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IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT UNSIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

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A recent research project jointly sponsored by the Transit Cooperative Research Program and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program examined pedestrian safety at unsignalized intersections. One objective of the project was to examine the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) pedestrian signal warrant. There was concern that the existing traffic signal pedestrian warrant may need to be modified. Three recommendations were presented to the Signal Technical Committee and then to the full National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). All three recommendations were approved in 2006 or in January 2007. These changes should be included in the next edition of the MUTCD (estimated for publication in 2009).

Another objective of the research effort was to recommend selected engineering treatments to improve safety for pedestrians crossing at unsignalized locations, particularly those served by public transportation. The research team felt that it was necessary to provide more than just a menu of possible treatments. Therefore, the team developed quantitative guidelines to help engineers and transit agencies determine which treatment(s) is (are) recommended for different street environments and traffic conditions. In accomplishing this, the team evaluated a selection of pedestrian crossing treatments and documented the evaluation results. The *Guidelines for Pedestrian Crossing Treatments*, which are included in the research report, were developed using the results from the evaluations. Details on the field studies and other research efforts are contained in the appendices of the research report.

In accomplishing the two main study objectives, the research team also developed useful supporting information on various aspects of pedestrian safety at unsignalized roadway crossings. This supporting information includes pedestrian characteristics (e.g., walking speed, gap acceptance, and treatment activation behavior), motorist yielding, and traffic engineering and transit agency perspectives. Discussions on the findings from those areas are also included in the research report or its appendices.

The final report, *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings* (TCRP Report 112/NCHRP Report 562), can be purchased or viewed from the Transportation Research Board Bookstore at http://trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=6630. The appendices, *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings: Appendices B to O* (TCRP Web-Only Document

30/NCHRP Web-Only Document 91) can be downloaded from the web at:
http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=6676.