



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON DC 20590

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

Thank you for your letter regarding street signs in many Pennsylvania communities.

The purpose of the provisions in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is to improve traffic safety with well-designed and well-located street name signs that provide valuable information to road users. These signs aid emergency responders in locating streets quickly, meet the needs of an aging driver population, and improve traffic safety and operations.

We recognize and appreciate the value of preserving historical elements of transportation infrastructure, such as Lower Merion's street signs. Therefore, the existing signs may remain as historical monuments. If a community determines it needs street name signs for safety and navigational reasons, however, those signs would need to conform with MUTCD.

While the safety benefits of uniform traffic control devices are well known, I am aware of the concerns of State departments of transportation and local highway agencies about the impact of compliance issues related to MUTCD given the current economic climate, which has significantly reduced the resources available to public agencies. I instructed the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to seek input from all stakeholders on this issue through a Federal Register notice. The comment period is now closed, and FHWA is evaluating the comments to determine further action.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink is written over the typed name "Ray LaHood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.