City of La Quinta

ENGINEERING BULLETIN #10-01

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Timothy R. Jonasson, Public Works Director/City Engineer

REVISED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2015

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2010

SUBJECT: INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE GUIDELINES

This bulletin establishes intersection sight distance guidelines. All plans submitted to the City of La Quinta shall follow these guidelines unless otherwise directed by the City Engineer.

Sight Distance at Intersections with No Stop Sign Control

Intersections between low-volume and low-speed roads/streets may have no traffic control. At these intersections, sufficient corner sight distance should be available to allow approaching vehicles to adjust their speed to avoid a collision, typically a reduction to 50% of their mid-block running speed of 20 mph to 10 mph on residential streets. Figure 1 illustrates the corner sight distance triangles for intersections with no stop sign control. The area enclosed by the sight line and a distance of 40 feet measured from the curb return along the curbs of the intersecting streets, known as the sight triangle, shall be kept clear of any sight obstructions.

The driver's eye is 42 inches above the roadway pavement. Therefore, the height of shrubs, planting, and other visual obstructions (such as boulders, etc.) shall be limited to a maximum height of 30 inches. If this sight distance cannot be provided, placing stop signs on the lower volume approaches should be considered and the corner sight distances shown in Figure 2 will be applicable. Trees with diameters less than or equal to four inches may be planted within corner areas provided the bottom of the canopy (leafy branches) of the tree is at least 8 feet above the finished grade of the street adjacent to the tree. However, trees shall not be planted in such numbers that their trunks create a visibility obstruction for vehicles or pedestrians.

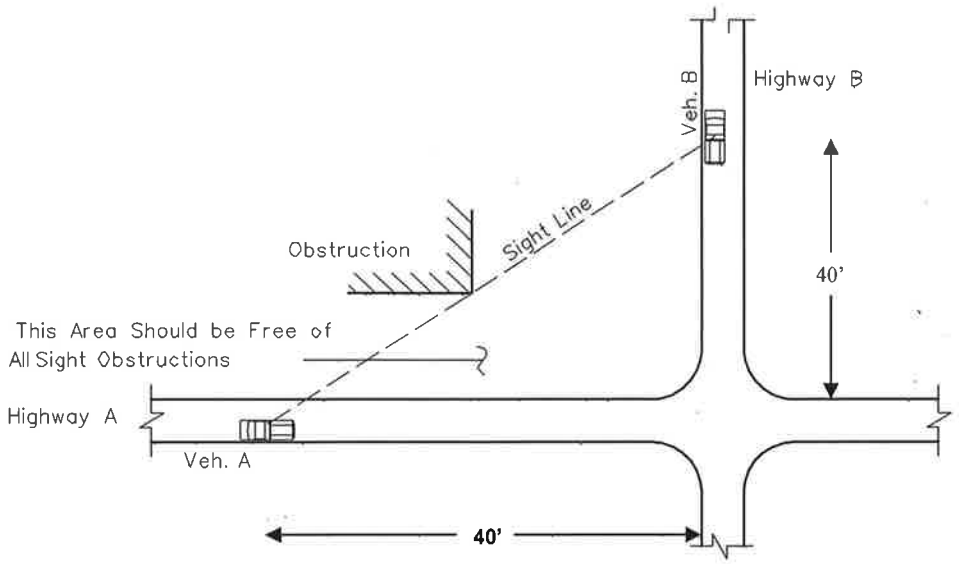

FIGURE 1: MEASUREMENT OF INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE

(No Traffic Control or no Stop Sign control)

Sight Distance at Intersections with Stop Sign Control

Where traffic on the minor road or private driveway approach to a publicly owned street is controlled by stop signs, the driver of the vehicle on the minor road or private driveway approach must have sufficient corner sight distance for a safe departure from the stopped position assuming that the approaching vehicle comes into view as the stopped vehicle begins its departure. Therefore, the height of shrubs, planting, and other visual obstructions (such as boulders, etc.) shall be limited to a maximum height of 30 inches.

The applicable intersection corner sight distance is obtained by providing clear sight triangles both to the right and left as shown in Figure 2. Where traffic on the minor road or private driveway approach to a privately owned street is controlled by stop signs, the driver of the vehicle on the major street approaching a minor road or private driveway vehicle approach must have sufficient stopping sight distance to come to a stopped position if the vehicle on the minor road or private driveway approach begins its departure as the vehicle on the major road is approaching the intersection. Therefore, the height of shrubs, planting, and other visual obstructions (such as boulders, etc.) shall be limited to a maximum height of 30 inches to provide the applicable adequate stopping sight distance show in Figure 2.

Trees with diameters less than or equal to four inches may be planted within corner areas provided the bottom of the canopy (leafy branches) of the tree is at least 8 feet above finished grade of the street adjacent to the tree. However, trees shall not be planted in such numbers that their trunks create a visibility obstruction for vehicles or pedestrians.

DESIGN SPEED (M.P.H.)	PUBLIC STREETS CORNER SIGHT DIST. (FT.)	PRIV. ROADS & DRIVEWAYS STOPPING SIGHT DIST. (FT.)
20	220	125
25	275	150
30	330	200
35	385	250
40	440	300
45	495	360
50	550	430
55	605	500
60	660	580
65	715	660

APPROVED BY:

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION
GEORGE A. JOHNSON, RCE 42328

DATE: 05/01/07

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE

STANDARD NO. 821

REVISIONS	REV.	BY:	APR'D	DATE	REV.	BY:	APR'D	DATE
	1				4			
	2				5			
	3				6			

FIGURE 2: MEASUREMENT OF INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE

(With Stop Control on Minor Road or Driveway)