

Signals Don't Always Prevent Accidents

The City of Glendale's Transportation Department wants to ensure that when a traffic signal is installed at a specific location, traffic and pedestrian safety are improved. Surprisingly, traffic signals don't always prevent accidents.

Engineering studies have shown that in many instances, accidents increase after a traffic signal is installed. Not only are pedestrians lulled into a false sense of security because of the new traffic signal, but studies have shown that rear-end collisions often increase as well.

Placing A Signal Requires Special Considerations

When determining whether or not a traffic signal is necessary at a specific location, Glendale's traffic engineers evaluate and try to answer a number of questions:

- How much traffic is there on the intersecting streets?
- Is there so much traffic congestion that drivers try to cross the intersection when it's unsafe?
- Is pedestrian traffic high?
- Is the street a wide, high speed and busy thoroughfare?
- Are school children crossing the street and if so, does the street require special controls?
- Will a traffic signal improve the flow of traffic or cause gridlock with other nearby signals?

In Glendale

Glendale's traffic conditions at specific locations are then compared to standards established nationwide in an effort to gauge whether a signal is an appropriate device to improve vehicle flow and safety. If standards are not met, motorists can expect greater congestion and both an increase in accidents and traffic violations.

Traffic signals are used to assign the right-of-way between conflicting movements. Traffic signals often replace STOP signs when traffic levels have become too large for STOP signs to handle.

We Want To Help — Not Hurt!

A signal that is placed properly can improve traffic flow and decrease accidents. An unnecessary signal can be a source of danger and annoyance to motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. For example, traffic signals installed at collector and local street intersections do improve access onto major streets. However, this can also have an added impact on neighborhood traffic because the improved access to the major street may increase traffic levels. The waiting time for some vehicles may also increase, especially for side-street traffic. The City of Glendale Transportation Department carefully evaluates all of these considerations when determining where traffic signals are needed.

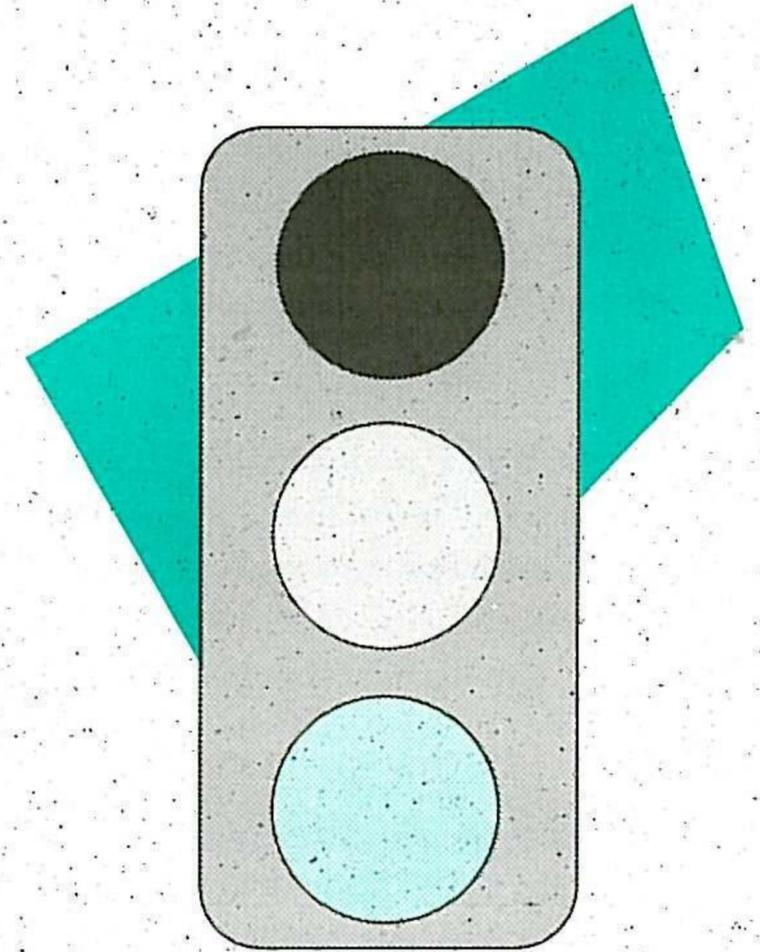
Let Us Help!

If you have a concern about traffic in your neighborhood, please call the City of Glendale's Transportation Department

Traffic T.I.P.s

Traffic Information Program

**Will A
Traffic Signal
Help
Reduce
Accidents?**



Traffic T.I.P.s
City of Glendale
Transportation Department

