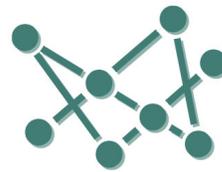


## Zoom Webinar Notes

19<sup>th</sup> webinar – 11/19/20



- Notes taken by Kessler/Overly/Staley
- Vail took attendance.
- Zoom ran 2:00 - 3:15pm ET.

### Attendees (38):

#### **STATE DOTS (& related)**

ALDOT = **Kerry NeSmith**

FLDOT = **Ed Hutchinson**, Tanner  
Martin

GADOT = **Meg Pirkle**

KY = Jahan Khan

LDEQ = Denise Bennett

NC = **Heather Hildebrandt**

TDOT = **Eric Jackson, Joe Sweat,**

Brianna Benson, Casey Langford,

Jennifer Marshall, Rashad Pinckney,  
Susan Steffenhagen

VADOT = Robin Jones, Ning Li

*(Bold = spoke during webinar)*

#### **CLEAN CITIES COALITIONS & FHWA/DOE-CC REPS**

AL = **Mark Bentley**, Michael Staley,

Phillip Wiedmeyer

FL = Alexander Kolpakov, Doug Kettles

GA = Jennifer Fundora, Frank Morris

KY = Emily Carpenter

LA = Tyler Hermann, Ann Vail

NC = Chris Dobbins, Sara Nichols,

Caitlin Rose, Carina Soriano

SC = Ben Kessler

TN = Shauna Basques, **Jonathan**

#### **Overly**

VA = Alleyn Harned, Matt Wade

DOT/FHWA = Diane Turchetta, Mike

Scarpino, Stephen Costa

*(Bold = co-chairs)*

## AGENDA

- 1) **Timing Issue - Corridor Identification vs. Directional Signs** – Must directional sign installations occur at the same time as corridor identification sign installations or is there some flexibility? – Jonathan Overly
  - ✓ Original planning of the SCC was to work with states on ID signage first, and then tackle directional signage – group agreed to this process due to easier ID signage work to begin. *However, our plan has been to work on the directional signage process and plan once each state has a plan for ID signage.*
  - ✓ AT THIS POINT, OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT WE WOULD START WORKING ON **DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE** IN OUR STATES AT SOME POINT IN 2021 OR 2022.
  - ✓ SC has installed ~~some of both~~ *(only installed corridor signage so far)*, but they aren't tied together in a plan. ~~They installed many ID signs that aren't connected to directional signs.~~ Other states (including LA) have also started installing ID signage without any connection to direct.
  - ✓ What are the repercussions of putting up ID signs first and then handling directional signs as we get our plans together for directional?
  - ✓ What do state DOTs think about this?

2) **Directional Signage – We want the option of using General Service or Specific Service signage.** Next Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) opportunity to instill state flexibility, especially in choosing between these two choices for directional signs on Alternative Fuels Corridors.

- ✓ Brief overview of MUTCD update process, description of National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) and its ballot proposal process – [Kerry NeSmith](#)
- ✓ ACFC drafting NCUTCD Ballot proposal language – [Michael Staley](#)
- ✓ Educate Congress need expand the scope of related bill [language](#) when bill reintroduced next year – [Michael Staley](#)
- ✓ Discussion of SCC collective or individual coalition, possible expansion of effort to reach Clean Cities programs beyond SCC – [Jonathan Overly](#)

3) Use a 'sticker' to cover "Gas" with "Fuel" on existing directional signs? – [Jonathan Overly](#)

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## NOTES

### Directional vs Corridor

Should we put down corridor signs first then directional? What is a reasonable time frame from placing corridor identification to directional signage?

- Heather, NCDOT – Corridor is first step. Some concerns about directional – eligibility on how signs are installed.
- Kerry NeSmith, ALDOT? – upper management has agreed to Corridor ID in limited fashion >> MS-GA I-20 corridor. Discussed with Andrew Heath and John Hibbard – they have no heartburn about it. 8 total signs. Until the next MUTCD, rather wait and see what happens with guidance. Interchanges are already cluttered.
- Joe Sweat, "JJ02305" – TDOT – have asked for corridor signage plan approval. Cannot do directional specific service signs from FHWA – prohibited. Thinks it is "inappropriate;" have formal request under consideration. Needs to go to rule promulgation – maybe 7 months to a year.
- Ed Hutchinson, FLDOT – One of the last states designated. EV Master Plan being developed now, needs to be delivered to Gov office on Dec 1. Developing a plan for both types of signs – possibility of using variable message boards for Alt Fuel Corridors, interesting!! Looked at vehicle registration, primarily located West Palm – Miami – Naples.
- Meg, GDOT – In Georgia, we've installed corridor signs and no directional signs. We've been resistant to install directional signs for the same reasons ALDOT noted.

### Direction – General Service vs Specific Service

- Meg and Kerry are voting members on the committee that recommends changes to MUTCD
- Waiting on MUTCD notice of proposal – been rumblings for years, but increasing.
- Waiting on Public Comment period to provide insight on changes
- Talk of a ballot proposal, would have to go through his committee, committee wasn't too keen on it.
- Current MUTCD does allow supplemental business info that could include Alt Fuels, states have stretched interpretation to include Alt Fuels, Missouri has that, ALDOT prepared to have that. Can be used for gas stations that already have checked all the boxes.
- If no NPA, maybe able to do Ballot proposal to send to FHWA. Looking at June 2021 for MUTCD update?

- Just says “EV Charger” as supplemental, takes up a lot of space. Can’t do it at a cracker barrel, but can at an Exxon for example.
- Heather, actually has one at cracker barrel and McDonalds.
- Eric Jackson, TDOT – two words underneath gas, Shell – 99% want to put “diesel” and “24 hours”.
- At the AASHTO Annual meeting last week FHWA reported that they expect the NPA to be posted before the end of the year. But they've been expecting it "soon" for years now.
- Meg, GADOT – In Georgia a business with a logo on the "GAS" specific service sign can add an "EV" badge on their logo if they offer EV charging. FHWA currently says we can't add the EV badge to a logo on a FOOD or LODGING sign, like if the Cracker Barrel has an EV charging station.  
FHWA told us we can only do it on the GAS Board. Sometimes interpretation of rules is inconsistent.
- **Jonathan, ETCleanFuels – Coalitions need to strongly consider taking on the task of updating DOTs on station changes after initial signs have been placed – TAKING THE LEAD ON HELPING THE DOTs KEEP THE SIGNS UP-TO-DATE.** *This has fallen through the cracks with some different signage programs in the past like Tennessee’s now 15-yr old biofuel signage program that is on Specific Service signs.*
- Bill passed House, but is sitting on Senate side that directs DOT sec, to change MUTCD

### “Gas” vs. “Fuel” – the great debate

#### ✓ Next steps:

- Get DOT reps on October call, along with Marty – Diane needs to wait on response from Marty
- Submit some questions prior to that call (deadline for this by end of September? End of next week for Diane to hear from Marty.)
- Ask DOT reps if they are available to join the October call; ideally, we have a finalized document to show our state DOTs

### PLANNED FUTURE CALLS (all start at 2pm ET):

- ✓ Dec. 17
- ✓ January 7, 2021 – state DOT reps call

### CHAT

13:06:24 From Ann Vail: We have changed the settings to allow you to change your screen name for attendance purposes. Please change your name if you have a number or string of letters, etc so we know who is here today. Thank you!

13:20:39 From Tyler Herrmann: The arrow on the "Mute/Unmute" button will bring up audio settings, where you can increase the volume of your microphone and make sure it works.

13:20:41 From Ben Kessler: If you need to call into the meeting, here is the phone number  
+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)  
+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)  
Meeting ID: 910 8952 6955

13:21:30 From Meg Pirkle, GDOT: I've switched to the phone but it's still not working. In Georgia, we've installed corridor signs and no directional signs. We've been resistant to install directional signs for the same reasons ALDOT noted.

13:24:04 From Jennifer Fundora, Clean Cities-Georgia: Speaking from someone who's doing the drive from Atlanta, GA to Miami, FL, I-95 is a big opportunity for the long-distance trips

13:30:52 From Meg Pirkle, GDOT: At the AASHTO Annual meeting last week FHWA reported that they expect the NPA to be posted before the end of the year. But they've been expecting it "soon" for years now.

13:35:15 From Meg Pirkle, GDOT: In Georgia a business with a logo on the "GAS" specific service sign can add an "EV" badge on their logo if they offer EV charging. FHWA currently says we can't add the EV badge to a logo on a FOOD or LODGING sign, like if the Cracker Barrel has an EV charging station.

13:39:01 From Meg Pirkle, GDOT: FHWA told us we can only do it on the GAS Board. Sometimes interpretation of rules is inconsistent.

13:52:43 From Joseph Sweat: Thanks Meg - that is our reading of the MUTCD also.

13:59:09 From Meg Pirkle, GDOT: I apologize - I need to drop off for my next meeting. Kerry's knowledge of the MUTCD rulemaking process is better than mine for Guide signs. Thanks all!

13:59:34 From Michael Staley: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2/text/rh/HF69A9D877A304CF6A54F8A662753E174>