

## ***SPEED CONTROL***

Each year the City of Vista receives numerous requests to install stop signs or traffic signals as a means of reducing vehicular speeds. However, research indicates that the stops signs or traffic signals are not effective at controlling vehicular speeds as that is not their purpose. The purpose of these signs and traffic signals is to control right-of-way at an intersection.

The following information explains the City of Vista's policies on intersection traffic controls and the correct use of stop signs and traffic controls.

### ***INSTALLATION POLICIES***

The Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) dictates the size, shape and color of all traffic signs. The manual has guidelines for installing signs, thus creating uniformity from state to state. The State of California (Caltrans) has a similar manual called the California MUTCD that conforms to the Federal MUTCD and provides guidelines for the use and installation of signs.

The City of Vista, by state law, must comply with the guidelines of the California MUTCD, and the City has adopted these policies for the installation of stop signs and traffic signals. The policies, or "warrants," identify specific traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident history and any unusual conditions that must be satisfied before these traffic control devices can be installed.

## ***STOP SIGNS***

Stop signs are installed at an intersection only if a careful evaluation of the existing conditions indicates their installation is appropriate. In some cases, yield signs may provide an appropriate yet less restrictive right-of-way assignment. Experience has also shown that simply improving the intersection visibility by restricting parking or trimming vegetation near the intersection is often more effective at reducing potential vehicle conflicts than traffic controls. Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness. Therefore, the City of Vista is very prudent in their use.

### ***TRAFFIC SIGNALS***

In the City of Vista there are approximately 107 signalized intersections, which include the 10 signalized SR-78 ramp intersections that are maintained by Caltrans.

All the signals in the City are traffic actuated signals. Traffic actuated signals detect traffic (vehicles and pedestrians) and adjust the signal timing accordingly to optimize traffic flow at the intersection.

Along the City's major arterials the traffic signals are synchronized to provide coordinated movement along the arterial.

Prior to the installation of a traffic signal at any intersection, established minimum warrant criteria must be satisfied. The criteria include an evaluation of vehicular and

pedestrian volumes, accident experience and vehicular volume delay.

Over the past few years, the City of Vista has installed numerous traffic signals using various funding sources including your tax dollars, developer fees, and special assessment fees. A traffic signal installation may cost \$100,000 to \$200,000 depending on the complexity of the installation, so it is prudent for the City to install traffic signals at locations where they are warranted





***STOP SIGNS  
AND  
TRAFFIC  
SIGNALS***



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