

# STOP SIGNS

## GENERAL

The purpose of stop signs is to assign right-of-way at an intersection. Speeding issues are controlled by other traffic-control devices and enforcement. Guidelines used for installing stop signs on County roads are contained in the California Manual on Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD).



## INSTALLATION POLICIES FOR TRAFFIC-CONTROL DEVICES

The CAMUTCD establishes the size, shape, and color of all traffic-control signs. This manual has criteria for installing signs on County roads. The criteria are also known as “traffic warrants.”

These warrants identify specific traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian

volumes, collision history, and any unusual conditions that must be present at the intersection before traffic-control devices may be installed.

## TWO-WAY STOP CONTROL

The use of STOP signs on the minor-street approaches should be considered if engineering judgment indicates that a stop is always required because of one or more of the following conditions:

- ✓ The vehicular traffic volumes on the through street or highway exceed 6,000 vehicles per day;
- ✓ A restricted view exists that requires road users to stop in order to adequately observe conflicting traffic on the through street or highway; and/or
- ✓ Collision records indicate that three or more collisions that are susceptible to correction by the installation of a STOP sign have been reported within a 12-month period, or that five or more collisions have been reported within a 2-year period. Such collisions include right-angle collisions involving road users on the minor-street approach failing to yield the right-of-way to traffic on the through street or highway.

Experience has shown that simply improving the intersection visibility by prohibiting parking near the intersection is often more effective in reducing traffic collisions. This often reduces the need to install more restrictive intersection controls.

Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness and, if installed where not justified, causes drivers to speed up between stop sign-controlled intersections rather than slow down, and to ignore them altogether.

## MULTI-WAY STOP CONTROL

Multi-way stop control can be useful as a safety measure at intersections if certain traffic conditions exist. Safety concerns associated with multi-way stops include pedestrians, bicyclists, and all road users expecting other road users to stop. Multi-way stop control is used where the volume of traffic on the intersecting roads is approximately equal.

The decision to install multi-way stop control is based on an engineering study. The following criteria are considered in the engineering study for a multi-way STOP sign installation:

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- A. Where traffic control signals are justified, the multi-way stop is an interim measure that can be installed quickly to control traffic while arrangements are being made for the installation of the traffic control signal.
- B. Five or more reported collisions in a 12-month period that are susceptible to correction by a multi-way stop installation. Such collisions include right-turn and left-turn collisions as well as right-angle collisions.
- C. Minimum volumes:
  - 1. The vehicular volume entering the intersection from the major street approaches (total of both approaches) averages at least 300 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of an average day; and
  - 2. The combined vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle volume entering the intersection from the minor street approaches (total of both approaches) averages at least 200 units per hour for the same 8 hours, with an average delay to minor-street vehicular traffic of at least 30 seconds per vehicle during the highest hour; but
  - 3. If the approach speed of the major street traffic exceeds 40 miles per hour, the minimum vehicular volume warrants are 70 percent of the values provided in Items 1 and 2.

## CITIZEN CONCERNS

We receive over 150 citizen requests per year. Our goal is to investigate requests quickly and respond after careful evaluation. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

## REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions concerning traffic controls, please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or through the “Contact Us” link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>

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