

PURPOSE

The purpose of a stop sign is to designate right-of-way between two relatively equal roads having similar traffic volume. Stop signs installed in the wrong places for the wrong purpose usually create more problems than they solve.

COLLISION FREQUENCY

The introduction of all-way stops can reduce the frequency of certain types of collisions (i.e. right-angle or turning), but research shows they may actually increase some other types of collisions (i.e. rear-end).

SPEED CONTROL

A common misconception is that stop signs control or slow speed. Provincial regulations clearly state that an All-Way Stop control should not be used as a device to control vehicle speeds.

Numerous studies have shown that stop signs do not affect excessive speeding. Speeds are of course affected within approximately 30 metres (100 feet) of the stop location, as vehicles are required to stop. Speeds outside of the 30-metre range usually increase as drivers attempt to make up for lost time at the stop locations.

There are usually other factors involved which are the root cause of a speeding issue. City staff have a variety of tools to help address these concerns without installing devices which may not help to address speeding concerns.

UNWARRANTED ALL-WAY STOP COMMUNITY IMPACTS

- ✓ Unwarranted stop signs create disrespect for other traffic control devices as drivers soon learn to ignore the stop control device.
- ✓ Can provide a false sense of security to pedestrians as drivers tend to roll through the intersection or fail to stop.
- ✓ Inconvenience to local residents who legitimately use the roadway in a safe manner.
- ✓ Negative impact on transit routes (if applicable).
- ✓ At a typical all-way stop location, the following vehicle emissions are released each year:
 - 657 kg (1,448 lbs.) of hydrocarbons
 - 8,760 kg (19,312 lbs.) of carbon monoxide
 - 675 kg (1,448 lbs.) of nitrogen oxides
 - 65,700 kg (144,842 lbs.) of carbon dioxide

The additional gasoline consumption resulting from the installation of stop signs on a typical collector-type roadway is 125 litres per day, or 45,000 litres per year. Using an approximate cost of 1 dollar per litre, the cost of the additional fuel consumption is approximately \$125 per day or \$45,000 per year.

If you have questions about all-way stops or other traffic-related issues, please contact Mark Kaveckas via e-mail at Mark.Kaveckas@barrie.ca.