STOP Signs

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

Traffic Engineering Division

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Installation Policies:

The Federal "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) issued by the FHWA dictates the location, size, shape, and color of all traffic signs. This manual has guidelines for installing signs and thus creates uniformity from state to state. The State of California has a Supplement to the MUTCD with additional requirements.

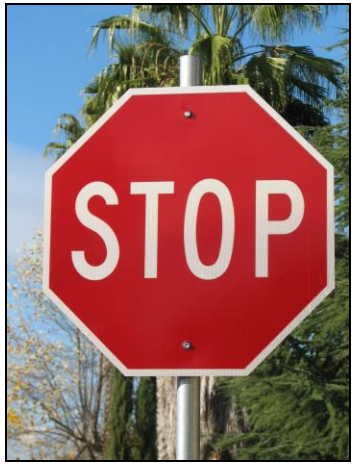
The City of Pleasanton is required by State law to comply with the guidelines of the MUTCD and California Supplement.

These policies identify specific traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident history and unusual conditions that would indicate need for installation of stop signs.

When do we install a stop sign?

Stop signs are installed at an intersection only after a careful engineering evaluation of the existing conditions indicates that their installation is appropriate, and that there is a need for stop signs in order to provide access or assign right of way.

Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness if installed where not justified.



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Advantages of stop sign installation:

- Assign right of way
- Provide controlled access to roadway
- Increased opportunities for pedestrians to cross roadway
- May discourage cut-through traffic

Disadvantages:

- May create compliance problems where motorists do not acknowledge the need to stop
- Safety issues for pedestrians when compliance is poor
- Mid-block speeds may increase as motorists try to make up for lost time
- Noise and air pollution increase
- May increase frequency of rear end collisions
- May increase emergency response and ambulance transport times

Speed Control:

Each year, the City receives many inquiries about installing stop signs as a way to reduce speeding. However, research shows that other measures are more effective than adding stop signs. The purpose of stop signs is to assign right-of-way at an intersection, not to control speed.

Reasons why stop signs are not a good speed control tool:

- Drivers are forced to come to a complete stop, even if they are going the speed limit
- Potential increase in rear end collisions
- Drivers tend to increase speeds between stops
- Increased noise due to hard starts and stops
- Increase in air pollution

If you need further information please call the Traffic Engineering Division at:

925-931-5677

or visit our website at:

www.PleasantonTraffic.com

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