

## WHAT IF A STOP SIGN IS NOT WARRANTED?

Research has shown that unwarranted stop signs do not have the desired effect of speed control. In fact, unnecessary stop signs can actually create more problems, including:

- Drivers may ignore a sign because they feel it is not necessary, thereby increasing the potential for collisions.
- Drivers may increase their speed between signs to “make up for lost time.”
- Increased noise pollution, air pollution and fuel consumption levels.
- Diversion of traffic to other streets as drivers find an alternate route to avoid the stop sign.

If a stop sign is not recommended, the analyst may be able to suggest more appropriate traffic control options.

## Transportation

*Driving Mesa's Future*



City Of Mesa  
P.O. Box 1466  
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466



480.644.2160



transportation.info@mesaaz.gov



[www.mesaaz.gov/transportation](http://www.mesaaz.gov/transportation)



Rev. 10.14.14

## STOP SIGNS

### *Frequently Asked Questions*



## Transportation

## STOP SIGNS

When warranted, stop signs are a very effective means of traffic control. They serve to reduce collisions by determining who has the right-of-way when approaching an intersection.

However, due to a variety of factors, stop signs are not appropriate at many intersections, so careful consideration must be given before making the decision to install a stop sign at a particular intersection.

The Transportation Department has put together some information to address this important issue and answer some common questions.

## WILL A STOP SIGN SLOW TRAFFIC ON MY STREET?

Many people ask about installing stop signs in their neighborhood as a way to reduce speeding. However, research shows that there is a high violation rate at unnecessary stop signs, as many drivers intentionally run through stop signs installed as “speed breakers.”

Although speed is reduced at or near the stop sign, studies show that speeds are often higher between intersections than before these stop signs were installed.

## CAN I REQUEST A STOP SIGN FOR MY STREET?

In order to determine if a stop sign is the appropriate traffic control measure, a traffic study must first be performed on your street.

To request a traffic study, simply call the Transportation Department at **480-644-2160**. The traffic studies analyst assigned to your area will conduct a thorough study to determine if the intersection meets pre-established criteria for a stop sign. This criteria includes factors such as traffic volumes, crash records, sight distance, adjacent land use and street width. These results are compared to nationally set standards and a recommendation is then made.

Many factors are taken into consideration when evaluating whether or not a stop sign is warranted on a particular street. There are a variety of traffic control measures available, and a stop sign is not always the best answer. For these reasons, our traffic studies analysts must evaluate each street on an individual basis.

## WHO HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT AN INTERSECTION?

The law requires certain vehicles to yield the right-of-way to other vehicles. However, the law does not give the right-of-way to any particular motorist, it only states who must yield.

### A driver must yield the right-of-way:

- When two vehicles on different roadways reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time. The vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- To cross traffic when on the terminating street of a “T” intersection with no traffic control signs or signals.
- To oncoming traffic when making a left-hand turn.
- When more than one driver reaches a four-way stop intersection. The first driver to stop should be the first to go. When two vehicles on different roadways arrive at a four-way stop intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.

No one is allowed to take the right-of-way if doing so may result in a collision.

