



One of the most common requests by Tinley Park residents is for STOP signs in residential neighborhoods. These requests often are made with the purpose of slowing down traffic. But while a STOP sign may seem to be the best way to maintain residential traffic safety, it often is not the right answer.

## STOP SIGN FACTS



Engineering studies show that when installed in the wrong places and for the wrong purposes, STOP signs usually create more problems than they resolve. These engineering studies have been conducted throughout the country to evaluate the effectiveness of STOP signs when they are installed in the wrong place or for the wrong reasons.

Studies show that when STOP signs are installed to calm (slow) traffic, they actually create a high incidence of intentional violations, including disregarding the STOP sign altogether. Studies also revealed the speed only is reduced in the immediate vicinity (within 100 to 150 feet) of the sign, and that the speed is increased prior to and after the STOP sign so that drivers can make up the time they lost slowing down. Unwarranted stop signs often are considered nuisances.

### STOP signs:

- Should NOT be used to control speed
- Are a traffic control device intended to assign right-of-way

### Unwarranted STOP signs:

- Reduce the effectiveness of STOP signs at other intersections
- Often increase vehicular speed leaving the sign
- Facilitate “rolling” stops
- Create a false sense of security for motorists and pedestrians
- Increase the potential for accidents

## IS A STOP OR YIELD SIGN WARRANTED?

The Tinley Park Police Department Traffic Safety Unit is responsible for evaluating the need for STOP or YIELD signs at intersections maintained by the Village.

The general criteria for STOP and YIELD signs are outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The manual is followed by states, counties and towns throughout the country to provide uniformity in traffic regulation.

The criteria for STOP and YIELD signs as outlined in the manual include, but are not limited to:

- Crash history for the last three years
- Traffic (automobile, bicycle, pedestrian) volume for all approach legs of intersections
- Recorded traffic speeds approaching the intersection
- Line-of-sight distance
- Intersection and area configuration
- Unique/unusual circumstances

These criteria are designed to look at objective data collected. They are not based on “I Think” or “I Want” standards.

STOP and YIELD signs only should be utilized at intersections where the application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law. They should not be installed to control traffic.

By policy, the Village of Tinley Park follows the guidelines of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices in establishing what criteria must be met for a STOP sign.

## TIPS FOR SLOWING TRAFFIC

If a STOP sign is not the answer, then what is? A majority of the speeding vehicles in a subdivision are the residents of that subdivision – you, your family and your neighbors. If residents slow down, vehicles following also will slow down. In many cases, when enforcement action is engaged in a subdivision, the person complaining about the speeding vehicles is stopped for speeding.

The following are some additional ideas:

- Encourage your family and neighbors to slow down
- Park your car(s) in the street against the curb during legal hours, as this naturally slows traffic
- Place temporary (portable) pedestrian warning signs on parkway

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions or concerns can be directed to [traffic.safety@tinleypark.org](mailto:traffic.safety@tinleypark.org).

## DO "CHILDREN AT PLAY" SIGNS SLOW TRAFFIC?

The short answer is no. Although it seems that this type of sign might assist in protecting children in the neighborhood, facts state otherwise.

Various studies have shown that signs in residential neighborhoods, which were installed to "warn" people of informational conditions, fail to improve safety at all. These signs suggest to residents that they have added protection, when in fact they do not.

Children should not be encouraged to play in or near the street. Federal standards actually reject these type of warning signs because they openly suggest that children playing in the street is acceptable.

Just like properly utilized stop signs, warning signs can be an effective tool if utilized sparingly to warn motorists of uncommon hazards that may not be apparent.

### **FOLLOW THE RULES**

At uncontrolled intersections, such as those commonly found in residential areas, follow the "right-of-way" rule.

As stated in the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-901), when two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different roadways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.



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#### **Mission Statement**

*We, the members of the Tinley Park Police Department, in partnership with the community, are dedicated to providing professional police services. We are committed to serve with integrity and compassion, and strive to improve the quality of life within the community of Tinley Park.*

#### **STAY IN TOUCH**

- **Online:** [www.tinleypark.org](http://www.tinleypark.org) hosts information on the latest news and events.
- **Community Email:** Information delivered weekly to your email inbox. Subscribe by visiting the Village website and clicking on the "Stay Informed" tab on the lower left.
- **Facebook:** "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/VillageofTinleyPark](http://www.facebook.com/VillageofTinleyPark) for information in your news feed.
- **Twitter:** Follow Tinley Park at [www.twitter.com/tinleypark\\_IL](http://www.twitter.com/tinleypark_IL).
- **Tinley TV:** Airs constantly on Comcast Channel 4 and U-verse Channel 99, as well as on the Village's YouTube channel. Visit [www.tinleypark.org/TPTV](http://www.tinleypark.org/TPTV) for information.



## **STOP / YIELD SIGNS**

Are they the right answer?



**Tinley Park Police Department**  
Traffic Safety Unit