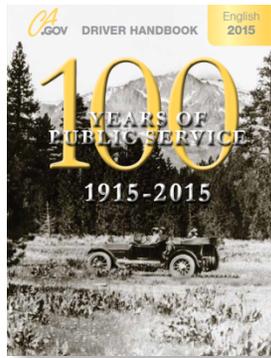


Do you still have questions? Go to the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov and type "MUTCD" in the search box to find the **California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices**. Go to Chapter 2B then Section 2B.05. Another web site to visit is the DMV at www.dmv.ca.gov. Click on "Driver License" then DMV Publications" then "Driver Handbook". In the section called "Traffic Controls" is a subsection called "Traffic Signs".



You can also contact the City's Traffic Engineering Division at (562) 570-6331.



Speed limits are enforced by the Long Beach Police Department. If you have an enforcement question or request, please contact the Patrol Bureau – Traffic at (562) 570-7209.

The City of Long Beach is committed to providing its citizens with the safest and most efficient transportation system possible. This pamphlet is designed to provide you with useful and helpful information regarding traffic control.



City of Long Beach Public Works

411 W. Ocean Blvd.
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@LBPublicWorks

STOP SIGNS

An informational pamphlet on the proper function of stop signs



CITY OF
LONG BEACH

WHAT IS A STOP SIGN FOR?

A stop sign is a red, eight sided (octagon shape) sign with white letters that conveys to motorists to come to a full stop at the limit line (a wide white line painted on the street) or before entering the crosswalk at an intersection. Stop signs are placed on the right side of the street in the direction of travel, and sometimes in the middle of the street, so motorists can see them easily.

Stop signs make intersections safer by slowing down motorists and stopping them for a few seconds. This provides motorists with time to check the intersection in all directions to be sure if it is safe to proceed.

Like traffic signals, stop signs help motorists decide who has the right-of-way to go through the intersection first.

WHERE IS A STOP SIGN USED?

- An intersection where motorists cannot easily see to the right or left because of walls, bushes, and other physical obstructions.
- There are few gaps in traffic or a lot of accidents at the intersection.
- A large number of pedestrians walk across the intersection, a lot of motorists turn left at the intersection, but traffic is not heavy enough for a traffic signal.
- Stop signs should not be used for traffic calming purposes.

WHAT OTHER SIGNS ARE USED WITH STOP SIGNS?

In some places, a second sign might be below the stop sign; for example, an “ALL WAY” sign or a “CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” sign. These signs let motorists know what kind of intersection it is. The ALL WAY sign lets you know that there is a stop sign on all directions. The CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP sign means that the traffic going left-to-right and right-to-left does not have a stop sign, so motorists have to be more careful when entering the intersection.



When a Stop sign cannot be seen easily because of curves in the street or hills, a “STOP AHEAD” sign is often placed in advance of the intersection to warn motorists that a stop is coming up. In addition, there are pavement markers to warn motorists before approaching the stop sign.

Stop signs might also have a flashing red light on top so that motorists can easily see where it is.



WILL STOP SIGNS SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC ON OUR STREETS?

Many people think stop signs help slow down speeders, but this is not true. Motorists often accelerate quickly after stopping to make up for the time they lost by stopping.

If traffic at the intersection is always light, motorists do a “rolling stop” (they slow down but don’t come to a complete stop) because they think it is safe or they are in a hurry.

There are “traffic calming measures” that help lower traffic speeds (stop signs are not one of them). Traffic calming means making changes to a road’s design features such as changing the painted markings, extending curbs into the street (bulb-outs), building a traffic circle, or adding a median. See the Traffic Calming pamphlet for more information.

WHAT IF A STOP SIGN IS BLOCKED BY SOMETHING?

If you see a stop sign that is blocked by a tree, a bush, or is painted with graffiti, please report it to the City immediately. Call the number on the back of this pamphlet, or use the “GO Long Beach” app. Be sure to include the cross streets, explain what is blocking the stop sign, and your name.

