

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

ORDINANCE NO. 0-09-33

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 155  
OF THE LA GRANGE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
REGARDING INTERSECTION SIGHT LINES

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange have determined that it is necessary and in the best interests of the Village and its residents to amend Chapter 155 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances regarding intersection sight distance, to improve the ability of motorists approaching or waiting at intersections to avoid conflict with other motorists, cyclists, or pedestrians approaching or entering the intersection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange, Cook County and State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Recital. The foregoing recital is incorporated herein as a finding of the President and Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Amendment of Code of Ordinances Chapter 155. Chapter 155, titled "Clear Sight Area," of the La Grange Code of Ordinances is hereby amended in its entirety so that Chapter 155 will hereafter be and read as follows:

**Chapter 155**

**INTERSECTION SIGHT LINES**

**§ 155.001 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions will apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**CLEAR SIGHT AREA.** A triangular shaped region that formed by street intersections, or street and driveway intersections, or street and alleyway intersections and that is defined by the clear sight line established between two points set relative to the intersection, in accordance with this Chapter and in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in the AASHTO 2004 *Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*.

**CLEAR SIGHT LINE.** The line established between two points that are defined along intersecting travel lanes, in positions specified by the clear sight distance parameter. The line

forms the hypotenuse of the triangular shaped region known as the clear sight area, and the line represents the furthest distance of unobstructed view defined for the intersection quadrant.

**CLEAR SIGHT DISTANCE.** The dimension measured along the axis of each intersecting travel lane from the point of intersection, along which a motorist may expect to have an unobstructed view of the intersection and the approaching lanes of traffic. Clear sight distances vary based on travel lane speed, travel lane geometry, and the travel lane priority established by the traffic control device utilized at an intersection.

**INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE DIAGRAM.** A graphical representation of an intersection used to generally define the location of the key dimensions used in establishing the clear sight distances, clear sight areas, and clear sight lines associated with that intersection. In the diagram, Dimension (A) is the sight distance along the major axis roadway for traffic movements approaching from the left and Dimension (B) is the sight distance along the major axis for right approach movements. Dimension (a) represents the corresponding distance along the minor axis that is used to define the clear sight line for the left side and Dimension (b) is the distance along the minor axis associated with the right side sight line. Dimensions (x) and (y) represent the edge of travel lane offset distances defining the position of the observing motorist at the key vertex of the sight area triangle. The elevation of the vertex is Dimension (z) measured above the height above the roadway pavement.

**TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE.** Pavement markings, signs, and signal systems employed to regulate, warn, and guide traffic through an intersection in accordance with local codes and ordinances, State law, and the standards prescribed in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and other technical guidance prepared or adopted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

**STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE.** The length of a travel lane required by a motorist to react and stop a vehicle before reaching a stationary object. The stopping sight distance generally represents the minimum distance required for a motorist to anticipate and avoid collisions while in the approach to an intersection.

**POSITION OF OBSERVATION.** The point defined at the vertex of the clear sight area triangle where the driver of a vehicle can fully view and evaluate the clear sight area to the limits of the clear sight line, as defined by the clear sight distance. The position of observation is 3.5 feet above the elevation of the pavement, measured perpendicularly to the line of the nearest edge of pavement for the major axis roadway and the minor axis roadway.

**MAJOR AXIS.** The roadway segment that does not operate under stop control and functions as a collector route or an arterial route within the roadway system. Such roadways are typically assigned higher priority in the traffic movement hierarchy that occurs at an intersection.

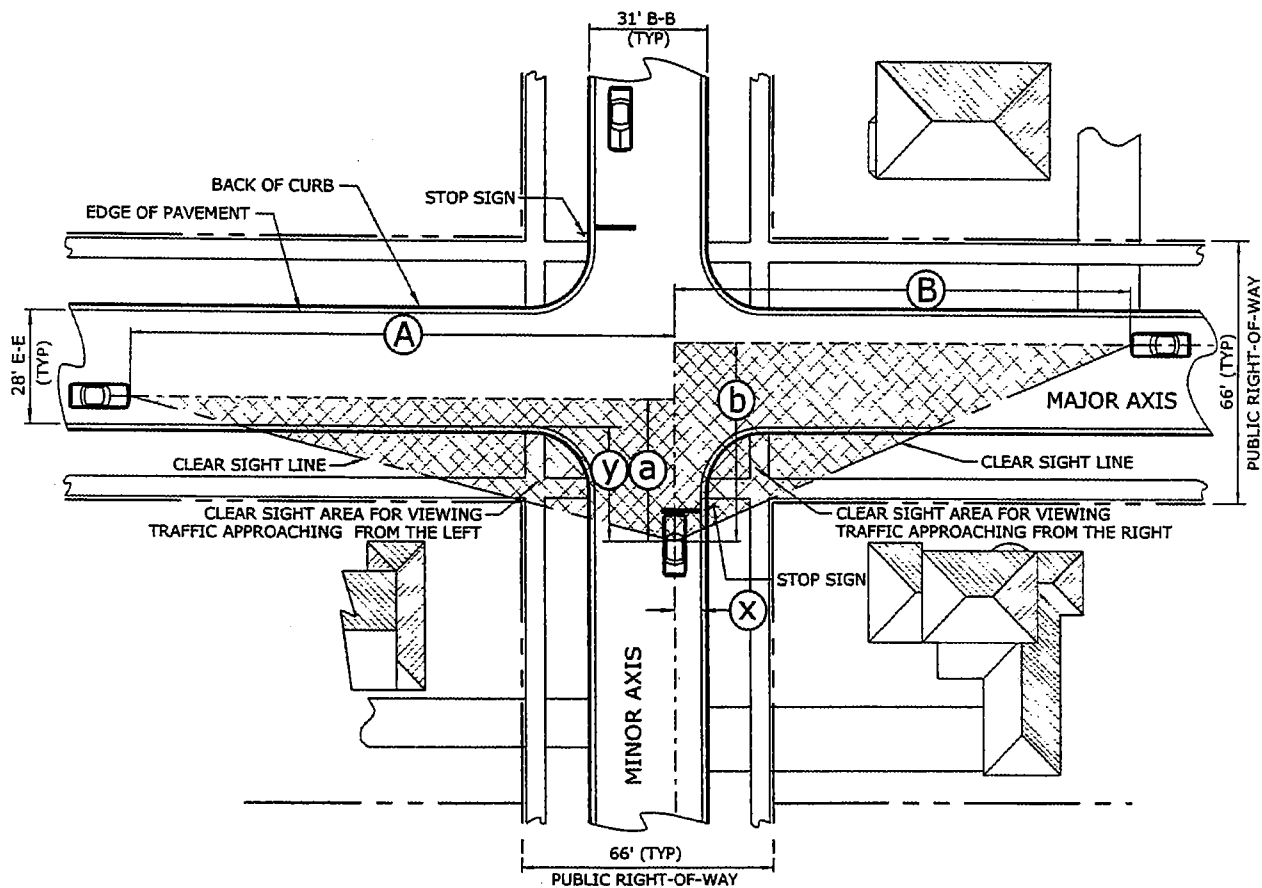
**MINOR AXIS.** The roadway segment that operates under stop control and functions as a local route within the municipal roadway system.

## § 155.002 INTERSECTIONS OF TWO-LANE LOCAL ROADWAYS

Intersections of two-lane local roadways operating under partial stop sign control are typically configured with signs on only two legs of the intersection. Such configurations create a minor and a major axis for the intersection based upon travel volumes and the functional

classification of the roadways. Clear sight distances for intersections of two-lane local roadways operating under partial stop sign control must satisfy the requirements of Table 1 relative to the speed limit of the major axis roadway. The requirements of Table 1 are depicted in Figure 1.

TABLE 1 - CLEAR SIGHT DISTANCE DIMENSIONS For 2-Lane Local Roadway Intersections							
Major Axis Speed Limit (mph)	Minor Axis Reference Dimensions (ft)					Clear Sight Distances (ft)	
	x	y	z	a	b	Left	Right
						A	B
20	7	18	3.5	25	39	115	115
25	7	18	3.5	25	39	155	155
30	7	18	3.5	25	39	200	200
35	7	18	3.5	25	39	250	250

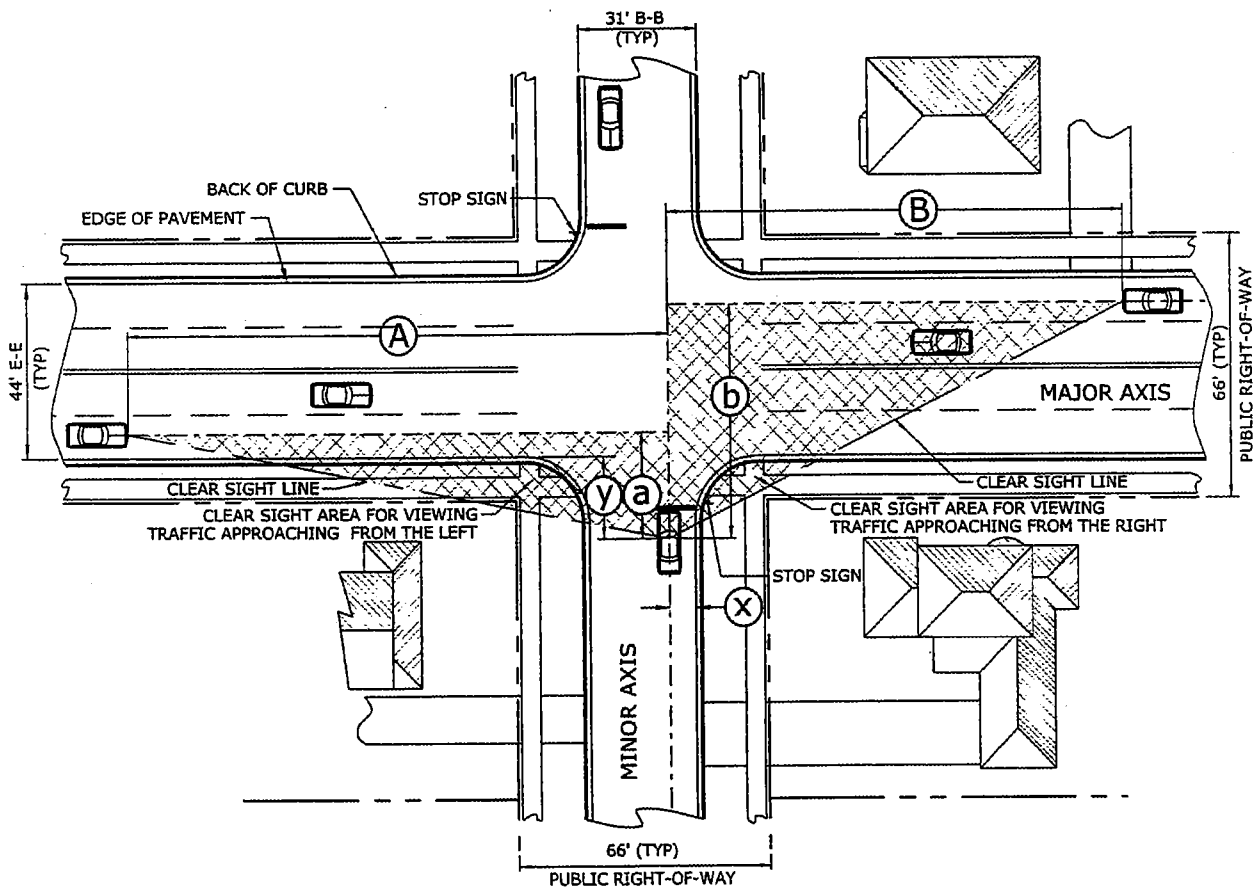


**Figure 1 - Intersection Sight Distance Diagram**  
for the intersection of two-lane local roadways under partial stop sign control

**§ 155.003 INTERSECTIONS OF TWO-LANE LOCAL AND FOUR-LANE ARTERIAL ROADWAYS**

Intersections of two-lane local and four-lane arterial roadways are typically configured with stop signs only on the two-lane segments of the intersection. Such configurations reflect the differences in travel volumes and the functional classification of each roadway, and create a minor and a major axis for the intersection. Clear sight distances for intersections of two-lane local and four-lane arterial roadways must satisfy the requirements of Table 2 relative to the speed limit of the major axis roadway. The requirements of Table 2 are depicted in Figure 2.

Major Axis Speed Limit (mph)	Minor Axis Reference Dimensions (ft)					Clear Sight Distances (ft)	
	x	y	z	a	b	Left	Right
20	7	18	3.5	23	56	225	195
25	7	18	3.5	23	56	280	240
30	7	18	3.5	23	56	335	290
35	7	18	3.5	23	56	390	335



**Figure 2 - Intersection Sight Distance Diagram**  
for the intersection of two-lane local and four-lane arterial roadways under partial stop sign control

**§ 155.004 VISIBILITY ACROSS CLEAR SIGHT AREA**

No structure, except existing buildings, and no shrubs, bushes, or plantings may be maintained in any clear sight area in any manner that obstructs visibility across the clear sight area or in violation of the provisions of this Chapter.

**§ 155.005 MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF SHRUBS, OTHER VEGETATION, FENCES, AND OTHER STRUCTURES**

Subject to the limitations of Section 155.004 above, shrubs, bushes, and plantings within the clear sight area must be limited to a maximum height of 2½ feet above the ground elevation. Similarly, fences and other structures (excluding existing buildings) within the clear sight area, also must be limited to a maximum height of 2½ feet. Measurements of height must be made from the lowest grade around the object to the highest point of the object.

**§ 155.006 TREES AND OVERHANGING BRANCHES**

(a) Trees. Trees are exempt from the standards of this Chapter except as provided in Subsection (b) below and except if the Village Manager finds that a particular tree creates a hazardous sight condition in any clear sight area, in which case the Village Manager may order the tree, or part thereof, removed.

(b) Overhanging Branches of Trees and Bushes. Branches of trees and bushes that overhang in any clear sight area shall be trimmed to a height of not lower than 12 feet from the ground, or higher if necessary, to comply with Section 155.004.

**§ 155.007 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SUPERVISE, INSPECT, AND ENFORCE**

The Director of Public Works exercises supervision over, causes inspections to be made, and makes determinations regarding appropriate dimensions of all clear sight areas in accordance with generally accepted guidelines published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and local policy. When the Director determines that any tree, shrub, bush, planting, fence, or other structure is in violation of this Chapter, then the Director shall cause a notice to be issued in writing to the owner of the property upon which the violation exists, informing that owner of the violation and directing that owner to make alterations or repairs as are necessary to place the clear sight area in a safe and secure condition and to make the clear sight area comply with the requirements of this Chapter, within such reasonable time as may be stated in the notice.

**§ 155.008 PENALTY**

Whoever violates any provision of this Chapter is guilty of maintaining a nuisance and, on conviction of the violation, will be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500 for each offense. Each day that such violation continues, constitutes a separate offense.

**§ 155.009 APPLICABILITY IF CONFLICT**

In the case of any conflict between any provision of this Chapter and any other Village code, ordinance, or regulation, the provision of this Chapter will apply and control.

Section 3. This Ordinance Controls. To the extent that the provisions of this Ordinance conflict with, or are inconsistent with, the provisions of any other Village code, ordinance, or regulation, the provisions of this Ordinance will apply and control.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance will be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 26<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 2009.

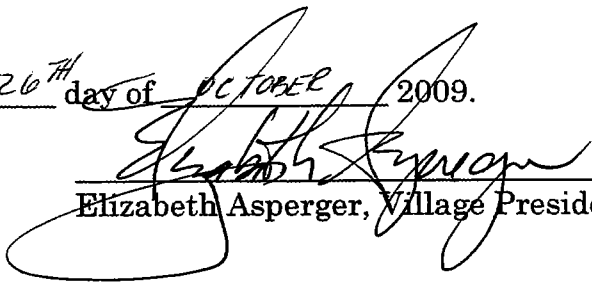
AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

APPROVED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Milne, Village Clerk