

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 every 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
Stop Signs
Traffic Safety Tips
Traffic Signal Systems**

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 TDD: (785) 309-5747

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Salina  **City of**
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TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Why and When They Are Used



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Speed Control

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

Public understanding of the function of traffic signals 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 traffic signals within a city.

Installation Policies

The Federal "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) dictates the types of traffic control devices that can be used. This manual has guidelines for installing signals and thus creates uniformity from state to state. The state of Kansas has a traffic law which adopts the federal manual.

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



Traffic Signals

The City has two types of traffic signals: fixed-time signals and traffic actuated signals. Fixed-time signals are set for average conditions and change at predetermined time intervals. Traffic actuated signals detect vehicles (including bicycles) and adjust the timing to optimize traffic flow at the intersection. Most of the new traffic signal systems in Salina are traffic-actuated.

Why?

Traffic signals can be used for many reasons. In the past they have been placed to reduce the occurrence of certain types of accidents, to allow pedestrians an opportunity to cross a busy street, or to improve the flow of traffic. The main purpose of a traffic signal is to allocate right-of-way at an intersection by alternately directing traffic to stop and to proceed. A well designed and installed traffic signal installation will provide for orderly traffic movement, reduce certain types of accidents, and permit motorists to safely cross or enter the other traffic stream and allow for safe pedestrian movement.

When?

In order for a traffic signal to be installed certain criteria or warrants must be met. Such warrants ensure that a traffic signal is being used to fulfill a recommended purpose. These warrants include:

- A minimum vehicular volume
- Interruption of continuous traffic
- A minimum pedestrian volume
- Need for a school crossing

- To ensure progressive movement of traffic
- Reduction of accidents at a particular intersection
- Enhancement of traffic flow networks.

Traffic signals should not be installed unless one or more of the preceding warrants are met. An improper or unwarranted signal installation can create excessive delay, encourage disobedience of the signal indications, encourage the use of less desirable routes in an attempt to avoid the signal, and has a tendency to increase rear-end type accidents.

The City Engineering Department makes a special effort to ensure that traffic signals meet the required warrants and improve the safety of traffic flow within the city. Before installing a traffic signal at an intersection we thoroughly examine:

- The amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- The need to provide interruption to the major flow for side street vehicles and pedestrians
- Special conditions such as hills and curves
- The accident history of the intersection

The City has installed many traffic signals in the past few years. These signals are installed using various funding sources which include your gas tax dollars, development fees and special assessment fees. A new traffic signal costs in the range of \$60,000 to \$100,000. Therefore, their installation must be carefully considered.

