



## The Request

Requests for all-way stop controls may be sent to the Engineering Department with the City of Chilliwack; a thorough study of the proposed area will be considered.

City of Chilliwack  
Engineering Department  
8550 Young Road  
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# All-Way Stop Control

For more information on  
Safer City initiatives, please  
contact Samantha Piper,  
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**Safer  
City**

City of Chilliwack  
Engineering Department  
604-793-2907

[www.chilliwack.com/safercity](http://www.chilliwack.com/safercity)

# All-Way Stop Control

- All-way stop controls may not decrease collisions at an intersection rather it will change the type of collision.
  - All-way stops typically reduce the number of right-angle collisions. However, there is a general increase in the number of rear-end collisions especially if there is a high volume of traffic being required to stop unnecessarily.
- Unwarranted stop signs are a potential safety hazard to pedestrians and other motorists
  - Disregard and disrespect of stop signs by the motorist decreases safety. Pedestrians may be lured into a false sense of security by the presence of a stop sign by assuming that motorists will stop. Young children are the most vulnerable to this situation as they lack experience around traffic. With respect to other motorists, they too may assume a motorist will stop because of the presence of the sign and enter the intersection when it is not safe to do so, thus resulting in the potential for a collision.

## The Facts

- Stop signs do cause motorist to slow down in the vicinity of the intersection but studies have shown that speeds actually increase at mid-block locations as drivers attempt to make up the time lost due to the additional stop.
- All-way stops do not reduce traffic volumes.
- Unwarranted stop signs reduce levels of stop sign compliance.
  - Based on stop sign compliance studies conducted at intersections where an all-way stop control was installed but not warranted based on traffic volumes; an average of 30% of the motorists approaching the intersection did not come to a complete stop. In general, if people see no reason for the sign, they pay no attention to it.
- Excessive stop sign usage breeds disrespect for ALL traffic signs
  - If motorist perceive a stop sign as not serving any useful purpose (i.e. there is little or no cross traffic to justify stopping), their respect for the sign is significantly diminished.

## The Purpose

The purpose of All-way stop control (3-way or 4-way stop signs) is to assign right-of-way to traffic approaching an intersection. As with all roadway signs and regulations, it is important to use consistent signing practices. The following information is considered in determining the placement of additional all-way stop signs.

**Traffic Volume:** All-way stop control may be recommended where there are high traffic volumes (vehicles and pedestrians) approaching the intersection from all directions and the volume of traffic approaching from each street is relatively equal.

**Collision History:** All-way stop control may be recommended where there is a high record of crashes.

**Visibility Deficiency:** All-way stop control may be recommended where the visibility requirements cannot be met.