

## STOP SIGNS

**Public Works Agency  
Roads & Transportation**  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1620

**PUBLIC**  
VENTURA COUNTY  
**WORKS**

### GENERAL



The purpose of stop signs is to assign right-of-way at an intersection. Guidelines used for installing stop signs on County roads are contained in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD).

A common misconception is that stop signs can be used as an effective speed control or traffic calming device. Speeding issues are controlled by other traffic-control devices and enforcement.

### INSTALLATION POLICIES FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

The County as a public agency is required to follow state law with regards to the placement of any traffic control devices such as the stop sign. Non-compliance with state law could expose the County to potential legal liability. The CAMUTCD establishes the size, shape, and color of all traffic-control signs. This manual has criteria for installing signs on County roads. The criteria are also known as “traffic warrants.”

These warrants identify specific traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian volumes, collision history, and any unusual conditions that must be present at the intersection before traffic-control devices may be installed.

### TWO-WAY STOP CONTROL

The use of stop signs on the minor-street approaches should be considered if engineering judgement indicates that a stop is always required by meeting a set of warrants as listed in the CAMUTCD.

Experience has shown that simply improving the intersection visibility by prohibiting parking near the intersection is often more effective in reducing traffic collisions. This often reduces the need to install more restrictive intersection controls.

Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness and, if installed where not justified, causes drivers to speed up between stop-controlled intersections rather than slow down, and to ignore them altogether.

## **MULTI-WAY STOP CONTROL**

Multi-way stop control can be useful as a safety measure at intersections if certain traffic conditions exist. Safety concerns associated with multi-way stops include pedestrians, bicyclists, and all road users expecting other road users to stop. Multi-way stop control is used where the volume of traffic on the intersecting roads is approximately equal.

The decision to install multi-way stop control is based on an engineering study. Again, the study is based on warrants in the CAMUTCD.

## **CITIZENS CONCERNS**

The Public Works Agency – Roads & Transportation (PWA-RT) department receives over 150 citizen requests per year. Our goal is to investigate requests quickly and respond after careful evaluation. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

## **REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES**

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions concerning traffic controls, please call PWA-RT Traffic section at: **(805) 654-2049** or via our VC Connect App to [Report a Concern](#) a Concern” link at: <https://vcpublicworks.org/rt>.