

Appendix M: FHWA Experiments



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The treatments discussed in the following section may be in the existing MUTCD. Any application of these experimental treatments should follow the processes outlined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance on the following pages.

The following is a summary of the FHWA experimentation procedure:

“All requests for experimentation should originate with the State/local highway agency or toll operator responsible for managing the roadway or controlled setting where experiment will take place. That organization forwards the request to the FHWA - with a courtesy copy to the FHWA Division Office. The FHWA must approve the experiment before it begins. Requests may also be forwarded directly to the FHWA Division Office, and the Division Office can submit the request to the FHWA Headquarters Office. All requests must include:

1. *A statement of the nature of the problem, including data that justifies the need for a new device or application.*
2. *Describe the proposed change, how it was developed, how it deviates from the current MUTCD.*
3. *Any illustration(s) that enhance understanding of the device or its use.*
4. *Supporting data that explains how the experimental device was developed, if it has been tried, the adequacy of its performance, and the process by which the device was chosen or applied.*
5. *A legally binding statement certifying that the concept of the traffic control device is not protected by a patent or copyright (see MUTCD Section IA.10 for additional details.)*
6. *The proposed time period and location(s) of the experiment.*
7. *A detailed research or evaluation plan providing for close monitoring of the experimentation, especially in the early stages of field implementation. The evaluation plan should include before and after studies as well as quantitative data enabling a scientifically-sound evaluation of the performance of the device.*
8. *An agreement to restore the experimental site to a condition that complies with the provisions of the MUTCD within 3 months following completion of the experiment. The agreement must also provide that the sponsoring agency will terminate the experiment at any time if it determines that the experiment directly or indirectly causes significant safety hazards. If the experiment demonstrates an improvement, the device or application may remain in place as a request is made to update the MUTCD and an official rulemaking action occurs.*
9. *An agreement to provide semiannual progress reports for the duration of the experimentation and to provide a copy of the final results to the Office of Transportation Operations (HOTO) within three months of the conclusion of the experiment. HOTO may terminate approval of the experimentation if these reports are not provided on schedule.”*

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