

## Citizen Concern

The City of Norman takes the role of solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the motorist in Norman. Since we receive numerous requests from citizens every year, we cannot always investigate your request as quickly as we would like. However, we will respond after carefully evaluating your request, typically within 45 to 60 days.

*We appreciate your patience and understanding.*



**CITY OF NORMAN  
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## **STOP SIGNS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS**



**CITY OF NORMAN  
PUBLIC WORKS  
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## Speed Control

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

Public understanding of the function of stop signs and 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 stop signs and traffic signals.

### Installation Policies

The Federal "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" was developed through observation of driver responses to traffic situations. This manual provides guidelines for installing signs and thus creates uniformity from state to state. The State of Oklahoma has adopted this manual in Title 47 of the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Code.

The "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices", which includes policies and guidelines for the installation of stop signs and traffic signals, has also been adopted by the City of Norman (Section 20-1112 of the City's Code of Ordinances). The policies it contains identify specific traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident history, and any unusual conditions which will result in the desired driver response once a traffic control device is installed. If those conditions are not present, a percentage of the drivers will ignore the traffic control device.

## Stop Signs

Stop signs are installed at an intersection only after a careful engineering evaluation of the existing conditions show that the installation of such devices is appropriate.

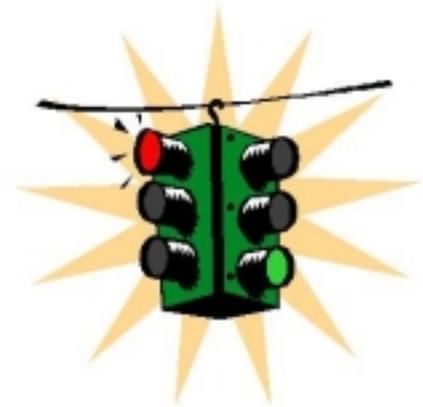
Our experience has shown that simply improving the intersection visibility by prohibiting parking near the intersection is often more effective in reducing traffic accidents. This often reduces the need to install more restrictive intersection controls. Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness and if installed where not justified, they are largely ignored by drivers who tend to speed up between stop sign controlled intersections rather than slow down.



## 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 and adjust the timing to optimize traffic flow at the intersection.

Along some of our major arterials which have several traffic signals spaced at periodic intervals, the traffic signals are usually synchronized to provide coordi-

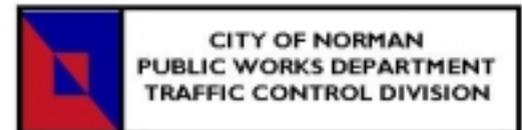


nated movement along the major street. Before installing a traffic signal at an intersection, established minimum criteria must be satisfied.

Our review includes an examination of:

- The amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- The need to provide interruption to the major flow for side street vehicles and pedestrians
- The accident history of the intersection

Over the past few years, the City of Norman has installed signals at an average of 4 per year. These signals are installed using various funding sources, including your gas tax dollars, state and federal funds, and developer fees. A new traffic signal costs in the range of \$100,000 to \$130,000. Therefore, their installation must be carefully considered.



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