

Traffic Signals May Not Eliminate Colli-

...In fact, in most instances, the number of collisions increase after signals are installed.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices suggests that signals should not be installed under the premise of reducing collisions, unless five or more right-angle type occur per year. Studies indicate that an increase in total collisions should be expected at intersections having fewer than five right-angle collisions per year prior to signalization.

The purpose of signals is to improve overall traffic flow. Signals can be helpful in reducing right-angle collisions under certain circumstances, but almost always result in an increase in other types of collisions such as rear-end and left turn collisions. As well, signals can also give pedestrians a false sense of security.

A Traffic Safety Message
From the
City of Springfield
Public Works Department



For more information:
417-864-1980
<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/traffic>

Will A Traffic Signal Reduce Accidents At Our Intersection?



*City of Springfield
Department of Public Works
Traffic Engineering Division*

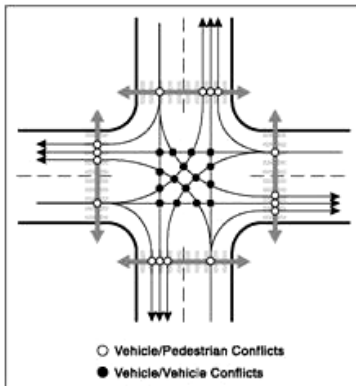
Traffic Engineers Compare Existing Conditions...

...against guidelines established after many years of study.

If conditions do not meet established guidelines, signalization will only cause more collisions, congestion and delay. When these conditions are met, an engineer then needs to consider geometric conditions and spacing to adjacent signals to ascertain whether or not a signal could be helpful.

Signals installed at collector and local street intersections may be necessary to improve safety for

access to major streets, but inappropriately placed signals can result in more neighborhood cut-through traffic.



Traffic Engineers Consider These Points...

...when deciding if a traffic signal will help more than it will hurt.

- Are traffic volumes and conflicts severe enough to create extraordinary delays and frustration?
- Is traffic so heavy that drivers on side streets try to cross when it is unsafe?
- Are there a large number of pedestrians waiting to cross a wide, high speed and busy street?
- Does the age and number of school children crossing the street require special controls? If so, is a traffic signal the best solution?
- Would a signal allow for a smooth flow of traffic and not adversely affect safety by causing gridlock with a nearby signal?

REMEM-

Traffic Signals Can:

- ✦ Increase Total Collisions
- ✦ Attract Even More Traffic
- ✦ Give Pedestrians a False Sense of Security