

**CITY OF STOUGHTON  
POLICY REGARDING STREET SIGN PLACEMENT**

**I. POLICY STATEMENT**

The City of Stoughton recognizes the primary purpose of traffic ways is to move people and vehicles in a safe, orderly and expeditious fashion. The placement of street signs should be made to accomplish these goals in an orderly and uniform manner through the city.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

**A. General Definitions**

*TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS*

Traffic control signs require actions by a pedestrian or vehicle operator.\*\* Common control signs include traffic signals, stop signs and yield signs.

*WARNING SIGNS*

Warning signs advise pedestrians and vehicle operators of potential hazards or conditions which may be unique, unusual, or not readily apparent to the public.\*\* Common warning signs include school zone, playground ahead, and slow: children playing.

*REGULATORY & OTHER SIGNS*

Regulatory and/or other signs provide information regarding duration, location, and direction.\*\* Common information signs include parking restrictions, hospital signs, etc.

**\*\*The use of signs should be limited unless deemed essential, so as not to dilute their effectiveness. Traffic Engineering reports indicate that traffic control and warning signs are not effective at slowing traffic, and should therefore not be placed for this sole purpose (Ref. WI AAA Study).**

*THROUGH STREETS*

Through streets are roadways designed to serve the main travel desires within the city by limiting unnecessary stopping and slowing along the route. Traffic control signs should be placed at the connecting intersections to through streets along their entire route. Through streets should not have traffic control signs placed on them except where noted in the policy.

**B. Designated Through Streets in the City of Stoughton**

1. *North-South*  
Kings Lynn Road  
Lincoln Avenue  
Van Buren Street  
Johnson Street

Page Street  
Fourth Street  
CTH N/Veterans Road  
Academy Street  
Monroe Street

2. *East-West*  
Milwaukee Street  
USH 51  
Main Street  
Jackson Street  
Prospect Street  
Wilson Street  
Roby Road  
Greig Trail  
Vernon Street  
Kriedeman Drive

### **III. SIGN PLACEMENT CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be evaluated to determine the feasibility of sign placement request. One or more of the factors should be met to approve the placement of a sign. The City Council may, at its discretion, approve or disapprove the placement of any sign that may or may not meet the criteria.

#### **A. Stop Sign Placement**

1. Intersection of a less important road with a main road, where application of the normal right of way rule is too hazardous;
2. Intersection of a city street with a State or Federal Highway;
3. Intersection of two main highways where no traffic signal is present;
4. A street entering a through highway or street;
5. An intersection where a combination of high speeds, a restricted view, and serious accident record (3 accidents in a 12-month period which would be susceptible to correction by the placement of the sign) indicate a need for control by a stop sign.

#### **B. Four Way Stop Placement**

1. As an interim measure prior to the placement of a traffic signal;
2. An accident problem—five or more accidents in a year, susceptible to correction by a four-way stop sign. Such accidents include right and left turn collisions as well as right angle collisions;
3. Traffic volume: 4,000 vehicles entering the intersection from one street and 2,000 vehicles entering the intersection from the other street in a 24-hour period or where a combination of high speeds, a restricted view, and serious accident record indicate a need for control by a stop sign;

4. Where two through streets intersect;
5. When there is a high concentration of both vehicle and pedestrian traffic at specific times of the day;

**C. Yield Sign Placement**

1. On a minor road at the entrance to an intersection where it is necessary to assign the right of way to the major road, but where a stop is not necessary at all times, and where the safe approach speed on the minor road exceeds 10 miles per hour;
2. At an intersection where a special problem exists and where study indicates the problem to be susceptible to correction by use of a yield sign.

**D. Warning or Informational Sign Placement**

1. As an indicator that an unusual or unique condition exists in the area;
2. As an indicator of potential hazard.

**IV. Processing Requests for Signs**

Requests for regulatory or warning signs shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police for review. The Chief of Police will determine if the requested sign placement is in conformance with this policy. The Chief's recommendation will be forwarded to the party making the request, with a copy to the Public Safety Committee. The requestee will have the option to contact the City Hall Staff Person to the Public Safety Committee to request to be placed on a subsequent meeting agenda if the recommendation is not satisfactory to them.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL: July 13, 1999**

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