

Stop Signs

Why are stop signs posted?

Stop signs are posted to reduce right of way conflicts and to ensure that traffic flows smoothly and predictably. Stop signs are not typically used for traffic calming purposes, such as speed control.

What are the drawbacks of stop signs?

Studies have shown that poorly placed or unwarranted stop signs can have negative effects such as: motorists are less inclined to obey stop signs, increased speed between controlled areas, and increased deceleration/acceleration noise. The number of rear end collisions may increase in areas where new stop signs are installed, due to inattentive drivers who don't notice the new sign. Additionally, studies show that motorists tend to roll through the intersection if no opposing vehicle/pedestrian/bicycle is typically present.



Who decides where stop signs are placed?

County traffic engineers evaluate locations where stop signs may be needed and follow state and federal guidelines to ensure proper placement. The following factors are studied:

- Collision history
- Pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Amount of traffic on a typical day
- Visibility at the intersection
- Adjacent land uses
- Effects to existing traffic patterns #