

Will more STOP signs slow traffic on my street?

Under the right conditions, STOP signs can play an important role in traffic safety. However, STOP signs installed in the wrong place usually create more problems than they solve.

National standards have been established to determine when STOP signs should be installed. These standards consider traffic speed, number of vehicles, sight distance and the frequency of traffic gaps allowing safe vehicle entry onto a street or pedestrian crossing of a roadway.

STOP signs are not meant to be installed as speed breakers or to be a nuisance to drivers by interrupting their traffic flow. Four-way STOPS are only helpful when traffic volumes are high and close to equal on all approaches to an intersection.

Intersections with levels of at least 500 cars per hour for most of the day may benefit from four-way STOP Signs. For safety purposes, STOP signs should stop traffic on the lesser traveled street.

Will the city look into my concerns about STOP signs?

The City of Glendale receives many requests for STOP signs in neighborhoods. The city uses its own engineering standards and the national standards to determine whether a STOP sign is a useful and reasonable traffic control device for that location.

Studies in Arizona and across the country show that speed is reduced in the immediate vicinity of STOP signs installed as speed breakers or nuisances. However, speeds were found to be higher between intersections than before the signs were installed. This is caused by motorists "making up for lost time." Nuisance STOP signs also increase air pollution, waste fuel and create additional traffic noise.

Low volume streets within neighborhoods tend to operate best under the state right-of-way law. This law requires drivers to approach an intersection cautiously and to control their speed to a reasonable level. An interesting note is that when STOP signs are placed on one street, speeds tend to increase on the other street. In these instances motorists assume they no longer have to drive as cautiously through the intersection because the other car is required to stop.

Remember the state law at intersections without STOP or YIELD signs:

When two vehicles enter an intersection from different streets at the same time, the driver on the left shall yield right of way to the driver on the right. The only exception is at a "T" intersection where the driver on the through street has the right of way.

For More Information...

Most drivers are reasonable. When confronted with unnecessary restrictions, motorists are more likely to violate them and they usually develop a contempt for all traffic signs...often with tragic results.

Glendale's Traffic Engineering Department wants to work with you to ensure your driving safety.

Traffic T.I.P.'s

Traffic Information Program

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City of Glendale
Traffic Engineering

