

TRAFFIC SIGNALS



Warrants for Traffic Signals

The justification for installation of a traffic signal is based on “Warrants” as found in the CAMUTCD supported by a site-specific engineering study. When completing a study there are 8 warrants to investigate.

- Warrant 1:** Eight-hour Vehicle Volume
- Warrant 2:** Four-Hour Vehicle Volume
- Warrant 3:** Peak Hour Volume
- Warrant 4:** Pedestrian Volume
- Warrant 5:** School Crossing
- Warrant 6:** Coordinated Signal System
- Warrant 7:** Crash Experience
- Warrant 8:** Roadway Network

Traffic signals are not a “cure-all” for traffic problems. The primary goal of the engineer is to achieve the safest and most efficient traffic flow. In addition to an increase in collision frequency, unjustified traffic signals can also cause excessive delay, disobedience of signals and diversion of traffic to residential streets.

Traffic Signals

Traffic signals 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. As traffic volumes increase beyond the capacity of lesser controls such as All-Way stop, it may be necessary to install a traffic signal at an intersection. Signals should not be installed unless an engineering study indicates that the installation will improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection. Signals are more costly and represent a significant investment when justified.

Signals can cost \$450,000 or more. The primary function of a traffic signal is to assign right-of-way to conflicting movements of traffic at an intersection. This is done by interrupting heavy traffic flows to permit the crossing of minor street movements that could not otherwise safely move across or into an intersection.

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.

