

WalkBike Springfield

Residents working to improve the safety of walking and bicycling in Springfield

May 4, 2021

Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Changes needed to MUTCD to improve pedestrian safety in Springfield, MA

Dear Acting Administrator Pollack:

WalkBike Springfield is a group of residents working to improve conditions for walking and bicycling in Springfield, Massachusetts. We advocated for our City to pass a Complete Streets policy. We work closely with our Department of Public Works to implement roadway projects that are truly designed to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Over and over again, we are told an agreed upon improvement cannot be made because it conflicts with MUTCD.

The current MUTCD prioritizes vehicle ease through intersections, speed limits not appropriate for residential areas, continues to be based on outdated design that does not take enough consideration of vulnerable road users, and traffic light placement that ignores pedestrian safety. These are real issues in Springfield, Massachusetts.

We advocate to our City officials to follow the recommendations of NACTO's new City Limits publication, but are hindered by the current MUTCD. MUTCD should be guided by NACTO recommendations.

Please prioritize the rewriting of the MUTCD so that it is consistent with Federal Highway's "Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures." and local Complete Streets and Vision Zero efforts. MUTCD has the potential to make Springfield, Massachusetts truly a safe city for all users.

Thank you,

Betsy Johnson, Convener
WalkBike Springfield
www.walkbikespringfieldma.org
c/o 31 Mattoon St. Springfield, MA 01105

cc: Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg