shall follow the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.
	Renewable Contracts - Contracts (Maintenance, IMO, etc.) that are up for renewal on or after this date may need to be updated or re-bid to ensure applicable compliance with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.
	VDOT Crew Work Zone Traffic Control - shall be performed in accordance with the 2026 VWAPM.
	New Traffic Control Devices - Traffic control devices replaced through maintenance activities or installed as new by VDOT maintenance shall be in conformance with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD, VWAPM, and 2026 Virginia Standard Highway Signs (SHS) book.
	Signs Manufacturing - All signs manufactured or ordered by VDOT shall comply with the 2026 Virginia MUTCD, VWAPM, and 2026 Virginia Standard Highway Signs (SHS) book.
January 18, 2026	FHWA Interpretation: Construction projects scheduled for advertisement on or after this date shall follow the 2026 Virginia MUTCD & VWAPM.

*All 2026 Paving projects will comply with the 2009 MUTCD, 2011 Virginia Supplement to the MUTCD, and 2011 WAPM.

Virginia MUTCD Development Process


- **Review Committees**
 - Review of new MUTCD content
 - Development of new Virginia MUTCD content
- **Town Hall Process – Part 1**
 - Allowed general public to comment on adoption process for MUTCD
 - Received feedback about importance of adopting certain content
- **Statewide Stakeholder Review**
 - Draft content distributed through the Virginia transportation planning and engineering community, incorporated significant valuable feedback
- **Draft Virginia MUTCD posted online**
- **THANK YOU!! Your review comments were very helpful!**

Stakeholder Engagement

- **Extensive engagement with:**
 - VDOT, FHWA, Localities, Contractors, Consultants, Emergency Responders, and Advocacy Groups

	Virginia MUTCD	VWAPM
Webinar Participants	210+	250+
Comments Received	680+	1500+

Virginia MUTCD: How to Use the Document

- Black text = Federal
- Blue text = Virginia
 - Look for  and brackets


Example Text:

11 The EXCEPT ON SHOULDER (R9-19P) plaque may be used where such modes are allowed on a shoulder but not on the traveled way and placed at intersections with other roads and established paths or trails, where such vehicles or modes are expected to enter the highway.

Standard:

12 The AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY (R5-11) sign shall be installed on controlled access highways at all non-chained crossovers ~~may be used at median openings and other locations to prohibit vehicles from using the median opening or facility unless they have special permission (such as law enforcement vehicles or emergency vehicles) or are performing official business authorized by VDOT (such as highway agency vehicles).~~

Guidance:

 12a The AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY (R5-11) sign should be installed at non-chained crossovers on limited access highways when it has been determined that motorists frequently attempt to use the crossover.

Support:

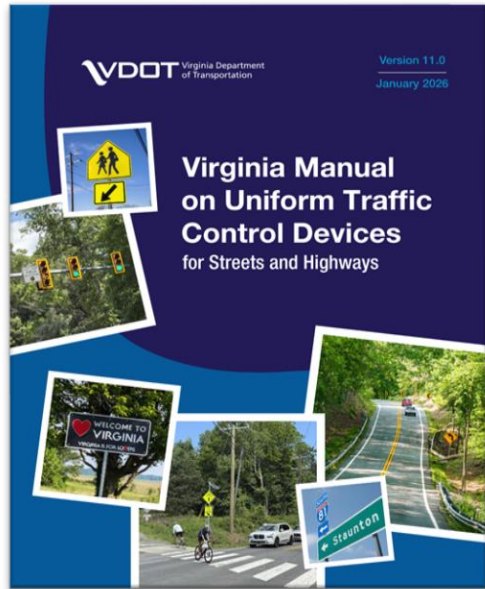
12b The AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY (R5-11) sign for non-chained crossovers is used in accordance with The Code of Virginia §46.2-808.1.

Option:

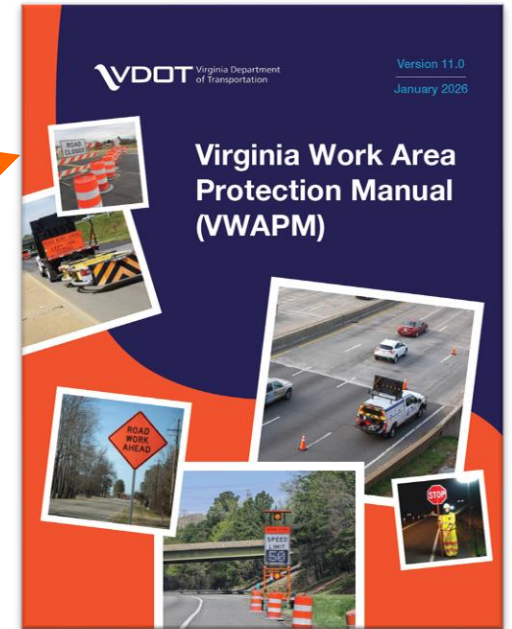
12c The AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY (R5-11) sign may also be installed at maintenance driveways along controlled access highways.

Key Content Changes

The Virginia MUTCD v11.0



- Part 1 – General
- Part 2 – Signs
- Part 3 – Markings
- Part 4 – Signals
- Part 5 – Automated Vehicles
- **Part 6 – Temporary Traffic Control**
- Part 7 – Schools
- Part 8 – Railroad Crossings
- Part 9 – Bicycles



Virginia Work Area Protection Manual (VWPM)

The Virginia Work Area Protection Manual (VWAPM) serves as Part 6 of the Virginia MUTCD, but is physically published separately for ease of use

Key Content – Part 1: General

- **Legal basis of MUTCD in Virginia established**
- **Application of the MUTCD is by engineers or people working organizationally under an engineer**
- **Certain activities that require Central Office TOD involvement**
- **Virginia-specific definitions**



Key Content – Part 2: Signs

Sign, sign

Everywhere a sign

Blockin' out the scenery

Breakin' my mind

Do this, don't do that

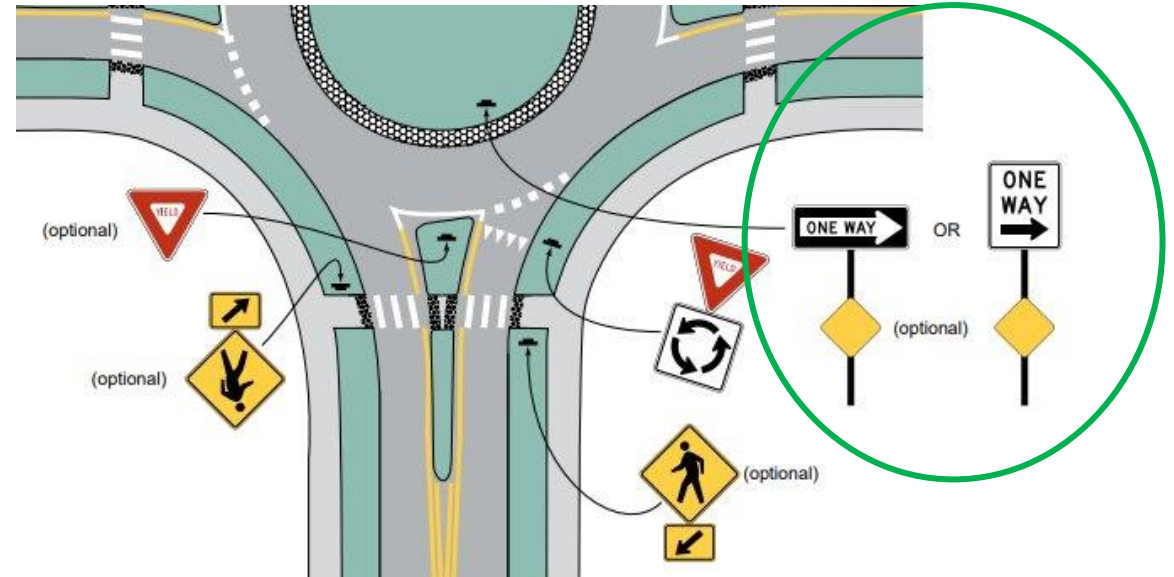
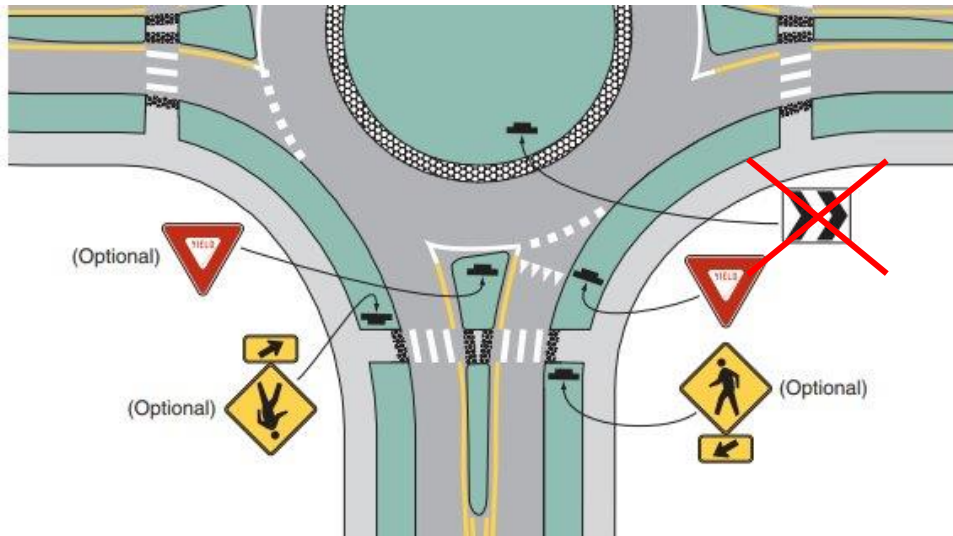
Can't you read the sign?

-Five Man Electrical Band, 1970



Key Content – Part 2: Signs

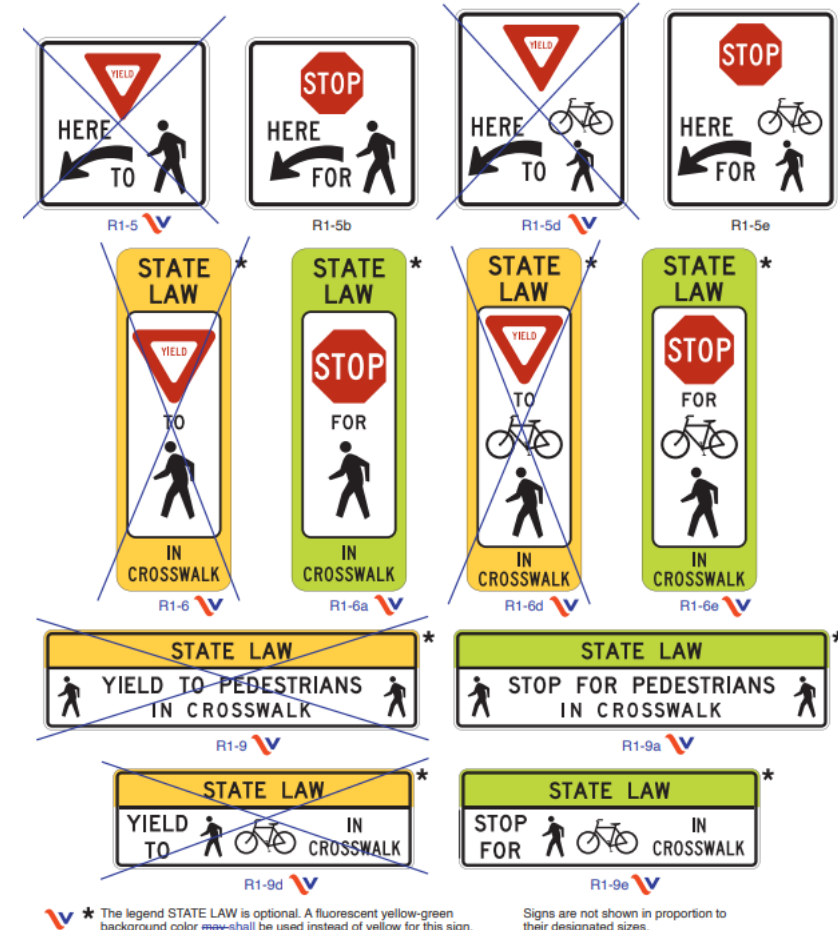
- **Roundabouts**
 - One Way signs used in place of roundabout chevron sign



Key Content – Part 2: Signs

- **Pedestrian Signing**
 - **Use Stop For Pedestrians versions with FYG background color**

Figure 2B-2(VA). Unsignalized Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs



ELIMINATES YIELD TO PEDESTRIAN SIGNS TO ALIGN WITH THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND CHANGES THE BACKGROUND TO FLUORESCENT YELLOW-GREEN.

Key Content – Part 2: Signs

- New Speed Limit signs
- U-Turn Only lane signs



SIGN NOW REQUIRED
(WAS AN OPTION)



REQUIRED, WITH FLASHING BEACONS,
BEFORE ANY PERMANENT VSL CORRIDOR
CONTROLLED BY A DYNAMIC ALGORITHM.



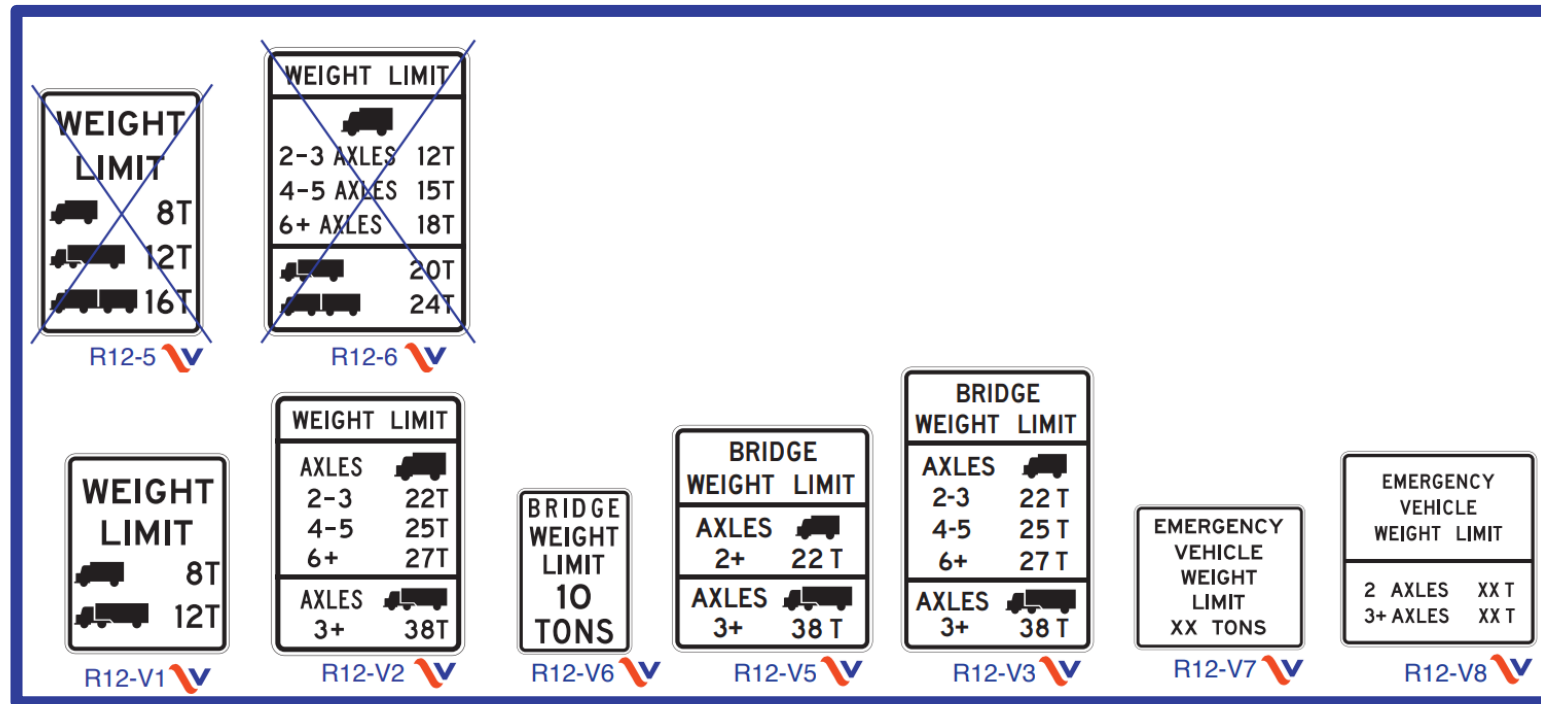
REQUIRED AT THE
BEGINNING OF ZONES
WHERE AN ADDITIONAL
\$200 FINE ON LOCAL
RESIDENTIAL STREETS
THAT COMPLY WITH VA
CODE § 46.2-878.2



SIGN ADDED

Key Content – Part 2: Signs

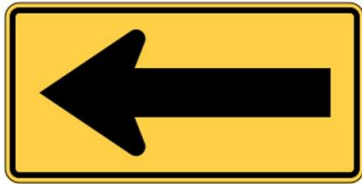
- New Weight Limit signing content



ADDS VIRGINIA WEIGHT LIMIT SIGNS AND PROVISIONS FOR USE AT BRIDGES AND APPROACHING BRIDGES. REFERENCES RELEVANT CODE OF VIRGINIA.

Key Content – Part 2: Signs

- **Horizontal Alignment Signing**
 - Based on roadways types and AADT



W1-6



W1-8

- **Person with Disability Sign**



W15-V2* 

QUIZ

Key Content – Part 2: Signs

- **Clearview Lettering**
 - Only on Freeways / Expressways
 - Conventional roadways use FHWA Standard Alphabet



Virginia



Virginia

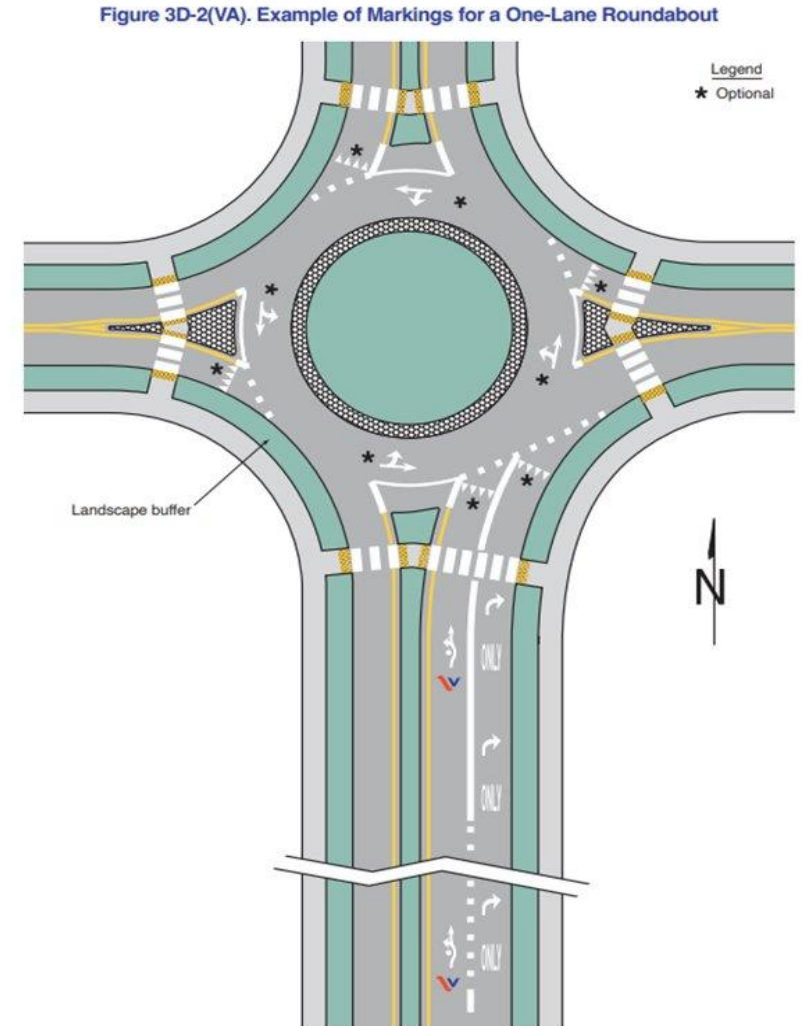
Key Content – Part 2: Signs

- **Arrow placement on Guide Signs**
 - **Bottom: Ground Mounted**
 - **Right (or Left) Side: Overhead**



Key Content – Part 3: Markings

- **Arrows**
 - Must use “fish-hook” (curved-stem) arrow for left-turn movements
 - Pairing of “ONLY” with turn arrows



QUIZ

Key Content – Part 3: Markings

- **Plastic Inlaid Markers (PIMs) replace SRPMs**
- **New Guidelines for placement of PIMs**

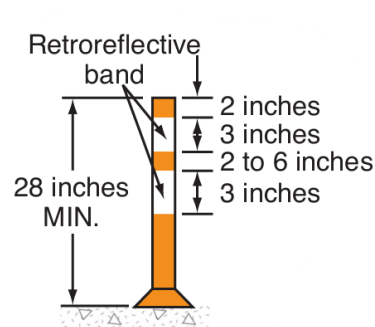
Category	Example Changes
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required when AADT > 25,000 on limited access highways, roadways with posted speed limit ≥ 45 mph, and in gore areas.• <i>Exceptions:</i> when roadway lighting or rumble strips are present.• Spaced ≤ 80 ft when supplementing solid, broken, or double lines.
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>3-inch lateral spacing</i> between PIM and solid line.
Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher-risk locations (based on engineering judgment)• AADT 5,000-25,000 (based on engineering judgment)

Key Content – Part 3: Markings

- **New Delineator Use**
 - **Buffered Bike Lanes**
 - **Curves**
 - **Managed Lanes**

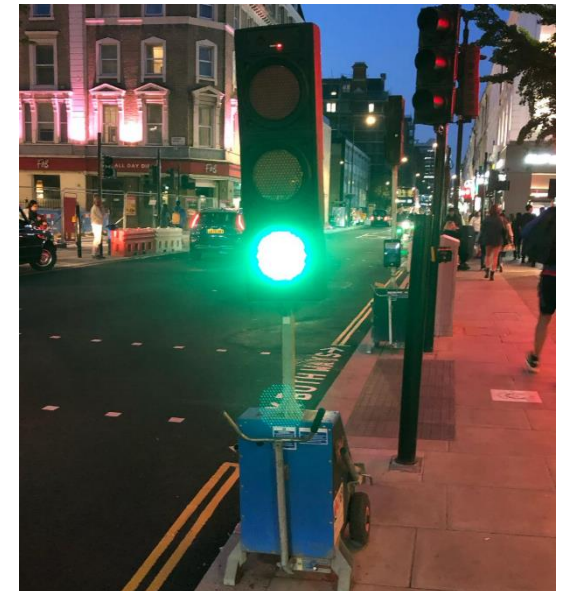
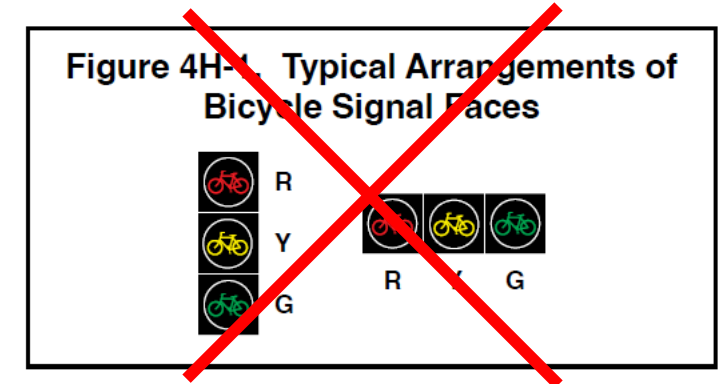


Tubular Markers vs. Delineators



Key Content – Part 4: Signals

- **No Bicycle Signals**
- **Not supported by Code of Virginia at this time**
- **Signals must be warranted and justified per IIM-TE-387 and future IIM-TOD-401**
- **Warrants are still Standards in Virginia!**



Don't just plop down a signal wherever you want...

Key Content – Part 6: Work Zones

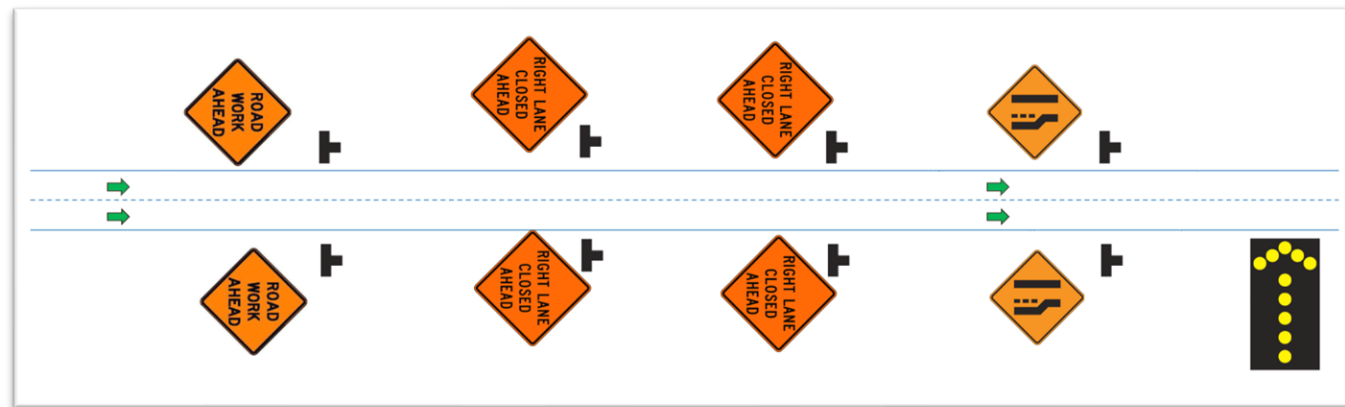
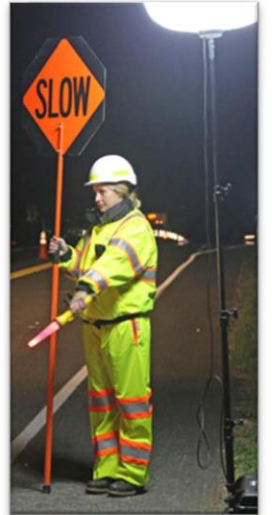
- Address newer technologies, such as:
 - Digital speed limit signs
 - Vehicle speed feedback (“Your Speed XX”) signs
- Work zone speed safety camera requirements to ensure compliance with § 46.2-882.1
- New FHWA requirements for pedestrians with disabilities at sidewalk closures



QUIZ

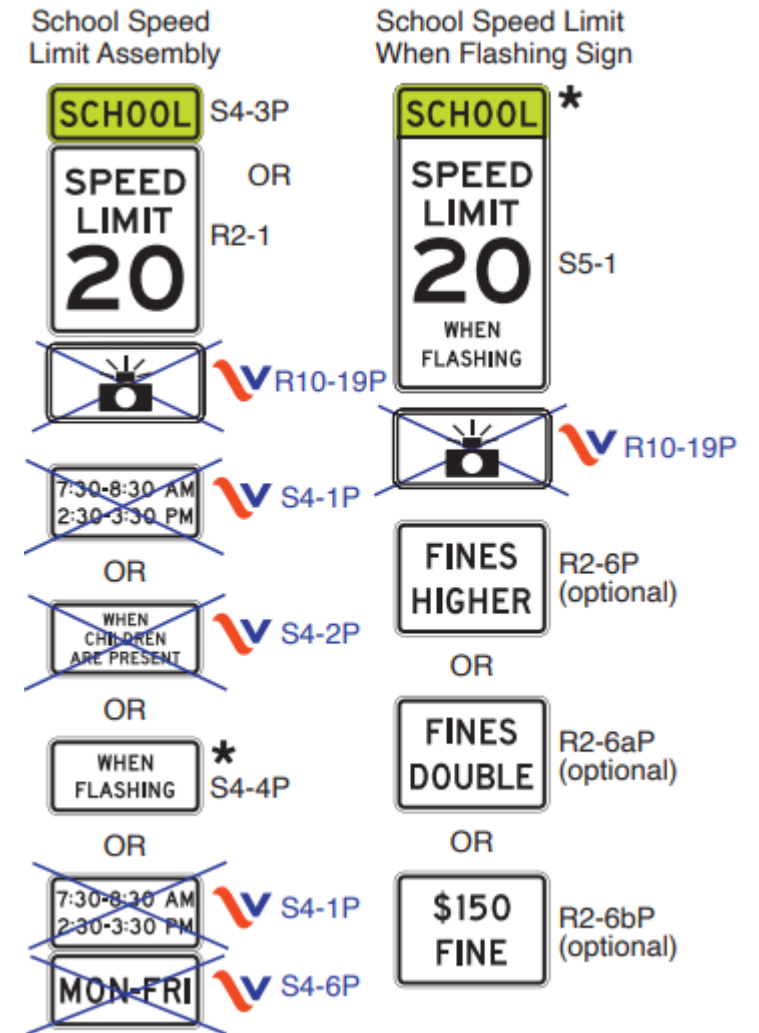
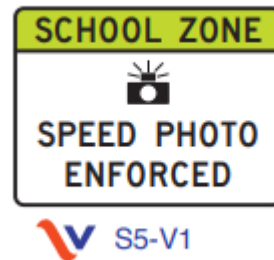
Key Content – Part 6: Work Zones

- Option for use of “Automated Flagger Assistance Devices” instead of stop/slow paddles
- Updated sequence of signs for lane closures



Key Content – Part 7: Schools

- **Virginia-specific requirements for signing for school zones**
- **Includes photo enforcement required signing**



Key Content – Part 8: Railroads

- **Key new Federal requirement for “Diagnostic Team” evaluation of new or changed railroad crossing TCDs**

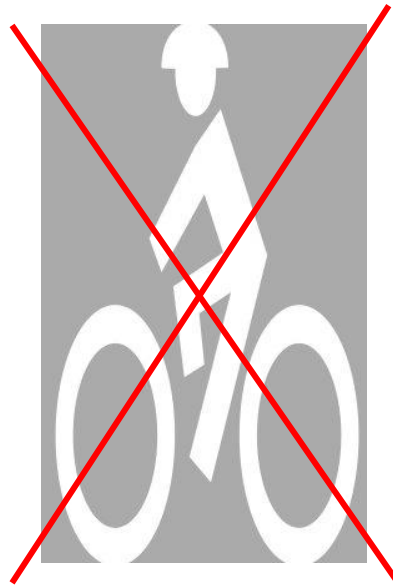


The diagnostic teams of yesteryear thought this might get the point across!
Illinois Central Railroad at Mississippi Highway 7 – Grenada, MS – 1930s

QUIZ

Key Content – Part 9: Bicycles

- **Federal MUTCD eliminated helmeted bicycle symbol**

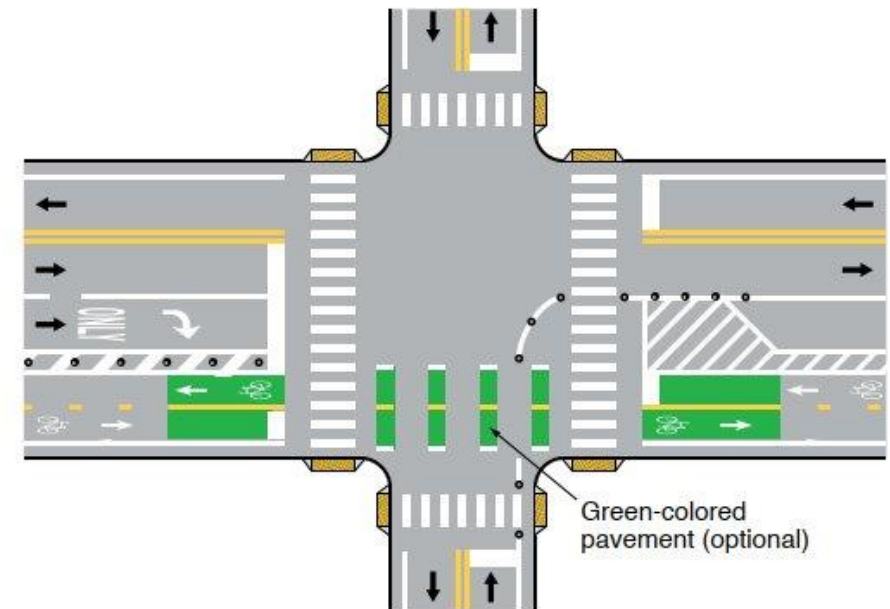
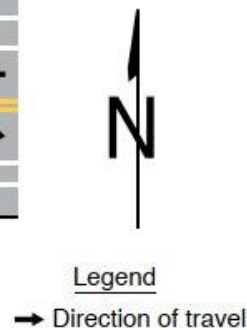
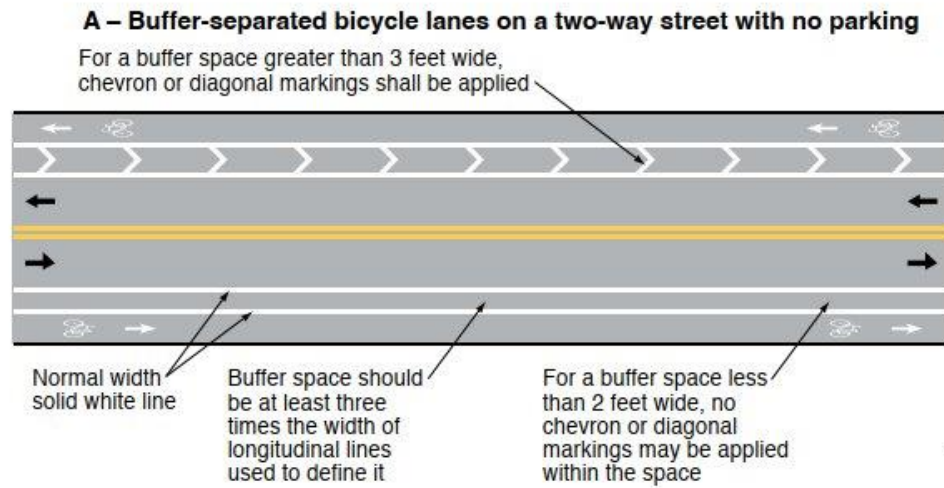


- **Green colored pavement recommended for two-stage turn boxes**



Key Content – Part 9: Bicycles

- **Significantly expanded content for buffered bike lanes and cycle tracks**
- **Design requirements “if used”**



Closing

Only YOU can prevent things like this from happening!



Private Development, New York State



Mystery State (not Virginia)!

Closing

Thank you!

If anyone has additional input after this meeting and questions about the new Virginia MUTCD, please contact

Robert Cochrane & Rashmi Patel

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If anyone has additional input after this meeting and questions about the new Virginia WAPM, please contact

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