



Peters Township Stop Sign Policy

Resolution #04-02-20

Date of Adoption: April 27, 2020

A. Statement of Purpose

Peters Township Council has adopted this policy for the purpose of defining conditions under which the Township will install stop signs on public streets and those streets being designed to public standards throughout the Township.

B. Introduction

Stop signs are vitally important regulatory signs at intersections throughout the Township to govern the flow of traffic and provide for vehicle and pedestrian safety, especially at those intersections that do not see enough traffic volume to qualify for a traffic signal or roundabout. While stop signs can provide for this safety, it is understood that an overabundance of stop signs, and placement of signs in areas where they are not necessary, negates their effectiveness. Stop sign placement, therefore, must be warranted and subject to certain reviews to determine these warrants by the Township's Engineering Department and Traffic Engineering Consultant. It is further understood that in no circumstances should stop signs be considered a traffic calming tool, and the Township's Traffic Calming Policy makes no reference to these signs as such.

C. Standards for Installation of Stop Signs

The standards governing the installation of a stop sign shall be found in the following documents, as amended from time to time:

1. Federal Highway Administration's *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*
2. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Publication 46, *Traffic Engineering Manual*
3. PennDOT Public 212, *Traffic Engineering Studies*

Beyond these documents, the Township's Traffic Engineering Consultant, in conjunction with the Township Engineer, may make an engineer's determination that factors at a certain location warrant the installation of a stop sign that normally would not qualify under the warrants found in these documents. In such a situation, a written explanation for the engineer's determination must be provided to the Township Manager.

D. Installation of Stop Signs at Existing Intersections

The installation of new stop signs shall be made after evaluation by the Township's Traffic Engineering Consultant based upon the standards above. The Township Engineer shall direct the Traffic Engineering Consultant to evaluate an intersection. The completed evaluation shall be provided to the Township Engineer and Township Manager. In cases where a stop sign is warranted for installation, after approval by Township Council, the Township's Public Works Department shall install the stop sign. The Township Engineer shall keep a list of new locations where a stop sign was installed throughout the Township over the course of a calendar year.

E. Stop Signs Along Roads Designed to Public Standards

As part of the plan review process for any proposed residential or commercial development that involves roads being built to public standards and with the intent of the Township eventually taking them over, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall determine the need for stop signs based on the aforementioned criteria. Such information shall be relayed to the developer of the site so that their engineering consultant may review and offer rebuttal. In cases where an engineer's determination is used to warrant a stop sign, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall provide written explanation to the developer, the Township Manager, and the Planning Director. In cases of disagreement between the Traffic Engineering Consultant and a developer on the installation of a stop sign, Township Council, at its sole discretion and taking into account the recommendation of the Traffic Engineering Consultant, shall determine the need for installation during the Final Land Development Process.

F. Stop Signs Along Private Roads

Stop signs located along existing private roads are not subject to this policy, though the Township would encourage residents and businesses along these roads to adhere to the warrants listed in this policy for the installation of stop signs.

In instances where existing private streets are being considered for takeover by the Township, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall review the locations of stop signs along these streets to determine if the signs are warranted. In cases where the signs are not warranted, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall provide a recommendation to the Township Engineer for the removal of these stop signs. The Township Engineer shall then direct the residents, businesses, or other entity along the private roadway to remove the stop signs as prior to the Township's takeover of the roadway. If signs are warranted and not present, the installation of the stop signs will be a condition of acceptance.

G. Installation of Stop Signs Along State Roads

Roadways owned by PennDOT are not subject to Township policies on traffic control devices. However, in instances where Township officials (Council Members, Township Manager, Township Engineer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, and/or Planning Director) feel that a stop sign along a PennDOT-owned roadway is a necessary safety improvement, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall review the location to determine if warrants recognized by PennDOT exist for the installation of a stop sign. If such warrants exist, the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall prepare a report that shall be sent to PennDOT with an official request for the installation of a stop sign.

H. Public Input on Stop Sign Locations

Nothing within this policy shall prohibit input on locations for which a stop sign should be installed by a resident of Peters Township. Residents seeking to provide locations for stop signs should address their correspondence to the Township Engineer, who shall determine if the Traffic Engineering Consultant shall evaluate the warrants of a stop sign in this location. The Township Engineer or Traffic Engineering Consultant shall communicate back to the resident on the findings of any evaluation. In cases where a stop sign is warranted, the procedure established in Section D shall be followed.

I. Updating the *Code of Ordinances*

At the end of each calendar year, the Township Engineer shall draft an Ordinance to amend Chapter 410, "Vehicles and Traffic", Article II, "Traffic Regulations" of the Peters Township *Code of Ordinances* to denote the locations where new stop signs were installed on public roads in the

Township during that calendar year. This Ordinance shall be placed before Council for their consideration at or before the final meeting of the year.

J. Stop Sign Standards

All stop signs installed along Township-owned roads shall meet the standards established by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.