



The Institute of Transportation Engineers
Traffic Engineering Council
presents TIPS on



Stop Sign and Bar Placement

Where should a stop sign and stop bar (line) be placed at an intersection?

In placing a STOP sign at an intersection, visibility of the sign by the motorist is of prime concern. The STOP sign should not be blocked by other signs or vegetation. It is placed on the right hand side of the traffic lane to which it applies. In cases where the road is wide, an additional STOP sign is placed on the left side of the road.

Where two roads intersect at an acute angle, the STOP sign is positioned at an angle, or shielded, so that the message is out of view of traffic to which it does not apply.

In order to provide adequate lateral clearance for the motorist who may leave the roadway in rural areas and strike the sign support, a STOP sign should be located at least 6 feet from the edge of the shoulder or if there is no shoulder, 12 feet, with a maximum of 14 feet from the edge of the traveled way. The height to the bottom of the STOP sign in rural areas

should not be less than 5 feet or more than 8 feet above the edge of the roadway.

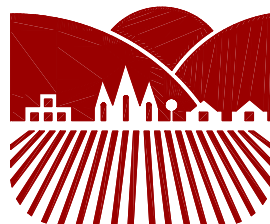
In urban areas a lesser lateral clearance may be used where necessary. Although 2 feet is recommended as a working minimum, a clearance of 1 foot from the curb face is permissible where sidewalk width is limited or where existing poles are close to the curb. The height of the bottom of a STOP sign in urban areas should not be less than 7 feet or more than 8 feet above the top of the curb.

In the case of stop bars, the MUTCD indicates that a stop bar (line) is a solid white line, normally 12 to 24 inches wide, extending across all approach lanes to a STOP sign or traffic signal. A stop bar should be placed parallel to the centerline of the intersecting street. A stop bar should be used in both rural and urban areas where it is important to indicate the point, behind which vehicles are required to stop, in compliance with a STOP sign, traffic signal, officer's direction, or other legal requirement.

A stop bar, when used, should ordinarily be placed 4 feet in advance of and parallel to the nearest crosswalk line. In the absence of a marked crosswalk, the stop bar should be placed at the desired stopping point and in no case more than 30 feet or less than 4 feet from the nearest edge of the intersecting roadway.

When a stop bar is used in conjunction with a STOP sign, it should be placed in

line with the STOP sign. However, if the STOP sign cannot be located exactly where vehicles are expected to stop, the stop bar should be placed at the desired stopping point. Finally, the stop bar should be placed so that vehicles have optimum sight distance along the intersecting roadway.



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