



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

October 21, 2010

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my concern over the new traffic control improvement requirements that are detailed within the recent federally adopted version of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). As do other cities throughout the United States, the City of Milwaukee has followed the guidance and requirements of the MUTCD to develop and maintain a high level of traffic control safety. However, the new 2009 edition of the MUTCD has identified numerous traffic sign and traffic signal improvements with strict implementation requirements that will cause the City of Milwaukee undue financial hardship during a time that we are struggling to fund our core services.

The City does recognize the safety benefits that will ultimately result from making these traffic control improvements. However, because of the significant cost related to these upgrades I am asking you to reconsider the implementation deadlines. The City of Milwaukee has extremely limited capital funding along with limited methods for raising additional capital. These new standards will cost the City \$5.3 million dollars to implement and it is our recommendation that we, as well as other communities throughout the US, be allowed to use a more systematic implementation approach within our existing useful life replacement programs and scheduled capital street improvement projects. This will obviously result in a longer period of time to fully implement the new standards but it will be done in a more fiscally responsible way. Attached is a letter from the City of Milwaukee's Commissioner of Public Works to your Office of Transportation Operations. The Commissioner's letter spells out our concerns in greater detail.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We hope that we can work together and find a way to further improve the safety of our transportation system without negatively impacting other core City needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett".

Tom Barrett
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Murphy".

Michael Murphy
10th District Alderman
Chair of Finance & Personal Committee