

All-WAY



STOP

Frequently Asked Questions About All-way Stop Intersections

Q: What is an all-way stop?

A: All-way stops are a low cost form of intersection control. Stop signs are placed at each road approaching an intersection requiring all drivers to stop before proceeding through the intersection. All-way stops are commonly referred to as four-way or three-way stops.

Q: Who goes first at an all-way stop?

A: The first vehicle to reach the intersection should move forward first. If two vehicles reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the right would proceed first.

Q: Why are all-way stop signs being installed at this intersection?

A: Once a safety concern is identified, NCDOT and local government officials evaluate the intersection for safety. If a safety issue is identified, an all-way stop may be installed if it is determined to be the appropriate action. Intersections with low traffic volumes do not warrant a traffic signal. Traffic signals can cause more traffic delays and be more expensive to maintain than all-way stops. An all-way stop is not installed to reduce speed.

Q: What are the benefits of having all-way stop signs installed?

A: All-way stop signs are low cost and can be quickly installed. All-way stop signs allow drivers to take turns entering the intersection, resulting in fewer and less severe crashes.

Q: Are all-way stops appropriate everywhere?

A: No. The decision to use an all-way stop versus another form of traffic control is made on a case-by-case basis. NCDOT and local government officials evaluate each candidate intersection individually to determine whether an all-way stop or another form of traffic control would be more effective in addressing a safety concern.

Q: Will installing all-way stop signs reduce the crashes at this intersection?

A: North Carolina crashes of all types have been reduced by an average of 68 percent where an intersection was converted to an all-way stop. Also, crashes are typically less severe once all-way stop signs are installed. Injury crashes have been reduced by an average of 77 percent where all-way stops have been installed to replace existing intersections. For more information, please review the technical report available at www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/traffic/safety/Reports/completed.html.

Q: How should bicyclists navigate an all-way stop?

A: Bicyclists must stop at the intersection just like any other type of vehicle. The first vehicle to reach the intersection should move forward first. If two vehicles reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the right would proceed first.

