



**California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
Agenda Item Report**



<p>Meeting Date: November 02, 2023 Item Number: 20-10</p>	<p>From: Mike Sledd, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Glendora</p>
<p>Sponsored By: Jason C. Welday, Director of Engineering Services/City Engineer, City of Rancho Cucamonga</p>	<p>Presented By: Timothy Kong, Safety Programs, Caltrans</p>
<p>Description: Request for Closure of Experiment on "RED SIGNAL AHEAD" Warning Sign.</p>	

Recommendation:

Motion by committee to approve closure of this experiment based on the FHWA declining to approve experimentation request dated July 21, 2020 and email by Robert McNew dated July 26, 2023.

Agency Making Request/Sponsor:

City of Glendora / Jason Welday, CTCDC Chairman

Background:

The City of Glendora requested approval to experiment with an actuated "RED SIGNAL AHEAD" warning sign. The "RED" text of the sign would activate when the downstream traffic signal is red. CTCDC provided approval in the CTCDC's July 9, 2020 meeting.

The application was dropped by LAMTA because FHWA declined to approve the experiment.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – FHWA Official Ruling 2(09)-168 (E) – Actuated Red Signal Ahead Warning Sign (DENIED)
- Attachment B – Robert McNew email dated July 26, 2023



ATTACHMENT A



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Attachment A – FHWA Official Ruling 2(09)-168 (E) – Actuated Red Signal Ahead
Warning Sign (DENIED)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

July 21, 2020

In Reply Refer To:
HOTO-1

Ms. Alison Sweet
Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Glendora
116 East Foothill Boulevard
Glendora, CA 91741-3380

Dear Ms. Sweet:

Thank you for your May 22, 2020, request for experimentation under the provisions of the 2009 edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* (MUTCD) for the use of an actuated RED SIGNAL AHEAD word legend warning sign. Specifically, your request is for the RED portion of the legend to be displayed in the warning sign when the downstream traffic signal indication is red.

We regret to inform you that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) declines to approve this request. The proposed evaluation included reliability from communication and electrical failures, motorist complaints, attributed crashes, and observations of compliance. Prior to on-road experimentation with an actuated RED SIGNAL AHEAD warning sign, we have concluded that adequate human factors studies would be necessary in a laboratory setting to assess the basic comprehension, legibility, and efficacy of this proposal in comparison to other means currently allowed in the National MUTCD to dynamically identify this condition. Without a laboratory study it would not be possible to fully assess the potential behavior of road users and evaluate how drivers perceive this message in comparison to the established methods currently allowable in the National MUTCD.

Section 2C.36 of the National MUTCD contains provisions for the use of a BE PREPARED TO STOP (W3-4) sign, to supplement a Signal Ahead (W3-3) sign, to warn of stopped traffic caused by a traffic control signal. The National MUTCD allows the W3-4 sign to be supplemented with a warning beacon that is electronically interconnected with the traffic signal and supplemented with a WHEN FLASHING (W16-13P) plaque. The California MUTCD, however, does not allow this practice, which resulted in this request for experimentation. The current provisions of the National MUTCD address potential concerns with driver complacency, as noted in your request, as the beacon will only flash at certain intervals during the signal cycle when interconnected with a signal. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2L, the W3-4 sign can be an electronic-display blank-out sign that is interconnected with the traffic signal, and eliminates the need to use a warning beacon.



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For recordkeeping purposes, we have assigned your request the following Official Ruling number and title: "2(09)-168 (E) – Actuated Red Signal Ahead Warning Sign (DENIED)."

Sincerely,

MARK RICHARD
KEHRLI
Mark R. Kehrli
Director, Office of Transportation
Operations

Digitally signed by MARK
RICHARD KEHRLI
Date: 2020.07.21 10:12:08
-04'00'



ATTACHMENT B



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Attachment B – Robert McNew email dated July 26, 2023

From: Mcnew, Robert D@DOT
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Kong, Timothy@DOT
Cc: Bhullar, Gurinderpal S@DOT; Halog, Janelle@DOT; Kenney, Michael; Dain Pankratz
Subject: RE: City of Glendora Experiment with "Red Signal Ahead" signal (CTCDC Experiment 20-10)
Attachments: 2(09)-168 (E) Actuated Red Signal Ahead Warning Sign (DENIED) REPLY-FIN....pdf

Timothy,

I looked into the experiment and contacted the City of Glendora and LAMTA. The application was dropped by LAMTA because FHWA declined to approve the experiment. I am attaching Official Ruling 2(09)-168(E). The Official Ruling included references to the National MUTCD that would address site conditions.

I am recommending we finish the project by closing it out at the November CTCDC meeting.

Bob

Robert McNew
Division of Safety Programs
Office of Safety Systems and Devices
916 617-0238