

All-Way Stop Signs Fact Sheet



Background

Engineering Services receives numerous requests for stop signs at various intersections and road segments. Therefore, the Town implemented a Stop Sign Policy that clearly outlines procedures, warrants, and staff authority so these requests can be dealt with fairly and expeditiously. The Stop Sign Policy is based on warrants contained in the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM), Book 5, which is written by the Ministry of Transportation and intended to provide guidelines consistent with the Highway Traffic Act.

The Purpose of an All-Way Stop Control

An all-way stop disrupts the flow of traffic and introduces delays to all drivers within the intersection, and should only be considered at the intersection of two relatively equal roadways having similar traffic volume demand and operating characteristics. The Ontario Traffic Manual explicitly states that all-way stop controls should not be used as a speed control device or where the protection of pedestrians is a prime concern.

Town Warrant

In general, stop signs should only be used where traffic engineering studies, considering such factors as traffic volumes, restricted sightlines, and collision experience indicate that the application of stop signs is warranted. Numerous studies have shown that this device does not affect excessive speeding; speeds are only affected within approximately 30 meters of the stop location, as vehicles are required to stop. Speeds outside the 30-meter range usually increase as drivers attempt to make up for lost time at the stop locations.



Negative Impacts of All-Way Stop Sign Misuse

- Environmental impacts: increased vehicle emissions, increased fuel consumption, increased noise
- Creates disrespect for stop signs and other traffic control devices in general
- Inconvenience to local residents who legitimately use the roadway
- Negative impacts on transit routes (if applicable)
- Cost of Installation
- Provides false sense of security to pedestrians as drivers tend to roll through the intersection or fail to stop if it is perceived to be unnecessary (i.e. little or infrequent side street traffic encountered)

Procedure for Submitting a Request

1. Submit request to Engineering Services in written format.
2. Once the request is received, the Engineering department may undertake a survey which will involve traffic counting and a review of collision history, and then analyze data (at the discretion of the Director).
3. The Director will inform the individual making the request of the outcome.
4. If the request is approved, appropriate signage will be installed, pending approval of both the Development and Operations Services Standing Committee and Council.

Please send written requests for all-way stop controls to: engineering@collingwood.ca