

## CITIZEN CONCERN


Your city Government takes its role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the motorist in Salina. Since we receive a large number of citizen requests per year, we cannot always investigate your request as quickly as we would like. However, we will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Other Traffic Information brochures available:

- Avoiding Parking Tickets
- Children At Play
- How Speed Limits Are Set
- Left-Turn Traffic Signals
- Pedestrian Signals
- Traffic Safety Tips
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Traffic Signals

*If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, Please call the Department of Public Works at 309-5725 or visit our Website: [www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov) TDD: (785) 309-5747*

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# STOP SIGNS

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DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

## 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 often more effective than adding more stop signs. The purpose of stop signs and is to assign right-of-way at an intersection, not to control speeding.

Public understanding of the function of stop signs is one of the most critical elements in reducing speeding and traffic accidents. The following information explains our policies on intersection traffic controls and the correct use of stop signs.

## INSTALLATION POLICIES

The Federal Highway Association "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) dictates the size, shape and color of all traffic signs and thus creates uniformity from state to state. The state of Kansas has officially adopted the MUTCD.

The City of Salina is required by state law to comply with the guidelines of the Kansas State Traffic Ordinance. In addition, the City has adopted policies for the installation of stop signs. These policies identify specific traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident history, and any unusual conditions which must be present at the intersection before such traffic control devices may be installed.

## STOP SIGNS

Stop signs are installed at an intersection only after a careful engineering evaluation of the existing conditions indicates that their installation is appropriate.

### Why?

Stop signs are used by all local governments to remedy a host of vehicle management problems. A stop sign is a low cost device, easy to install and its message is clear and universally understood.

Yet, our experience has shown that simply improving the intersection visibility by prohibiting parking near the intersection is often more effective in reducing traffic accidents. This often reduces the need to install more restrictive intersection controls. Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness and if installed where not justified they are largely ignored by drivers who tend to speed up between stop sign controlled intersections rather than slow down. The reduction of vehicular stopping and starting movements also leads to fuel conservation.



### When?

It is important that stop signs be used only where they are clearly needed. Traffic should be stopped on either one or both streets of an intersection only when certain warrants are met.

- When a less frequently traveled road intersects with a highly traveled road and crossing traffic creates a hazard.
- When a street enters a through highway or road with frequent and possibly high speed traffic.
- In an area where several of the intersections are signalized, an intersection with no signals should have stop signs facing the minor street.
- At other intersections where a combination of high speed traffic, a restricted view and frequent accidents indicate the need.

Recently the City has installed stop signs at an average rate of 10 per year, usually in newly developed areas. We have found that when used appropriately at an intersection, stop signs can actually reduce accident levels and greatly increase traffic safety.