

STOP SIGNS



Guidelines for Stop Signs

The placement of stop signs at an intersection is based on “Warrants” or guidelines found in the CAMUTCD supported by a site-specific engineering study. A warrant is a set of criteria used to define the need for a particular traffic control device. Stop signs are not used to control or slow speeding vehicles. Choosing which direction to stop at an intersection takes into consideration the volume of each street, conflict between pedestrians and motorists, sight distance of each approach and collision patterns. Normally the street carrying the least volume is the one that is stopped. To consider All-Way Stop Control both streets should be relatively equal in volume.

Installation of All-Way stop control is also based on an engineering study with Thresholds that should be met. Whether or not to install All-Way stop is based on the following criteria:

- Where a crash problem exists that can be corrected with all-way stop (5 or more collisions in a 12-month period). Such as left or right turn collisions and
- Minimum vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle volumes are met over an 8-hour period for minor and major street traffic and
- The speed of the major street

The number of pedestrians and the amount of available gaps in traffic allowing pedestrians to safely cross the main street is also considered.

Installation of All-Way Stop at locations not meeting the Warrants have been shown to:

- Increase traffic congestion
- Increase motorist temptation to not stop or to disobey the stop signs
- Increase the likelihood of rear-end collisions
- Add noise and pollution for nearby residents, as vehicles start and stop

Flashing Stop Signs

The installation of Solar Flashing Stop signs will only be considered after a complete engineering study and review has been completed. Due to the significant cost of these devices they will only be installed after less costly measures have been tried or after an engineering report recommends installation. Stop signs are regulatory devices used to establish right of way for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists at intersections. All signs and traffic control devices are guided by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) as well as the California Vehicle Code (CVC). The appropriate use of traffic control devices helps to maintain traffic safety. One way to do this is to provide devices that have the same meaning and require consistent action for motorists wherever they are encountered.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this pamphlet is being provided to generally explain and guide you through the subject topic. It is not intended and should not be construed as legal advice. The information contained in this pamphlet is general in nature and the City makes no representations, promises, warranties, or guarantees that requests made will be granted.

