

## *Right-of-Way Rule*

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***U Yield the right of way at an uncontrolled intersection.***

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The right-of-way rule states that when approaching an uncontrolled intersection (an intersection without any traffic signs or signals) the driver of a vehicle must yield to any driver on their right that is also approaching the intersection, regardless of which vehicle reaches the intersection first. (ref. ORS 811.275)



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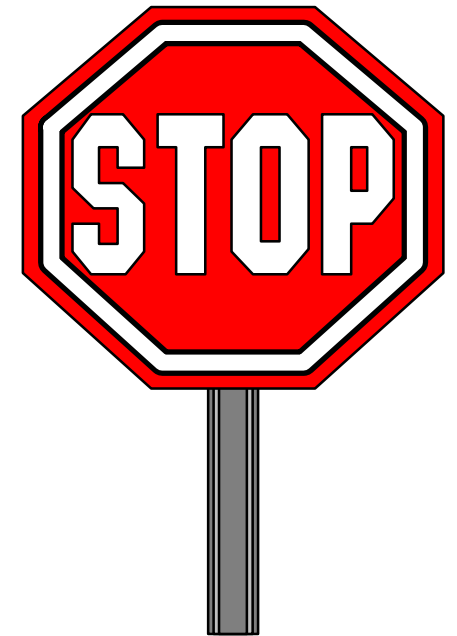
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City of  
Oregon City

# STOP SIGNS



## What to know about stop signs:

Oregon City encourages safe and calm travel on Oregon City streets. So when we are called about a traffic or safety problem, an investigation is conducted to determine the best solution – such as a sign or signal.

In order to prevent collisions, the City installs stop signs where it may be unclear as to who should have the right-of-way. However, stop signs placed at intersections where they're not needed can tempt drivers to disobey stop signs or cut through other neighborhood streets.

The City often receives requests from residents for stop signs in order to control speeding. Stop signs may seem like a good solution to neighborhood speeding, but traffic studies and experience have shown that using stop signs to control speeding doesn't necessarily work. When stop signs are installed to slow down speeders, drivers may actually increase their speed between signs or intersections to compensate for the time lost by stopping. Some drivers tend to accelerate rapidly after a stop, possibly creating an even more dangerous situation. In fact, in residential and business districts, most drivers reach their top speed within 100 feet of a stop sign.

## So why not have a stop sign at every intersection?

Too many stop signs can cause motorists to ignore the right-of-way rule or some drivers may simply choose to ignore the stop sign. More stop

signs in a neighborhood can result in higher levels of pollution and more noise.

The City Engineer determines where to place stop signs so they provide the best benefit for the neighborhood. Stop signs in one location could affect traffic on nearby streets. Drivers may seek new routes to avoid stop signs, which can lead to new traffic problems in adjacent neighborhoods. Also, putting a stop sign on one street could foster higher speeds on the intersecting streets.

The final decision to install a stop sign is made after City traffic engineers consider the flow and volume of traffic, the configuration of the intersection, and traffic crash reports. If you believe your street might benefit from a stop sign, please review the following criteria before you contact the City Engineer with your concerns.

## The primary reason for stop signs in the City of Oregon City

Stop signs are installed at intersections where drivers cannot safely apply the right-of-way rule, resulting in an increase in motor vehicle accidents.

## Criteria for Two-Way Stop Signs

Two-way stop signs are used:

Where a street enters a through street; or

Where a safe approach speed is less than 10 mph due to permanent visibility obstructions such as buildings, trees or shrubs; or

Where accident history indicates three or more reported crashes over the last three years, and the crashes could have been avoided by the use of a stop sign; or

Where circumstances and crash history indicate that observing the normal right-of-way rule could still be hazardous, resulting in crashes.

## Criteria for Four-Way or All-Way Stops

In most cases, a two-way stop sign is sufficient to define who has the right-of-way. A four-way or all-way stop is considered only when an intersection with a two-way stop is the site of numerous crashes or traffic congestion problems.

Four-way stop signs are used:

Where traffic signals are needed; four-way or all-way stops may be used as an interim measure; or

On local streets, where there has been five or more reported crashes in a two-year period. These crashes would likely have been prevented by an all-way stop; or

On through streets, where within a two-year period the intersection had at least 1.5 crashes per million vehicles entering the intersection, and the crashes would likely have been prevented by all-way stops; or

Where the number of vehicles entering an intersection averages at least 500 vehicles per hour for any eight hours of a typical day and the combined vehicular and pedestrian volumes from the minor street averages at least 200 per hour for the same eight hours.