STOP SIGNS

PURPOSE

Can i get a STOP sign installed in my neighborhood?

STOP signs assign access through intersections by establishing who should proceed and when. They are a first-step traffic control device prior to consideration of traffic signals and are not meant to be used as speed control or traffic calming devices[(1)(2)(4)].

COLLECT DATA

Federal and State guidelines[(1)(2)] require, in order of priority, the following information be collected to determine whether a STOP sign is appropriate:

→ Vehicle volumes on both approaches to the intersection
→ Collision history at the intersection
→ Sight distance and visibility
→ Left-turn, pedestrian and bicycle volumes and issues

EVALUATE CRITERIA

Based on the collected data, an engineering evaluation considers the following:

→ Traffic volumes are higher than the minimum required by federal and state guidelines[(1)(2)]
→ For 3- and 4-Way STOPs, traffic volumes on all approaches need to be approximately equivalent[(1)(2)(4)]
→ There is a documented history of collisions that could be avoided by installation of a STOP sign[(1)(2)(4)]
→ There are sight and visibility issues[(1)(2)(4)]

WRONG REASON

What happens when STOP signs are installed for the wrong reasons?

→ They are largely ignored by drivers[(4)]
→ Higher speeds due to drivers accelerating between STOP signs trying to save time[(4)]
→ May cause an increase in accidents.[(4)]

Sources:
(1) California MUTCD: http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/camutcd/docs/CAMUTCD2014-Chap2B_rev1.pdf
(2) FHWA: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part2/part2b.htm
(3) City of Hayward Traffic Code: http://www.hayward-ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TrafficCode031413.pdf
(4) ITE: http://library.ite.org/pub/e26c6c49-2354-d714-511a-40d6569511c4