



EDITOR'S WELCOME

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It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Traffic Control Device Research. The Journal represents a vision that Dr. Gene Hawkins and I established when we were both elected to our positions as officers on the NCUTCD. Our vision with this journal is to increase the dissemination of research and evaluations through publishing technical papers and case studies related to the research and evaluation of traffic control devices.

The editors intend to publish rigorously-sound articles based on scientific study that are also practical in nature, advancing the state-of-knowledge in TCD design, placement, safety, operations, and maintenance. As Dr. Gene Hawkins notes in his foreword "Traffic control devices may be the most important tool in the traffic engineer's toolbox".

When I teach Transportation Engineering classes at Virginia Tech, I tell students that it is important to remember that TCDs are the primary method that traffic engineers communicate information to motorists. Engineers can develop new and innovative roadway design configurations. Engineers and researchers can test their operations through modern microsimulation techniques to prove that the innovative design has the potential to reduce delay and improve operations. However, if road users don't understand what they are supposed to do and how they are supposed to navigate the facility, the effort is wasted. In more simple terms, as one of my colleagues says, "If you can't sign it, don't design it." Human factors is a critical consideration when it comes to TCDs and this journal will feature articles that address considerations related to road user comprehension and road user behavior when interacting with TCDs.

The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)* is an ever-changing document that is updated periodically to address new advancements and knowledge in TCD design and implementation. It is our hope that this Journal will provide information that helps to provide data-driven decisions for future changes in the MUTCD.

This journal represents the hard work of the authors as well as the NCUTCD Research Committee. Specifically, I would like to thank Scott Kuznicki and Mike Tantillo for their work in assembling this inaugural journal for distribution.