



# Information on Traffic Studies



*What is a traffic control device? What does it take to get a traffic signal or STOP sign put in? What is the MUTCD thing? Why don't you just go put up two more STOP signs? How many names do you need on a petition to get something done?*

## What is a traffic control device?

Traffic control devices are those items used to promote highway safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on streets and highways. Traffic control devices notify road users of regulations and provide warning and guidance needed for the reasonably safe, uniform, and efficient operation of all elements of the traffic stream. Traffic control devices are the signs, pavement markings, and traffic signals (including flashers) that are used. Streetlights are not considered traffic control devices.

## Legal Requirements

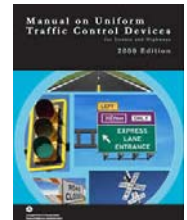
Clark County is required by Nevada Revised Statute 484A.430, which states:

- 1. The Department of Transportation shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic-control devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter for use upon highways with this State. The uniform system must correlate with and so far as possible conform to the system then current and approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials and the National Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*
- 2. All devices used by local authorities or the Department of Transportation must conform with the manual and specifications adopted by the Department.*

Clark County code 14.12.070 also requires the County to conform to the standards adopted by the State of Nevada Department of Transportation.

The manual is the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices** or **MUTCD**.

Any person may contact Clark County Traffic Management and request a traffic study be conducted at a location. A single request is equal to a petition with numerous names in getting a traffic study conducted.



## Traffic Studies

To meet these requirements, traffic studies are conducted by qualified and trained engineers using the criteria within the **MUTCD** for guidance in the installation, modification, placement, and justification of traffic control devices.

## What does a traffic study include?

Depending on the type of traffic study, different information is collected and analyzed. Daily traffic volumes, percentage of trucks, prevailing speeds, traffic accidents that have occurred over the last 12 months, turning movements, sight distances, geometric design limitations, parking, pedestrian volumes, walking routes, bike routes, and delay of the vehicles entering the intersection are some of the information collected to conduct the analyses.

## What do they do with all that information?

The information using the criteria in the MUTCD, along with engineering experience, is used to determine the safest and most efficient operation of the roadway or intersection. While the MUTCD does set criteria where the use of certain traffic control devices *may* provide a safer and more efficient operation of a roadway or intersection, the installation of any traffic control device does not guarantee that all problems at a location are solved or other issues will not be created. Also, the **MUTCD** does not require any traffic control device be installed; it only requires that if it is installed, it must follow the **MUTCD**.

## Want More Information?

This flyer is for general purposes only. For more information, please contact the Clark County Department of Public Works, Traffic Management Division at (702) 455-6000 or email [InTheWorks@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:InTheWorks@ClarkCountyNV.gov).

**NOTE:** The **MUTCD** is used throughout the country as the standard by which traffic control decisions are made. Nevada Revised Statute 484A.430 and County Code 14.12.070 require the County to use the **MUTCD** for placement of all traffic control devices. The complete **MUTCD** can be found at: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf-index.htm>.

April 2012