



Rural Intersection Conflict Warning System

The goal of the Rural Intersection Conflict Warning System (RICWS) is to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes at rural non-signalized intersections, by warning motorists about the presence of traffic at the intersection.

A 1994 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study found that in crashes at rural STOP controlled intersections,

- 62 percent stopped and looked, but did not see the other vehicle
- 14 percent had an obstructed view of the other vehicle

A 2008 MnDOT study showed 26 percent of right-angle crashes at STOP controlled intersections were caused by drivers failing to stop.

These systems use a blend of traditional signing, vehicle detection, and dynamic elements to warn drivers of other vehicles approaching the intersection.

What should motorists do?

Minor road users:

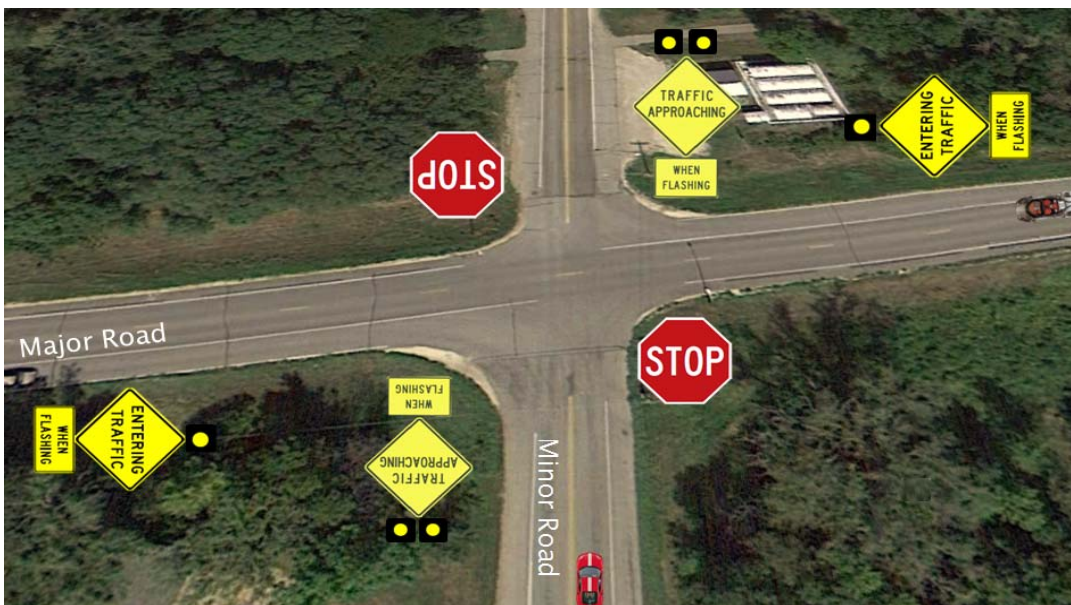
- Obey the posted STOP sign
- If the TRAFFIC APPROACHING WHEN FLASHING sign is not flashing, verify that it is safe to enter the intersection

Major road users:

- Use caution when approaching the intersection
- If the ENTERING TRAFFIC WHEN FLASHING sign is flashing, be aware that traffic from the minor road may be entering in front of you

Benefits

- Reduce right angle (T-bone) crashes
- Reduce severity of crashes
- Real-time warning of traffic



2013 Proposed Locations in South Central Minnesota:

Nicollet County

- Major road- Hwy 15
 - Minor road- CR 5
- Major road- Hwy 14
 - Minor road- 561st Ave

Blue Earth County

- Major road- Hwy 60
 - Minor road- CR 20



Statewide, 30 RICWS systems will be installed in 2013 & 2014

For More Information

Contact:

Scott Thompson
District 7 Traffic Engineer
507-304-6156
scott.thompson@state.mn.us

