



Q: Why is a Stop sign installed?

A: The purpose of Stop signs is to control the right-of-way assignment at an intersection.

Signs should be installed only where they are needed. Research indicates that stop signs are not effective at controlling vehicular speeds as that is not their purpose.

Stop signs require a complete stop at an intersection. Stop signs are too frequently installed at unwarranted locations, usually under citizen pressure. Such usage leads to disrespect for the sign and promotes the use of the so-called “rolling stop” where the driver merely slows down. Unwarranted stop signs can also cause drivers to divert to nearby streets to avoid the stop signs, as well as speeding between stop signs to make up for “lost time.” This type of installation should be avoided.

Q: What are the City of Escondido’s policies for installing a Stop sign?

A: The City of Escondido, by state law, must comply with the guidelines of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Signs are installed at an intersection only if a careful evaluation of the existing conditions indicates their installation is appropriate.

Q: When is a multi-way stop installed?

A: The “Multi-way Stop” installation is useful as a safety measure at some locations. It should ordinarily be used only where the volume of traffic on the intersecting roads is approximately equal. A traffic control signal is more satisfactory for an intersection with a heavy volume of traffic. Any of the following conditions may warrant a multi-way Stop sign installation:

1. Where traffic signals are warranted and urgently needed, the multi-way stop is an interim measure than can be installed quickly to control traffic while arrangements are being made for the signal installation.
2. An accident problem, as indicated by five or more reported accidents of a type susceptible to correction by a multi-way stop installation in a 12-month period. Such accidents include right- and left-turn collisions, as well as right-angle collisions.
3. Minimum traffic volumes:
 - a. The total vehicular volume entering the intersection from all approaches must average at least 500 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of an average day.
 - b. The combined vehicular and pedestrian volume from the minor street or highway must average 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 maximum hour.
 - c. When the 85th percentile approach speed of the major street traffic exceeds 40 miles per hour, the minimum vehicular volume warrant is 70 percent of the above requirements.

Q: Who do I contact about requesting a new stop sign?

A: Any citizen may request the installation of a Stop sign through the Engineering Services department. Requests can be emailed to traffic.engineering@escondido.org or by completing a “Traffic Study Request” form at City Hall.