



Stop Sign Request Policy

The Engineering Department receives numerous requests for the installation of stop signs every year. Each request is evaluated against nationwide standards to determine if a stop sign is an appropriate safety measure and if installation is warranted. The “Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices”, published by the Federal Highway Administration, is used to establish this need.

The purpose of the stop sign policy is to provide fair and uniform treatment of all requests for stop signs in residential areas. A consistent application of the policy serves both the motorists and residents within the Village.

Process

A “Stop Sign Request Form” will be completed by the requestor and submitted to the Engineering Department. That person will work with the requestor and gather the pertinent facts, help clearly define the problem, and seek a solution. The review and facts will be reviewed by the Director of Engineering/Village Engineer and the staff recommendation will be shared with the requestor.

Village Policy

Warrants provide specific conditions where stop signs should be considered. The satisfaction of a warrant does not mandate the installation of a stop sign, nor does the non-satisfaction of a warrant prevent such installations but should be used in conjunction with traffic engineering professional judgement.

Stop signs should not be installed in an attempt to control speed or in an attempt to control volume. Stop sign installations should be consistent with the magnitude of traffic conflicts. The indiscriminate use of stop signs results in unnecessary delay, energy use, and an increased risk for accidents based on non-compliance. Stop signs are only to be installed at intersections where drivers cannot safely apply the right-of-way rule.

Excessive use of signs should be avoided. A stop sign control should not be used in the following conditions:

- Stop sign intended to only be used as a traffic measure to control vehicular speed.
- Stop sign located at any entrance to an intersection controlled by traffic signals – with the exception of channelized turn lane, if it is separated from the adjacent travel lanes moving in the same direction by an island.
- Stop sign located at an unsignalized intersection with YIELD sign(s) and the stop control is installed at conflicting or opposing approach to YIELD approach(s).
- In conjunction with exiting stops signs unless volume of vehicular or pedestrian traffic is substantially increased.

The Village is required to comply with the guidelines of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Guidelines. Staff will recommend the installation of a stop sign only if one or more of the MUTCD stop sign warrant criteria and considerations

are met. In addition, engineering judgment on a case-by-case basis will be required to determine the need for stop signs based on which criteria and considerations are satisfied.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of a stop sign?

Stop signs are used to assign Right-of-Way for vehicles approaching intersections. They are not used for speed control or reducing “cut through” traffic by inconveniencing motorists.

Why would stop signs along a street not help to slow traffic?

Motorists tend to accelerate to higher speeds to make up for time lost at stop signs. Vehicle speeds will decrease within two hundred feet of an intersection but will remain unchanged or increase between intersections.

What harm would another stop sign do?

When stop signs are installed where the need to control Right-of-Way is questionable, there would be an increase in traffic delay and congestion with little or no gain in safety. In actuality, safety is sometimes reduced. Incidences of rear end collisions sometimes increase; pedestrian accidents may also increase due to a false sense of security provided by the stop sign. Excessive use of stop signs tends to frustrate motorists who may divert to less suitable streets. If motorists observe that cross street traffic is light or virtually non-existent, the value of the sign will be questioned, and vehicle will roll through or ignore the sign entirely. This reduces the credibility of stop signs.

Where should stop signs be installed?

Stop signs are placed at:

- Entrances to designated through streets (arterial or collector roadways).
- Intersections approved by the Village Engineer as a result of stop sign warrant studies.

The major criteria reviewed to determine whether or not a stop sign should be installed are:

- Accident history at the intersection
- Visibility conditions
- Vehicular and pedestrian conflicts
- Vehicular and pedestrian volumes for any 8-hours of an average day

If a stop sign is not appropriate, what can be done to improve the safety of an intersection?

There may be alternative solutions to problems at an intersection. Shrubbery obscuring visibility can be trimmed by the property owner or the Village. Increased police enforcement periodically targeting speeders is an effective way to slow down traffic. Yield signs or warning signs may also be more suitable than a stop sign in certain instances.

Motorist education and adherence to traffic laws as well as pedestrian awareness and caution can be the most effective solution to traffic mishaps.

Stop Sign Request Form

Residents interested in requesting the installation or removal of a stop sign shall complete and submit this form to the Engineering Department. Upon receipt of a completed application, staff will review the proposed stop sign revision utilizing the procedures included in the adopted Policy. Contact with the applicants regarding the request will be included in the review process.

Add Stop Sign

Remove Stop Sign

Requestors Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Identify the location/intersection of concern:

Describe the nature of the traffic problem which concerns you:

Please describe how stop signs will be able to eliminate or reduce your traffic concerns:

CONTACT US

Submit completed forms to:

James B Bernahl
Director of Engineering
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847-716-3261

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Visit us on the web at
Villageofwinnetka.org

