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**Subject:** Stop vs Yield Sign - Public Comment Traffic Calming  
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## ***Stop signs in conjunction with so-called Chokers are wrong (and unlawful)...***

### **Stop Sign Installation**

#### ***Federal and State guidelines are required to be met prior to an installation of a Stop Sign.***

Stop signs are valuable control devices when used at the *right* place and under the *right* conditions. The intent of stop signs is to help drivers and pedestrians at an ***intersection*** decide who has the right-of-way.

Stop Signs are only for ***intersections***, including entering a through highway or street<sup>(1)</sup>. Where a Stop Sign is not authorized, or called for at all times a Yield sign should be considered. Attempted enforcement of unauthorized Stop Signs is wrong and of dubious success.

The Stop Sign guidelines take into consideration, among other things, the probability of vehicles arriving at an ***intersection*** at the same time and the availability of safe crossing opportunities.

An unwarranted Stop Sign installation will reduce speeds approaching the Stop Sign, but drivers may 'jackrabbit' and accelerate to a speed faster than they drove before the nuisance Stop Sign to make up for time lost.

**Therefore, Stop Signs are not effective for speed control.** Stop Signs should not be used for this purpose<sup>(1)</sup>.

Drivers tend to ignore unwarranted Stop Signs that, in their view, are unnecessary. If drivers are required to stop for a Stop Sign and much of the time don't see traffic on the opposing streets, drivers become impatient, irritated and tend to disregard Stop Signs that have no obvious need. These signs interfere with the travel of all to perhaps control a few to the benefit of even fewer.

Traffic generally finds the path of least resistance. If there are alternative routes and these alternative offer fewer traffic controls, drivers will take them. This may just increase traffic volume on other streets and cause unknown or intended consequences.

### **Environmental Degradation**

Unwarranted Stop Signs waste fuel, vehicle after vehicle; hour after hour; day after day; and year after year. Stop Signs require additional stop/starts, increasing wear and tear on vehicles. Noise, brake, tire and exhaust pollution increase as a result of repeat braking and engine acceleration. These pollutants are known health hazards for those nearby and generally, not good for the environment.

(1) "...•at an intersection of a less important road with a main road where application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law,  
•on a street entering a through highway or street,  
•at an unsignalized intersection in a signalized area, or  
•at an intersection where a combination of high speed, restricted view, or crash records indicate a need for control by a STOP sign.

...Stop signs should not be used for speed control..." ILMUTCD 39-2.08(b)