



Traffic Signal Review Process

OVERVIEW:

The Georgia DOT receives inquiries from residents every day requesting the installation of traffic signals at intersections in their neighborhoods. The Department only controls those locations where at least one of the routes is on the State Route System.

The process used to determine where a traffic signal is installed is a very systematic procedure to establish the need and a priority for a signal with the overall goal of public safety and well-being. Every effort is made to determine where a traffic signal will be needed in the future and to anticipate that need.

HOW IT WORKS:

A resident would begin by contacting the city or county in which the road is located. As an alternative, the Georgia DOT District Office which oversees the county in which the resident lives may be contacted. Then a study of the intersection will occur using current and historic information about the location.

There are a number of criteria or “warrants” to determine if an intersection might need a traffic signal based on the Nationally Standardized, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. These minimums include:

- 8-hour vehicular volume
- 4-hour vehicular volume
- Peak or rush hour volume
- Pedestrian volume
- School crossings
- Progressive movement (moving traffic through a series on intersections along a corridor)
- History of correctable or angle crashes in the previous 12 months
- Systems (a series of lights on a coordinated corridor)
- Intersection proximity to a railroad crossing

An intersection does not have to meet every minimum requirement. It can meet a combination of the required minimums.

If the road is a city street or county road, the Local Government will make the final determination on whether a signal is warranted based on their study. If the roadway is a state route and the Local Jurisdiction has determined a traffic signal is warranted, the City or County will forward that study with its recommendation to Georgia DOT’s Traffic Operations Division in Atlanta for review. A final determination is made by the State Traffic Operations Division.

If approved, the signal is installed. Depending on work load, the State will install the signal from one to six months after the initial request.