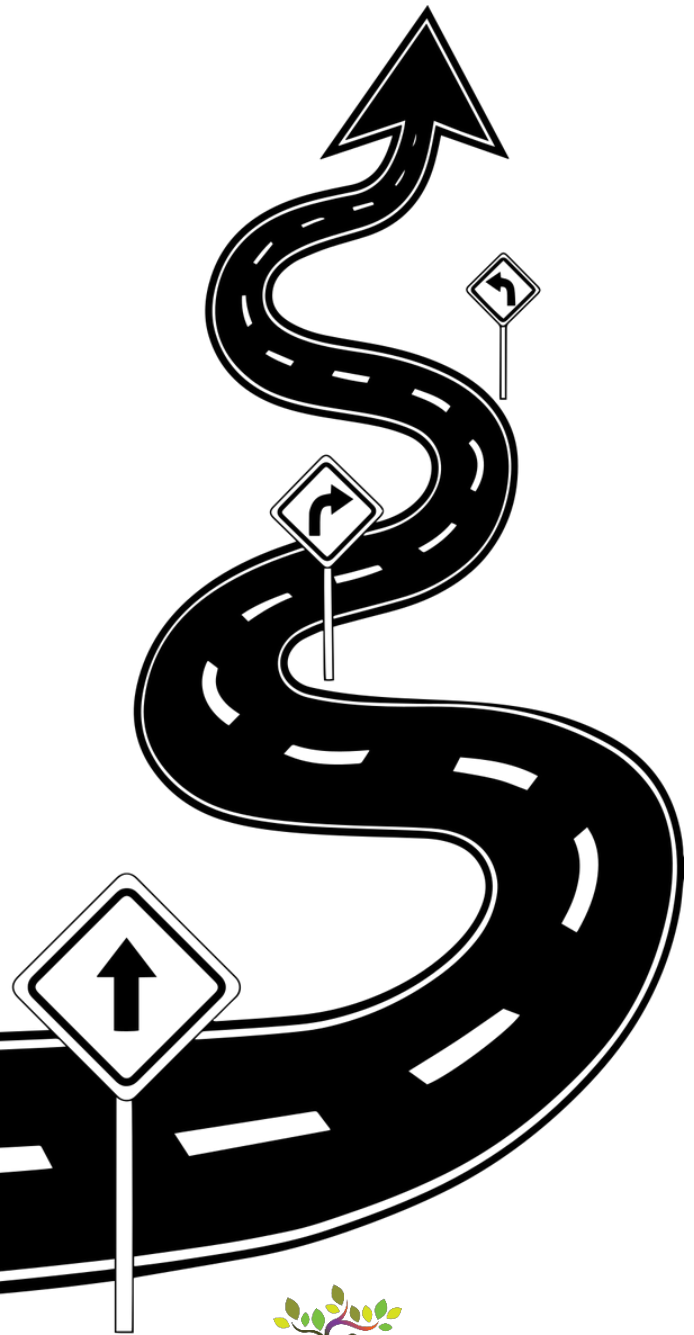


# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the  
International Institute of Minnesota



## CHAPTER 1: YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE

Information from this chapter is not likely to be on the written test, but you have to know this information when you apply to take the test and when you apply for a license. **Information that is red and bold is the most important.** Study Chapters 3-6 the most.



# HANDS-FREE MINNESOTA LAW

HandsFreeMN.org

**This means you can not hold your phone while you are driving. If you use your phone it has to be hands-free which means your phone is on the dashboard or your phone is connected to your car with Bluetooth.**



### Getting Your License to Drive

Anyone who drives in Minnesota must have a driver's license. The license has to be valid and unexpired (legal and not too old).

If you have never had a driver's license in any state or country, you have to pass a knowledge test and a vision test (to test if you can see well), apply for a permit (this comes before the license), and pass a road test (a test where you drive on the road).

If you had a Minnesota license, but it has been expired for more than one year and less than five years, you have to pass a knowledge test and a vision test before you

can apply for a new license that is not expired.

If you are moving to Minnesota from another state, US territories, or Canada you can get a license if you pass the vision and knowledge test. You can do this in the first 60 days after you become a resident. You also have to show a valid driver's license from your old state. If your license from your old state has been expired for more than a year, you have to take the road test in Minnesota.

**If you are moving to Minnesota from a country that is not Canada you have to pass a knowledge test, a vision test, and a road test even if you have a driver's license from your home country.**

You can not get a license in Minnesota until you have shown all other licenses and identification cards you have to the Department of Public Safety.

## Who Does Not Need a Minnesota License

Sometimes you do not need a license. You do not need a license or a permit if:

- You are not a resident, are at least 15 years old, and have a driver's license from your home state or country.
- You have become a resident of Minnesota and have a driver's license from another state. You have 60 days to get a Minnesota license after you move here.
- You are an employee of the US government and you are driving a vehicle for the US government (for the military)
- You are not a resident of Minnesota, you are 18 years old or older, your home country does not require a driver's license, and the car you drive is registered in your home country. You can drive like this for only 90 days.
- You drive a tractor or other farm equipment.
- You are driving a snowmobile.
- You are driving a train.

**You will likely need a license at all times. These situations are not common.**

## Who Cannot Be Licensed?

You cannot have a license if:

- You do not show the correct identification
- You do not pass the driver's tests
- You cannot read or understand official road signs or understand the laws of driving
- You are younger than 15
- You are younger than 18 and you do not have a license from another state, and you cannot prove you took driver's education classes in another state.
- You are 18 or younger and you haven't had the permit for at least six (6) months.
- You are 19 or older and you haven't had the permit for at least three (3) months.
- Your license is suspended or revoked (taken away) and you have not done everything you need to do to get it back
- Your license is cancelled
- A court decided that you are not mentally able to drive
- The Commissioner of Public Safety has decided you can not drive a car because of a physical or mental disability
- The Commissioner of Public Safety thinks that if you drive, you will be a danger to the public

## Bring Identification

**You have to show identification that proves your first, middle, and last name, and your birth date before you can take the knowledge test and the road test.** If the name that is on your ID documents does not match, you have to show proof that you legally changed your name. Official proof can be:

- Marriage certificates
- Divorce certificates
- Court orders

You have to show ID when taking the tests and when you apply for a permit, license or other ID card.

If your documents are not in English, you also have to have an English translation. You have to have original documents – not documents that have been copied.

If you are not a citizen, you might need to show other paperwork.

**What you need to bring when applying for a license or ID:**

**STANDARD DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID**

- To apply for a driver's license, ID, or permit, you can show a driver's license from Minnesota, ID card, or permit that is current or expired less than five years ago if it has a photo. If it does not have a photo it can be expired for less than one year.
- If you don't have one of those, you have to show two documents. One document that has your full name, and the month, day, and year of when you were born. This can be a birth certificate, a passport, or a social security card.
- If the name on your license, ID card, or permit has changed you have to show proof from when you changed your name

**If you do not have the documents listed here, you can show one primary document and one secondary document – or two primary documents. If they are not in English, they need an English translation.**

**Primary Documents:**

- Official birth record (a document that marks when and where you were born, and who your parents are)

STATE OF HAWAII		COPY CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH		DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
		FILE NUMBER 151		61 10641	
1a. Child's First Name (Type or print)		1b. Middle Name		1c. Last Name	
BARACK		HUSSEIN		OBAMA, II	
2. Sex	3. This Birth	4. If Twin or Triplet, Was Child Born	5a. Birth Date	5b. Month	5c. Day
Male	Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Triplet <input type="checkbox"/>	1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/>	August	4,	1961
6a. Place of Birth: City, Town or Rural Location				6b. Island	
Honolulu				Oahu	
6c. Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in hospital or institution, give street address)				6d. Is Place of Birth Inside City or Town Limits?	
Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital				If no, give judicial district Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
7a. Usual Residence of Mother: City, Town or Rural Location			7b. Island	7c. County and State or Foreign County	
Honolulu			Oahu	Honolulu, Hawaii	
7d. Street Address			7e. Is Residence Inside City or Town Limits?		
6085 Kalaniana'ole Highway			If no, give judicial district Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
7f. Mother's Mailing Address			7g. Is Residence on a Farm or Plantation?		
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
8. Full Name of Father			9. Race of Father		
BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA			African		
10. Age of Father	11. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country)	12a. Usual Occupation	12b. Kind of Business or Industry		
25	Kenya, East Africa	Student	University		
13. Full Maiden Name of Mother			14. Race of Mother		
STANLEY ANN DUNHAM			Caucasian		
15. Age of Mother	16. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country)	17a. Type of Occupation Outside Home During Pregnancy	17b. Date Last Was		
18	Wichita, Kansas	None			
I certify that the above stated information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.		18a. Signature of Parent or Other Informant		Parent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18b. Date of Signat
		<i>Ann Dunham Obama</i>		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	8-7-61
I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date and hour stated above.		19a. Signature of Attendant:		M.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	19b. Date of Signa
		<i>David A. Simlan</i>		D.O. <input type="checkbox"/>	8-8-61
20. Date Accepted by Local Reg.		21. Signature of Local Registrar		Midwife <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
AUG - 8 1961		<i>U. H. Lee</i>		22. Date Accepted by Reg. Co	
				AUG - 8 1961	
23. Evidence for Delayed Filing or Alteration					







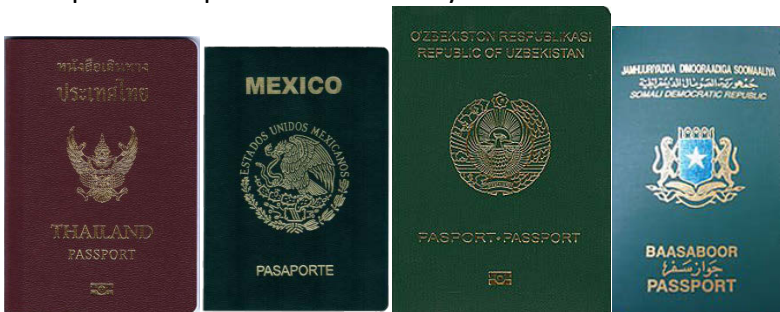
- Minnesota tribal identification card



- Military Identification Card



- Unexpired Passport from a country that is not the U.S.A. with an I-94 form or an I-551 stamp



- Canadian birth or naturalization certificate





- **Documents from the US Government (You will know if you have one of these)**

- Permanent resident or resident alien card (I-551 or I-151)
- Employment authorization card with photo (I-688 or I-766)
- Re-entry Permit/Refuge Travel Document (I-327, I-571)
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550, N-570, or N-578)
- Certificate of Citizenship (N-560, N-561, or N-645)
- United States Citizen Identification Card (I-179 or I-197)
- Northern Mariana Card (I-873)
- American Indian Card (I872)

**Secondary Documents:**

- A driver's license, ID, or permit from a state that is not Minnesota that is current or expired for less than five years



- U.S. Social Security Card



- Birth Certificate from a government other than the US





- Marriage Certificate



- U.S. or Canadian court order with your full name and birthdate

Case: 14-73682, 01/20/2015, ID: 9388207, DktEntry: 16, Page 1 of 1

**FILED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

JAN 20 2015  
MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

SIERRA CLUB and FORESTETHICS,  
  
Petitioners,  
  
v.  
  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and  
SECRETARY, UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION,  
  
Respondents.

No. 14-73682

ORDER

The briefing schedule previously established by the court is vacated.

This appeal is stayed until May 12, 2015, or pending publication in the Federal Register of the final tank car standards and phase out of DOT-111 tank cars, whichever occurs first. Within 14 days after expiration of the stay, counsel is requested to contact the mediator to report on the status of the case.

Student Minnesota Driver's Manual: CHAPTER 1: YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE

- Official transcript from school with full name and birthdate

**Berea College**  
Berea, Kentucky 40404

Record of: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Major: [REDACTED] Issued: 30-MAR-2010  
OFFICIAL Page: 1

Student Labor Transcript, Berea College

2006-2007 Academic Year					
Department	Supervisor	Position	WLS Level	Hrs/Wk	Departmental Labor Evaluation
FALL TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	3	10	Exceeds Expectations
JANUARY SHORT TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	3	10	Exceeds Expectations
SPRING TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	3	10	Meets Expectations
Public Relations Office	Normandi Ellis	Magazine Asst. PR	3	5	Meets Expectations
Distinctions: Departmental Labor Award, Public Relations; Photoshop Certification					
SUMMER TERM Off Campus Student Labor	John Hastings	SPECIAL Labor Only OC	LO	40	Exceeds Expectations
2007-2008 Academic Year					
Department	Supervisor	Position	WLS Level	Hrs/Wk	Departmental Labor Evaluation
FALL TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	4	10	Meets Expectations
JANUARY SHORT TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	4	10	Meets Expectations
SPRING TERM Learning Center	Vicky Hayes	Consultant LC	4	10	Meets Expectations
Distinctions: Hutchins Endowed Award recipient					
SUMMER TERM Off Campus Student Labor	Lesia Holder	OC Placement- WS Eligible	LO	40	Exceeds Expectations
Distinctions: CPR certification					

Labor Program Office  
Berea College  
CPO 2160  
Berea, KY 40404  
(859) 985-3611

*David K. Tipton*  
David K. Tipton, Dean of Labor

This officially sealed and signed transcript is printed on blue SCRIP-SAFE® security paper. The official signature of the Dean of Labor is printed in white. A raised seal is not required. Translucent globe icons must be visible from both sides when held toward a light source.

Berea College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and a member of the Work Colleges Consortium.

- High school ID card with name, photo, birthdate, or school ID number



- Government employee ID card (DD-1173 or DD-214)



- Permit to carry a gun with a color photo



- Pilots license



**REAL ID**

A real ID is an ID that is more official than the standard ID. You need more documents to get a Real ID than you do to get a standard ID. If you want one of these IDs you should talk to someone at the Department of Public Safety to figure out exactly what you need. You can also go to <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/real-id/Pages/required-documents.aspx>

You need:

- One document that proves who you are with your birthdate and your legal presence in the United States
- One document that has your social security number
- Two documents that show you live in Minnesota now



### **Enhanced Driver's License or ID**

If you want an enhanced driver's license you need more documents than you need for a standard ID. You can only get an enhanced driver's license if you:

Can prove your identity, full name, social security number, have photographic proof of who you are, that you live in Minnesota, and that you are a US Citizen.

### **Verification of Name Change**

If you change your name legally with a marriage, divorce, or court order (something you have to do because the court decided you have to do it), you have to prove that name change. You can show a certified (official) marriage certificate, a court order explaining the name change, or divorce paperwork showing the name change. If you have changed your name more than once, you have to prove every name change.

### **Translation of Documents**

**If your documents are not in English you have to have them translated to English and show the translation. You also need a paper that says the translation is true and correct. There is an official form for this called The Certificate of Translation and Translator Qualifications. You can get it online or at driver's test locations and offices. The person who translates your documents can not be your family (blood or marriage) and have to have qualifications. The translator has to have one of these things:**

- Accredited by the American Translators Association
- Recognized by the Minnesota Translation Laboratory
- Certified by a court of competent jurisdiction
- Approved by an embassy or consulate of the United States
- Affiliated (related) with or approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services or a government jurisdiction within the United States.
- A vendor (seller) listed to give translation services in Minnesota
- A lawyer allowed to practice (work) in the United States or works with that lawyer

### **Social Security Number**

You need to give your social security number on your application. If you do not have a social security number, you need to prove that on the application form. Your SSN will not be on the driver's license and is private information.

### **The Knowledge Test**

You can take the knowledge test (**written test**) at driver test stations in many locations in Minnesota. There are multiple choice and true or false questions on the test. All the questions are about Minnesota traffic laws and road signs. Usually the test is on a computer, but sometimes they are on paper. If you take the test on the computer you can take it in different languages. You can use headphones to hear questions. **You need 80% correct (32/40) to pass. If you do not pass, you can take one test per day.**

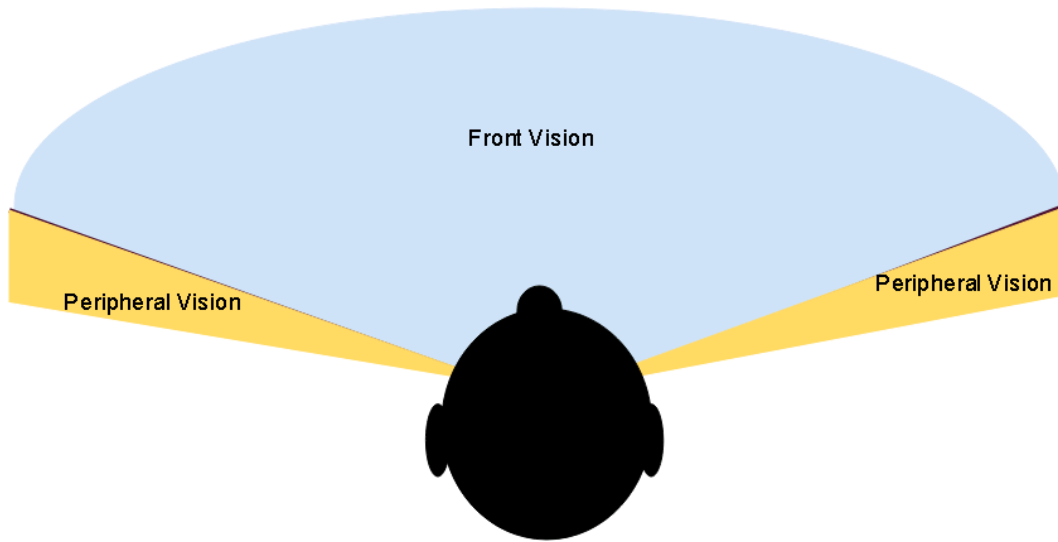
Before you can take the knowledge test you have to show your ID. If you do not pass two knowledge tests in a row, you have to pay \$10 to take any more knowledge tests.



## The Vision Screening

When you get a permit, driver's license, or renew either, you have to take a vision test. It is not a medical test. It decides if your vision is good enough to drive. **Your vision (with or without glasses) has to be at least 20/40 and your peripheral vision has to be at least 105 degrees.**

If your peripheral vision is less than 105 degrees, or you fail the vision test, you will need to see an eye doctor and give the doctor's report to the Driver's Evaluation Unit. You have to see the doctor so they can decide if you can see well enough to drive.



## The Road Test

**The road test is when you show you can drive the vehicle, follow road rules, and be safe. You will be tested on the rules of the road and if you can drive a car safely in traffic.** The person testing you will score how aware you are and how you respond to risks (dangers) on the road. You will be tested on how you observe at intersections, how you change lanes, and other situations. You will never be asked to do anything illegal during the test.

When you are ready to take the test, you should make an appointment at [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov) or call 651-284-1234.

Before you can take the road test, you have to show your permit and proof of car insurance. You have to use your own car for the test. You can not use a neighborhood electric vehicle (NEV) for your test. If you are going to use a rented car for the test, you must be listed as one of the drivers on the rental contract. The doors of the car must open from the inside and the outside. Seat belts have to work. Headlights, taillights, turn signals, and brake lights must work.

You can not smoke during the test and there can not be any smoke in the car when the tester enters the car. You can not use your cell phone or any other electronic device during the test. No other people or animals can be in the car when you take the test.

If you take the test twice and fail both times, you have to pay \$20 for the next test.

## Vehicle Safety Equipment Demonstration

Before you start the road test, you have to show that the equipment on your car works and is safe. You need to show your car insurance and show you know about:

- Seat adjustment (moving your seat)
- Seat belts
- Emergency/parking brake
- Turning on your headlights (high and low beam)
- Turning on hazard warning lights
- Horn
- Windshield wipers
- Windshield defroster and fan
- Mirrors
- Fuel gauge (check how much gas you have in your car)

This list does not have everything – if you can not use something, or one of these is broken, you can not take the road test.

### Vehicle Control Skills and Driving Performance

During the road test, you will be tested on your:

- Control of the car
- Ability to parallel park
- Ability to park on a hill
- Response to traffic and road conditions, traffic signs, and signals
- Ability to signal and turn right and left correctly
- Ability to use marked and unmarked lanes
- Observations of pedestrians (people) and other cars
- Ability to do the 90-degree back up. This is like going into a driveway or parking space.

If you do any of these, you will automatically fail the driver's test

- Brake a traffic law
- Dangerous, careless, or reckless driving, including anything that could cause a crash
- Can not control the car or complete a move without help from the tester
- Get in a crash that you could have prevented – even if it is not your fault
- Not cooperating with the tester or not doing something the tester asks you to do

If you do not pass the road test you can take it again, but you will be given practice time before you can take the test again. This depends, but can be one week. If you fail the test 4 times, you will need to take 6 hours of behind-the-wheel (time with a teacher in the car where you learn how to drive) before you can take the test again.

When you do pass the test, you can apply for the Minnesota Driver's License. You will get your license in the mail. Before you get the license in the mail, the record of your scores and the application receipt are your temporary license.

### Medical Conditions

On the application for a permit or a license, there are questions about medical conditions. If you lie on this application, you could lose your driving privileges.

If you do have a medical condition, you might need a letter from a doctor that says if you can safely drive or not. If you have a license or permit and get diagnosed with a medical condition (illness) that could

cause you to pass out (lose consciousness), you need to provide a statement from a doctor within 30 days of being diagnosed. The statement must say if you can drive safely or not.

### Parent Approval for Under Age 18 (Not important)

This is not relevant for adult learners, but you need permission from parents for permits or licenses if you are younger than 18.

### Your Instruction Permit

**The first thing you have to have before you can get a license is an instruction permit.** You have the permit so you can practice driving before you take the road test. The permit is valid for two years and you need a licensed driver in the front passenger seat when you practice driving. You can not practice driving without a permit. It is illegal. When you drive you must have your permit with you.

**To be able to get an instruction permit you need to:**

- Be at least 15 years old
- **If you are older than 18, you do not need to take classroom and behind-the-wheel classes**
- **Follow identification requirements**
- **Pass the vision test and the knowledge test**
- **Fill out the license application and pay the instruction permit fee**

#### **If you are older than 18**

If you are 18 or older, the licensed driver in the front passenger seat must be at least 18 years old. Everyone has to wear a seatbelt.

You can take the road test after 6 months of practicing with the permit. **If you are 19 or older you only need the permit for 3 months.**

If you lose your permit or it expires, you can apply for a new permit. The new permit will be valid for 2 years.

### Getting Your Under 21 Class D Driver's License (this is only important for people who are younger than 18)

To get this license you have to be at least 18 years old, and had a provisional license (license with restrictions) for 12 months without breaking any rules. You have to complete an application for a driver's license. If you are under 21 you will get a license that says "Under 21." This license will expire on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### Exceptions to Minimum Age Requirement

Sometimes people who are younger than 16 can get a license. This depends on many things and is not important if you are older than 16.

### Driver's License Classifications (types)

Your driver's license lets you drive a car on public streets and highways. You need to have your license with you every time you drive. You have to have the right type of license for the car you are driving. There are 4 types of driver's licenses in Minnesota and some license endorsements (add-ons to the license that lets you drive more types of vehicles).

## Class D License

**This is the most common type of license for drivers in Minnesota. With a Class D license you can drive:**

- **Cars, pickups, and small trucks except ones that weigh 26,001 pounds or more, have more than 15 seats, or carry dangerous materials**
- Any farm truck that is moving agricultural (farm) products, machines, or farm supplies, within 150 of the farm. The farm truck has to be driven by the farmer, an employee, or a family member.
- Emergency vehicles that might or might not weigh more than 26,000 pounds
- Recreational vehicles (motor homes and camping trailers)
- Motorized bicycles
- Motorcycles – you need a license endorsement for this
- Autocycles

You can also tow (drag) a trailer or another vehicle if:

- It weights 10,000 pounds or less
- The weight of you car and the car you are towing is less than 26,000 pounds

## License Endorsements

A license endorsement is proof that you can drive another type of vehicle. This includes motorcycles, buses, school buses, double and triple trailers, tank vehicles, and if you carry hazardous (dangerous) materials. If you want an endorsement you have to take another knowledge test. Bus, school bus, and motorcycle endorsements require another road test.

## Commercial Driver's Licenses, Class C, Class B, and Class A Licenses

Class A, B, and C licenses are all commercial driver's licenses. This lets you drive all Class D vehicles and other types of vehicles including: vehicles with hazardous (dangerous) materials, single unit vehicles, trailer or vehicle combination.

If you want a commercial driver's license (CDL) you should look at the Minnesota Commercial Driver's Manual and go to [dvs.dps.mn.gov](http://dvs.dps.mn.gov)

## License Renewal and Replacement

A Minnesota license expires on your birthday and has to be renewed every 4 years if you are older than 21. If your license is lost, damaged, or broken you have to apply for a new one.

## Name or Address Change

If you change your name or address before you license expires, you have to apply for a new license in 30 days.

## Active Military Service

If you are in active military service, you do not need to renew your license when it expires, but can renew it when your military services ends.



## Selective Service

If you are between 18 and 26 and are a US Citizen or resident, you will be registered with the US Selective Service when you apply for a license or permit. This means if there is a time when the US needs more people in the military, they might choose you to become part of the military.

## State Identification (ID) Cards

You can apply for a Minnesota ID card anywhere that takes driver’s license applications. You have to show other forms of ID to get this.

## Driver’s License Fees

These are the fees for the different types of licenses, permits, and ID cards  
 If you want an enhanced driver’s license, permit, or ID card, you have to pay \$15 more. The most important fees are **red and bold**.

Class A regular.....	\$51.00
Class A under 21 .....	\$31.00
Class B, regular or under 21.....	\$43.00
Class C, regular or under 21.....	\$36.00
School Bus Processing Fee – original and renewal applications.....	\$ 4.00
<b>Class D, regular or under 21.....</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>
Provisional Driver’s License.....	\$19.25
Class D provisional license upgrade to under-21 driver’s license, no violations on record.....	\$28.50

## Identification (ID) Cards

Under age 65 .....	\$21.50
Age 65 and older .....	\$20.75
Card for person with physical or developmental disability, or qualified mental illness .....	\$ .50

## Duplicate Driver’s License or ID Card

All classes .....	\$17.00
-------------------	---------

## Others

<b>Class D instruction permit (valid for 2 years).....</b>	<b>\$15.50</b>
Class A, B, or C instruction permit.....	\$10.50
CDL endorsement exam fee .....	\$ 2.50
Motorcycle instruction permit/endorsement fee.....	\$21.00
Motorcycle endorsement renewal (two-wheel only).....	\$13.00
<b>Enhanced drivers license/ID Card/Permit (plus regular card fee).....</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>

## Reinstatement Fees

You have to pay these fees if you break a traffic rule and need to get your license back

Revoked license	
Alcohol/drugs and criminal car operation.....	\$680.00

Other offenses.....	\$30.00
Suspended license.....	\$20.00
No-fault insurance violation.....	\$20.00
CDL disqualification fee.....	\$20.00

### Motorized Bicycle Operator's Permit

There are fees if you want to be able to drive a motorized bicycle or motorcycle.

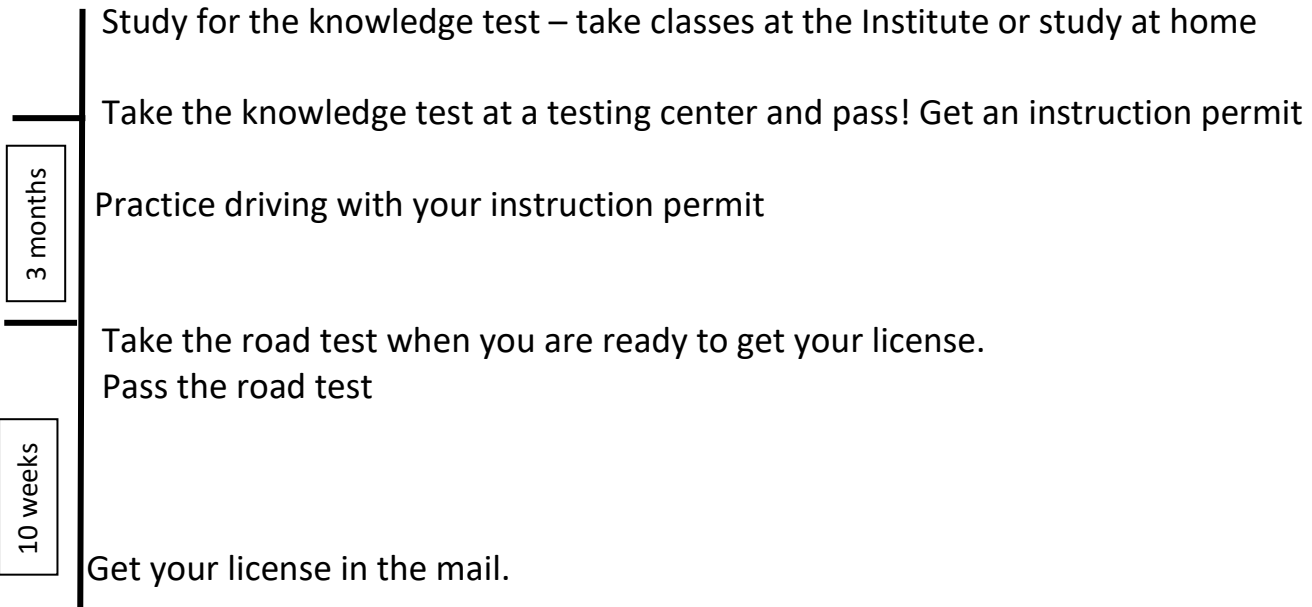
### Retesting Fees

If you fail the knowledge test twice, the 3<sup>rd</sup> test and every test after is \$10.00

If you fail the road test twice, the 3<sup>rd</sup> test and every test after is \$20.00

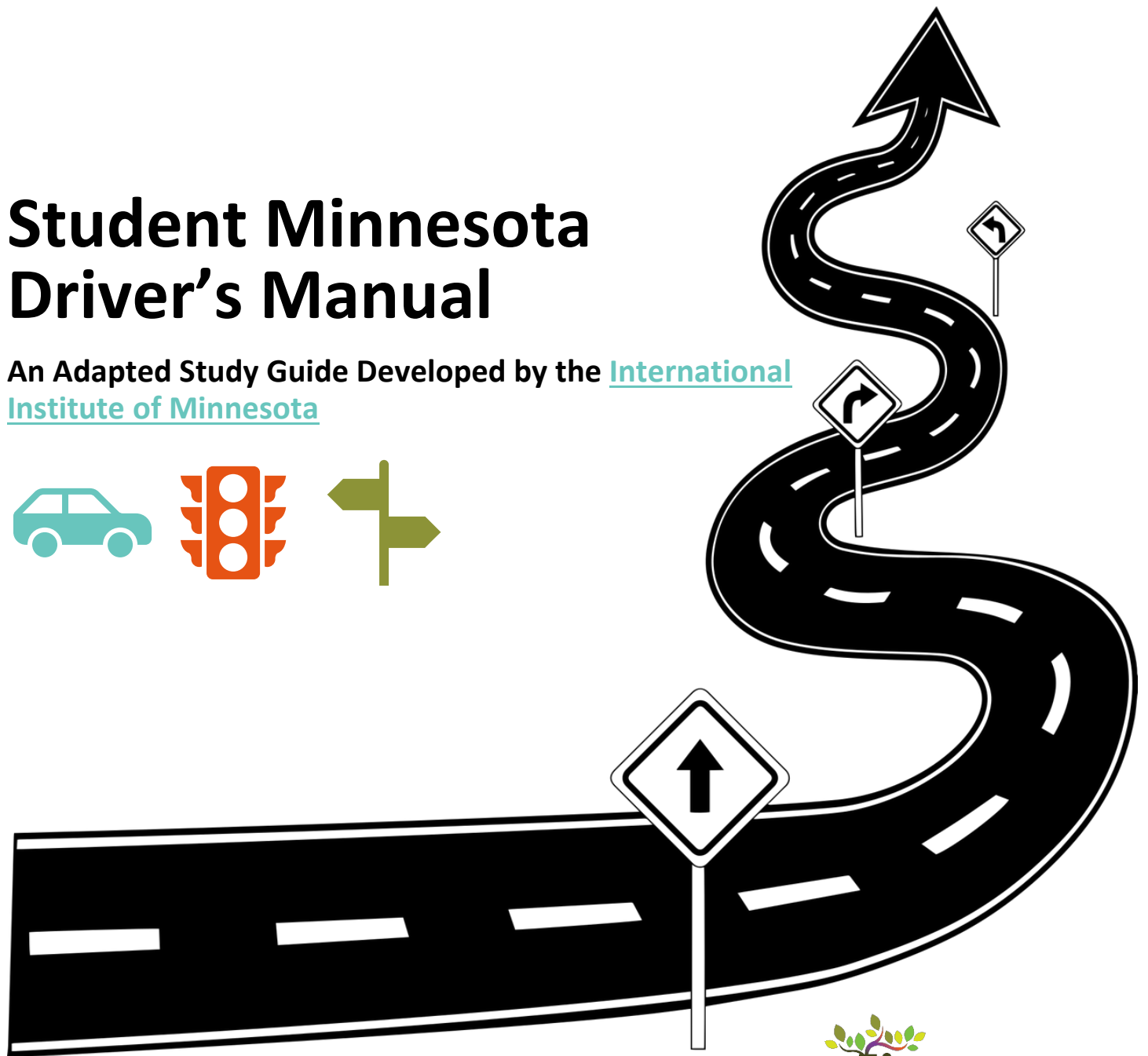
**You should get your license or ID cards within 10 business days after you apply and are approved.**

### Timeline to Getting Your License



# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

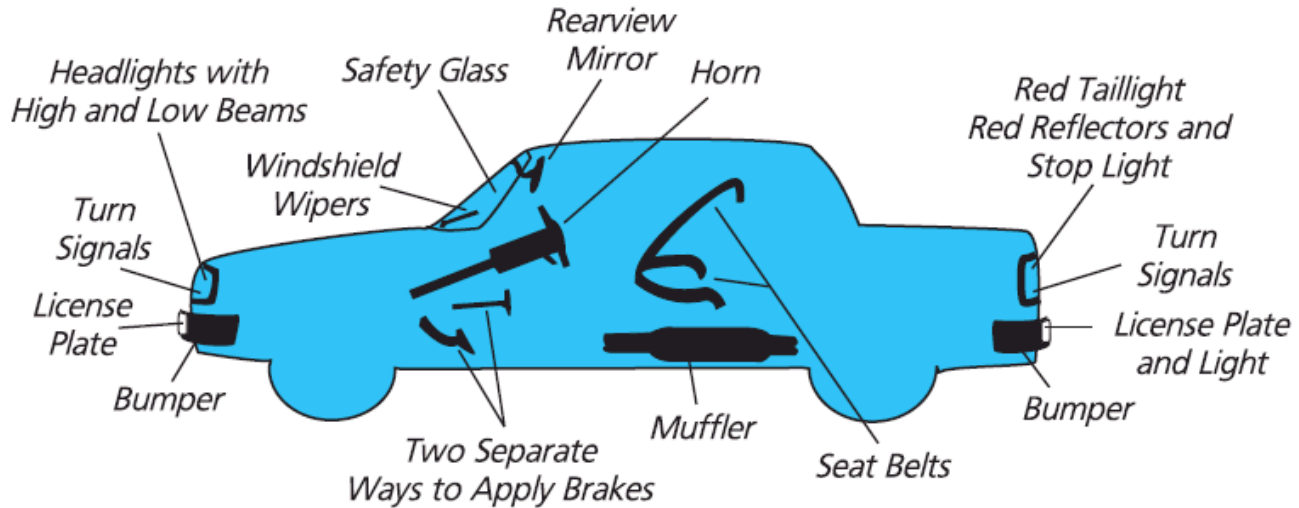
An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)



## CHAPTER 2: YOUR VEHICLE

### YOUR VEHICLE

Your car must have these parts:



Before you drive any car, truck, or motorcycle on public roads, make sure the vehicle has all these parts, and all of them are working.

It is a good idea to know where things are in the car. Read the owners manual and know how to use all these parts. Make sure to check parts regularly to make sure they are working. Learn what the lights and indicators on the dashboard of the car mean.



When entering the car, adjust the seat and mirrors if you need to. Make sure passengers do not block mirrors. Make sure everyone has a seatbelt. Buckle your seatbelt and do not drive until everyone has their seatbelts on.

## VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS – NEED THESE PARTS TO WORK and should not be broken

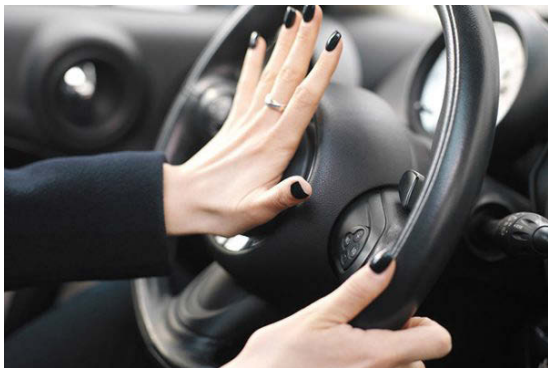
**Brakes:** All cars need two brakes to stop the car: the foot brake and the emergency or parking brake.



**Bumpers:** Your car needs a front and rear (back) bumper. A bumper is something that helps prevent damage in a small accident. If you have a pickup truck or a van you need a front bumper and either a bumper or reflector on the back.



**Horn:** The horn must work. You can not have bells, sirens, or whistles. Only use the horn when it is necessary to avoid a crash.



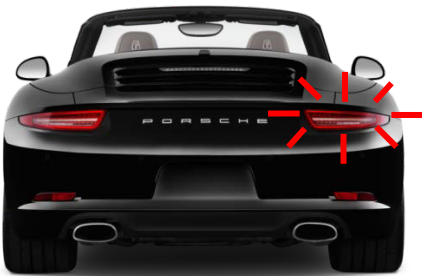
**Headlights and Taillights:** Cars must have two white headlights that work on high and low beam. Cars must have red taillights that light up when the brake is pressed. High beams must light up objects on the road 350 feet away. Headlights need to be on from sunset to sunrise (when it is dark), during bad weather or when you have your windshield wipers on.



**License Plate Light:** A white light bulb must light up the back license plate at night.



**Turn Signals (Blinkers):** You must use your turn signals when you are turning.



**Mufflers:** All cars must have mufflers which prevent the car from making loud, sudden, or long noises.





**Rearview Mirrors:** You must have a rearview mirror in the front of your car and side mirrors on the side of your car.



**Seatbelts and Airbags:** There should be a seatbelt for every person in the car. Using a seatbelt is required in Minnesota. Airbags work with seatbelts to prevent injury – they both need to be working.



**Tires:** Tires need to grip the surface of the road. Keep a spare tire in the car just in case. Legally, the tread (the indent of the tires) needs to be at least 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch deep.



Tread is the indent



**Windshield and Windows:** There can not be cracks, discoloration, steam, frost, ice, or snow on the windshield or windows when you are driving. Windshields can not be made of, or treated with something that makes it harder to see out of or makes it more reflective. Do not tint windows more than you are allowed – can not block more than 50% of light.



**Windshield Wipers and Window Defrosters:** Windshield wipers must work and defrosters are necessary to keep the windshield clear of stream and frost.



**Wheel Guards or Fenders:** Wheel guards or fenders cover part of the wheel and prevent water, dirt, and other material from being picked up by wheels and thrown into the air. Your car must have these on each wheel.



**Prohibited Lights:** You can not have blue lights, flashing lights, or strobe lights (lights that flash very quickly). Only some vehicles can use these lights. Blue lights are only for snowplows, road maintenance equipment, and emergency vehicles. Flashing lights are for emergency vehicles, school busses, road maintenance equipment, tow trucks, service vehicles, and farm equipment. Strobe lights are only for school busses and snow removal equipment.

**Fuel Efficient Techniques:** Fuel efficiency means using less gas when you drive.

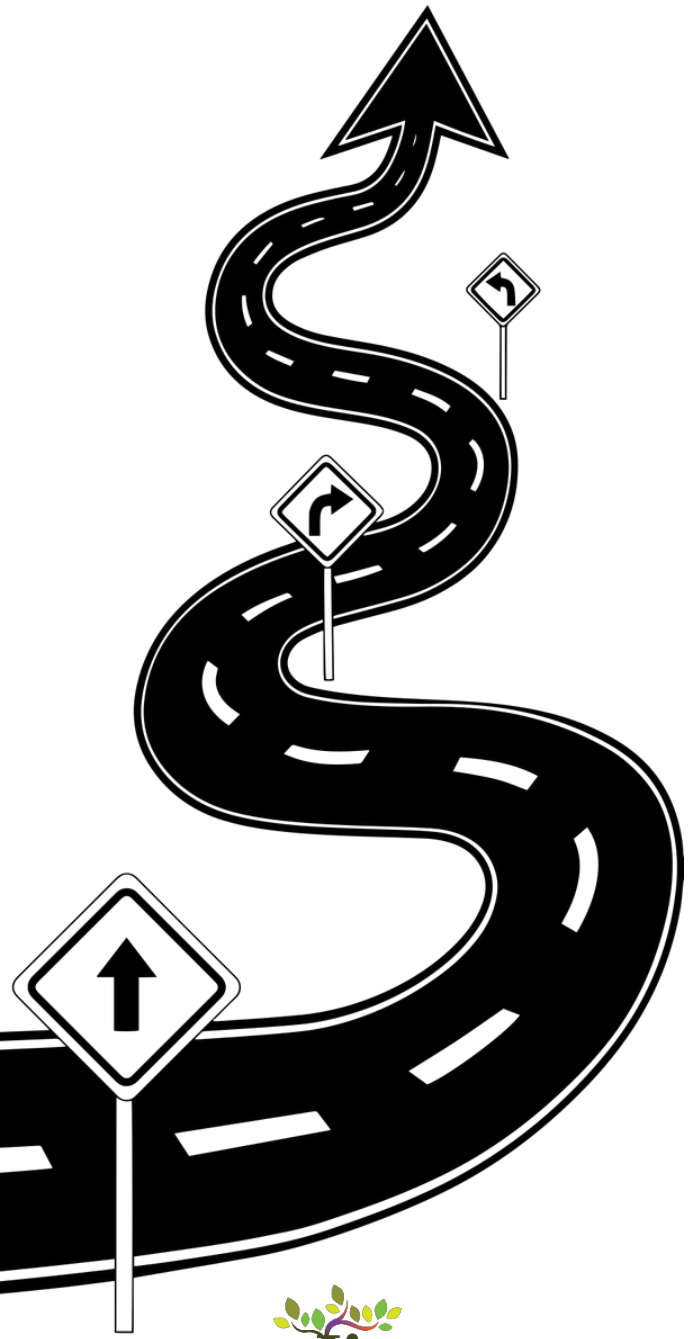
Keep your car in good condition – check the engine, tires, and oil often.

Drive efficiently – combine trips so you only have to drive once

- Avoid aggressive driving or road rage – do not speed and brake quickly
- Follow the speed limit
- Don't keep heavy things in your car
- Use cruise control (a setting on the car where you can keep the same speed without using the gas pedal)

# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)





## CHAPTER 3: TRAFFIC LAWS AND VEHICLE OPERATION

### Speed Limits

A speed limit is the fastest that you can drive on a road. Driving faster than the speed limit is illegal. If you drive fast there is a higher chance of a crash. Sometimes you need to slow down because there is bad weather, a lot of traffic, or bad road conditions.



Sometimes there is a minimum speed limit. This means you can not drive slower than that speed.



If there is no sign showing the speed limit then these are the rules:

- In alleys the speed limit is 10 miles per hour (mph)
- On urban or town roads the speed limit is 30 mph
- In all other locations that are not listed here the speed limit is 55 mph

If you drive faster than the speed limit you can get a fine. You will have to pay money as a punishment for speeding.

### Reduced Speed



Sometimes you have to go slower. If you are in a school zone or construction zones, reduce speed when there are signs or people. You have to slow down when you get close to or pass a stopped emergency vehicle with their lights flashing.

Slow down for:

- Flag person



- Pedestrians



- Barricades



- Flares or reflectors on the road



- Bad weather
- Poor road conditions
- Winding or narrow roads

- When driving on gravel or dirt
- When approaching a curve, hilltop, or railroad crossing

Going slow in these situations can help reduce the risk of skidding

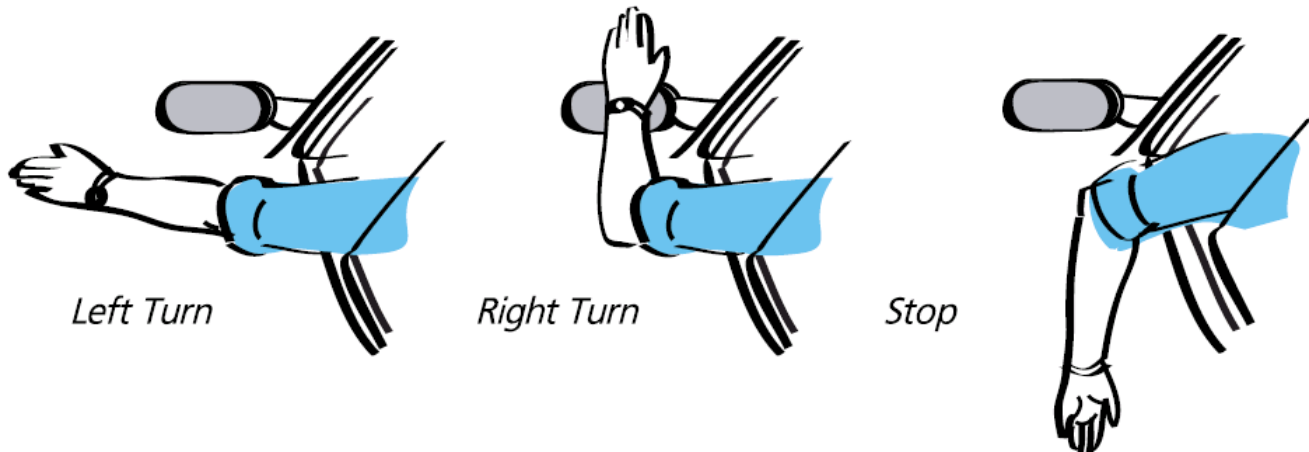
Speed limits might change on bridges. There also might be signs that say "No Passing"

## Signaling

You have to signal (use your blinker) when you want to change lanes or make a turn. You need to do this so other drivers know that you want to turn. You need to use your signal 100 feet before a turn and continue using it until you finish turning.

There are two ways to signal a turn: with your hands and arms or with the blinker in the car. The blinker in the car is left of the steering wheel. You either push up (right) or down (left).

If you use your hands, everyone next to you, in front of you, and behind you has to be able to see them. You can not use this method at night.



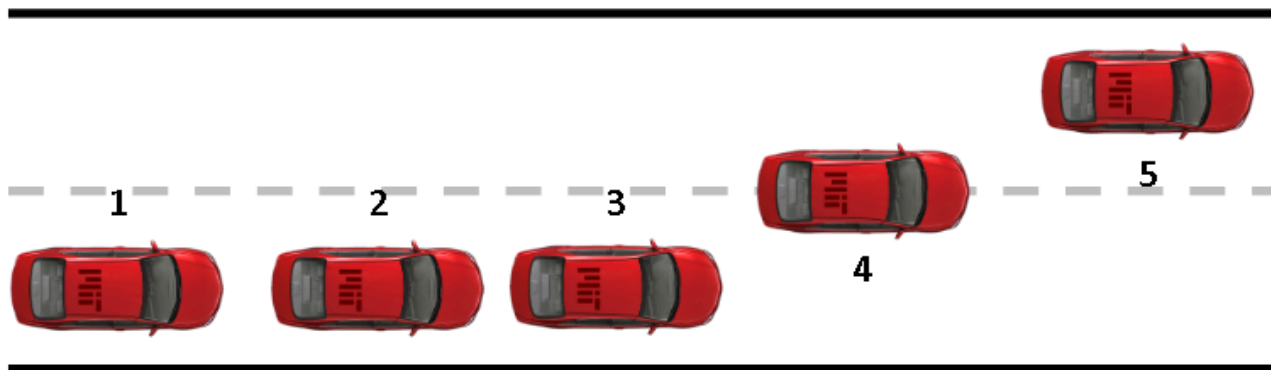
## Traffic Lanes

A traffic lane is part of a street that is wide enough to safely drive a car or another vehicle. Whenever you are driving on a street or highway you are in a lane. Sometimes lanes are not marked like in neighborhoods. You have to stay in your lane without moving between them.

## Changing Lanes

Sometimes you have to change lanes so you can legally make a turn, merge with other traffic, or other reasons. You have to be careful when you change lanes because it can be dangerous. Check next to you and behind you when you change lanes.

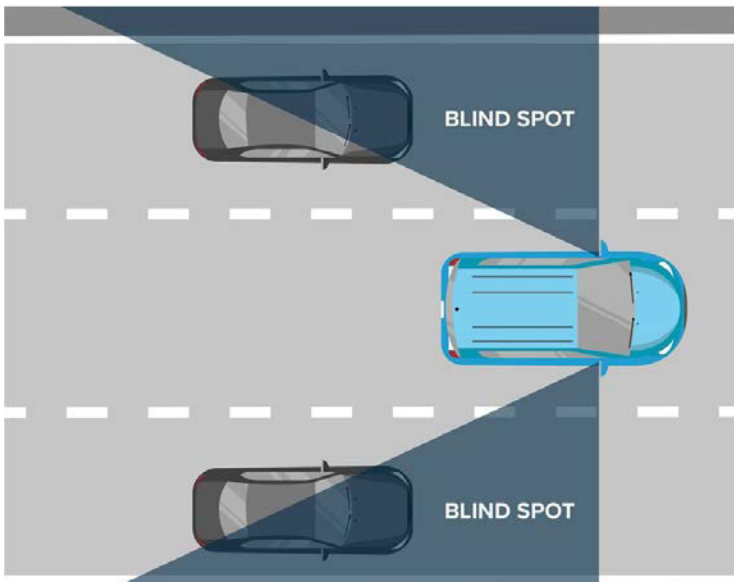
Before you move you should turn your head in the direction of the lane you are moving to and check for other cars. You should use your mirrors, but not only your mirrors – because they do not show everything. They have "blind spots".



1. Signal
2. Check all mirrors
3. Check blind spot – look over shoulder
4. Make gradual change
5. Turn off signal

### Blind Spots

These are areas around the car where the driver can not see. You can't see pedestrians, bicycles, or other cars when they are in these areas. When you want to change lanes or move, make sure to check those blind spots by turning your head and looking out the window.



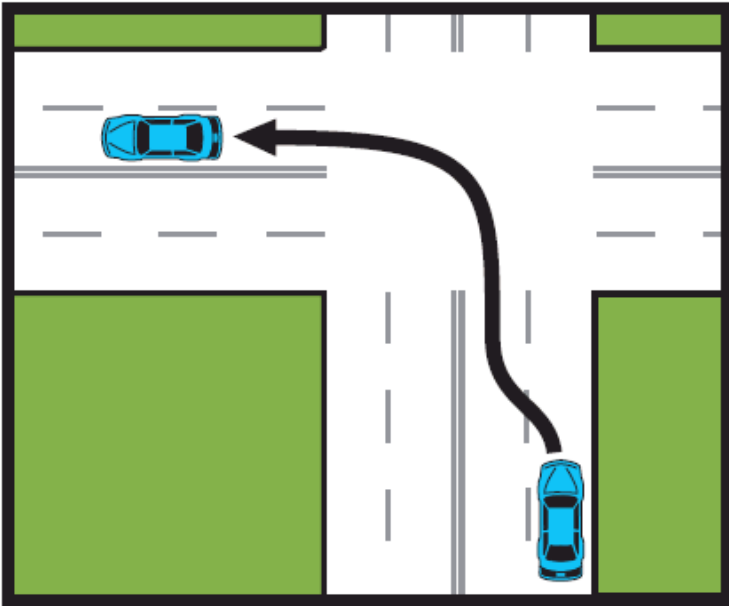
### Turns

Turning can also be dangerous. Make sure to make sure to turn correctly. Before you turn slow down and signal the direction you want to turn 100 feet before you turn. This lets other drivers and pedestrians know you want to turn.

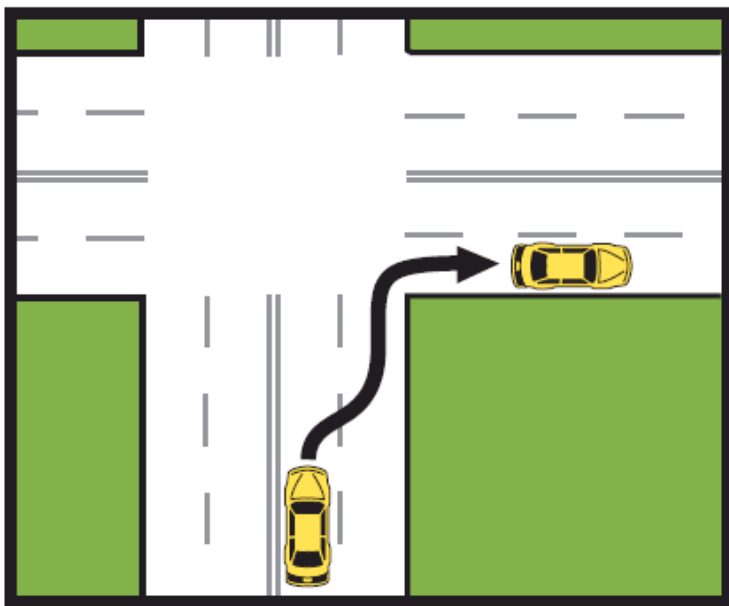
You should safely move to the correct lane before you turn. For example if you want to turn left and you are in the right lane, move into the left lane before you reach the intersection. When you move lanes



make sure to signal, check your mirrors, and check your blind spot. Make sure to finish the turn in the lane closest to the center line.

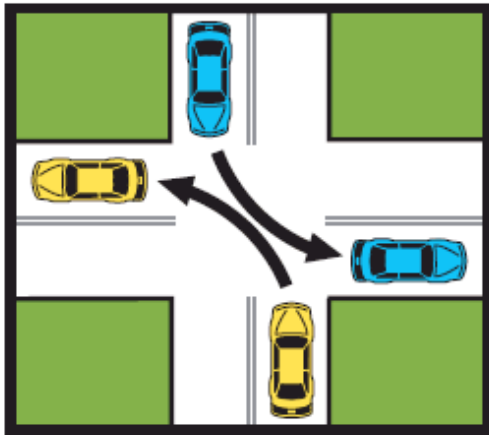


If you want to turn right and you are in the left lane, move to the right lane before you reach the intersection. Make sure to finish the turn in the lane closest to the curb.

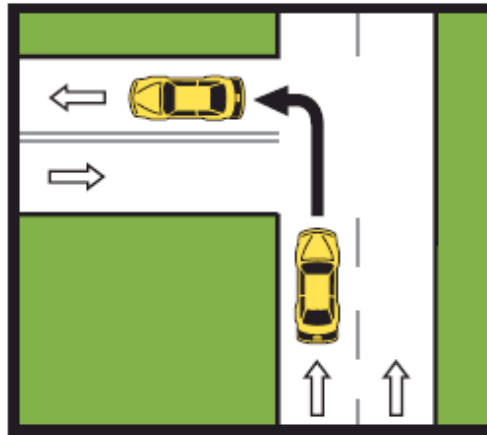


There are other rules to follow when you want to turn here:

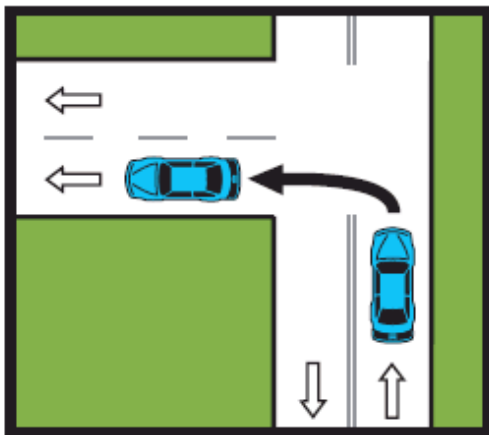
**Two approaching left turns**



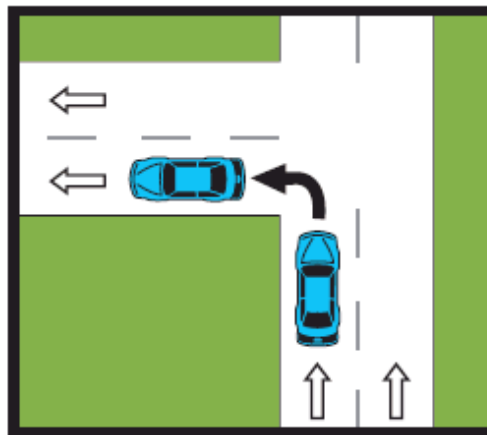
**From a one-way road onto a two-way road**



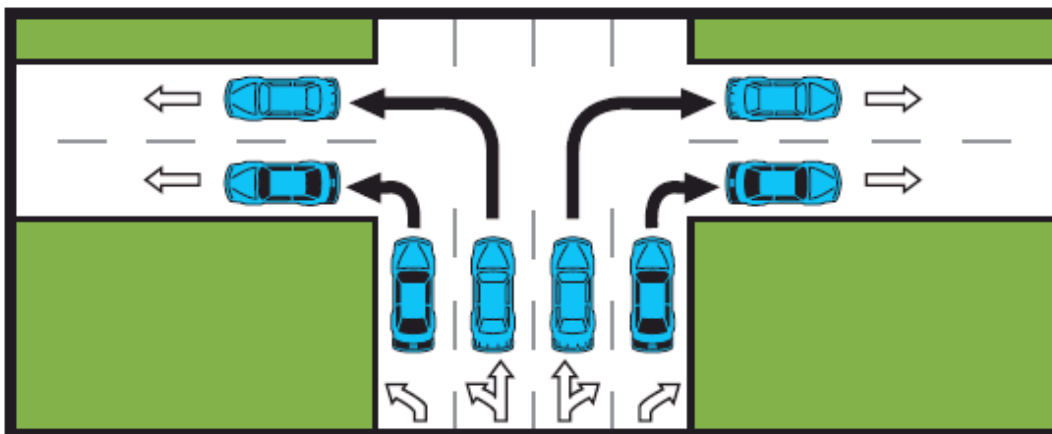
**From two-way road onto a one-way road**



**From a one-way road onto a one-way road**



**Multiple turn lanes**



*Multiple turn lanes: If there are signs or lane markings that allow for two or more turning lanes, stay in your lane during the turn.*

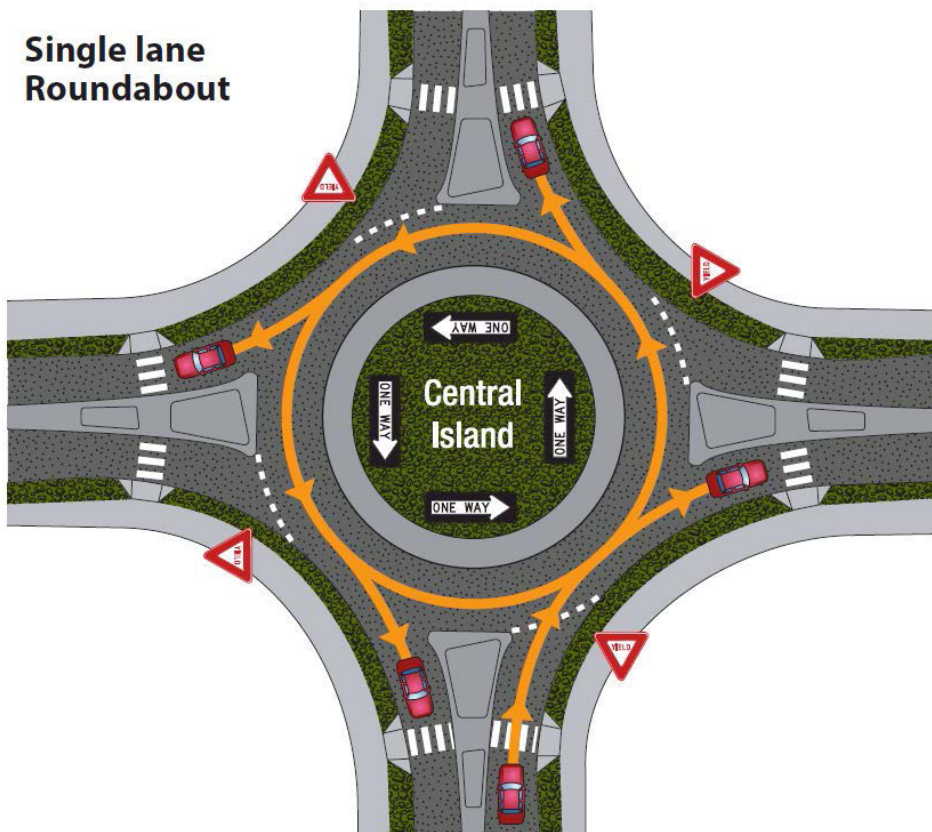
- When you are waiting to turn, your wheels need to be straight and your foot needs to be on the brake.
- Continue signaling while you wait for the turn
- Do not make sudden turns or from the wrong lane
- Make sure to watch out for things that might block your turn
- Look at the signals of the cars in front of you. If the person in front of you is signaling, slow down to avoid hitting them.

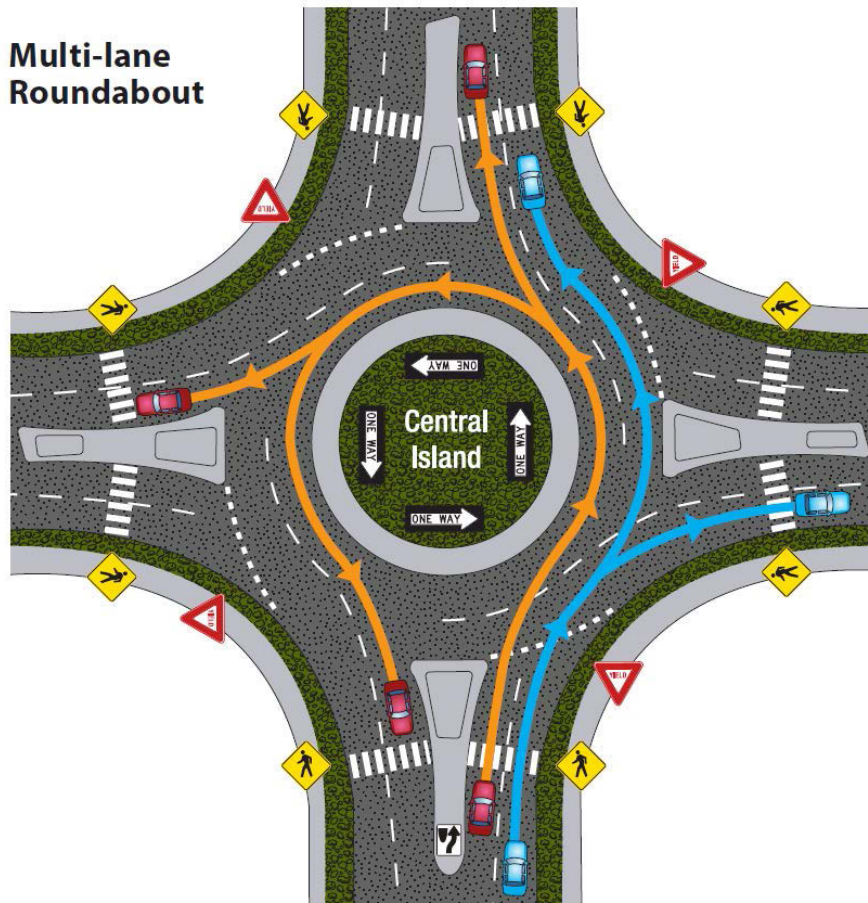
### Turning on a Red Light

Sometimes you can turn right when the light is red. You need to be in the right lane and come to a complete stop before turning. If there is a sign that says "No Turn on Red" you can not turn right at that intersection. Make sure to check for people, other cars, or bikes. If there is nothing in the intersection, you can turn right. You do not have right-of-way when you turn right on a red light. **Picture of no turn on red sign**


### Roundabouts

A roundabout is a type of intersection. They look different than a regular intersection and have different rules.





When you are arriving at a roundabout you need to:

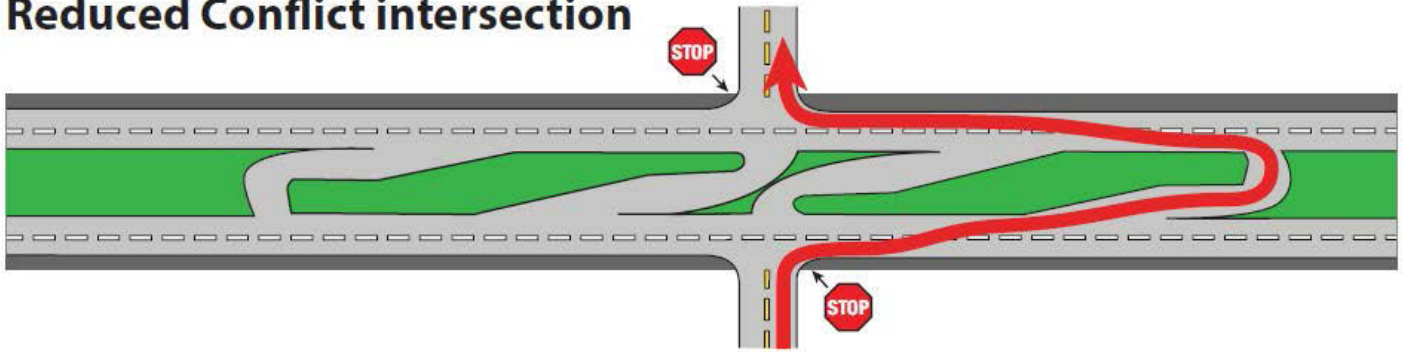
- Slow down
- If you come to a multi-lane roundabout, you need to be in the correct lane (if you want to go right or straight, the right lane, if you want to go straight or left, the left lane)
- Yield to pedestrians or bicyclists in the crosswalks
- Look at the signs that are posted for rules
- Yield to cars and other vehicles that are already in the roundabout. Look to the left to see if more cars are coming
- Drive counter-clockwise around the roundabout. 

### Reduced Conflict Intersections

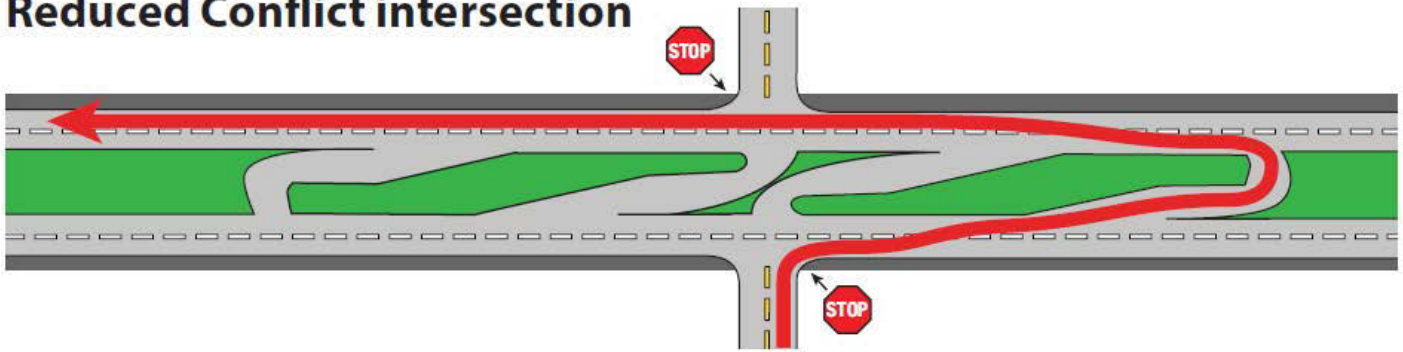
A reduced conflict intersection is an intersection that reduces crashes on 4-lane highways. In these intersections, the driver ALWAYS makes a right turn and then a U-Turn. If you are coming towards the highway from a side street you can not turn left or go straight.

The red lines are the routes drivers need to follow:

### Crossing a rural divided highway using a Reduced Conflict intersection

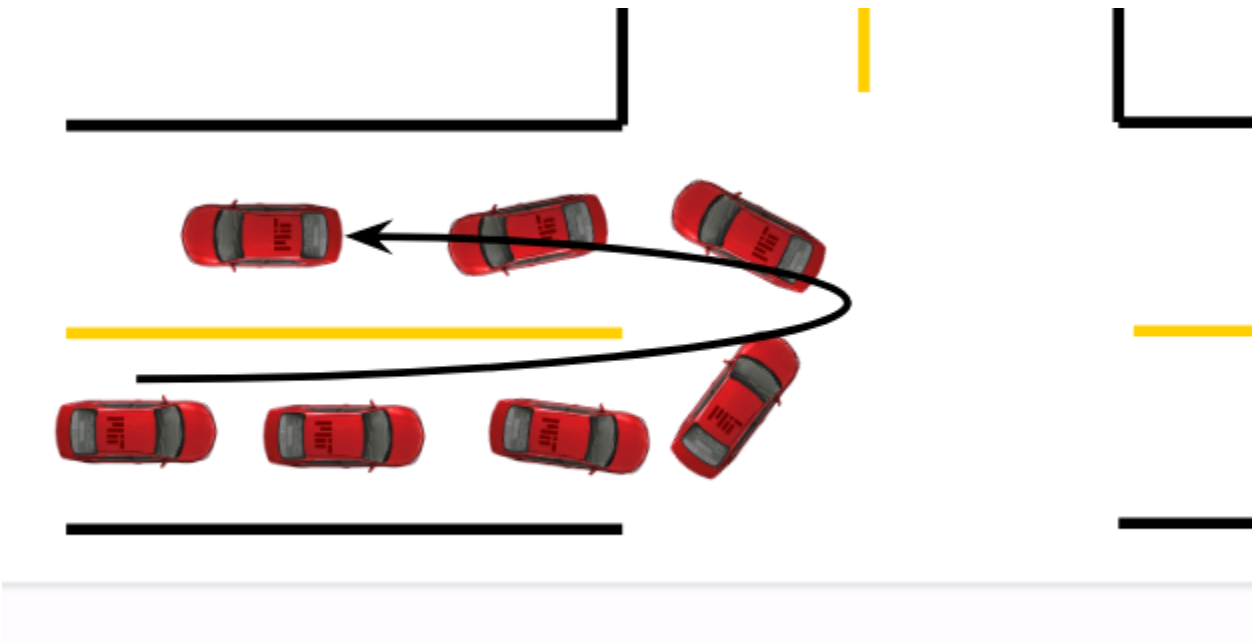


### Left hand turn onto divided highway using a Reduced Conflict intersection



### U-Turns

A U-turn is when the driver turns around completely, 180 degrees. It looks like the letter U.





You can only make a U-turn if you will not disrupt traffic or there is no sign that says "No U-Turn." You can not make a U-turn on a highway, near the top of hills, or on curves where you can not see other drivers coming toward you.



### Right-Hand Lane Travel

When you are driving on the highway and there is more than one lane going the same direction, you should usually be in the right lane. You do not have to be in the right lane when you are passing another car, you are preparing to turn left, the exit or entrance to another highway is on the left, or an officer directs you to the left lane.

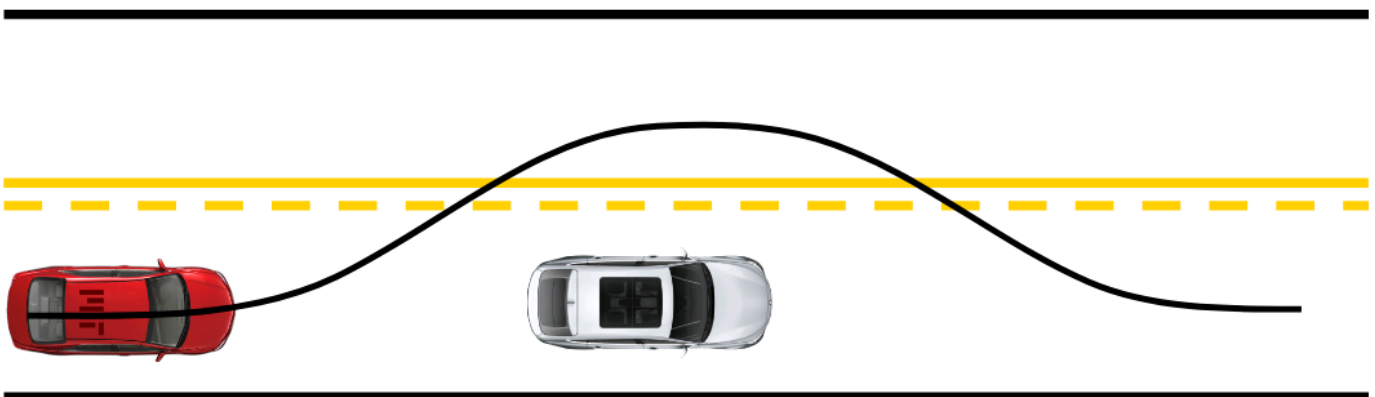
### Passing

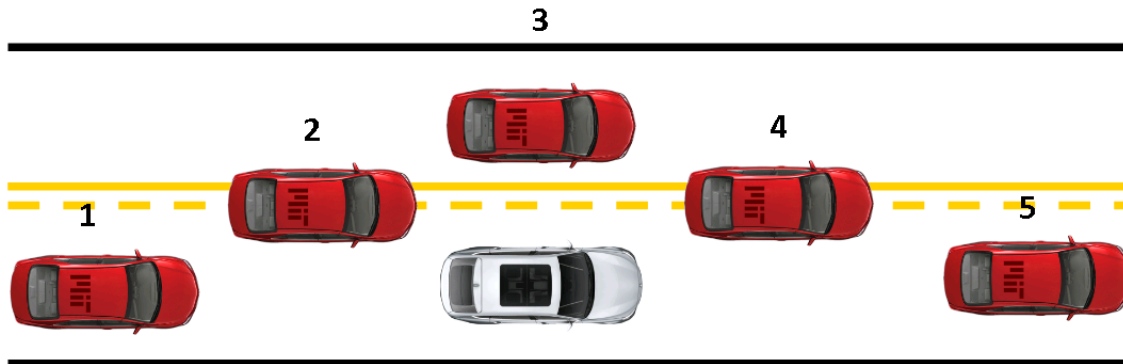
Passing another car can be dangerous so you have to be careful, especially at night, when the road is slippery or when you can't see the road well.

Passing is allowed occasionally on two lane roads where traffic is traveling in opposite directions. When you are allowed to pass, pass on the left side of the car in front of you. You should not go faster the speed limit, but if the speed limit posted is 55mph, and you are passing legally, the speed limit during the pass increases by 10 to 65mph.

When you are ready to pass, make sure there is enough space between you and oncoming traffic. Make sure there are no cars behind you trying to pass you. If someone wants to pass you, stay in your lane and maintain your speed – do not go faster.

Use your signal before you move into the left lane. When you complete the pass, use your signal before returning to the right lane. You can return to the right lane when you can see the whole car you passed in your rearview mirror.





1. Make sure there is no oncoming traffic and you can cross the yellow line
2. Use your left-turn signal
3. Pass on left
4. Use right-turn signal
5. Return to right lane when you can see entire vehicle in rearview mirror

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Do not pass vehicles where there is a “No Passing” sign.



Or where there is a solid yellow line on your side of the center line. If there is a double solid yellow line, no one can pass no matter what direction they are traveling. (More information on lines on road in Chapter 5)

Do not pass:

- On a curve or hill where you can not see the road clearly
- Within 100 feet of an intersection, tunnel, underpass, or railroad crossing
- When there is a vehicle coming from the opposite direction

### Passing on the Right

Usually a driver will pass on the left, but sometimes passing on the right is allowed. For example, if the car in front of you is turning left, you can pass them on the right.

### Backing Up

Before you back up, make sure there is nothing behind you. Look in the mirrors and through the back and side windows. Look through the back window while you are backing up. You can look in your mirrors, but do not depend on them. Back up slowly. Be careful when you back up!

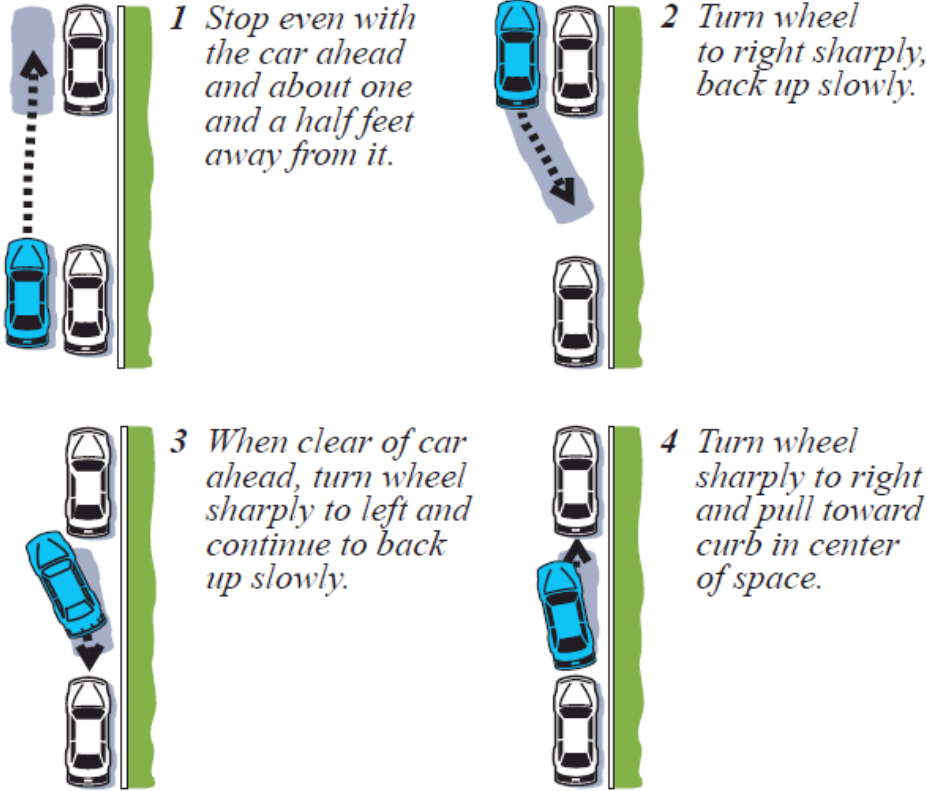
Do not back up across lanes of traffic, if you are backing out of a driveway or alley, back into the nearest lane.

Do not back up on the highway.

## Parking

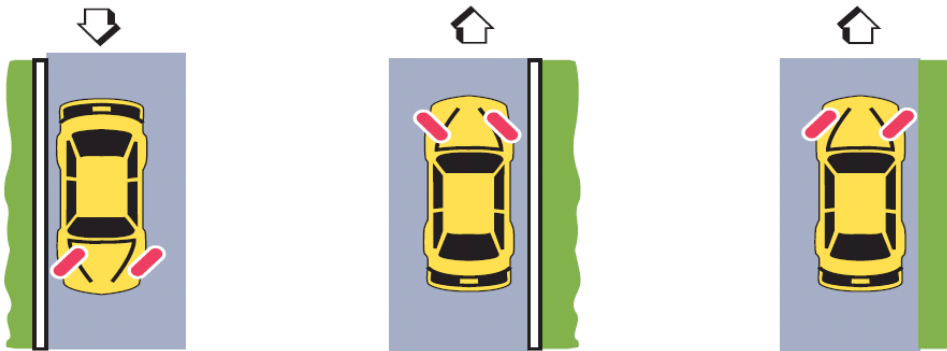
Parallel parking is an important skill to have. When you are parallel parked correctly, the wheels next to the curb will be no more than 12 inches or 1 foot from the curb.

### Parallel Parking



When you park on a hill, you should turn your front wheels in different directions depending on what direction your car is facing:

### Parking on a Hill



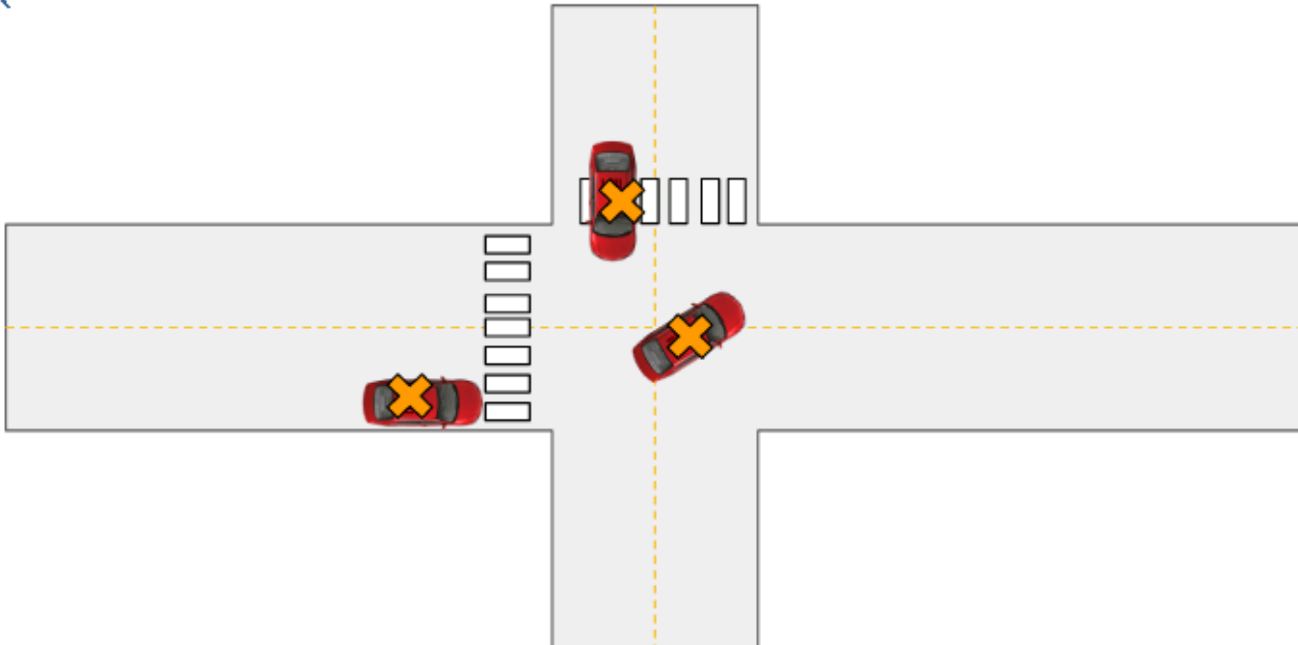
When the front of a parked vehicle points downhill, wheels should be turned toward the curb or shoulder of the road.

When the front of a parked vehicle points uphill, and there is a curb, wheels should be turned away from the curb.

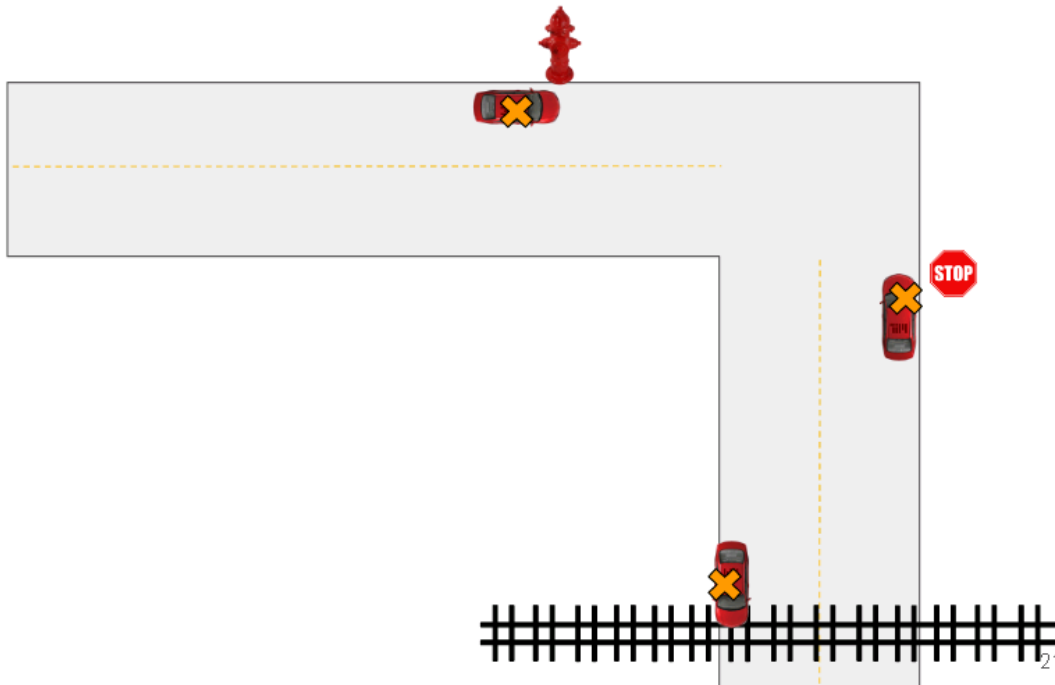
When the front of a parked vehicle points uphill, and there is no curb, wheels should be turned toward the shoulder of the road.

You need to know where you can park and where you can not park. You can not park:

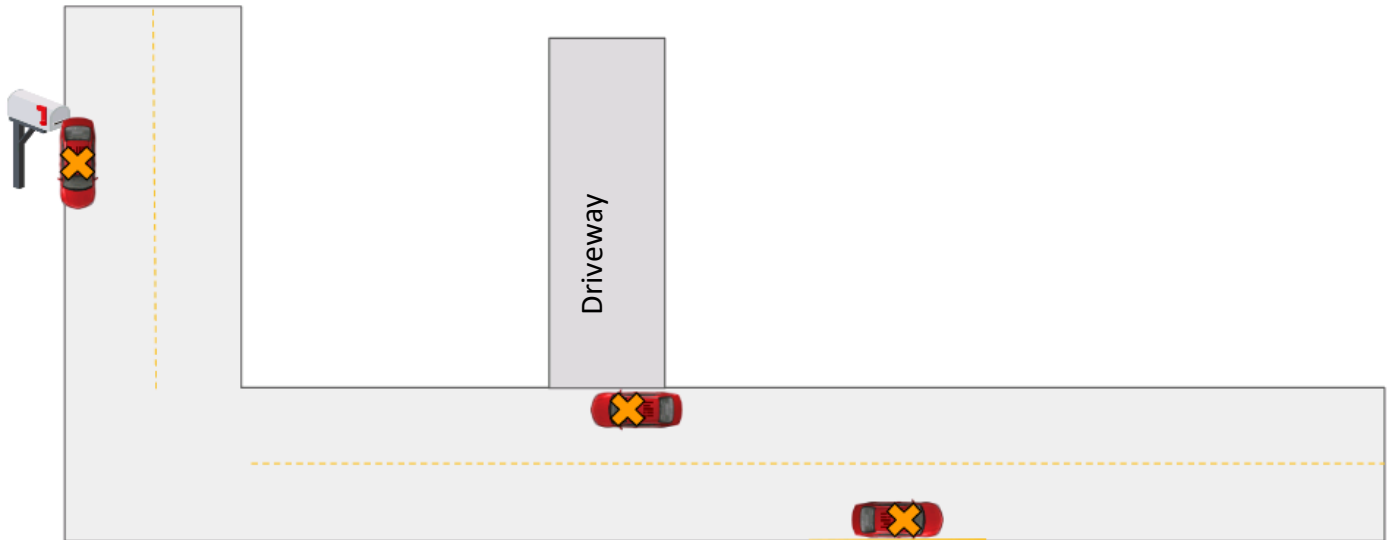
- In intersections
- On a crosswalk or a sidewalk
- Within 20 feet of an intersection



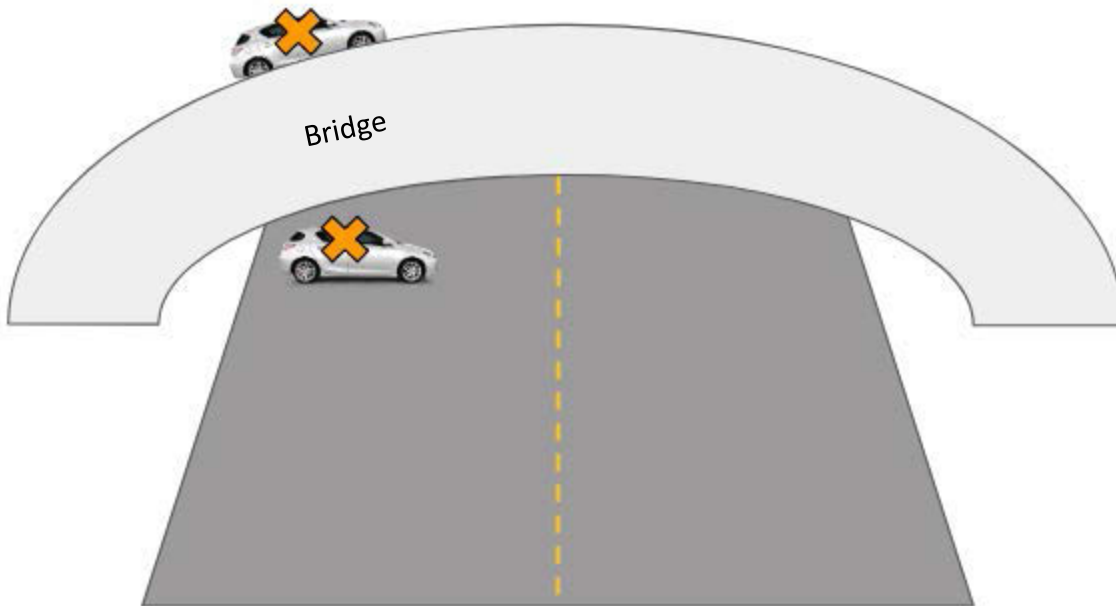
- Within in 30 feet of any flashing light, stop sign, traffic control signal located on the side of a road
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant



- At the street end of a driveway
- In front of mailboxes
- Beside a curb painted yellow or where signs say "No Parking"



- Within any highway tunnel
- On any bridge



- On the traffic side of any vehicle double parked at a curb or at the edge of a highway (this is called double parking)
- Alongside or across the street from any excavation site or obstacle if parking would block traffic



## Exiting a Parked Vehicle

Always look to see if cars are coming. Do not open your door if it will interfere with traffic: cars, bicycles, pedestrians, or other vehicles. Do not leave the door open longer than you need to get out of the car.

## Highway Parking

If you are stopped on the highway, move your car away from the busy, main part of the road. If you can not move the car, use your hazard lights or markers to let other drivers know your vehicle is there. If you are parked on the highway at night, make sure your lights work. You need at least one white front light and at least one red taillight. Use your hazard lights.

Try not to park on the highway – it is not safe.

## Passenger Safety

Everyone in the car needs to use a seatbelt and it is the responsibility of the driver to make sure the passengers are using the seatbelts. Children need to be in age-appropriate car seats. If the seatbelts are used correctly, you have a much better chance of surviving accidents. The lap belt should fit across your hip bones or upper thighs and the shoulder belt should be across the chest and middle of the shoulder.

## Seat Belt Laws

Seat belt use is required. If you get in a crash, a seatbelt is the piece of equipment that is most likely to save your life. All people in the car need a seatbelt. You can get stopped by law enforcement if someone is not wearing a seatbelt. There are many benefits to a seatbelt. If you don't wear a seatbelt:

- Your chances of being killed is 4x greater
- You can die in a car crash if the car is going 12mph
- You can be ejected (thrown) from the car

Sometimes you do not need a seatbelt:

- If you are driving a passenger vehicle in reverse
- If you are in a car in a normal sitting position and all the seatbelts are being used by other passengers
- If you have a doctor's note that says you do not need to or can not use the seatbelt
- If you have a job that requires you to get in and out of the car a lot (this is only true if you are going 25mph or less)
- If you are a rural mail carrier delivering mail
- If you are driving or riding in a truck while doing farm work
- If you are driving a car made before January 1, 1965

## Infant and Child Safety Seat Laws/Other Child Passenger Safety Guidelines

If you have a child under 13, the backseat is the safest place for them. Infants under 1 need to be in a car seat the faces backwards. Babies older than 1, until they are 40-60 pounds can face forward in a car seat. Kids under 8 need a booster seat, but not a whole car seat. When the child turns 8 they can sit in the back seat without a car seat.

You should never use a car seat that has been in a crash. Car seats expire (usually 6 years after they are made) – check to make sure your car seat is not expired. Infant car seats that are rear facing shouldn't be in front of an airbag. Children shouldn't be on someone's lap while the car is moving. Children should not be in the trunk or cargo areas of a car.

## Never Leave Children Unattended in a Vehicle

The children could get in an accident, someone could abduct them, temperatures could harm the children, and someone could brake into the car.

Pets or other animals should not be left in the car on hot or cold days. Extreme temperatures can be dangerous to animals.

## Leaving Your Vehicle Unattended

When you leave your car, make sure the doors are locked and take your keys. Don't leave valuables in your car.

## Airbags/Airbag Safety Suggestions

Airbags work with the seatbelts to prevent injuries. They are not designed to work alone.

If possible, maintain 10 inches between you and the steering wheel (where an airbag is located). Put your hands on the bottom half of the steering wheel (at 8 and 4 o'clock or 9 and 3 o'clock) and keep your thumbs turned out on the steering wheel. Move the front passenger seat as far back as it can go.

## Do Not Litter

You can not throw items or trash from your car window on to streets or land. It is illegal.

## What to Do in a Traffic Crash

If you are in a crash, there are things you have to do:

- You have to stop. Pull out of the driving lane and if possible onto the shoulder. Turn your car off.
- Let other drivers know there has been a crash by turning your hazards lights on.
- If someone is injured or killed, call 911 as fast as possible.
- Provide assistance to injured people (you are legally required to help as much as you can), and if you are qualified, first aid.
- You must share your name, address, date of birth, and car registration number to the other people in the crash, and law enforcement. You must also show your drivers license.
- You must share your car insurance information if someone else in the crash asks for it.
- You have to give your insurance information to law enforcement officers. You have 72 hours to provide it if you don't have it with you.
- You do not need to tell the police if there is only property damage.
- You must tell the property owner if you damage their property.

You must file a traffic crash report within 10 days if you are in a crash that causes death, injury, or property damage more than \$1000.

## Insurance

You must have car insurance. Proof of this insurance must be in the car at all times. If you can not show officers this if you get pulled over, your license can get revoked. If your license is revoked because you did not have proof of insurance, you need to pass a knowledge test, pay a \$30 fee, apply for a new license, and submit an insurance certificate.

If you drive a car without insurance you can lose your license for a year and have to pay a \$1000 fine. You may also go to jail for 90 days.

### **Motorcycle Insurance**

If you drive a motorcycle you need insurance specifically for the motorcycle.

### **Registering Your Vehicle**

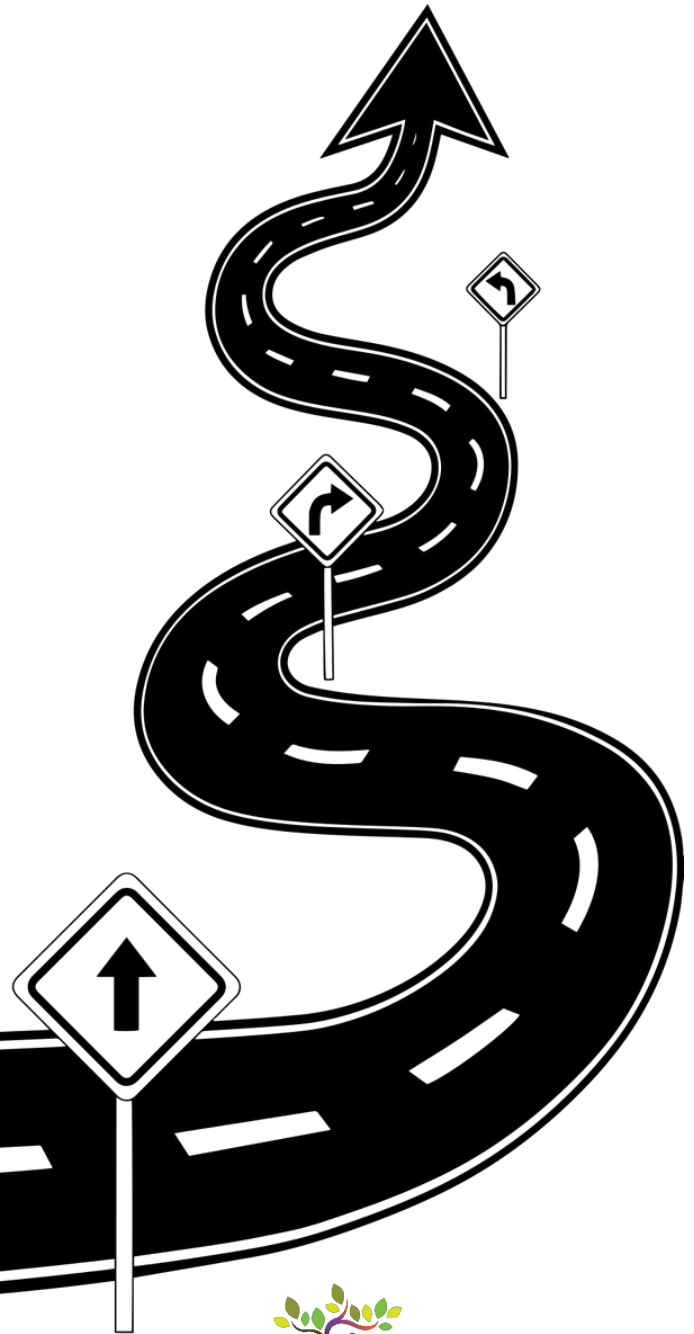
You have to register your vehicle with the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division.

### **Wireless Communication Devices**

You can not use a cell phone while driving. You can only talk on the phone if it is in hands-free mode. It is illegal to use your phone while driving.

# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)



## CHAPTER 4: SHARING THE ROAD

### Stopping



When you see a stop sign, you must come to a complete stop. When there is a line on the pavement in front of the stop sign, you must stop before that line. If there is a crosswalk, you have to stop before the crosswalk. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other cars. If you can't see because your vision is obstructed, be prepared to stop again if you see someone or something in your path.

You have to stop in these situations:

- Before entering a road from an alley, a private driveway, a parking lot, or parking ramp.
- At an intersection or crosswalk with a red traffic light. Wait until the light is green and the intersection is clear to continue driving.
- At any intersection or crosswalk where a pedestrian or bicyclist is crossing. Do not move until the pedestrian or bicyclist has crossed your lane.
- At a flashing red light – treat this like a stop sign.
- At a freeway ramp meter, when the light is red.



- At a railroad crossing with a stop sign.
- When a flag person or traffic device tells you to stop.



- At a bridge that has been raised to open a path for boats to pass underneath.





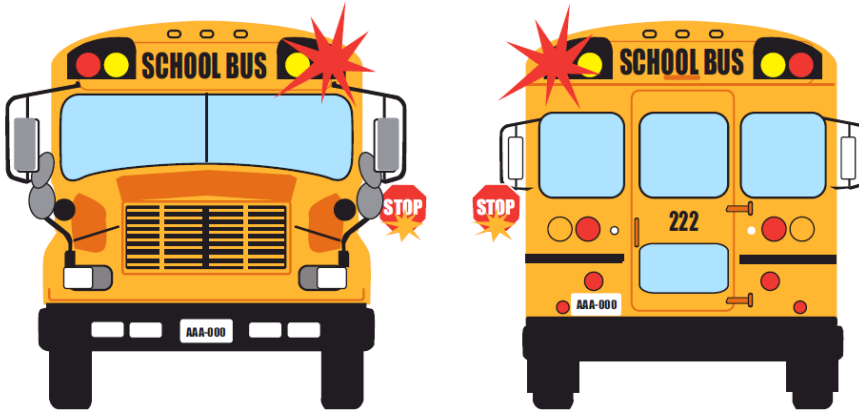
### Stopping for a School Bus

School buses have yellow and red lights that flash to let other drivers know if they are dropping off or picking up students.

### Flashing Yellow Lights

A school bus will have yellow flashing lights if it is going to stop soon. They will flash 100 feet before it stops in a 35mph or lower zone and 300 feet before it stops in a zone with a mph higher than 35. It is illegal to pass a school bus on the right side if the yellow or red lights are flashing.

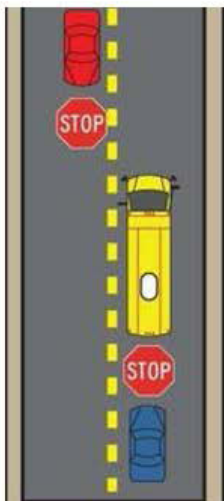
### Flashing Red Lights



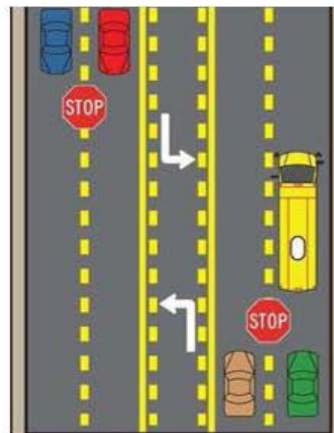
Flashing red lights mean the bus is picking up or dropping off students. When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, you **MUST** stop your vehicle at least 20 feet from the bus. Traffic behind the bus must stop and oncoming traffic must stop. You can not move until the red lights stop flashing and the stop arm is put away. If you continue driving when the red lights are flashing, you can be charged with a misdemeanor and have to pay \$500.

### Passing a School Bus

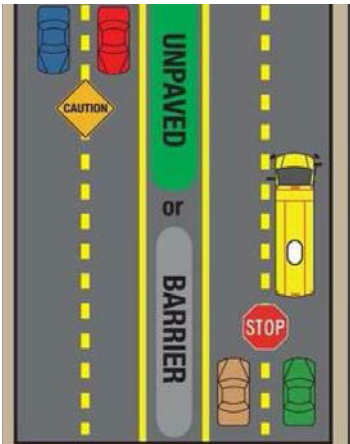
It is illegal to pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. You do not have to stop if the bus is on the other side of a separated roadway.



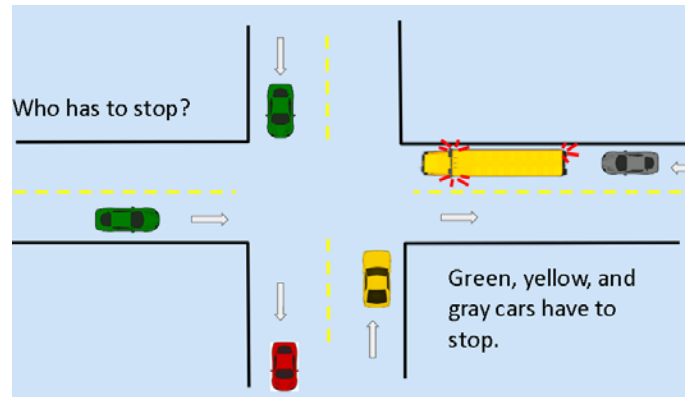
Red and blue car must stop.



Red, blue, brown, and green car must stop.



Brown and green car must stop. Blue and red car must have caution.



### Vehicle Owner May Be Penalized

The owner of a car that breaks the school bus law or passes a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is down is guilty of a petty misdemeanor. If the owner can prove someone else was driving the car, then the other driver will be charged with the violation or crime. When you apply for a driver's license you must prove you understand the school bus laws and there are penalties for breaking the law. You prove this by signing the application.

### School Safety Patrol



If you see a safety patrol you must come to a complete stop (the safety patrol can be an adult or another student). It is illegal to drive through a line of students crossing the road, even if a safety patrol is not there.

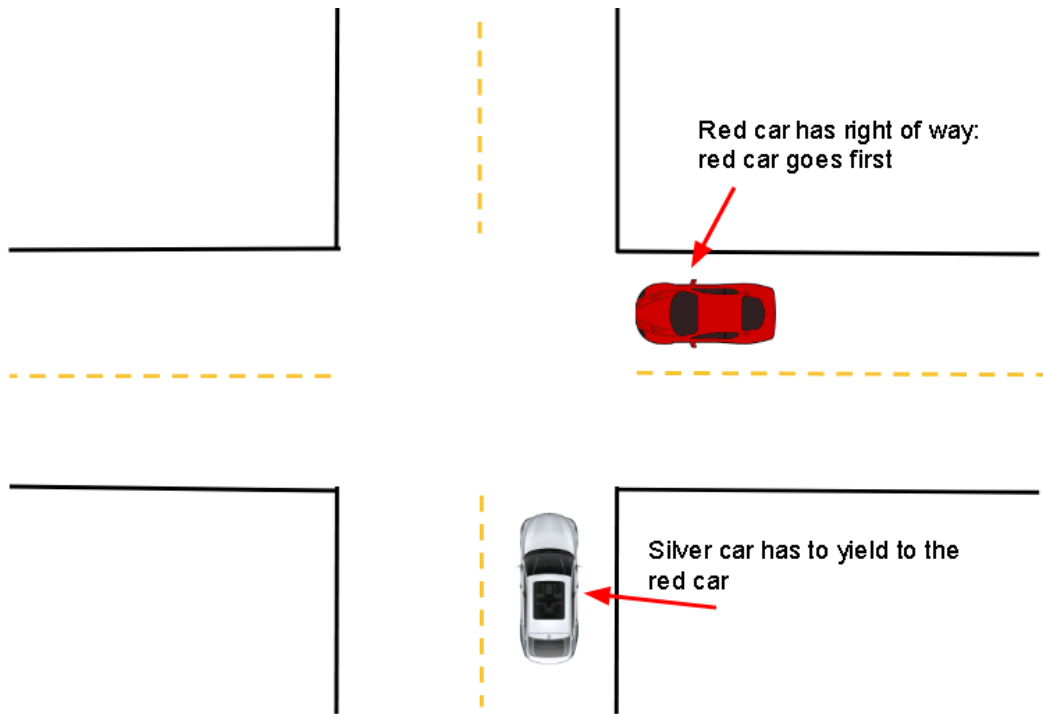
### School Bus Flagger

A school bus flagger is someone who may stop vehicles on a street or highway to allow a school bus to leave the school property. The driver can not continue driving until the school bus flagger allows them to.

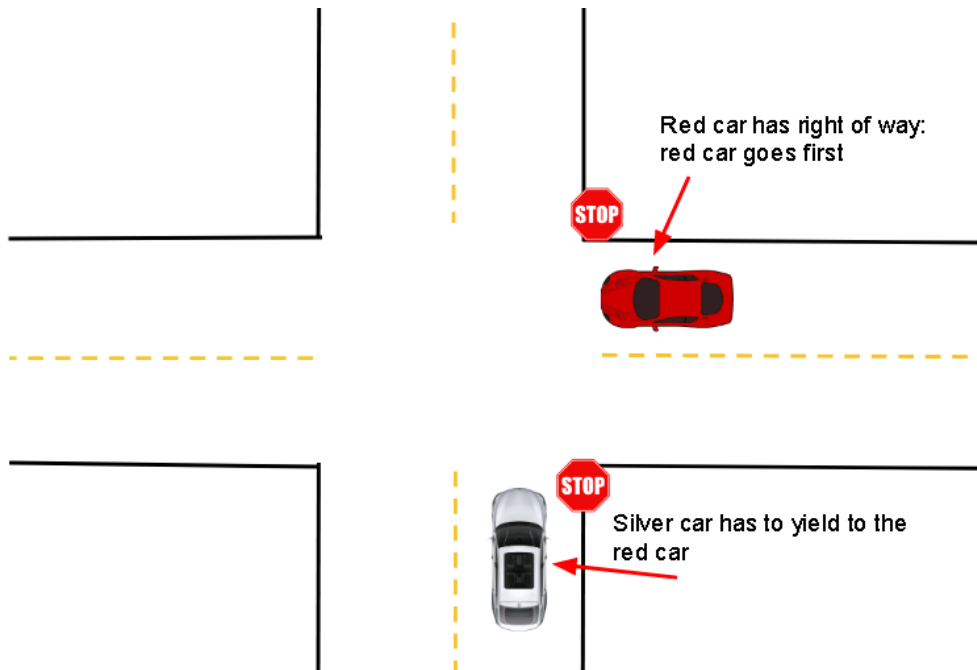
### Right of Way and Yielding

Right of way: the person who has right of way gets to go first. Yielding means waiting. If you need to yield, you have to wait for other cars to go before you can go. There are many rules about who has right of way and who needs to yield in different situations.

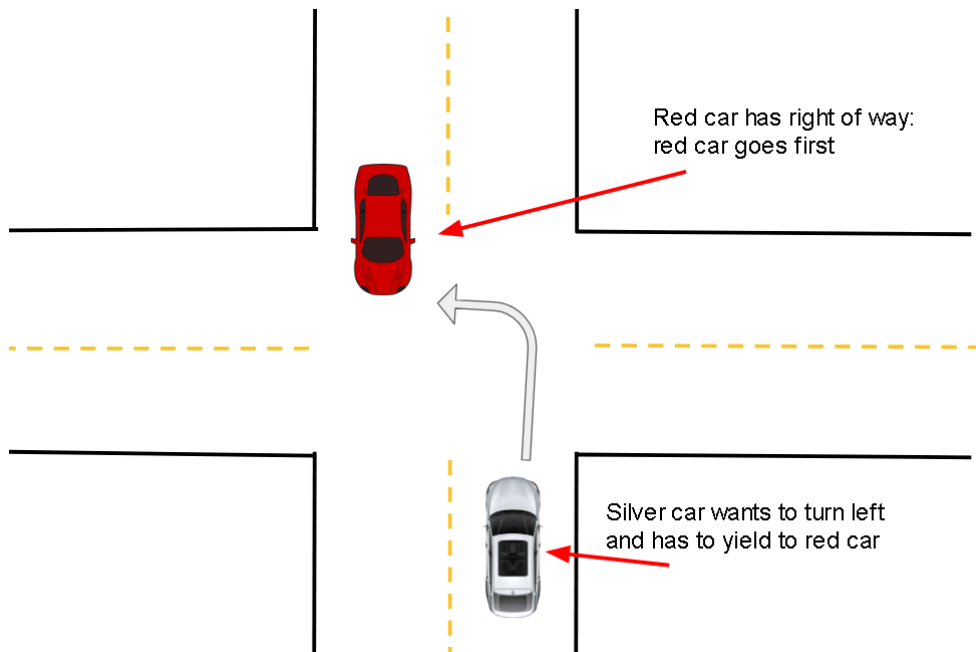
- When two cars reach an intersection at the same time, and there is no traffic light or signal, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right – the driver on the right has right of way



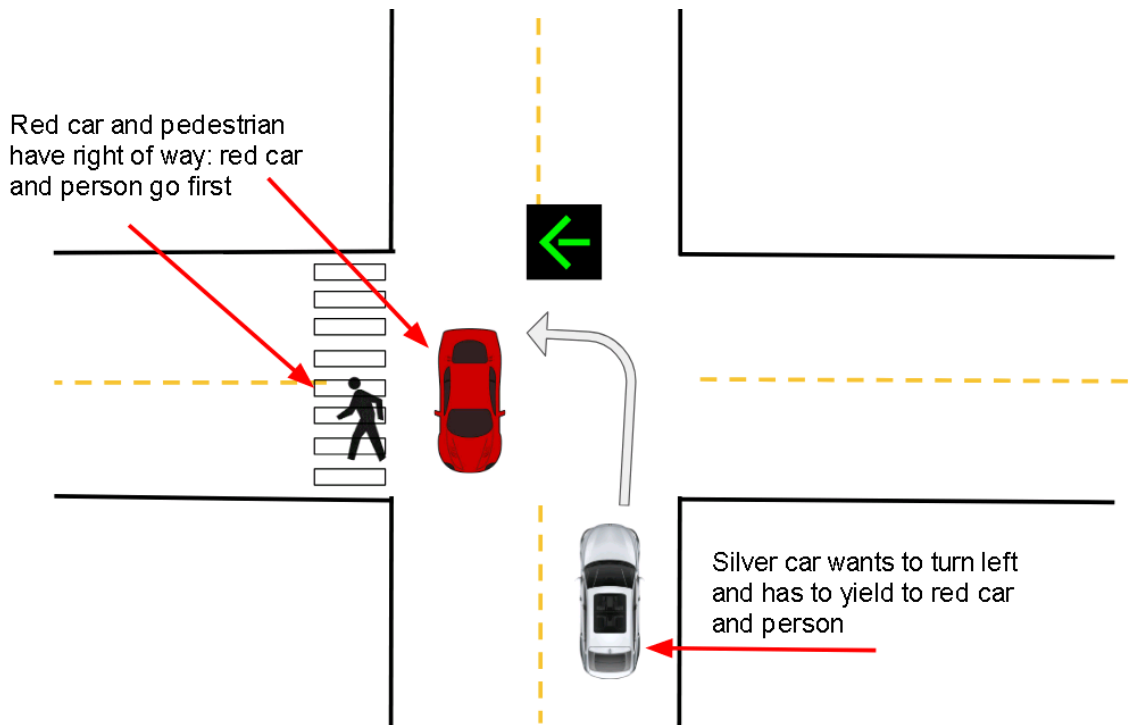
- When two cars reach an intersection at the same time and there are stop signs at every corner, or there are red flashing lights, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right – the driver on the right has right of way



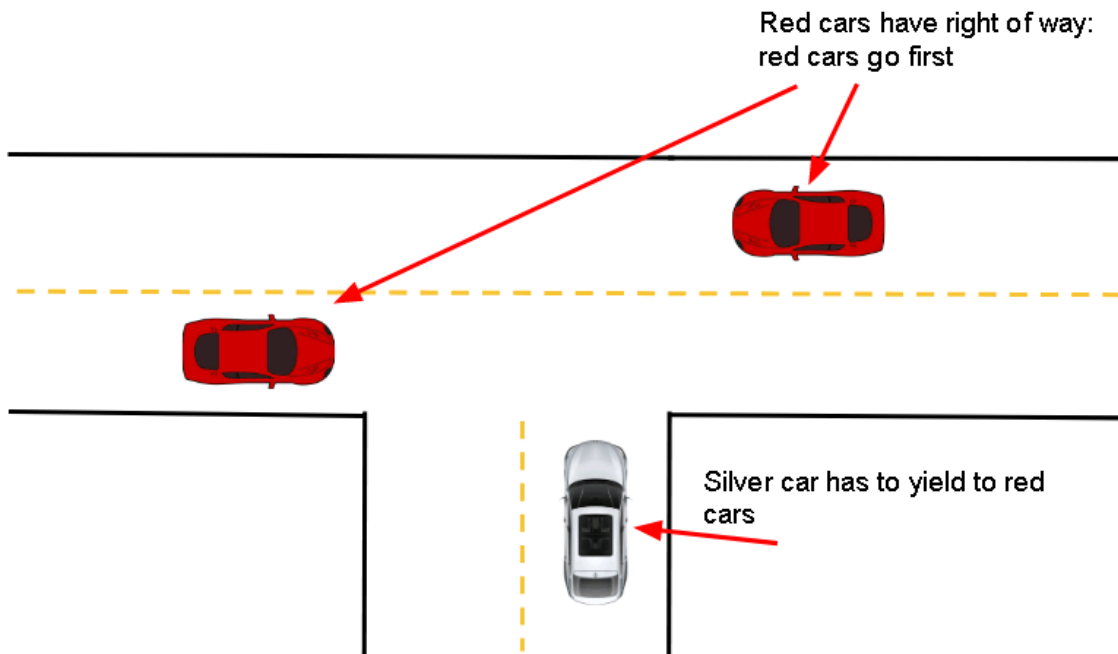
- If a driver wants to turn left, they must yield to cars coming from the opposite direction if those cars are in the intersection or close to the intersection



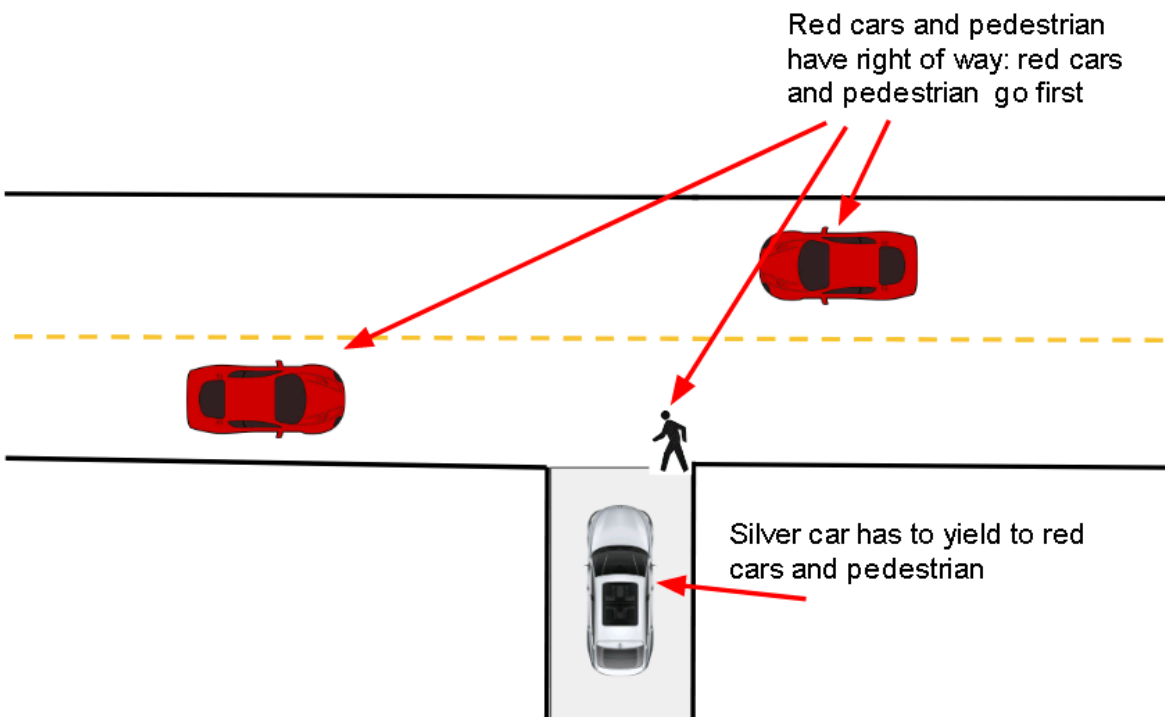
- When there is a green arrow telling drivers they can turn left, drivers must yield to pedestrians or cars that are already in the intersection. After waiting, the driver can go in the direction of the arrow – the pedestrians and cars already in the intersection have the right of way



- When two cars come to an uncontrolled T-intersection (uncontrolled means there are no signs or lights), the driver of the car turning must yield to cross-traffic – the cross traffic has the right of way

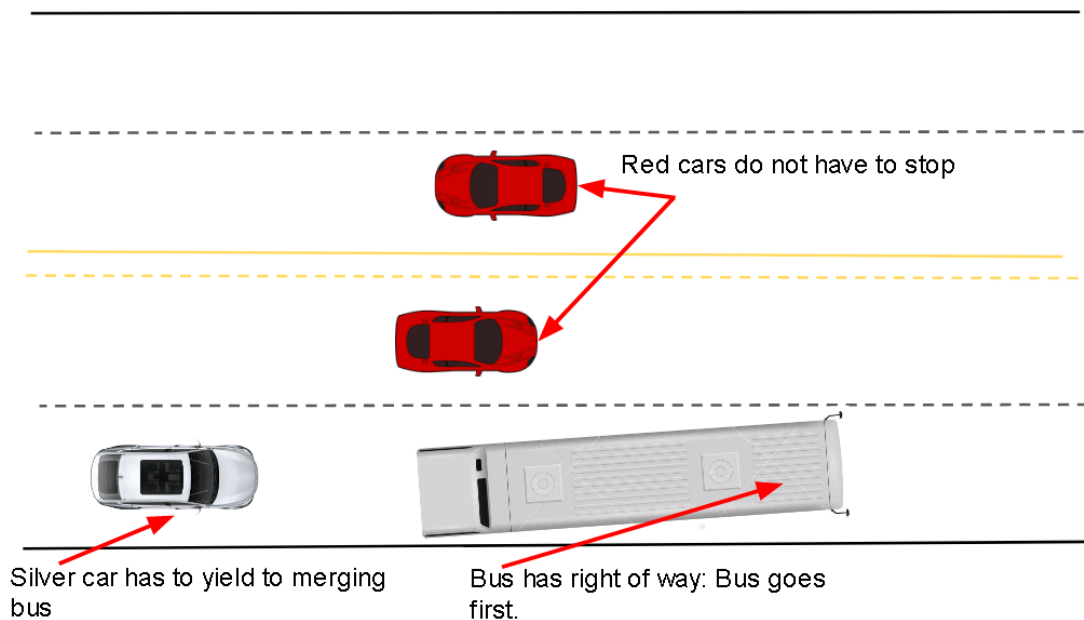


- When coming towards a public road from a driveway or smaller road (private road), you have to yield to pedestrians and traffic. Cars in the public road and pedestrians have right of way

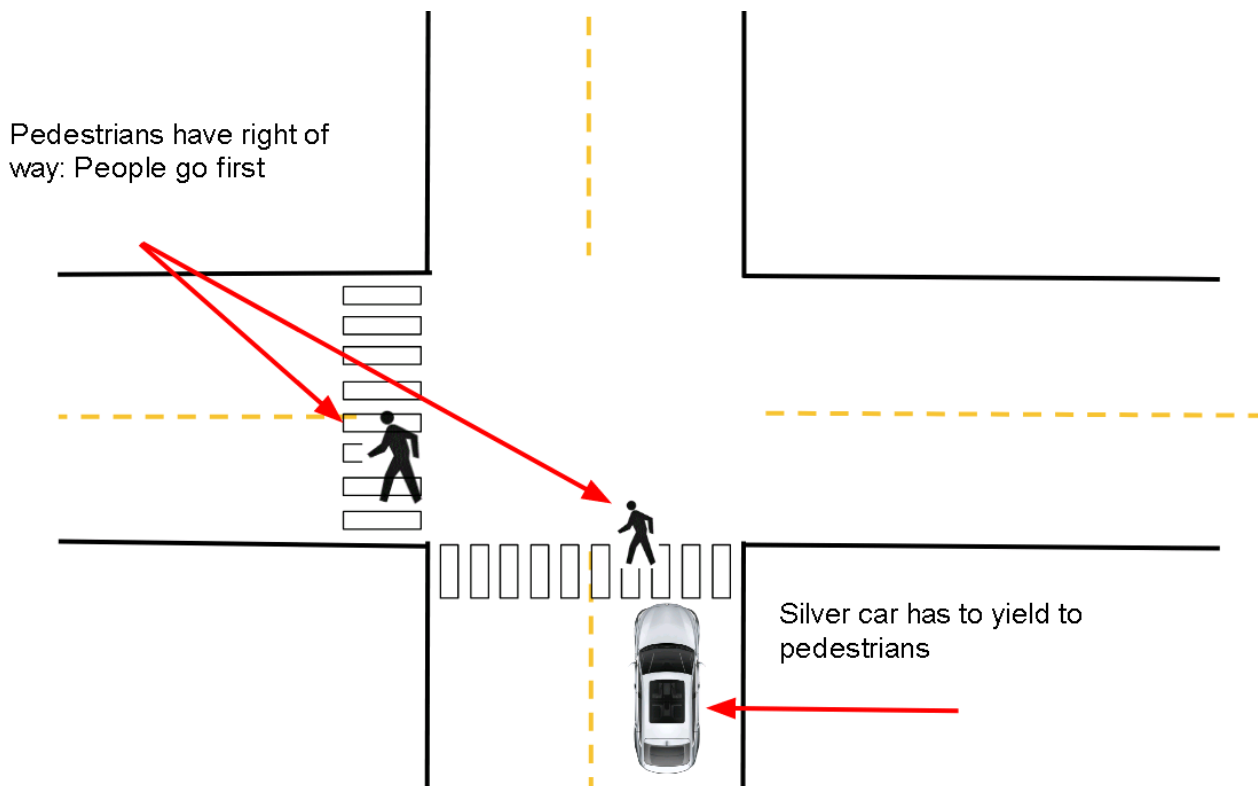




- Drivers in the right lane of traffic must yield to buses (transit) and metro mobility buses who want to merge into the lane from a bus stop or shoulder



- If there are cars that are part of a funeral procession with hazard warning lights, you have to yield – they have the right of way
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks – marked or unmarked. Pedestrians have the right of way

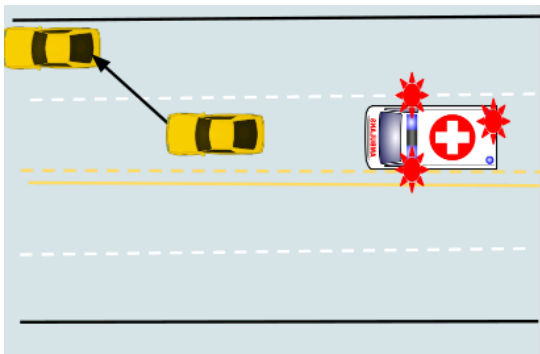


### Yield to Emergency Vehicles

You have to yield to emergency vehicles if they are displaying flashing red lights and a siren or bell. Emergency vehicles are ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars. If the emergency vehicle is coming towards you on a two-way road you must pull over to the right and stop. The emergency vehicle might come from behind you or from in front of you. If you are on a one way road and an emergency vehicle is coming closer, you must pull over to whichever side of the road is closer. If you are in an intersection, finish going through the intersection, then pull over.

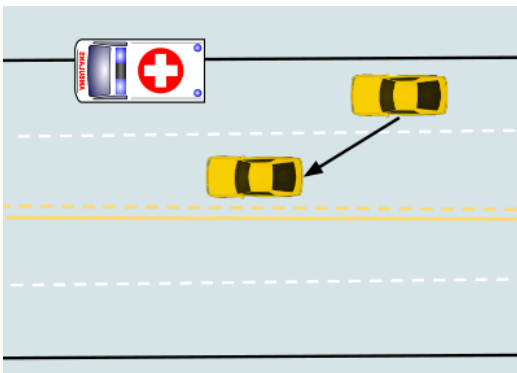
You need to stay stopped until the emergency vehicle has completely passed you.

You do not need to stop if the emergency vehicle does not have flashing lights and sirens or if it is on the other side of a separated roadway.



### Passing Parked Emergency/Service Vehicles

When you see an emergency vehicle or tow truck on the side of the road with lights flashing you are required to move over to the lane farthest from the emergency vehicle. If there is only one lane, you must slow down and pass the emergency vehicle with caution. This rule is also true when you are passing any service cars with flashing lights.

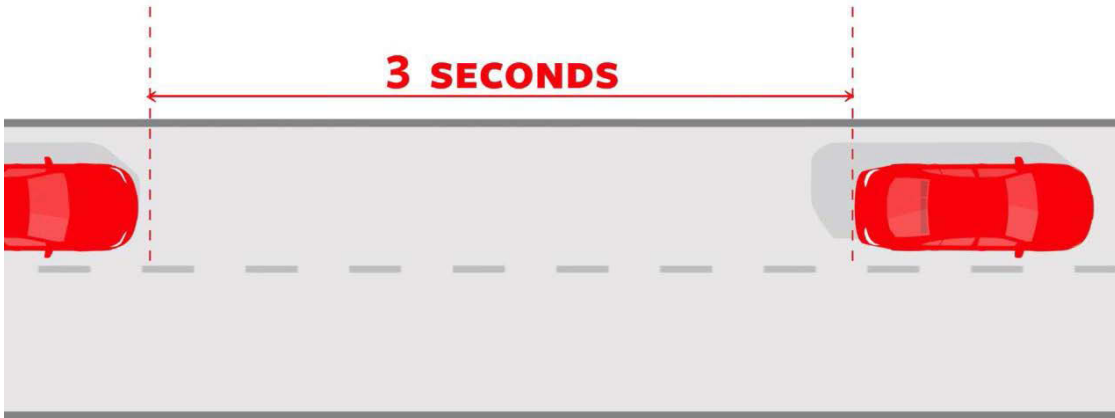


### Following Firefighting Vehicles

You cannot be within 500 feet of a firetruck making an emergency run (if its lights are flashing and the siren is on). Don't drive over a fire hose unless an officer directs you to.

## Following Other Vehicles

You must keep a safe distance between you and the cars in front of you. You have to be able to stop or turn to avoid crashes. Following distance might change if there is a lot of traffic, the speed you are going, or if there is bad weather. A good rule to follow is the Three Second Rule. There is more information about the three second rule in chapter 6.



## Careless and Reckless Driving

Careless driving is when you stop or drive your car in a way that puts other people or property in danger. Reckless driving is when you drive while you are aware and consciously disregarding or ignoring a big and unjustifiable risk that your driving might result in harm to another's property – this includes racing or contest driving. You can be stopped for careless or reckless driving and if you are, you will have to go to court.

## What to Do and Expect when Stopped by Law Enforcement

Make sure you know what to do if you are stopped by a law enforcement officer. This can help ensure your safety and the safety of others.

If you see emergency lights behind you;

- Stay calm
- Activate your turn signal
- As soon as it is safe, pull onto the right shoulder or if you are on a multilane road and closer to the left shoulder, move to the left shoulder if there is a full lane, and park
- Try not to stop on an overpass, bridge, or curved part of the roadway
- If you are stopped when it is dark, turn on the light in your car
- Keep all the doors shut, and remain in the car unless the officer tells you to exit
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel so they are easy to see
- Make sure you give the officer your full attention
- Don't make sudden movements or look for your documents until the officer tells you to
- If you have a weapon or firearm in the car, tell the officer right away

This information is extremely important – especially for people of color.

If the officer asks for your driver's license, vehicle registration, or proof of insurance and they are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.

You might get a ticket or a fine from the officer. If you do not agree, do not argue with the officer. If you want to contest the decision you can have that opportunity in court.

**If you refuse to follow the directions of the officer, that is against the law and the officer can arrest you. Do not resist if you are arrested.**

**Good communication from all people in the interaction can make a stop safer for everyone. The purpose of tickets and fines are to make people better, safer drivers.**

**Look on page 19 for steps on how to survive a police interaction**

### **Fleeing a Police Officer**

It is illegal to use a car to flee (escape or run away) from a police officer. If you do this, you are guilty of a felony and might go to jail for a maximum time of 3 years and 1 day, you might have to pay a fine of \$5000, or both.

If you flee a police officer and someone is injured or killed, there are punishments.

- If someone dies, the person fleeing may be sentenced to 10 years in prison and/or fined \$20,000
- If someone is injured severely, the person fleeing may be sentenced to 7 years in prison and/or fined \$14,000.
- If someone is injured, the person fleeing may be sentenced to prison for 5 years and/or fined \$10,000

### **Watch for Pedestrians**



Always watch out for pedestrians (people). Yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing at intersections and crosswalks. Look out for people where cars are parked, whenever there are children around, or times of poor visibility – like at night.

If a pedestrian is crossing the street wait until they have passed your lane to continue driving.

A blind pedestrian might be carrying a white or metal cane or using a guide dog. If you see a blind pedestrian waiting at a crosswalk, do not use your horn or your engine to tell them you are there. This could distract the pedestrian or the guide dog.

You can not pass another car that has stopped for a pedestrian (this is illegal). If another car is stopped, look for pedestrians in the crosswalk or intersection.

## Crosswalks

A marked crosswalk has solid white lines on the road and there are flashing lights to warn you that you are getting close to a crosswalk.



Unmarked crosswalks are areas where a road intersects a sidewalk there are no solid lines painted on the road. When you are stopped at unmarked crosswalk or marked crosswalk do not block the crosswalk with your car.



If you are a pedestrian, you also need to follow traffic rules so you are safe and drivers can see you.

- Follow the rules of traffic signals at intersections. When you are waiting for the WALK signal, stay a few feet back from the curb.



- Yield the right of way to cars in the intersection when the WALK signal turns on.
- Make sure the drivers know you want to cross the street. Make your intentions clear.
- Use sidewalks if they are available and usable.
- When you are crossing the street and there are no crosswalks, yield to the cars in the road.

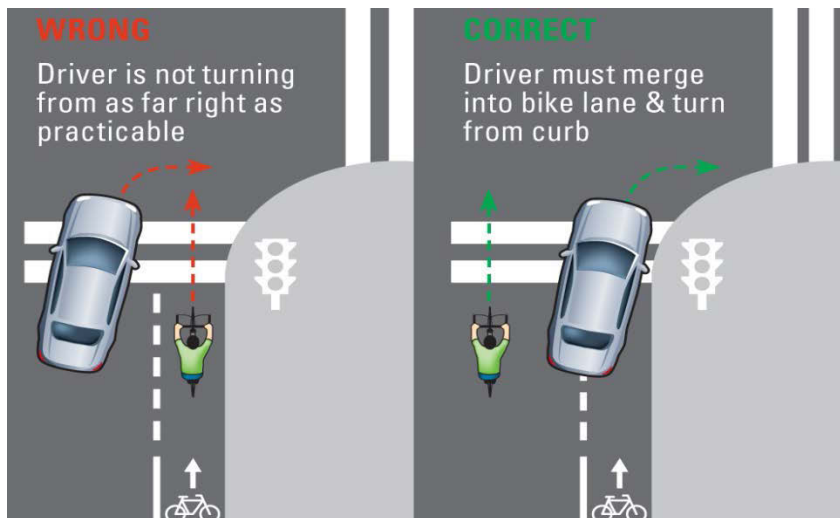
- Stay out of the traffic lanes if you can while you are crossing and make room for traffic on the road.
- If you need to walk on a road, walk on the left side, or face oncoming traffic.

Be aware that it is harder to see pedestrians at night. As a driver, be on the lookout for pedestrians. As a pedestrian, try to wear light colored clothing, reflective gear, or carry a flashlight. Be prepared to avoid drivers who do not see you. Pedestrians have the right of way, but drivers do not always see the pedestrians.

## Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



In Minnesota, bicycles are legal vehicles. They share the same rights and responsibilities as other vehicles on the road. Bicycle lanes exist to separate bicycle traffic from other normal vehicle traffic. You can not drive in bicycle lanes (it is illegal), unless you are parking, entering or leaving a road, or preparing for a turn. Before you enter a bike lane make sure it is safe to do so. If there is a biker coming, yield the right of way to them. Once the lane is clear, signal your intention, and then move into the bike lane before making a turn.



Always be careful when you are passing a bicyclist. The law says you must leave at least 3 feet between your car and the bicycle when you are passing it. If you are passing a bicyclist, make sure they are not preparing to take a left turn. If they are, wait for them to complete the turn before continuing.

If you are passing a biker, you can cross the center line of the road to do so.

## Bicycle Laws

Bicycle riders are required to follow all traffic laws, just like cars.

- Bikers must ride in the same direction as traffic, not against it



- Bikers have to signal all their turns and obey traffic lights and signs.
- Bikers have to use the same hand turn signals (from chapter 3) as drivers, but if they want to turn right, they can also stick their right arm out.



- Bikers should travel to the right of faster traffic. If there are hazards on the street like rough surfaces, or other things blocking the bike path, bikers are allowed to move closer to other traffic. Bikers can move into the lane when they are passing other drivers or when they want to turn left.
- Bikers can ride two abreast (two side by side) if they aren't blocking traffic. If they are on a street with lanes, they must ride within one lane.
- Bikers should wear helmets, but they do not have to.



- Bikers need to have lights and reflectors when they are riding at night (it is legally required). They can have a front white light, a rear red light or both.
- A bike can have tires with items to increase traction.

Bicyclists can ride on sidewalks sometimes. If they do, they need to give right of way to pedestrians and give an audible, verbal signal before they pass people. Bikers can not ride on the sidewalk when they are in business districts (like downtown), unless authorities give permission. If a biker is on a sidewalk, they have all the rights and rules as pedestrians.

When riding a bicycle in the street, there are some instances when you can go through a red light. Sometimes the traffic light does not detect the biker and does not change to green. As a biker, you can go through the red light if:

- The bicycle has come to a complete stop
- The light is red for an unreasonable amount of time
- The traffic light is apparently broken or malfunctioning
- No other vehicles are approaching

- Approaching vehicles or pedestrians are so far away that they don't present a hazard

## Motorized Bicycles



A motorized bicycle is a bicycle with a motor, not a motorcycle. They cannot ride on sidewalks, freeways, or lanes designated for bicycles or pedestrians.

## Motorcycles



Motorcyclists have to follow the same rules as other drivers. Treat a motorcycle the same as you would treat another car.

Motorcycles are smaller than cars so it can be hard to judge how fast they are going and how far away they are when they are coming towards you.

When you follow a motorcycle you should leave as much or more space as you leave between you and other cars. When you pass a motorcycle allow the motorcycle as much space from the rear of your car as you would another car.

If a motorcyclist is passing you, do not speed up and stay in your lane.

Do not drive alongside a motorcycle in the same lane. That is very dangerous and illegal.

Follow the same yielding and right of way rules with motorcycles as you would other cars.

Motorcyclists can use HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes.

## Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV)

A NEV is a vehicle powered by electricity. It can go at least 20mph, but not more than 25mph. Anyone with a Class D license can drive a NEV, but only on roads that have a speed limit of 35mph or less.

## Commercial Vehicles

A commercial vehicle is a large vehicle or combination of vehicles that weigh more than 26,000 pounds that is used to transport people or property. Buses, school buses, and small vehicles that carry hazardous materials are also commercial vehicles.



### Passing a Commercial Vehicle

Passing a commercial vehicle is similar to passing a normal car. There are some differences though. Make sure you have safe clearance (enough space) to the side, behind, and ahead of your vehicle. It takes 3 to 5 seconds longer to pass a commercial vehicle than a car – because they are longer and bigger. Because it takes longer, you have to make sure you can pass the whole vehicle safely before oncoming traffic is within 100 feet.

If you plan to exit the highway soon or turn off from a roadway, do not pass a commercial vehicle. Instead of making a pass that could be unsafe, stay behind the commercial vehicle until you arrive at the exit.

Going up a hill, a commercial vehicle will most likely slow down; it will be easier to pass at that time. Going down a hill, a commercial vehicle will go faster. Make sure you allow more time to pass.

Pass the commercial vehicles as quickly as possible and do not stay next to the vehicle longer than you have to. Move back into your lane when you can see the entire commercial vehicle in your rearview mirror. Keep your speed the same.

If a commercial vehicle wants to pass you, you should stay in your lane and slow down a little. Do not speed up. When a commercial vehicle is coming from the opposite direction, move to the right of your lane.

Commercial vehicles are big, and because of that it is hard to tell how fast they are going. They often seem to be going slower than they actually are going.

### Lane Changing in Front of Commercial Vehicles

"Cutting off" or cutting too close in front of another car is always dangerous, but it is especially dangerous in front of a commercial vehicle. It takes longer for them to stop, so you might cause an accident if the driver can not stop in time. You also might move into one of their blind spots so the driver might not be able to see you.

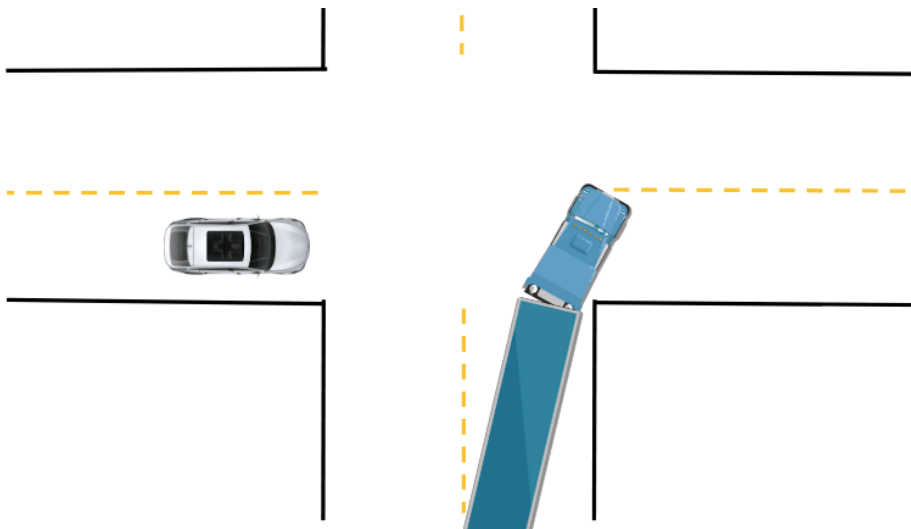
### Following a Commercial Vehicle

The stopping distance for a commercial vehicle is much longer than for a regular car. For example, a regular car might take 140 feet to stop when it is travelling at 55mph. It would take a commercial vehicle 400

feet to stop. Do not follow too closely behind a commercial vehicle because it makes it harder to see the road. If you see a commercial vehicle merging in front of you, slow down, because it takes them longer to get faster.

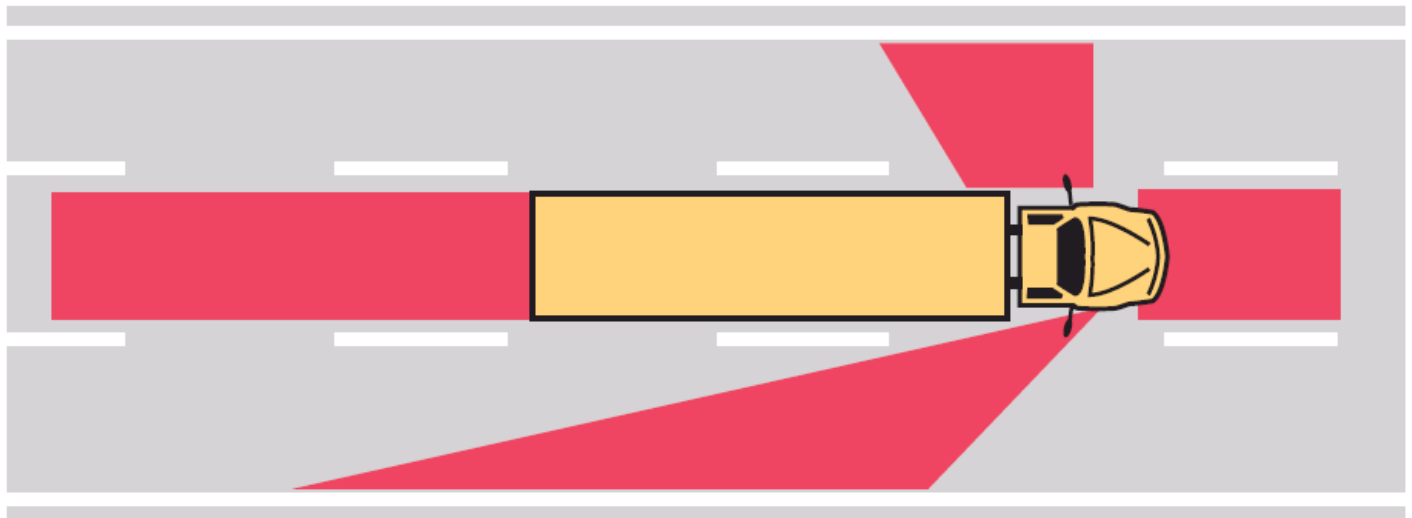
### Commercial Vehicles and Wide Turns

Always look out for turn signals on a commercial vehicle. They take wide turns (they take up more space when they turn) and you do not want to be next to it when it turns because the commercial vehicle could hit your car.



### Commercial Vehicle “No Zones”

If you are near a commercial vehicle, stay out of the “no zones” (the areas in red in the picture below). These are the commercial vehicles blind spots, which are much bigger than blind spots on a car.



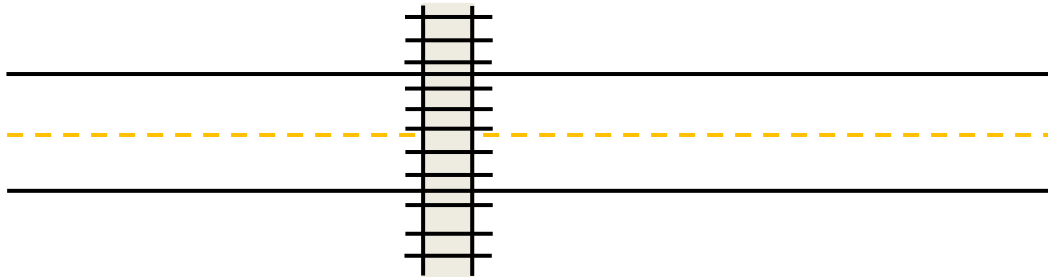
## Patience Around Commercial Vehicles

When you are around a commercial vehicle they might be going slower than you are. You should not honk, drive aggressively, or suddenly move through traffic because it might cause distractions to other drivers or crashes.

## Railroad Crossings

A railroad crossing is where a railroad crosses the road.

Railroad crossings can be dangerous places. Trains are big and move fast, so if there is a crash, it is deadly for the person in the car. You should pay extra attention to your surroundings when you get close to a railroad crossing.



## Railroad Crossing Warning Devices

Railroad crossings are labeled or marked with warning devices that are designed to let drivers know when railroad tracks are present. There are warning signs and pavement markers to let you know you are getting close to tracks. Signs will tell you how many tracks there are. Be prepared to stop if there is a train coming.



Flashing lights, bells, and gates tell you that a train is coming. If you see these lights or gates and hear the bells do not cross the tracks. Stop the car at least 10 feet from the nearest gate or rail. It is safe to cross when the train has passed and the lights and bells are no longer active.



## Special Vehicles at Railroad Crossings

Sometimes vehicles need to stop at all railroad tracks, even if there is no train. These are vehicles like passenger vans, buses, and larger trucks. If you are behind a vehicle like this, do not pass them at railroad crossings. It is illegal to pass any vehicle within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.

## Railroad Crossing Safety

There might be more than one train coming from different directions. If one train passes completely do not go forward until you are sure there isn't another train coming from the other direction. When you get to railroad crossings, always look both ways, even if there are no warning devices (signs, lights, bell, or gates).

Do not stop on the tracks. If there are a lot of cars, make sure you can make it passed the tracks before driving forward.

Never race a train to get to the other side of train tracks. Trains can not stop easily and if you get stuck, you might get seriously injured or killed. Do not shift gears while you are crossing a train track.

If you are on a motorcycle be careful when you arrive at a railroad crossing. Do not swerve (move suddenly to the side).

It is hard to tell how fast a train is going, so if you see lights or hear bells, stop. If you are unsure if you should cross or not, do not cross. Wait until the train has stopped.

## Emergency Notification System (ENS) for Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

If there is a problem at a railroad crossing on a highway you can call a number that is provided at every highway-rail crossing. You tell the people the number given and the problem and they can come and fix it.



## Highway Work Zones

Highway work zones are where road construction or maintenance work is happening. The machines can work at day and night and they might move around. There are signs in these areas to tell cars where to go. You must be able to understand what the signs mean (there is more information about signs in Chapter 5).

You have to be patient in work zones and expect delays – especially if there are a lot of cars. Slow down, and watch out for workers, machines, and other equipment. If you do not follow the rules of a flag person in a work zone, you will get a ticket and have to pay a fine.

There are reduced speed areas in most work zones. If there are not signs telling you to slow down, do not go faster than the speed limit. Keep a safe distance away from workers.





### “Late Merge – Zipper Merge”

A zipper merge is when the drivers stay in their lanes until the point of merging (instead of merging early when they see a sign that says the lane will end). Then drivers take turns with other drivers to safely and smoothly merge into the remaining lane. It is safer to do this than merge early. This helps reduce crashes, road rage, and traffic.

#### REGULAR MERGE:



#### ZIPPER MERGE:

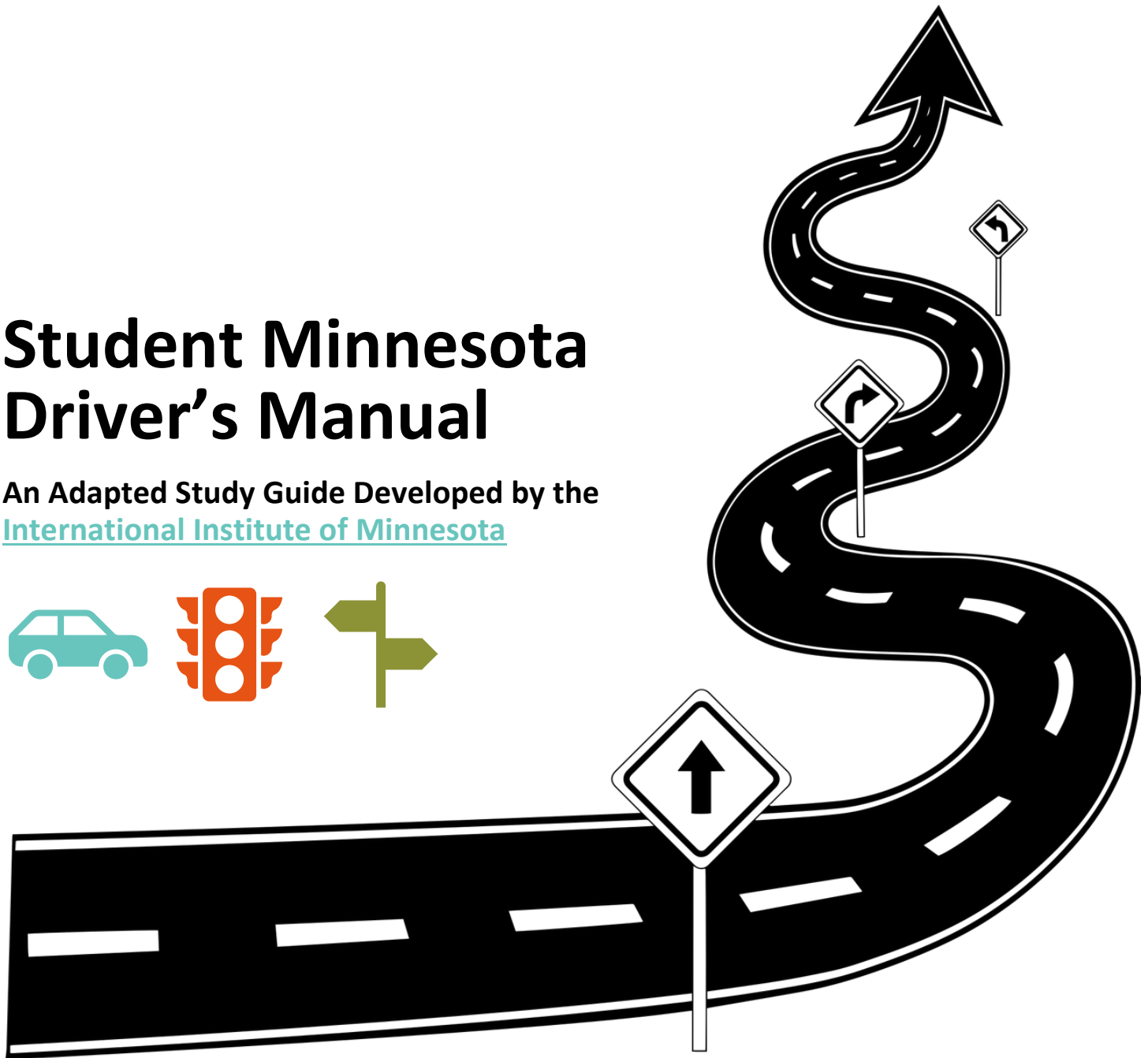


### 10 Rules of Survival if Stopped by the Police

1. Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police. Keep your mouth closed.
2. Remember that your goal is to get home safely. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your parents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.
3. Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.
4. Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.
5. Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.
6. Avoid physical contact with the police. No sudden movements, and keep hands out of your pockets.
7. Do not run, even if you are afraid of the police.
8. Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.
9. Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or public defender.
10. Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.

# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)



## CHAPTER 5: SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS



### Signs

Road signs are very common. You need to know what road signs mean so you can drive safely with other drivers.




Road signs use colors, shapes, symbols, pictures, and words. The colors all mean something different and you can know what the sign means based on its color even before you can read it.

### Sign Color Meanings




#### Regulatory:

-  Red: Prohibits and commands. These signs tell you what you can not do and what you must do.
-  White: Regulates. These signs tell you the rules.

#### Warning:

-  Yellow: Warns. These signs tell you of possible dangers ahead.
-  Yellow-green: Warns and controls in pedestrian and bicycle crossings and school areas. These signs do the same thing as yellow signs, but in bicycle, pedestrian, and school areas
-  Orange: Warns and controls in construction zones. If you see an orange sign you know you are in or getting close to an area where there is construction or maintenance.

#### Informational:

-  Green: Guides and informs. These signs tell you street names, distances between cities, and highways
-  Blue: Describes services for motorists. These signs tell you if something you need is near like a bathroom.
-  Brown: Indicates historic, cultural, or recreation sites. You will see these signs near important places or national parks.

### Common Shapes



Octagon



Triangle



Diamond



Rectangle



Pentagon



Crossbuck



Circle

## Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs tell drivers to follow certain traffic laws. You have to obey (follow the rules) of these signs to make sure you are driving safely and legally. If you do not obey the signs, you might get a ticket and pay a fine.



### Stop:

Come to a complete stop. Remain stopped until pedestrians or cars that have the right of way are no longer in the intersection. Drive with caution. Make sure to look and see if cars are coming from either direction – look left, right, and then left again.



### Yield:

Slow down or stop if necessary. Give the right of way to all other vehicles and pedestrians, and wait until it is safe to proceed. If there are cars or people, stop until they have passed. If there are no cars or people, you can go.



### Do Not Enter:

Do not enter that lane or road if this sign is facing you. Do not drive towards the sign.



### Wrong Way:

If you see this sign, you have entered a lane of oncoming traffic. You are traveling in the wrong direction. Do not go the way you are going if you see this sign.



No Left Turn



No Right Turn



No U-turn



No Parking

A red circle with a slash mark across a symbol means you should not do certain things. For example: if there is a slash over an arrow turning left, you can not turn left. It is illegal to turn left.



### Speed Limit

Speed limit signs tell you the fastest that you can drive in a certain part of the road. Sometimes there is a minimum speed limit posted. Do not go faster than the speed limit, and do not go slower than the minimum speed limit (unless weather or traffic causes you to go slower).



**Do Not Pass:**

This sign labels the beginning of a zone where you can not pass other cars. A section of the road where you can not pass other cars is called a “no passing zone.”

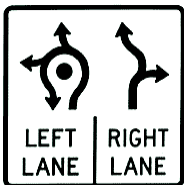


**One Way:** Traffic in the specified lane flows only in the direction of the arrow. Only drive in the direction the arrow is pointing.



**Keep Right:**

Stay to the right of a traffic island, median, or obstruction ahead. There will be something in the road, and you need to stay to the right of it.



**Roundabout:** A roundabout is a type of intersection (more information about roundabouts in Chapter 3). When you are coming up to a multi-lane roundabout (there is more than one lane), you should get in the right lane before you get to the roundabout. This type of sign will tell you which lanes you can use for different turns. For example here, if you want to turn right you need to get into the right lane, if you want to turn left you need to get into the left lane, and if you want to go straight, you can use either lane.



**Lane-Use Control Signs:** Turning is required if you are in certain lanes. If you are in the left lane you must turn left. If you are in the right lane, you can turn left or go straight. It is illegal if you turn the wrong way or go straight when you must turn.



**No Turn on Red:** Sometimes you can turn on a red light. However, if you see this sign you can not turn until the light has turned green. It is illegal if you turn on red at an intersection with this sign. Sometimes this sign will not have the red circle.



**Center Lane Only:**

The center lane is shared, for the purpose of making left turns, by traffic traveling in both directions. Two cars facing each other can both turn left at the same time by using the center lane.



### Reduced Speed Ahead:

A slower speed limit is posted ahead. You should start to lower your speed when you see this sign. For example, the speed might be 60mph now, but there is a “reduced speed ahead” sign, and the speed limit is 40mph ahead. Slow down now, so you don’t drive over 40mph.



### Restricted Lane:

The diamond on a sign means that the lane is only for a specific use or certain type of vehicle. The lane might be reserved for cars with two or more people, for buses, for commercial vehicles, or for bicycles. Do not use a lane that is designated for a vehicle that you are not in.



### Handicapped Parking:

Parking spaces that have a blue “handicapped parking” sign are only for vehicles that have visible disability license plates or a disability parking permit. It is illegal to park in these spots without a permit or license plates. When disability parking spots are not available or they are taken, a vehicle with a disability permit or disability license plates can park at an angle and occupy two regular parking spaces. This is because the driver or passengers might need more space to get out of their car.

## Warning Signs

Warning signs alert you (tell you) of possible hazards or dangers ahead. You must be able to recognize and react to these signs to make sure you are safe and other drivers are safe. Most warning signs are yellow; some will be fluorescent (bright) green. Very few are white (like some railroad crossing signs)



**Railroad Crossings:** Warning signs, pavement markings (markings on the road), gates, and flashing red lights are located at most railroad crossings. The marks on the road are a stop line (you must stop so the front of your car does not cross this line), an “X,” and the letters “RR” painted on the pavement in front of the crossing.

The X-shaped sign with the words Railroad Crossing means there is a railroad crossing. If there is more than one track, there will be a sign under the crossbuck (the x) that tells you how many tracks there are.

If there is a sign that says “exempt” it means that drivers who usually have to stop at railroad crossings like bus and truck drivers do not have to stop. Those drivers still need to look in both directions for trains.





**Railroad Crossings:** These signs tell drivers that a railroad crossing is ahead.

Drivers should slow down and look carefully in both directions. Be prepared to stop. If there is a train, you must stop. Trains can not stop quickly so never race a train.



**School Zone:** These signs will be yellow or fluorescent green. They are in the shape of a pentagon (5 sides). They tell you that a school or a school crosswalk is ahead. When you see this sign you should watch for children and be ready to stop.

**School Crossing:** Watch for children in the crosswalk and be ready to stop. Drivers must yield and give right of way to pedestrians in the crosswalk. People get to go first.

The school crossing sign with an arrow underneath is the normal sign for a crosswalk near a school.



**Pedestrian Crossing:** These signs tell drivers to look out for pedestrians (people)

crossing the road. Slow down and be ready to stop. Yield the right of way to pedestrians, they get to go first. The normal sign is the pedestrian crossing sign with an arrow underneath.



**No Passing Zone:** This sign means you can not pass other cars. There will be another sign ahead at the end of the no passing zone. These signs are on the left side of a two way highway.



**Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem:** This emblem (symbol) needs to be on all vehicles that travel 30pmh or less when they are on a public road. When you see this sign, prepare to slow down or change lanes.



**Horse-drawn Vehicle:** This means there is a vehicle being pulled by a horse. Be ready to slow down, and if you see one, pass slowly.

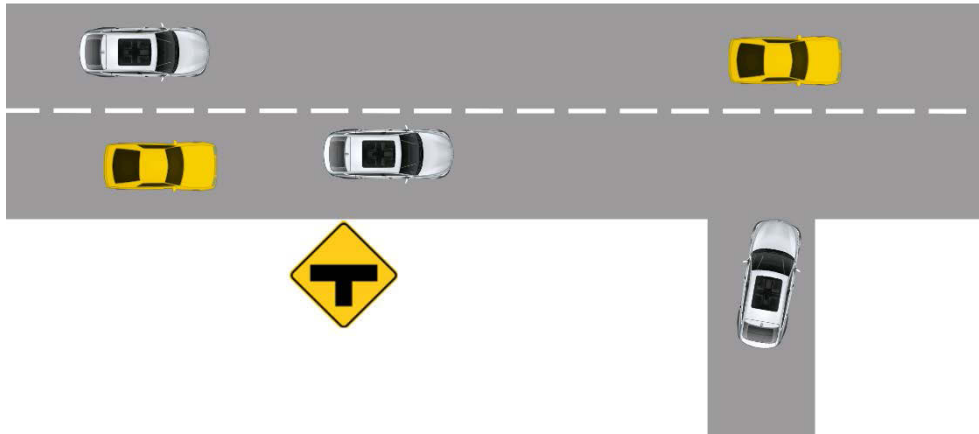
### Intersection Warning Signs



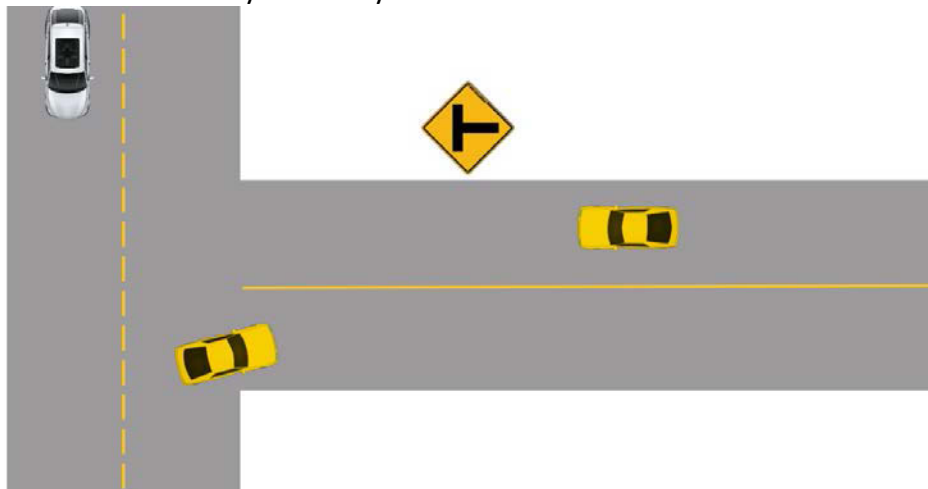
**Crossroad:** An intersection is ahead – two streets will cross each other. Be ready to yield or stop.



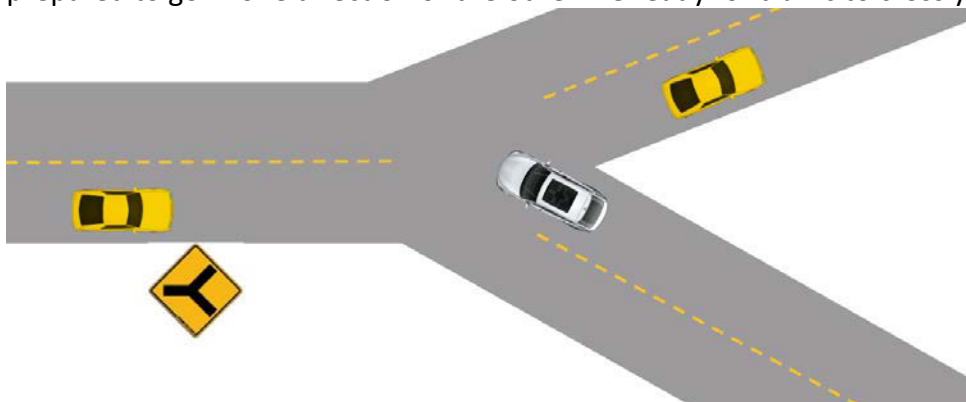
**Side Road:** Traffic is entering the road from the right. Watch for cars entering. They usually have to yield, but make sure you are looking out for them.



**T-Intersection Ahead:** The road you are on will end soon. Be ready to turn right or left. You will usually need to yield to cars on the cross road ahead.



**Y-Intersection Ahead:** The road ahead splits into two different directions. Be prepared to go in one direction or the other. Be ready for traffic to cross your path.





**Curve:** The road curves in the direction indicated on the sign. If the sign also had a speed limit, slow to the speed on the sign. In this example, the road will curve to the left and the speed limit while driving on the curve is 35mph.



**Roundabout:** As you get closer to a roundabout slow down – if there is a speed limit posted, slow to the speed on the sign. Be ready to stop if there are other cars in the roundabout. They have the right of way. If there are no cars in the roundabout, you can enter without stopping.



**Winding Road Ahead:** The road ahead winds (curves) back and forth like the image on the sign. Slow down, if there is a speed limit on the sign, slow to the speed on the sign.



**Two-way Traffic Ahead:** You are leaving a one-way road and entering a two-way road. Stay to the right. There will be cars coming toward you on the left side of the road.



**Divided Highway Begins:** The road you are on is going to split (divide). Stay to the right of the divider.



**Divided Highway Ends:** The divided road is going to end. There will no longer be a median between the two sides of the road. Two-way traffic will no longer be divided by a center island.



**Traffic Signal Ahead:** There is a traffic light at the next intersection. If the light is red, you will have to stop.



**Road Turns Ahead:** The road ahead sharply (quickly or suddenly) changes direction. The road will turn in the direction the arrow is pointing. Slow down to a safe turning speed. In this example, the road turns to the left.



**Crossing Signs:** Crossing signs tell drivers to look out for animals, humans, and vehicles that are crossing the road. When you see a sign like this, look out for the thing on the sign.



**Slippery Road:** The surface of the road is slippery when it is wet. This is important after or during rain or snow. This sign is often near bridges and overpasses. Bridges and overpasses get very slippery during rain and snow because they have a lower temperature than the ground.



**Steep Hill:** The road ahead declines (goes down) steeply. Make sure your car's brakes are working before you go down one of these hills.



**Lane Ends:** Two lanes will turn into one. In this example, cars in the right lane need to merge into the left lane. The right lane must yield to the cars in the left lane. Left lane has the right of way.



**Merging Traffic:** Cars merge onto the road you are on. Be prepared to let cars enter traffic when you see this sign. In this example, cars are merging from the right side of the road.



**Added Lane:** The road you are on will gain (add) another lane of traffic. The new cars will not have to merge into the traffic already on the road.



**Low Clearance Ahead:** Clearance means height. Low clearance means there is something ahead that is not very high that you will have to drive underneath. Do not continue driving if your car or vehicle is taller than the height written on the sign. Your car might become stuck if you keep driving.



**Narrow Bridge:** The bridge ahead is narrower (skinny) than the road you are on.

### Construction Signs

Orange signs with black letters are used in construction and work zones. If you see an orange sign, slow down. These signs warn drivers about restricted (limited) lanes of traffic, detours (using a different road to get to the same destination), and other road work hazards or dangers.



Drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrows, and orange and white striped barriers are all used to keep cars out of a construction area or areas where it is dangerous to drive. You might also see people holding orange signs, flags, or stop signs. They will give directions in work zones. Always follow their directions. They are there to keep you safe.



These signs tell you there is a detour you might have to take. A detour is an alternative route to the same place or using different roads to get to the same end location.



This sign tells you that there is a person with a flag ahead. Be careful (cautious) when you are driving and listen to what the flag person tells you.



This sign means that there are workers who are working on the road. They are performing maintenance on the roadway. Slow down and change your lane position so you are farther away from the workers.



There are often reduced (lower) speed limits in work zones. Drivers who drive faster than the speed limit in work zones when workers are present will be given a \$300 fine. Sometimes the normal fine for speeding or breaking other driving rules will be doubled if you are in a work zone.



If you see a sign that you recognize as a sign that is usually yellow, do the same things you would if the sign is yellow. Just know that everything you do will be in a construction zone where fines for breaking rules are higher. This is an example of one of those signs.

### Historic, Cultural, and Recreational Signs

Brown signs tell you that there are historic sites, parks, and other interesting points in the area.



### Motorist Services Signs

Blue signs direct you to services like telephones, gas, food, hotels, hospitals, and rest areas (places to stop and relax when you are driving).



### Guidance and Information Signs

Green signs tell you about exits, distance to cities, interstate interchanges (more information in Chapter 6), street or route names, and bicycle routes.





### Route Signs

Route signs tell you different types of roadways. Use these signs to know which highway, freeway, or interstate you are on.



**Interstate Freeway**



**U.S. Highway**



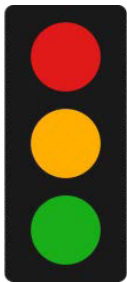
**Minnesota Highway**



**County Road**



**County Road**

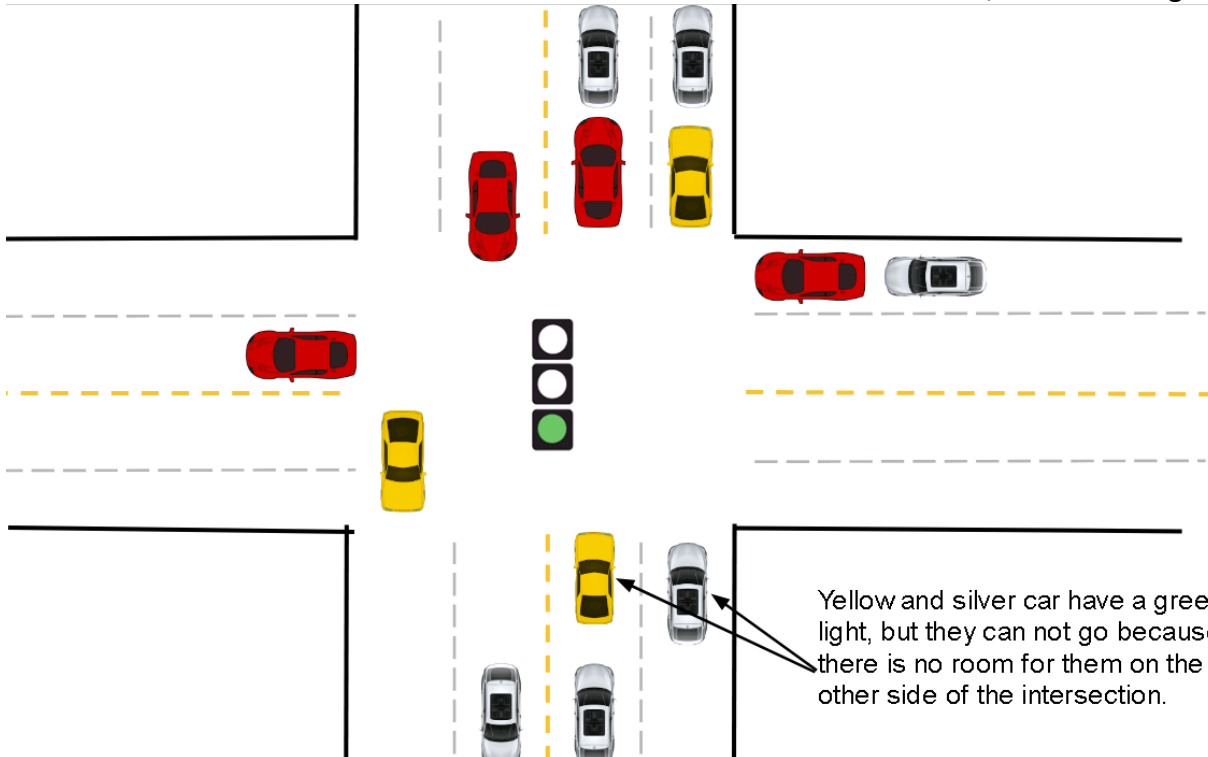


### Traffic-Control Signals

Traffic-Control Signals (traffic lights) are used at intersections where there are a lot of cars and other vehicles. Signals promote safety and orderly flow of traffic. If the traffic signal is not working, treat the intersection like an uncontrolled intersection (an intersection without a traffic light).

### Intersection Gridlock

A driver should not enter an intersection with a traffic light until they are able to move their car immediately, continuously, and completely through the intersection without impeding or blocking the movement of cross-traffic. If cars are stuck in the middle of the intersection, this is called gridlock.





Gridlock rules do not apply (are not important) when:

- You are directed by a traffic-control or police officer
- You are moving to allow an emergency vehicle with its lights and sirens on to pass
- You are making a turn that allows the vehicle to safely leave the intersection



**A steady red light means “stop.”**

Stop and wait for the light to change to green. Come to a complete stop at the stop line, before the crosswalk, or before you enter the intersection. Do not stop in the intersection.



After you stop, you can make a right turn when the intersection is empty. You can only do this if you are allowed to turn right in that intersection. If there is a “No Turn on Red” sign, you have to wait until the light is green to turn right.



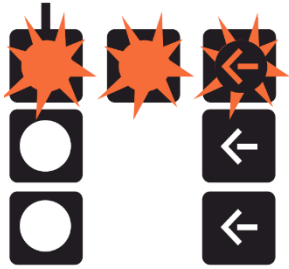
Sometimes you can turn left from a one way road onto another one way cross-street when the light is red. Before you turn, you have to stop completely, make sure the intersection is clear, and yield to other cars or pedestrians (people). Traffic can only travel in the direction you are turning.



**A red arrow means “stop.”**

You must come to a complete stop at the stop line, before the crosswalk, or before you enter the intersection. Do not stop in the intersection. When the arrow turns green, you can go in the direction the arrow is pointing.





If you see a flashing red light, you should act like you do when you see a stop sign. Come to a complete stop, yield to the cars and people who reach the intersection before you, and go when the intersection is clear.



**A steady yellow light or arrow means “caution.” The signal is about to turn red.**

Do not enter the intersection if you can safely stop before you get there. If you can not stop safely, go through the intersection with caution (be careful). If you are waiting in the intersection to make a turn, and the signal changes from yellow to red, finish the turn as soon as you can do it safely. Do not back up.



**A flashing yellow light or arrow means “caution”.**

Go through the intersection with caution (be careful). Yield to vehicles and pedestrians already in the intersection. They have the right of way. If you are turning left or making a U-turn to the left you need to yield to cars coming towards you from the opposite direction if they are close enough to be a danger. Cars going straight have the right of way.



**A green light**

You can cross the intersection as soon as it is clear. Green means go. Yield to any people or cars that are in the intersection. When you are turning left, yield to oncoming traffic (cars coming toward you from the opposite direction). When you are turning left or right, yield to pedestrians (people) crossing in front o your car.



**A green arrow means you can safely turn in the direction of the arrow.**

Your turn is “protected” from oncoming or crossing traffic. You have the right of way.

### Pedestrian Signals

There are stop and go signs for pedestrians just like there are for cars. Pedestrians must obey these lights.



When the pedestrian or "Walk" signal is showing, pedestrians should look to see if the road is clear to cross the intersection before they walk. Once a person is in the intersection they can continue walking to the other side of the road.



When the hand or the "Don't Walk" signal is flashing, pedestrians should not start to cross the intersection. People who are already in the intersection can continue walking to the other side of the roadway at a normal pace. They do not have to run.

Sometimes the signal shows numbers – that is how many seconds you have left to cross the street.



When the hand or "Don't Walk" signal is showing – and not flashing, pedestrians should not cross the intersection. Pedestrians who are already in the intersection should walk to the nearest safe location as quickly and safely as they can.

### Lane Use Control Signals (Not likely to be on Test)

These signals let lanes be used by traffic from different directions at different times. Drivers must also follow the rules of other signs and signals that apply to the lanes they are in.





A steady green arrow pointing down means you are allowed to drive in the lane below the green arrow.



A steady yellow X means you should be ready to move into another lane in a safely. A lane-control change is being made in the lane below the steady yellow X (they are changing which direction the cars can drive in that lane). A steady red X will be shown next which means you can not drive in that lane because cars are coming the other way.



A flashing yellow X means you can use the lane below the flashing yellow X to make a left turn. You have to be careful because cars turning left from the other direction might be using the same lane.



A steady yellow arrow pointing down means you should get ready to move into another lane safely. The freeway lane below the yellow arrow pointing down will be closed soon.



A flashing yellow arrow pointing down means you can use the freeway lane under the flashing yellow arrow pointing down, but be careful – use caution.



A steady red X means you cannot drive in the lane under the steady red X. the lane is either closed or cars are driving the other direction in that lane.

### Freeway Ramp Meters

Ramp meters are traffic lights on freeway entrance ramps (more in Chapter 6) that help control the amount of cars that enter a freeway at one time. Like traffic lights at intersections, red, yellow, and green lights tell drivers what to do. Only one car can go on every green light.

There will be a sign that says “One Car per Green Light” with freeway ramp meters.



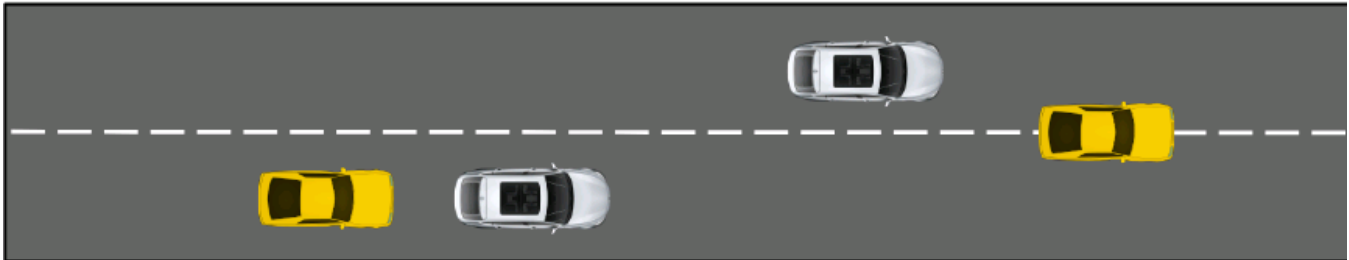
## Pavement Markings

Markings or lines on the pavement on roads direct and regulate traffic.

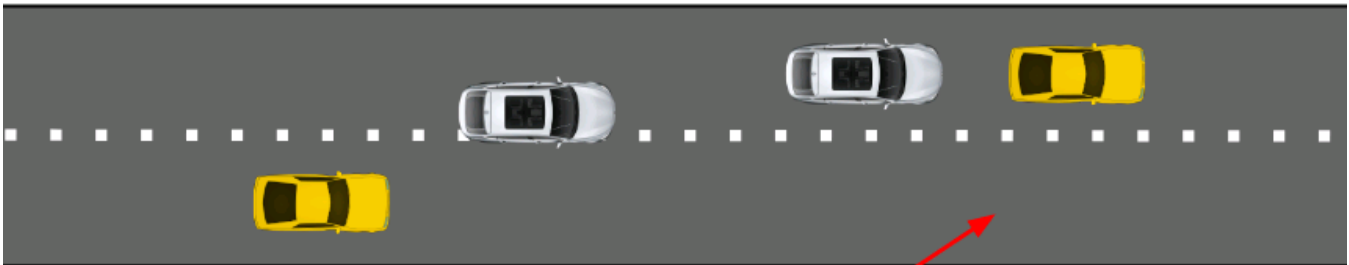
### White Lines

White lines separate lanes of traffic that are travelling in the same direction.

A white dashed line means that drivers can change lanes in areas where this line is present.

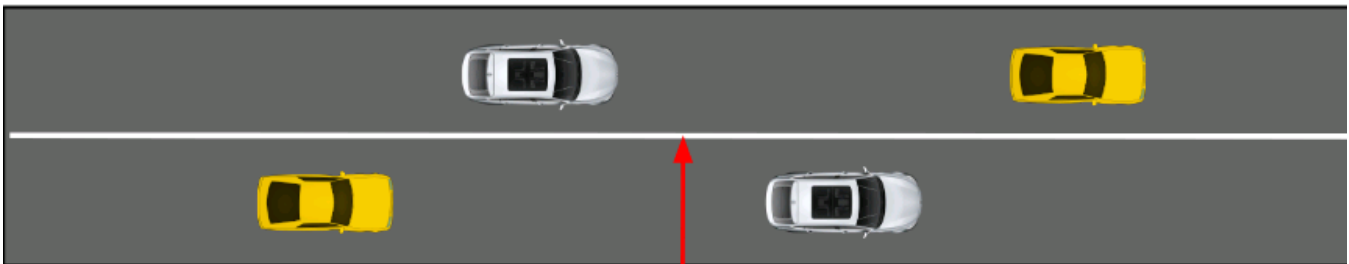


Shorter and wider white dashes mean that the lane will end.



This lane will end

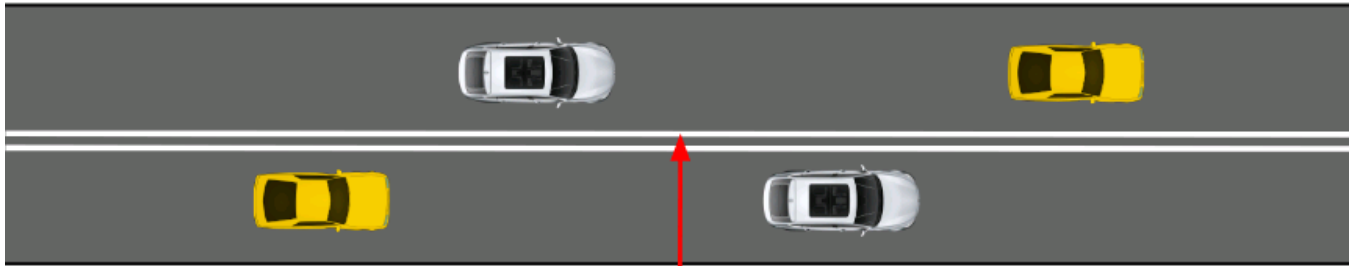
A solid white line means that changing lanes is discouraged (you shouldn't change lanes when this type of line is on the pavement). Solid white lines also show where crosswalks are, stop lines at intersections, parking spots, and the edges of roads.



You should not change lanes

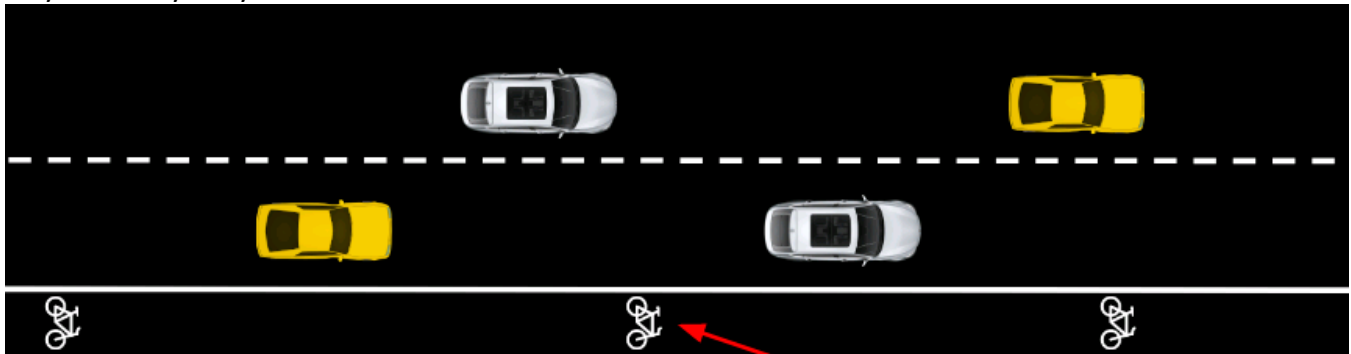


Double solid white lines show that you can not change lanes.



You can not change lanes - it is illegal

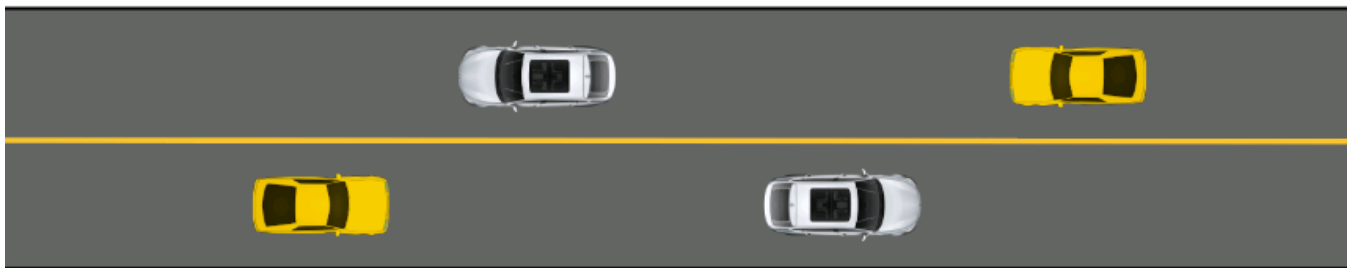
A solid white line with a picture of a bicycle on the side of the road shows an area that is for bicyclists only. Bicycles must travel in the same direction as the traffic next to them.



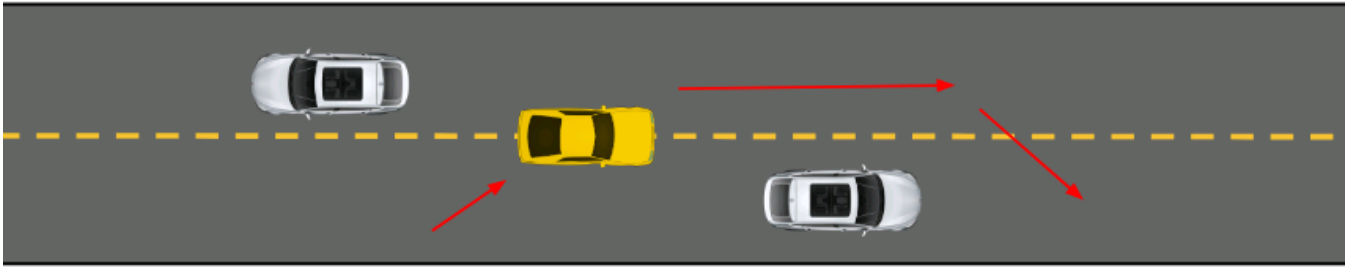
This lane is for people on bicycles only

### Yellow Lines

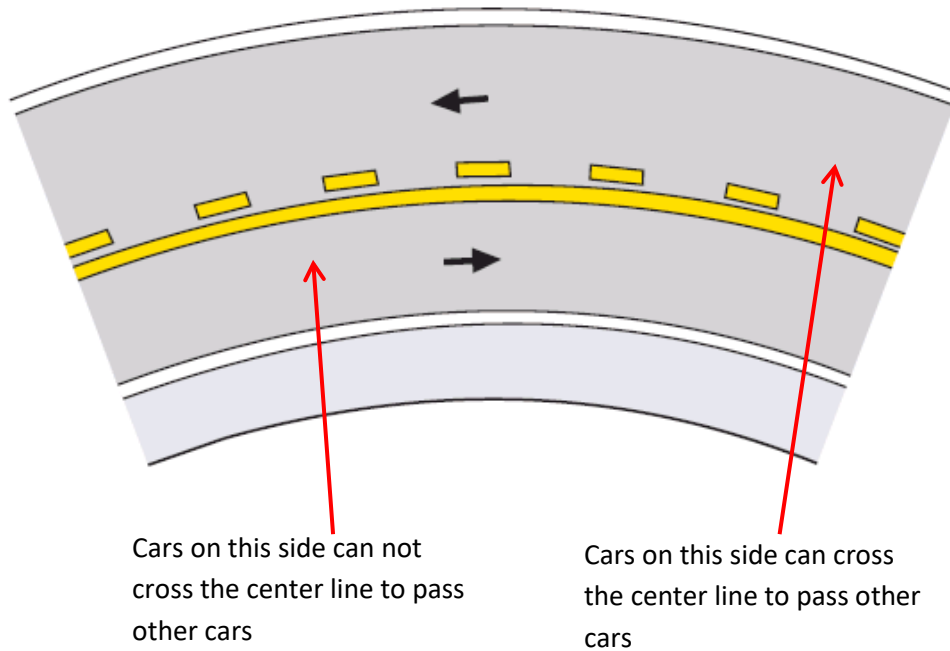
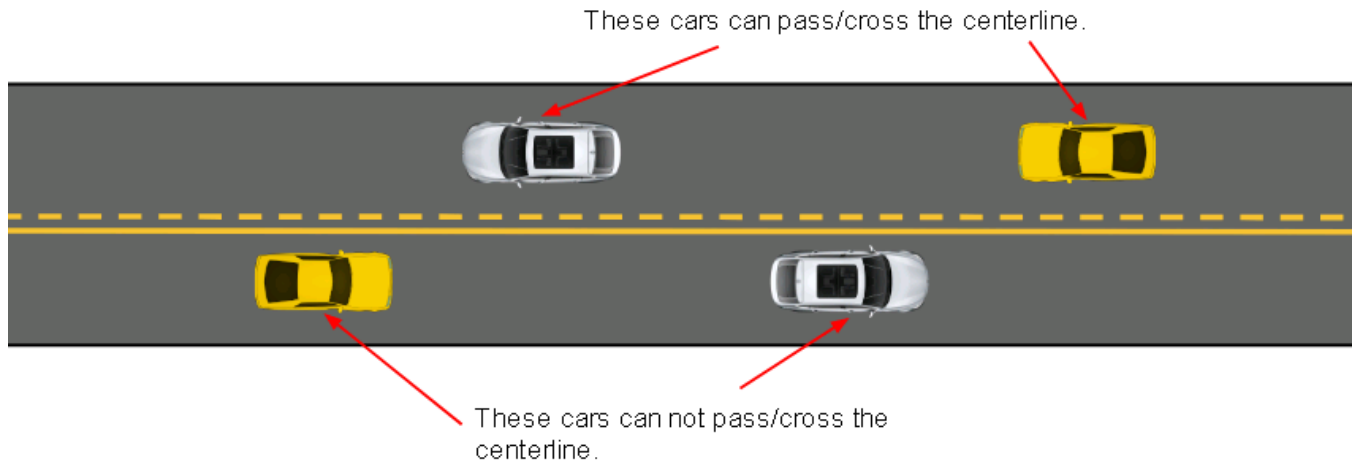
Yellow lines separate traffic that is moving in opposite directions. A solid yellow line means that passing is not allowed. Passing where there is a solid yellow line (no passing zone) is illegal.



A yellow dashed line means that passing is allowed.

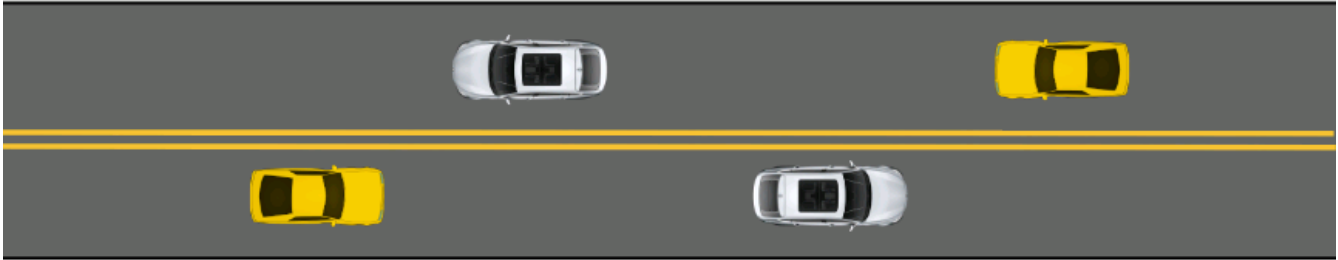


A solid yellow line might be on one side of the road, while a dashed yellow line is on the other side. Drivers have to obey the line that is on their side of the road.



Two solid yellow lines, one in each lane of traffic, mean that passing is not allowed in either direction. Drivers traveling in both directions are not allowed to cross the double solid center line to pass other cars.

No cars can cross the centerline to pass

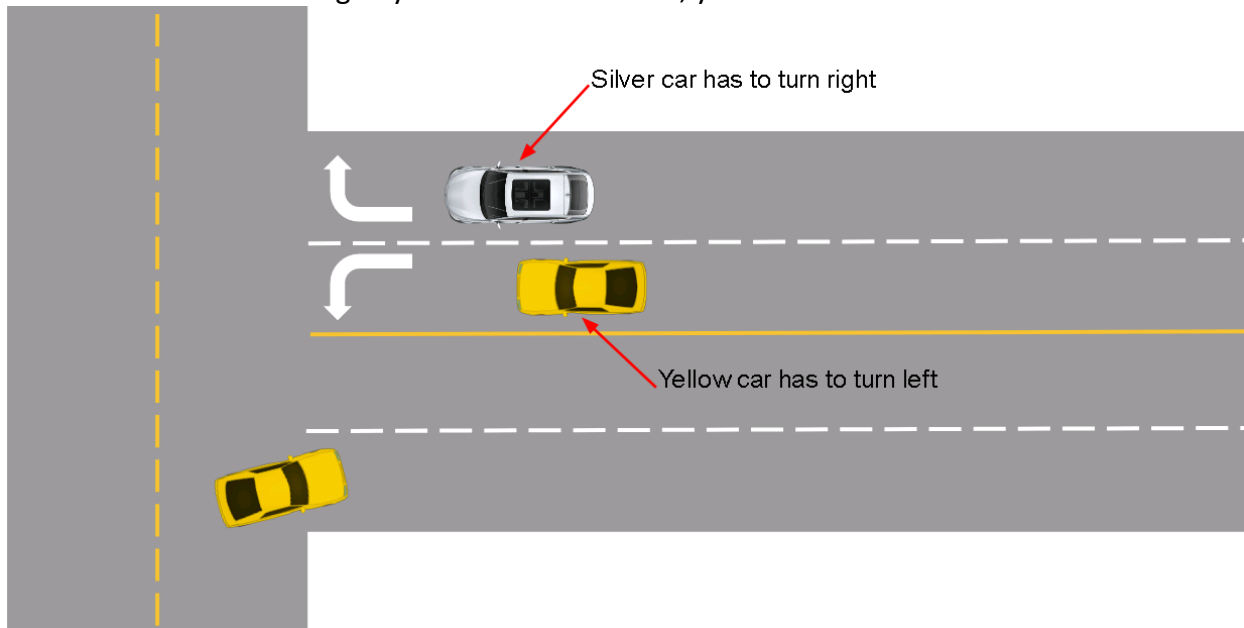


### Lane Markings

Road markings can be used to separate lanes that are only for some actions or types of vehicles. For example turn lanes or lanes only for bicycles.

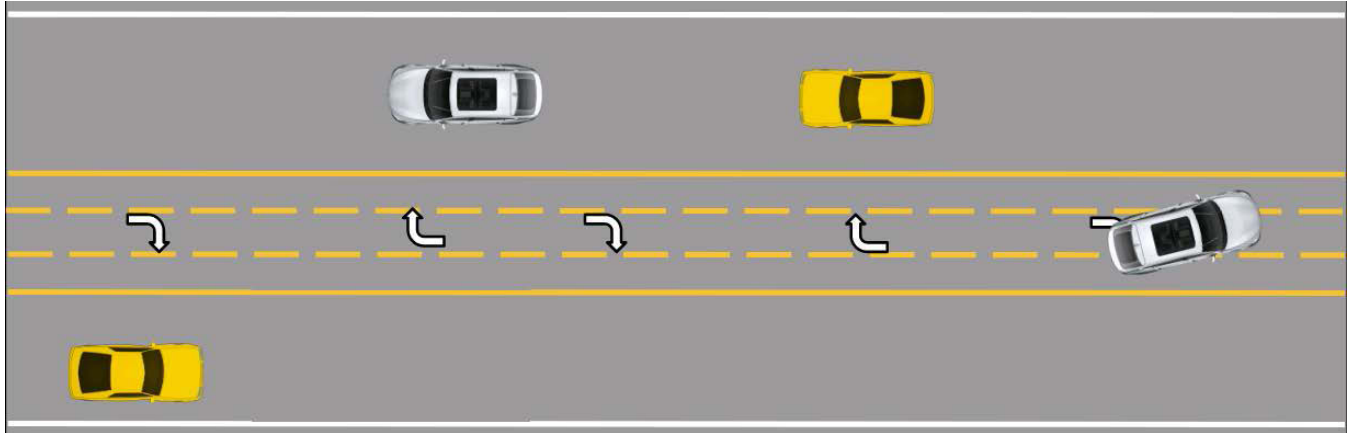
### Turns Lanes

Turn lanes near intersections separate traffic that is turning right or left from traffic that is going straight. White arrows and sometimes the word “only” tell drivers that they need to stay in certain lanes when turning. If your car is in that lane, you have to turn.



### Center Turn Lanes

A center lane between lanes of traffic driving in opposite directions may be only for left turns. This type of lane is marked with parallel (two straight lines next to each other) solid and dashed yellow lines. Sometimes there are white arrows on the pavement next to these lines. Cars driving in either direction can use these lanes to make left turns onto another road or into a driveway.

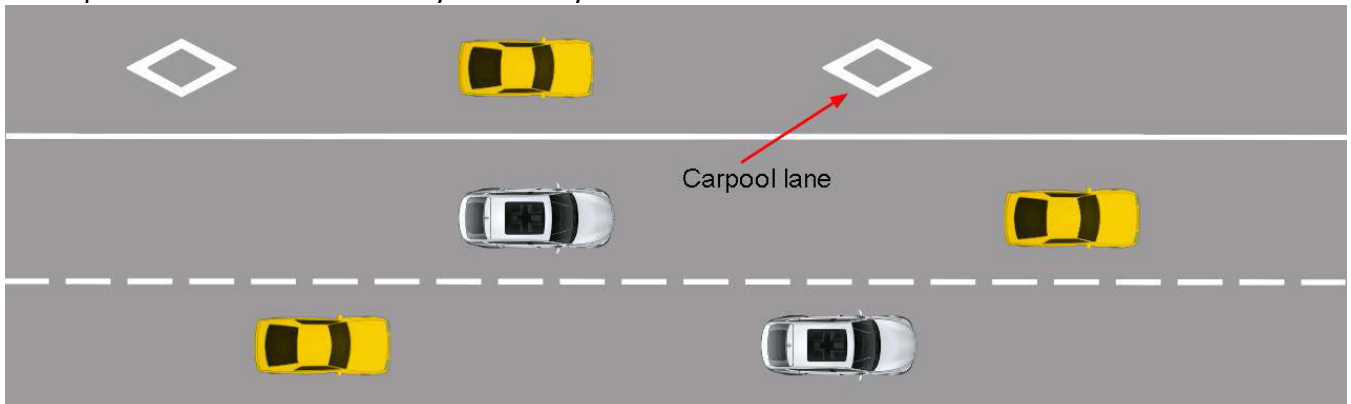


### Reversible Lanes

Reversible Lanes help keep traffic flowing during rush hour (times of day when there are a lot of drivers on the road). They are separated by two yellow dashed lines. You can cross these lines only if the signal above the lane you want to go to has a green arrow, or if there is a sign that says you can do that. (Page 13 and 14)

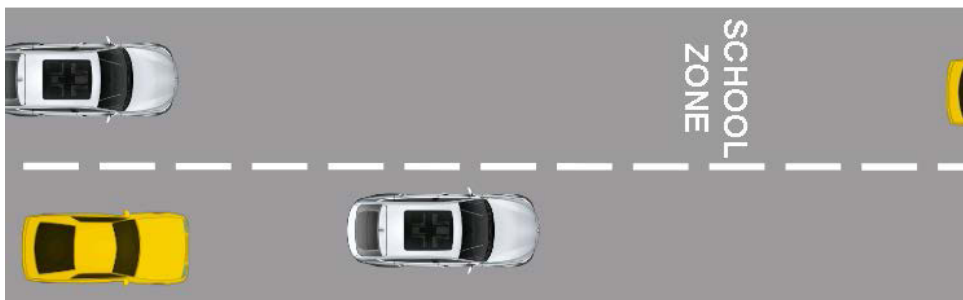
### Carpool Lanes

Carpool lanes are only for vehicles that have two or more people in them. They are marked with a diamond symbol or with "Carpool Only" signs. They are usually on the left side of a freeway and are separated from other lanes by white or yellow lines.

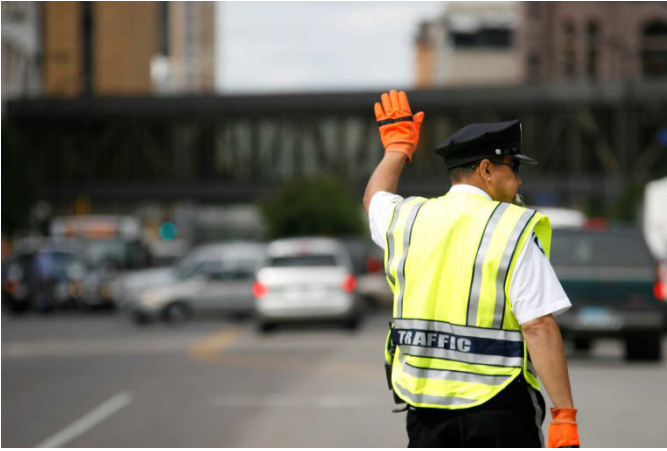


### Warning Markings

Messages on the pavement might be used to warn drivers of conditions like "School Zone Ahead"



## Traffic Officers

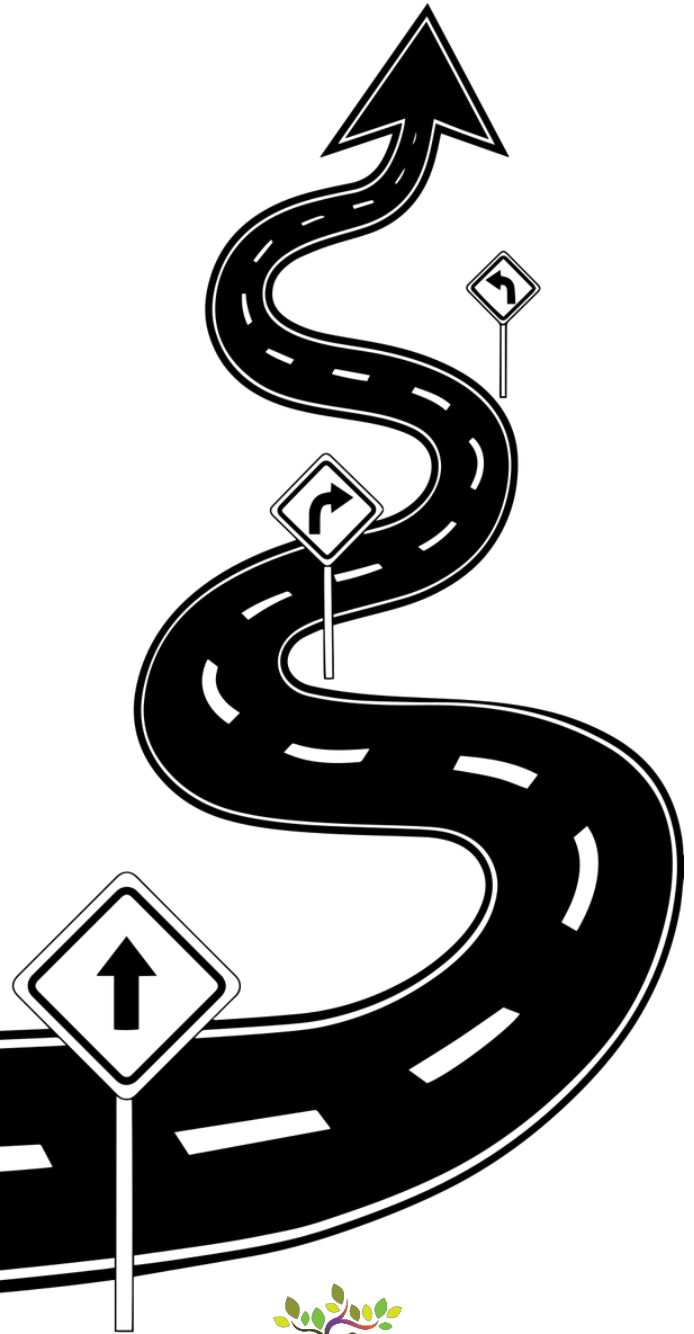


Sometimes police officers or other people direct traffic (tell drivers what to do). When there is an officer on the road, follow any instructions they give you instead of signs, lights, or pavement markings.

Most traffic officers tell drivers to stop by holding up one hand with the palm facing the car and blowing their whistle. Traffic officers tell drivers to keep moving by motioning with the hand and blowing the whistle multiple times. If it is dark outside, officers might use a flashlight.

# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)





## CHAPTER 6: DRIVING CONDITIONS

### Using the SIPDE System

You can not assume other drivers will see you. The only person you can trust is yourself. You should be aware of what is happening around you at all times.

SIPDE is a 5 step process that good drivers use to make judgments and act in different driving situations.

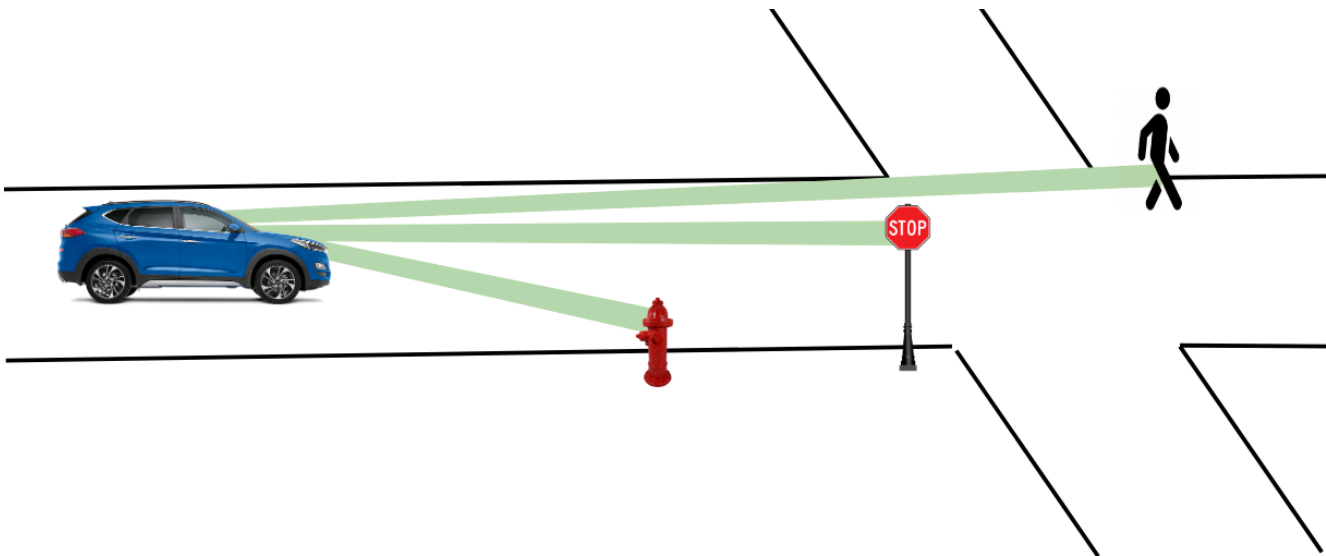
- S** – Scan
- I** – Identify
- P** – Predict
- D** – Decide
- E** – Execute

#### 1. Scan

Search ahead, to the sides and behind you to avoid potential hazards (dangers) before they happen. Do this constantly. If you search well, always keep your eyes open for problems, and keep enough distance between you and other cars, you can prevent a crash.

Search for ways or escape routes to avoid problems especially in intersections, shopping areas, schools, and commercial zones (where there are a lot of trucks, construction machines, and big vehicles). You should look for:

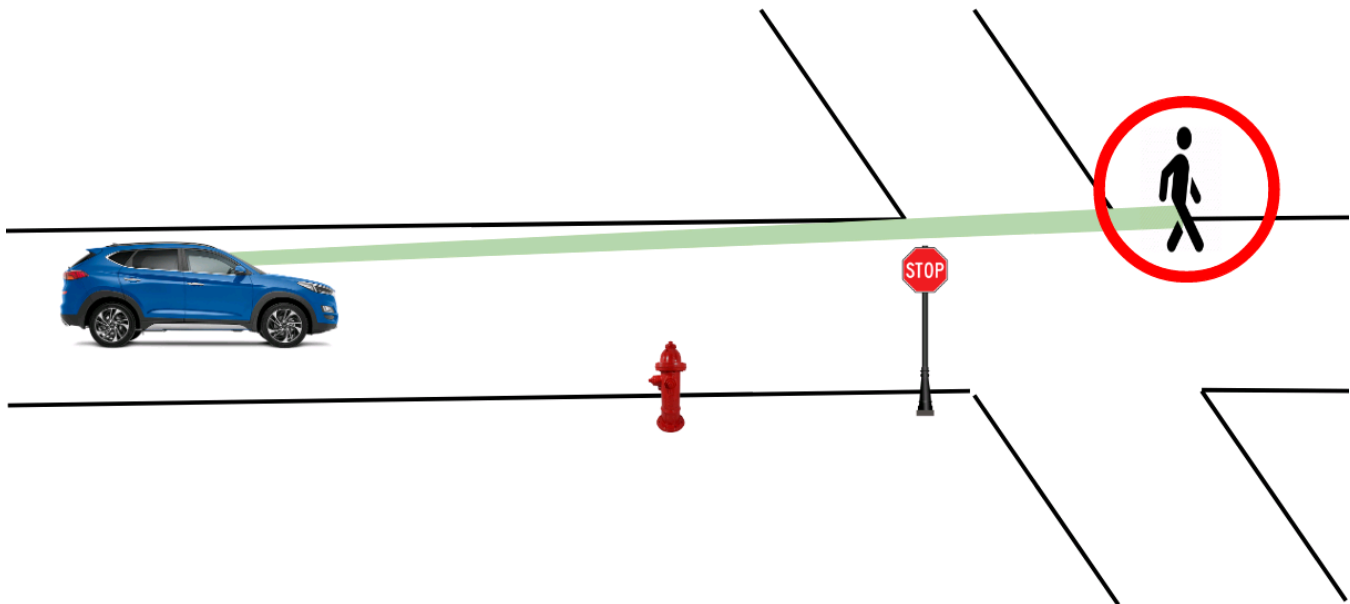
- Oncoming traffic that might turn in front of you
- Traffic that is coming from the right and left – this includes pedestrians (people) and bicycles
- Traffic approaching from behind you
- Dangerous road conditions – like potholes, construction, or narrow lanes



### 2. Identify

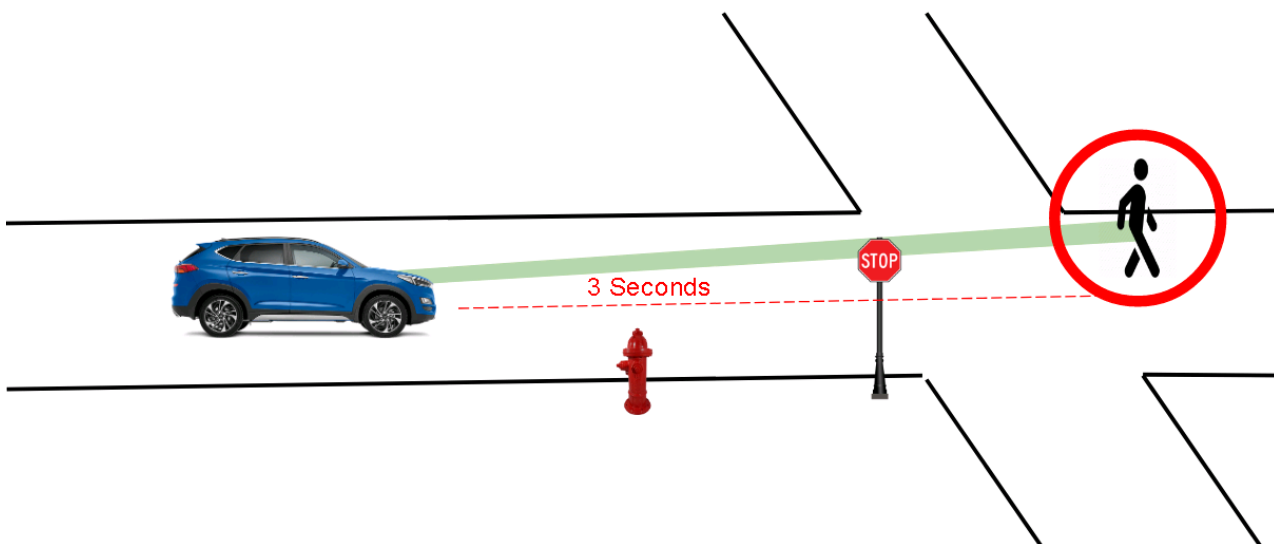
Locate where potential hazards, dangers, or conflicts are. Some examples of potential problems are:

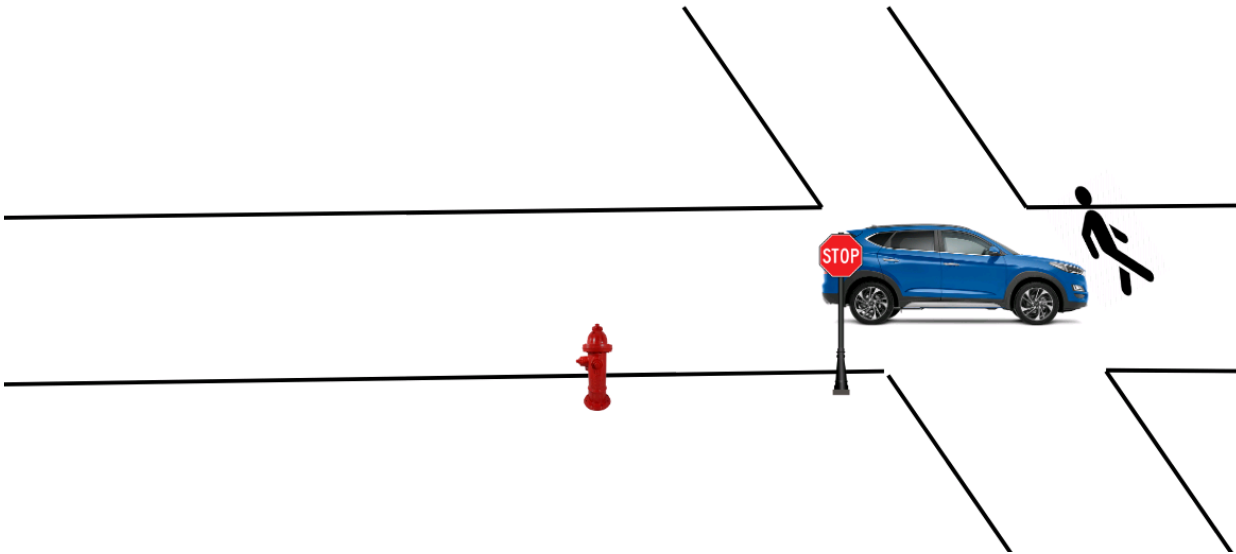
- Cars, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, or other cars might move into your lane and increase the chance of a crash.
- Children and animals that are by themselves are hard to predict. They might make fast, sudden moves and jump in front of you car.
- Objects that will not move like potholes, guard rails, bridges, signs, or trees won't move into your path, but they could influence how you drive. They might change which direction you go, or what path you take, or which lane you decide to drive in.



### 3. Predict

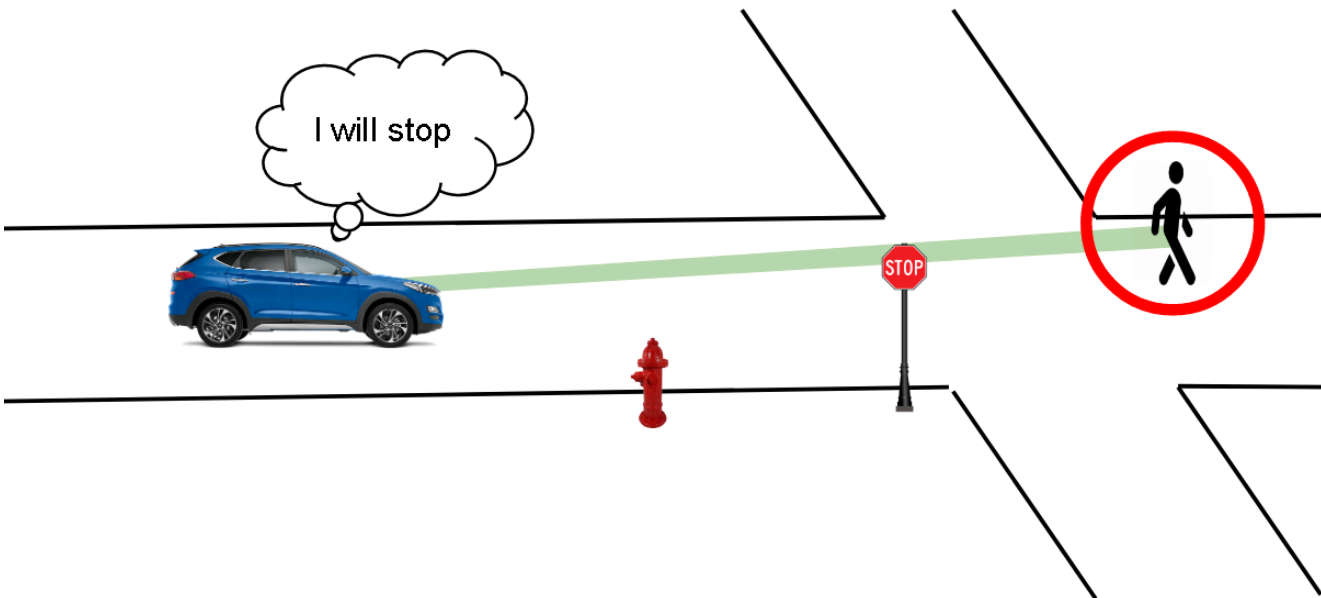
Think about the speed, distance, and direction of hazards or dangers to anticipate or predict how they might affect you. The cars that are moving towards you are more dangerous than cars that are moving away from you or are not moving.





#### 4. Decide

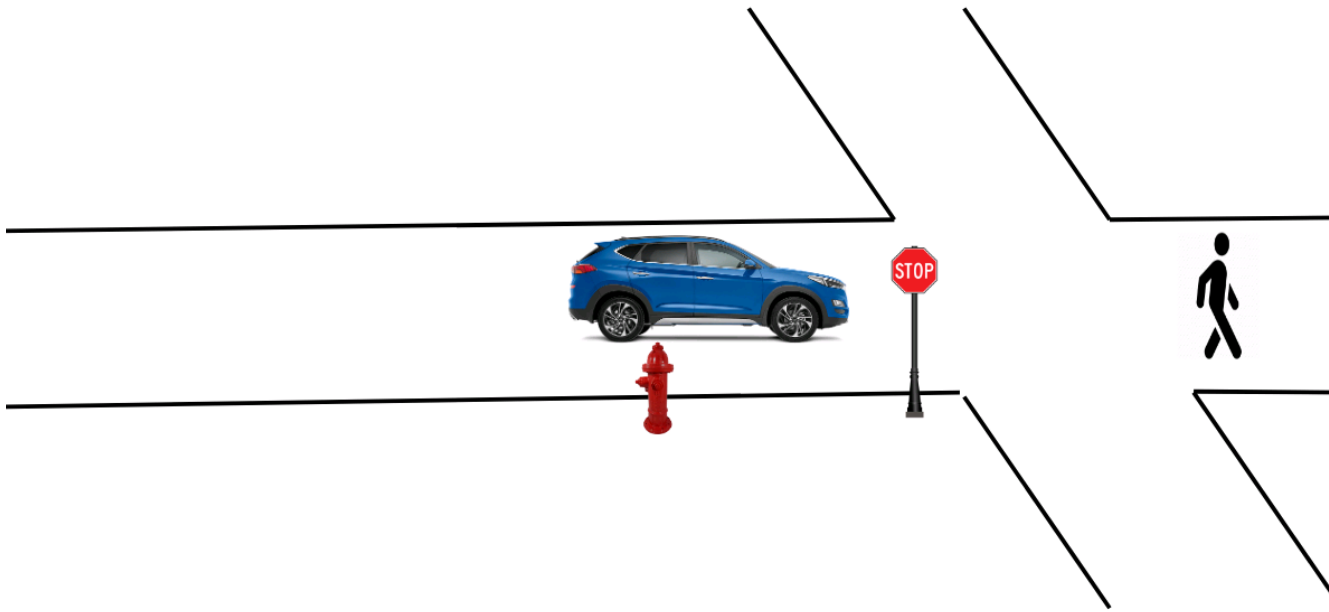
Think about your prediction (3). Based on that, decide what you would do if something dangerous happened while you are driving. Driving situations are always changing so your predictions, and decisions have to always change too.



### 5. Execute

Do what you decided to do in 4. To make sure you create space and reduce the chance of harm:

- Communicate your presence with lights or horn (make sure other drivers know where you are)
- Change your speed if you need to
- Change the direction you are going or your position (location) in the road



### Three-Second Rule

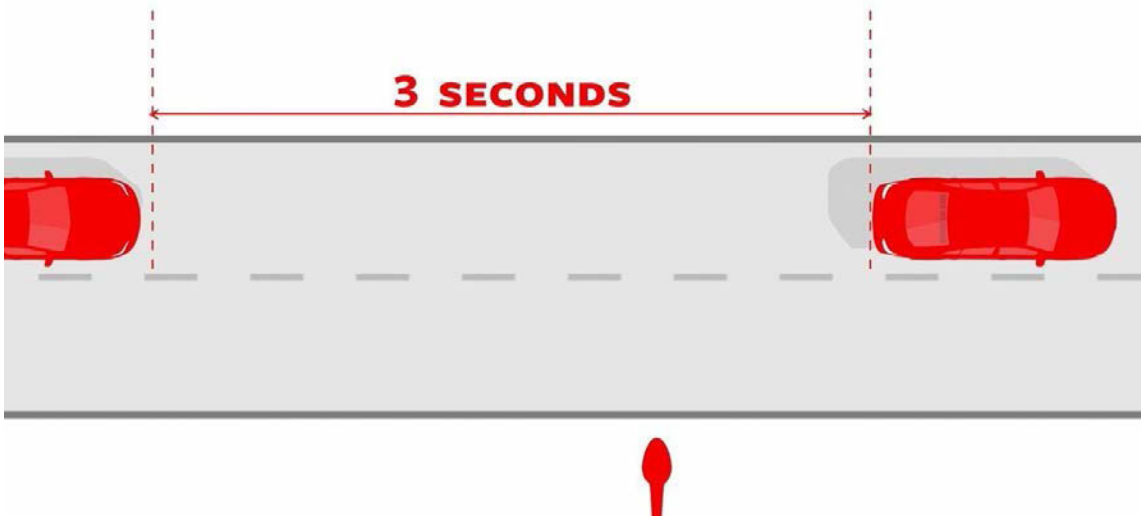
The three-second rule is a way to keep a safe distance between your car and the car in front of you. There should be three seconds of space between the front of your car and the back of the car in front of you.

In order to do this you should:

Choose a reference point on the road in front of you.

When the car in front of you passes that point start counting (one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand, three-one-thousand). If you pass that reference point before you finish counting, you are too close to the car in front of you. If this happens, slow down.

If the weather is bad, there is a lot of traffic, or the car in front of you is big, you should be 4 or 5 seconds behind the driver in front of you.



### Stopping Distance

Stopping distance is the distance it takes your car to stop when you press the brake pedal. This distance can change depending on different factors:

- The time it takes the driver to see a danger
- The amount of time it takes a driver to press the brake pedal is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second
- Weather
- Speed you are going – if you are going faster, it will take longer to stop
- Condition of tires (if the tread is low, it will take longer for the car to stop)
- Type and condition of brakes (if the brakes are in a bad condition, it will take longer to stop)



Stopping distance is longer in bad weather, if the driver is going faster, and if the condition of the car is not good.



### Night Driving

Driving at night is more dangerous than driving during the day because there is less light. Make sure you know where you are going, the lights on your car are working, and there is nothing on your windshield.

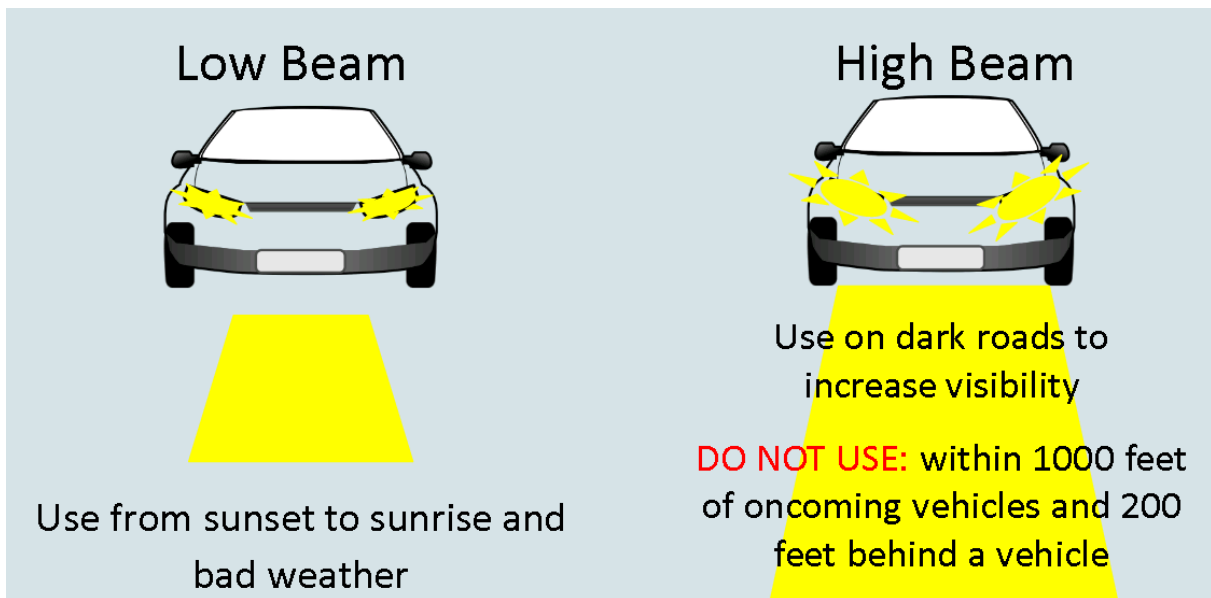
## Headlights

Your headlights should be on low beam if there are other cars around. If you are less than 1000 feet from an oncoming car or less than 200 feet behind a car, your headlights have to be on low beam. The high-beam headlights are too bright to use when other cars are near you.

Headlights should be on from sunset to sunrise. You need to use them when there is bad weather like rain or snow, and when your windshield wipers are on. If you can't see more than 500 feet ahead of you, you should use your headlights.

Do not drive very fast when your headlights are on.

Sometimes you might see oncoming headlights that are very bright. If you can not see because of this, use the white lines on the side of the road in front of you to tell you where the lanes are.



## Freeway Driving

A freeway is a road with multiple lanes, they are divided down the middle. There is limited access to other roads, no stops, and no cross traffic. Because of this, you can drive much faster. Some people call freeways highways.

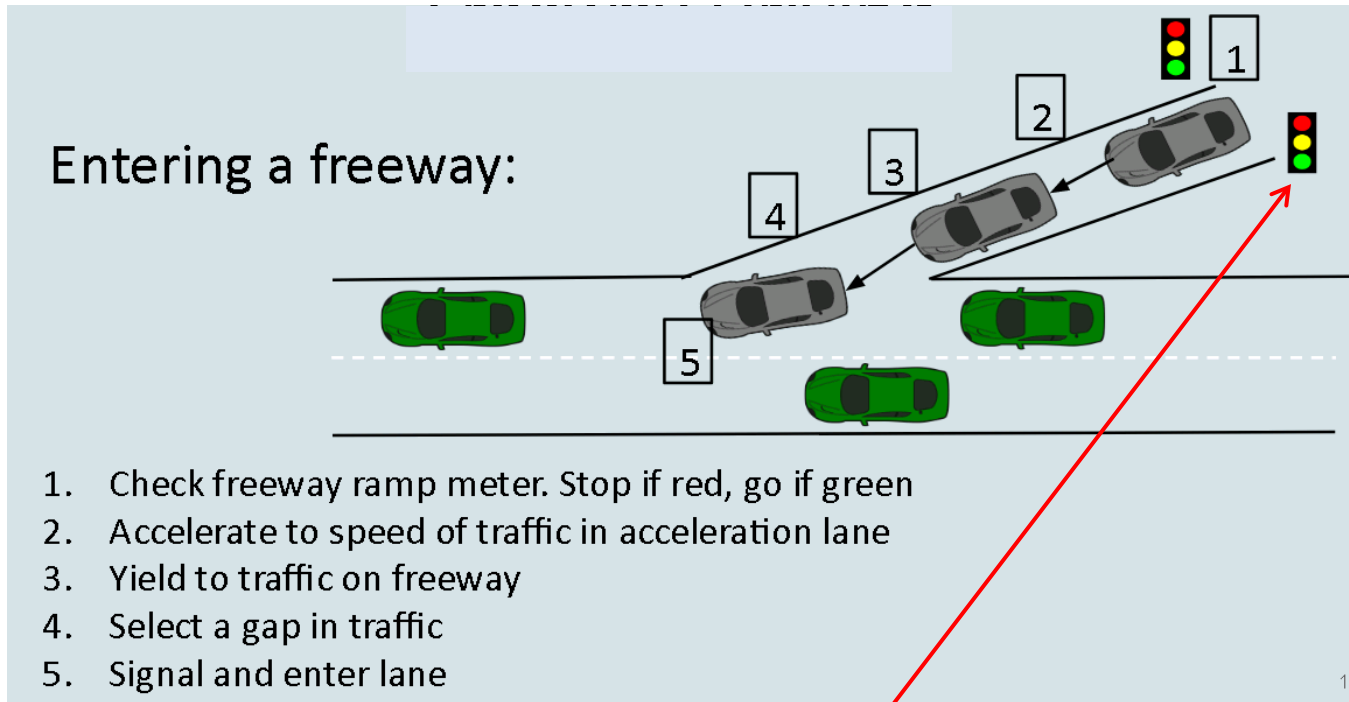
## Entering the Freeway

An entry ramp is the road where a driver enters the freeway. They are short and only go one way. At the end of an entry ramp is an acceleration lane that lets the driver speed up to the speed the other cars are traveling. You want to be at the same speed as the other drivers so you can safely merge into traffic on the freeway.

You do not want to cut off other drivers, so you should change your speed to that of other drivers. You must yield to cars already in the freeway when you are merging from an acceleration lane.

When you merge you should use your turn signal to let other drivers know you want to merge. Look for openings and traffic and merge into traffic when you are able.





Do not stop on the entry ramp or the acceleration lane.

If there is no acceleration lane on an entry ramp and there is a yield sign, make sure to yield to cars already in the freeway.

### Freeway Ramp Meters

Sometimes there will be freeway ramp meters when you are entering a freeway or highway. They are used in many places in Minnesota. Freeway ramp meters are traffic lights on the entry ramp to a highway. You have to stop if there is a red light and only one car can go through when the light changes to green.

Freeway ramp meters help reduce the amount of traffic enter the freeway at one time.

### Freeway Speed and Lane Use

Drive at the same speed as the cars near you on the highway or freeway when you can. Do not go faster than the speed limit. If you are driving slower than other traffic you should be in the lane closest to the right side of the road. If you want to change lanes to pass other cars or to leave the freeway, signal and make sure your path is clear. (Follow the passing instructions from Chapter 3).

### Use of Freeway or Expressway Shoulders by Buses

Sometimes transit buses and metro mobility buses can use the shoulder of a freeway. These buses can not go faster than 35mph on the shoulder. They have to yield to other cars in the shoulder or to merging, entering, or exiting traffic.



#### Message Signs

Message signs are used to warn drivers of traffic conditions ahead. Message signs can warn of crashes, stalled vehicles or other problems on the road.



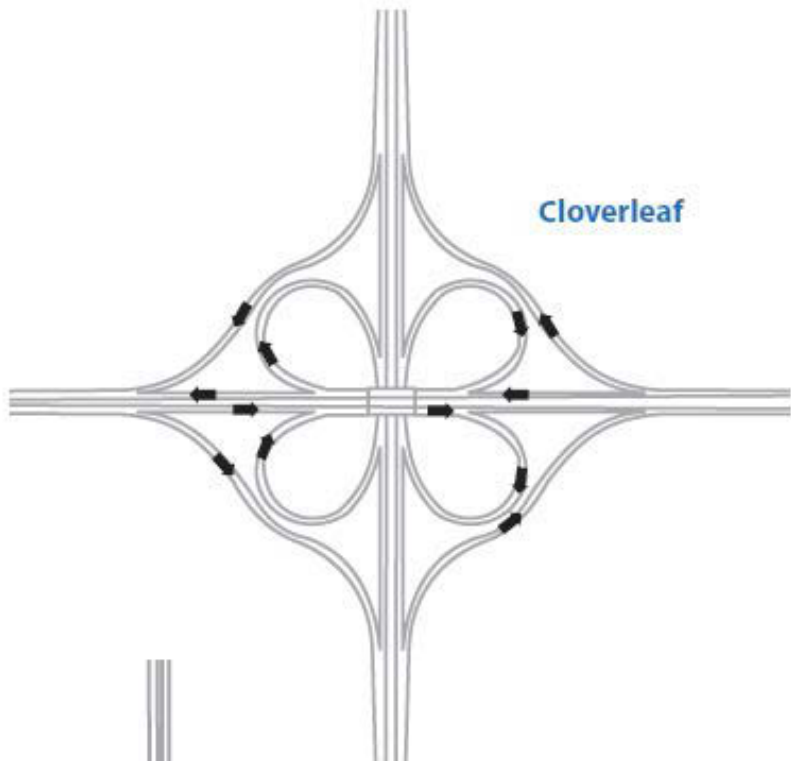
#### High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

These lanes are only for motorcycles, buses, and vehicles that have two or more people in them. An HOV lane might have a black diamond to show you where it is. There will also be signs.

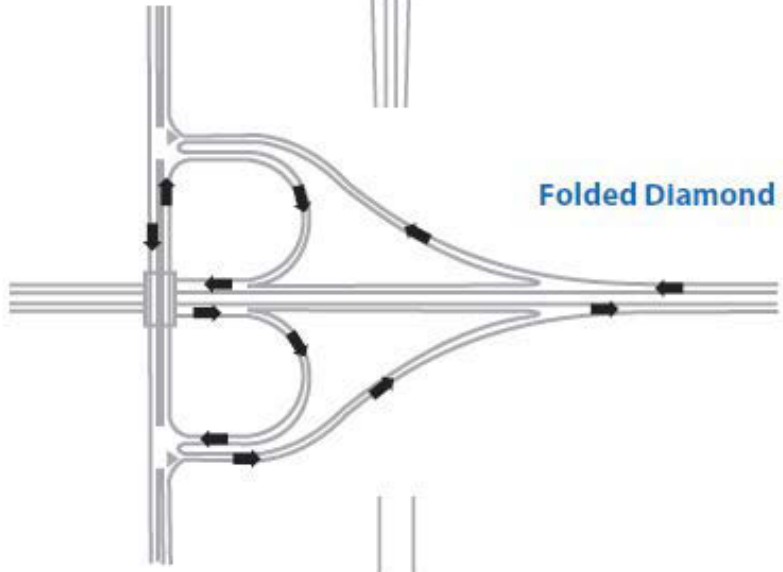
### Freeway Interchange

A freeway interchange is the connection of a freeway to a road or another freeway by a series of ramps. The connecting roads let you to leave one road and enter another safely, without interrupting other traffic.

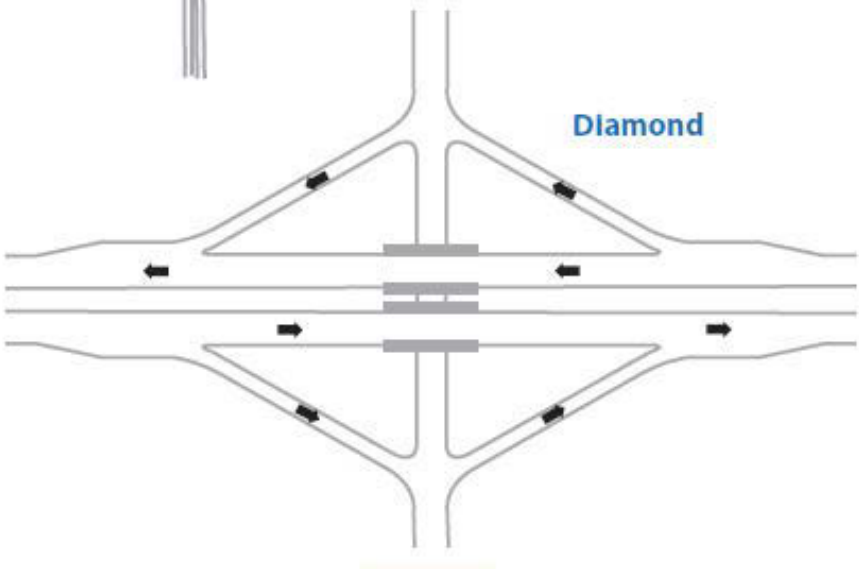
There are four types of freeway interchanges. The Cloverleaf, Folded Diamond, and the Diamond are the most common.



Cloverleaf



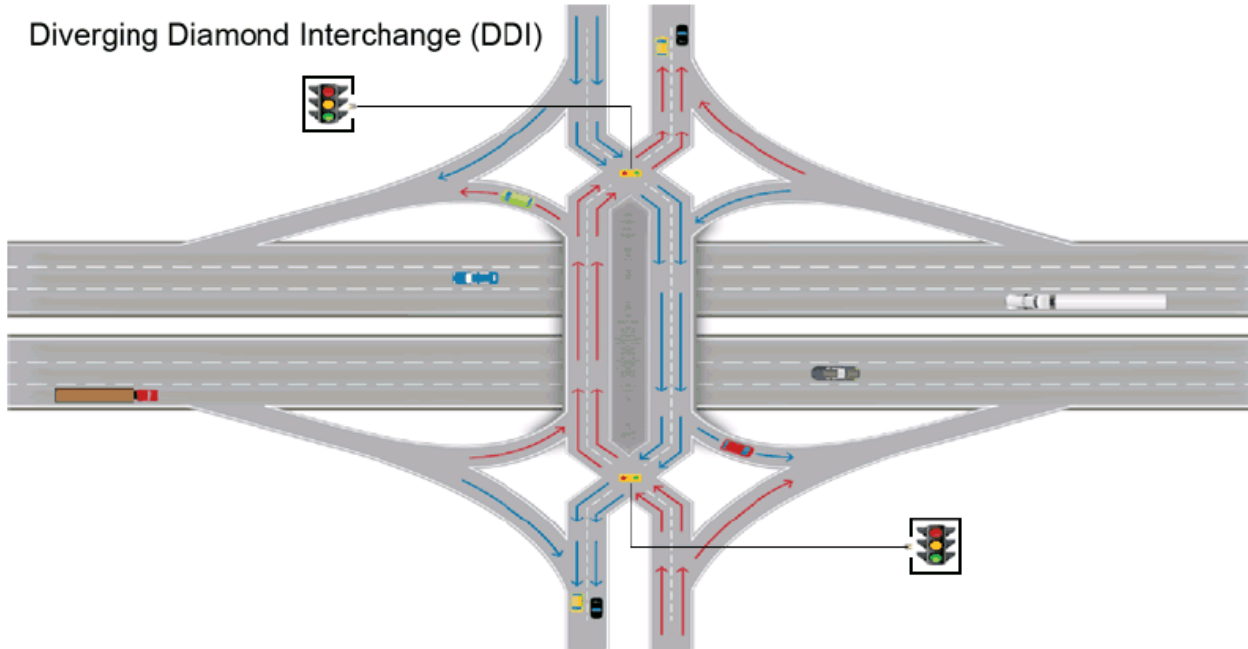
Folded Diamond



Diamond

### Diverging Diamond Interchange

A diverging diamond interchange is another type of freeway interchange that is not as common as the other three. They are more common now than in the past.



A diverging diamond interchange is when traffic lanes cross over at each end of the bridge to eliminate left-hand turns across opposing traffic. Instead of turning left and crossing the paths of cross-traffic, a driver veers to the left for access to a freeway or cross street. Look at the red lines and follow the path of a driver turning left, right, or going straight.

These interchanges improve traffic safety and mobility and prevent delays in traffic.

There are many benefits of these interchanges:

- There are fewer conflict points
- Conflict points are spread out throughout the interchange
- There is better sight distance at turns (you can see the turn and the cars)
- It is very hard to go the wrong way
- Crosswalks are shorter

### Navigating a Diverging Diamond Interchange

Traffic crosses at both ends of the bridge, so drivers do not need to make hard left turns. Instead drivers, veer to the left for access to entry ramps to the freeway.

Pedestrians cross to the middle of the bridge and walk in the middle between traffic lanes so they have protective barriers on both sides.



### Stopping, Parking, and Backing Up

You can not stop or park on a freeway – it is illegal. The only reason you can stop is if there is an emergency. If you run out of gas, that is not an emergency, and you could get a ticket.

If there is an emergency you should do these things:

- Park your car on the shoulder, as far from the main roadway as you can
- Open the trunk and raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the radio antenna or a door handle – this lets people know you are pulled over for an emergency
- Use your hazard lights
- If you have reflectors, put them 100-500 feet behind your car
- Stay with your car. If you can't stay with your car, do not walk in the lanes of traffic

It is illegal to back up or turn around on a freeway or highway. There are only two vehicles that can do this – emergency vehicles and road repair vehicles.

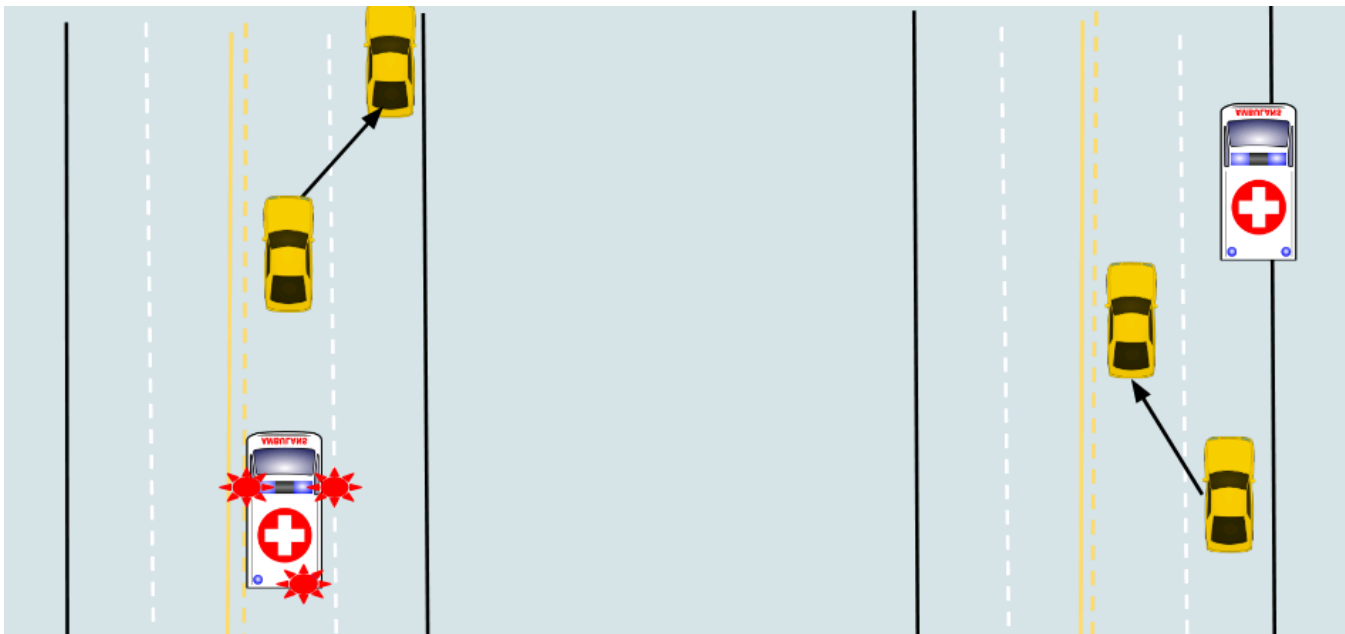
### Emergency Vehicles on the Freeway

If you see flashing lights or hear sirens from an ambulance, police car, or fire truck behind you, you need to move to the nearest side of the road and stop. Do not slam on the brakes or swerve into other lanes. Use your turn signal and gradually move to the side of the road.

Stay stopped until the emergency vehicle completely passes you. Look for other emergency vehicles. If there are more, wait for them to pass too.

If you see flashing lights of an emergency vehicle on the shoulder of the road, you must move a lane away from the emergency vehicle, if you can safely do so. If you can not move over a lane, slow down.

Stay at least 500 feet behind a firetruck.



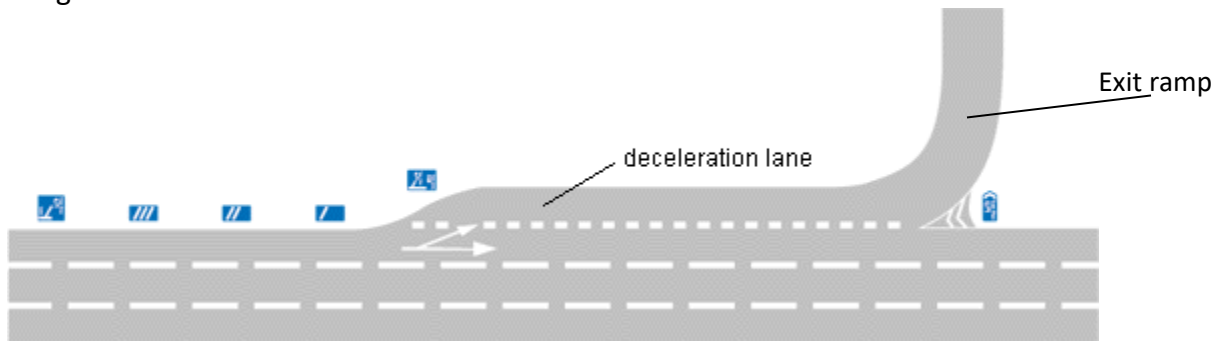
## Getting off the Freeway

You should know where you need to exit the freeway before you start driving. There are signs on the freeway that tell you where the exits are. They are green:



When you get close to the exit you want to use, you should move over to the correct lane. This can be on the right or left, but it is usually on the right. Signal when you change lanes and move into the deceleration lane. The deceleration lane is like the acceleration lane, but you slow down. Slow down enough before you get to the exit ramp.

If you miss your exit, go to the next one. Do not back up or make a U-Turn – this is illegal and very dangerous.



## Crashes (Collision, Accident)

If you are part of a crash that causes injury, stay where you are. If you can, you need to call 911 or the closest police for help.

If you are in a crash and the result is property damage (cars or other vehicles get damage) move to a safe location. Do not leave the vehicle until you are in a safe location. A safe location is a location away from traffic.

Exchange driver's licenses and insurance information with the other driver or drivers. You give them your information and they give you their information. Write down their license plate number. You can also exchange vehicle identification numbers. If you need assistance, you can call the police.

## Distracted Driving

One reason many drivers get in crashes is because they are distracted. Distracted driving causes 25% of crashes every year.



A distracted driver is someone who does not see or recognize potential hazards or dangers on the road and they react more slowly to traffic conditions. This decreases the margin of safety. There are three main types of driver distraction:

- Visual – looking away from the road
- Mechanical/Physical – taking hands off the wheel
- Cognitive – being “lost in thought” or not thinking about the road



There can be distractions inside the vehicle like using cell phones, using a GPS, reaching for items, eating and drinking, changing the radio, talking to other people in the car, and reading maps or other materials.

Even if you are watching the road there can be distractions outside of the car. These include looking at a crash scene. Daydreaming can also be a distraction. When you are driving make sure you are pulling all your attention on the task of driving.

Some activities are illegal in Minnesota:

- Using a cell phone or wireless computer device to send texts, emails, or using the internet
- Talking on the phone unless it is hands-free
- Drivers under the age of 18 with a permit or provisional license using a cell phone
- Wearing headphones that are used in both ears at the same time to listen to music, the radio, or some other device that makes sound

### Aggressive Driving

People who drive aggressively do not care much about other drivers. They are angry or frustrated while driving, not always because of other drivers' actions, but because of a personal mindset.

Aggressive driving usually involves driving faster than surrounding cars. This leads to actions like following other cars too closely, changing lanes often and without signaling, passing other cars on the shoulder, and threatening or glaring at other drivers.

If you notice that you are driving aggressively, you should make a better effort to stay calm. It is important to share the road and be careful of all drivers when you are driving.

If an aggressive driver confronts you, you should not challenge him or her. Stay out of that person's way, avoid eye contact, and do not let the situation get worse.

### Obstructed View

It is illegal to drive a car or another vehicle that is so full of things or people that they block the view out of the front or sides of the car or get in the way of you driving the car safely.

### Carrying a Projected Load

A load is something that your car carries.



A projected load is a load that sticks out from your car.



A load can not stick out more than three feet in front of the front wheels or bumper of any vehicle. If a load extends four feet or more from the back of any vehicle, a red, yellow, or orange flag at least 16 inches square must be attached to the end of the load. If you are driving at night, a red lantern or lamp (light) that can be seen from 500 away must be attached to the back of the load.

A passenger vehicle can not carry loads that go further than the fenders (edge of the car) on the left side of the car and further than 6 inches past the fenders on the right side of the car.

### Campers and Trailers

These are examples of trailers or campers:



If you are pulling a camper or a trailer from your car you have to be at least 500 feet behind other vehicles. You can not follow closer than that.

Specific information about campers and trailers that will most likely **not be** on the exam:

- When a trailer is loaded (full of stuff) 10-15% of the weight should be on the hitch between the trailer and your car. When the trailer is loaded correctly, the floor of the trailer should be level (parallel with the ground). Check this every time there is a rest stop.
- Drive at a slower speed
- The brakes on your car are not designed for a heavy camper or trailer – do not slam on the brakes. Gradually press on the brakes.
- When you accelerate (speed up), do it slowly. Leave a lot of space between the front of your car and the back of the car in front of you.
- Bad weather like wind and rain can affect your ability to drive with a trailer. Go slower in bad weather.
- Leave a lot of space for turns. Long trailers have wide turns like commercial vehicles.
- Be careful in the heat – the engine can get too hot.



**Trailer Requirements**

**Measurements:**

Maximum length – 45 feet

Maximum width – 8 feet 6 inches

Maximum height – 13 feet 6 inches

**Lights:**

Tail lamps – two red

Reflectors – two red

Rear license plate – one white

You must make sure the trailer has turn signals and brake lights. You need to use them at night and when the car towing the trailer can not be seen.

A motorhome can not be longer than 45 feet. Usually they are 40 feet long.

If a trailer weighs more than 3000 pounds, it must have brakes.

All recreational trailers (trailers not used for work) must have a license plate.

A safety chain needs to attach the trailer to the towing vehicle.

**Recreational Vehicle Combinations**

A recreational vehicle combination is a combination of not more than three vehicles including a pickup truck or recreational truck-tractor attached to a camper that has a trailer hitched to it. The trailer could carry a motorcycle, a boat, supplies or more. You have to be at least 18 years old to drive a recreational vehicle combination. A combination can not be more than 70 feet long. You can not drive a combination through the metro area during rush hour.



\*End of section of information not likely to be on test

## Winter Driving – Vehicle Safety

During the winter there is more you have to do to stay safe.

Remove the snow and ice from your car – the hood, windows, and lights before you drive.

- Make sure that you windshield wiper fluid has antifreeze
- Before you drive on busy streets test your brakes on the ice and snow, so you know how much stopping time you need
- Change your speed to road condition
- Do not use cruise control on slippery roads

If your car gets stuck in ice or snow, try to free your vehicle by “rocking” the car back and forth. To do this you should keep the front wheels straight and slowly drive forward, the backward, as far as possible without spinning the tires. When the tires grip, accelerate slowly. Keep doing this until you are free.



## Snow Emergencies and Parking Rules

When there is a lot of snow, the city might call a snow emergency. A snow emergency means snowplows will remove the snow from the streets. There are parking rules while snow emergencies are in effect. Follow snow emergency rules or rules on signs to make sure you do not get a ticket.



## Sharing the Road with Snowplows

A snowplow has flashing white, yellow, and blue lights when they are plowing snow. Look out for them when there is snow and ice on the roads.

Do not get too close to a snowplow. Only pass them if you can see the entire vehicle.

If you are behind a snowplow, stay far behind so you do not get hit by flying materials, snow or ice. Be careful of snow clouds or “whiteout” conditions. A whiteout is when you can not see anything because there is so much snow. Snowplows can create clouds of blowing snow that can cover dangers or hazards or cover the road. Snowplows move slowly, so leave space.





- Keep at least one window partially open to let in fresh air. If the car is idling with the windows closed the passengers can suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Someone in the car should be awake at all times.

### Maintaining Alertness and Concentration

It is dangerous to drive when you are tired or sleepy. This happens a lot. To make sure this does not happen, get a lot of sleep before you have a long drive. You can do some of these to help:

- Stop as often as you need to – at least once every 100 miles or every two hours. Get out of the car and walk, stretch, have something to eat or drink, or relax.
- If there are other people in the car, talk to them to stay awake. If you feel tired, ask someone to drive.
- If you are alone, listen to the radio or sing
- If the weather is good, open a window.
- If none of these are working, stop. Park far from the road and rest. If you stay in the car lock all the doors.

### Skidding



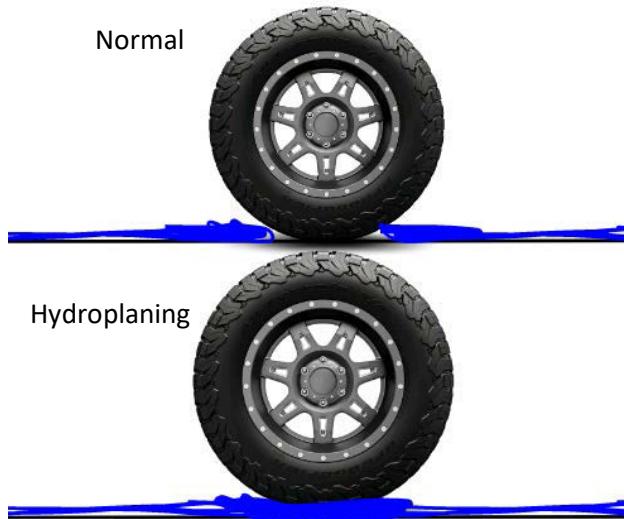
When you are driving on a slippery road, slow down and make sure there is a safe distance between you and the car in front of you. Do not use cruise control if the roads are slippery. Skidding is when the tires lose their grip on the road. The car will go in a direction you do not want it to go in. If this happens, stay calm. Do not slam on the brakes. **Take your foot off the gas pedal and brakes until you can turn the wheels in the direction you want to go in.**

### Anti-Lock Braking

Some, but not all vehicles have an electronic anti-lock brake system that helps keep the vehicle in control while you are braking. If you have anti-lock brakes, do not pump the brakes when you would pump regular brakes. Instead, hold down the brakes and continue to steer. If you do not know if your car has anti-lock brakes, read the manual.

### Driving in Heavy Rain or Fog

If there is a thunderstorm or fog, slow down, be extra careful, and be ready to stop at all times. Make sure the space between your car and the car in front of you is bigger than normal. You need to use your headlights when it is snowing, raining, sleet, or hailing. Make sure they are on low beam. If you can not see, even with your lights, pull off the road, and wait for the weather to get better.



### Hydroplaning

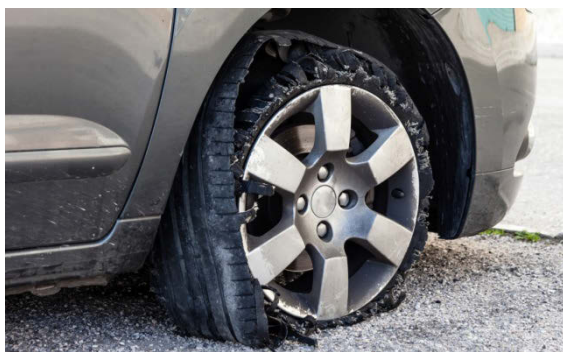
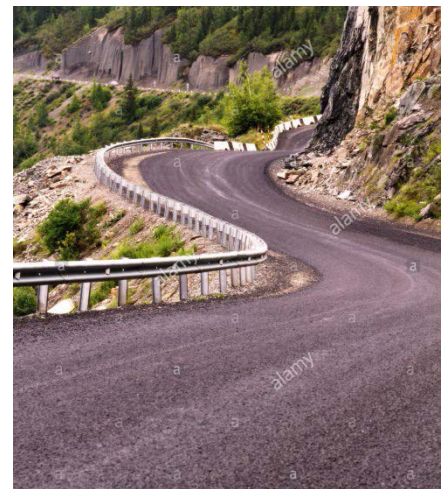
Hydroplaning is when water collects underneath tires and lifts them off the road. When your tires hydroplane, they lose contact with the ground. If this happens, you can not brake, accelerate, or change direction. **If you are hydroplaning, take your foot off the gas pedal.**

Hydroplaning can happen at any speed, but usually it is when you are driving faster than 35mph. To prevent hydroplaning, keep your tires in good condition and reduce speed on wet roads.

### Driving on Narrow Roads and Hills

When you come close to a curve on a narrow road, or in areas where plants and trees block your view of the road, you can use your horn to tell other drivers or pedestrians you are there.

Do not go down steep hills in neutral gear. When you are going down a steep hill, you need to look at your speedometer often because the speed of the vehicle will increase even if your foot is not on the gas pedal.



### Blowouts

A blowout is when your tire bursts (pops), and it can cause you to lose control of the car. Before a blowout happens, you might hear a thumping noise (a quiet banging) or notice that the steering wheel is turning to the right or left without you.

If a blowout happens to you, **hold the steering wheel tightly and steer straight. Slowly take your foot off the gas pedal. Do not brake until you have complete control over the car.**

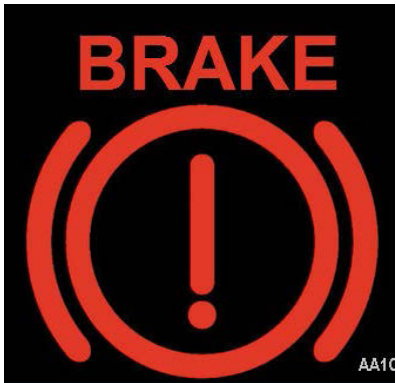
After you have control of the car, pull off the road to a safe location and stop.



## Steering Failure

Steering failure is when the wheels stop listening to the steering wheel. **If the front wheels of your vehicle do not respond when you turn the steering wheel, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal. Do not brake unless it is necessary to prevent a crash.**

Your car might go straight by itself as you slow down. If you have to apply the brake, do it gently. If you brake quickly or try to change gears, the change in speed might throw the car out of control.



## Brake Failure

If your brake pedal sinks slowly when you press it, your car's brakes might be failing. If there is a serious problem, a warning light will light up on your dashboard.

If your brake pedal quickly sinks all the way to the floor, **try pumping the pedal to build pressure. This might work, but if it does not, slowly apply the emergency/parking brake.** You have to do this slowly because if you do it too quickly you could make your car skid (page 18). The emergency brake only acts on the back wheels of the car.

If you can coast to a stop, shift the car into a lower gear. Continue to downshift as you slow down until you can pull over and stop safely.

## Running Off the Pavement

If your wheels drift (slowly move) onto the shoulder of the road, do not try to quickly swerve back onto the road. **Stay on the shoulder and slowly take your foot off the gas pedal. After you have reduced your speed (slowed down), turn back towards the pavement. Once your car is on the pavement again, speed up.**



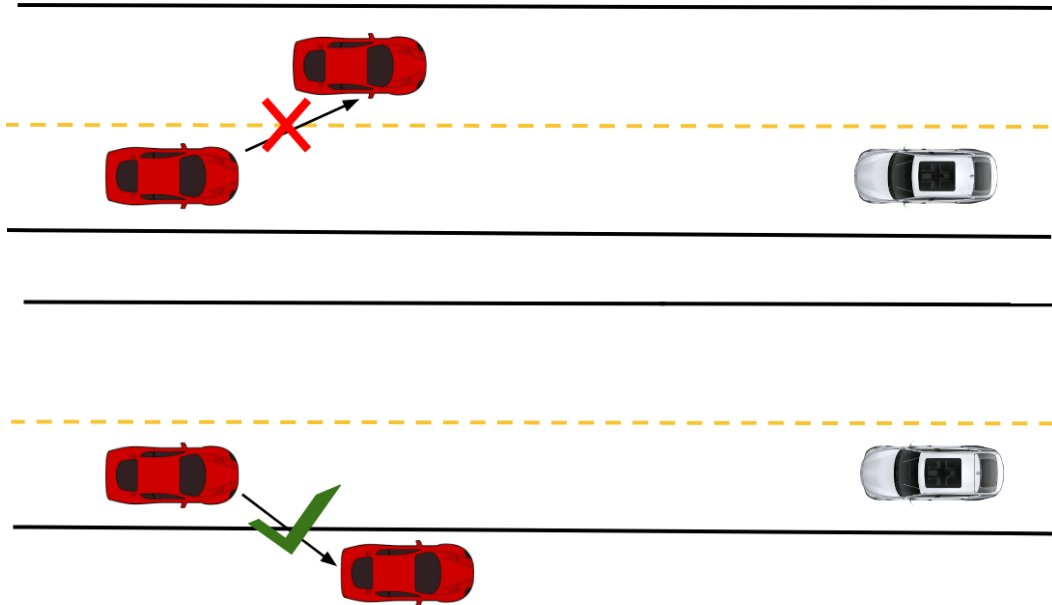
## Watch Out for Deer

There are things you can do to reduce (make smaller) the chance of hitting a deer. Deer are most active (doing things near the road) in the dusk (sunset) and dawn (sunrise) hours, so you should be especially alert and aware when you are driving at those times. Scan (quickly look) the sides of the road at night to watch for the reflection of your car headlights in the eyes of deer. Their eyes will light up. If you see a reflection on the side of the road, slow down. Be ready to stop and honk the horn to scare the deer away. There is usually more than one deer at a time. Deer usually cross the roads outside of cities, but sometimes they come into urban (crowded) areas. Always look out for them.

### Vehicle Approaching in Your Lane

If a car is coming towards you in your lane, move to the right. Do not use the left lane to avoid the other car. The driver might go back to the correct lane and will then be in your path again.

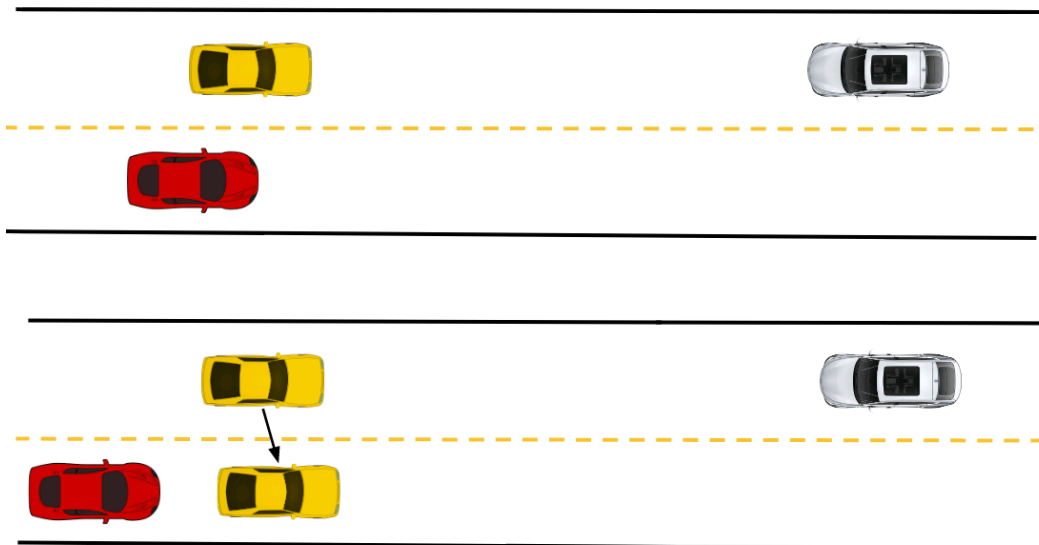
If the car continues toward you, steer off the road to the right, if it is necessary to prevent a crash. Honking your horn and flashing your headlights might help the other driver become more alert.



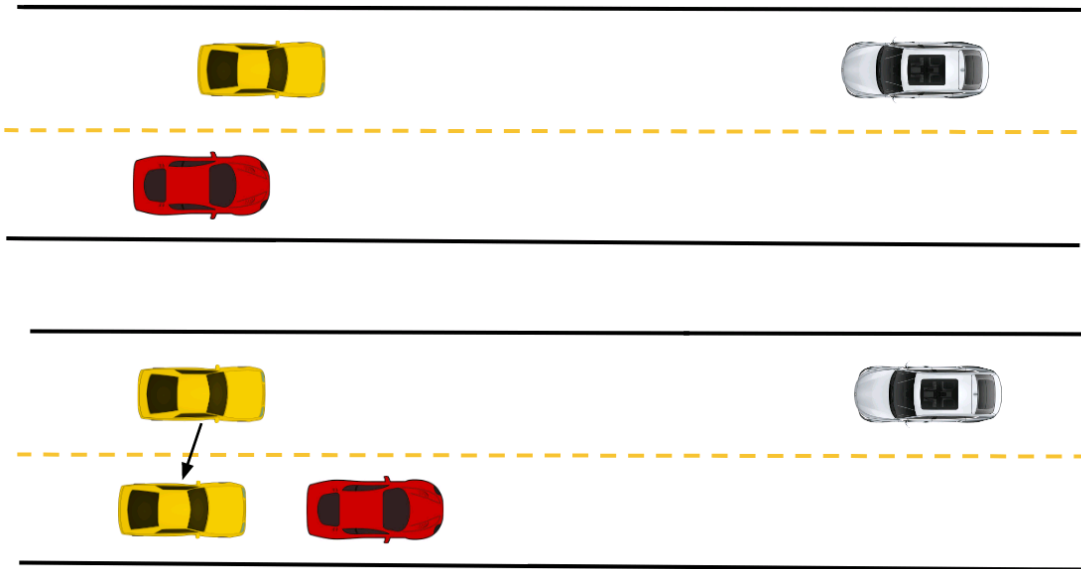
### Vehicle Trying to Pass You

Another driver might want to pass you on a two lane road with traffic moving in both directions. If the other driver misjudges (guesses wrong) the speed of oncoming traffic or is not able to complete the pass for another reason, you and all the other drivers are in danger. You need to act to prevent a crash.

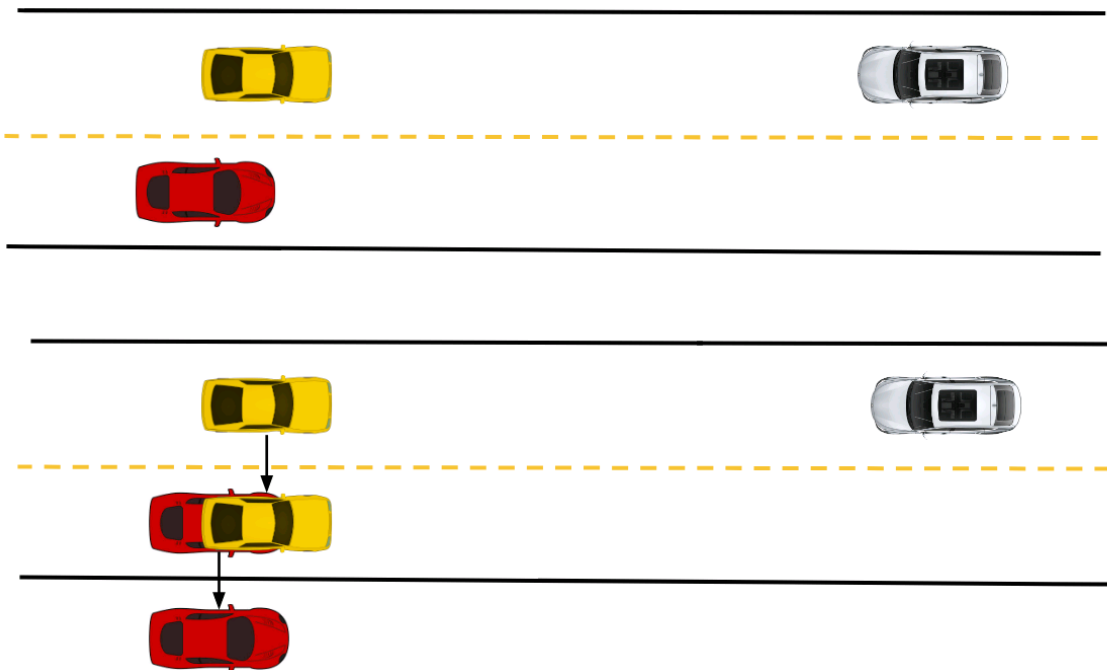
If the car that is passing you is almost done with the pass, slow down and let the other driver finish the pass as quickly as possible.



If the passing car must slow down, speed up to make sure there is room for the car to move into the lane behind you.

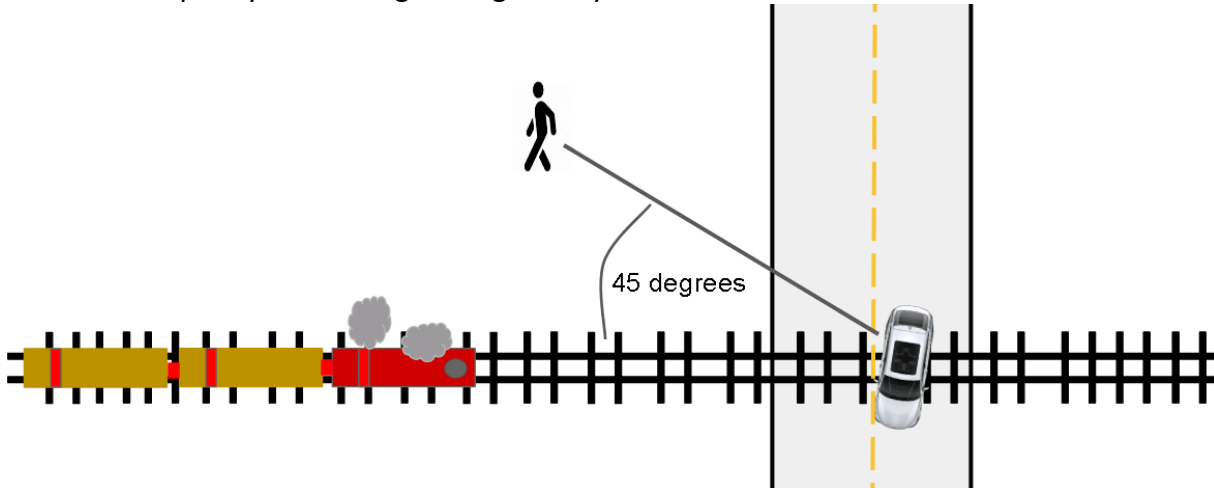


If you feel like there will definitely be a crash and the right shoulder is wide enough for your car, quickly move to the right and let the passing vehicle to move into your lane.



### Stalling on Railroad Tracks

If your car becomes stalled (stops and will not start) on railroad tracks and a train is coming, leave the car. To make sure you are not hit by debris (pieces of waste, dirt) from the crash keep a safe distance from the tracks. Walk quickly in a 45 degree angle away from the tracks in the direction that the train is coming from.



### Flooded Roadways

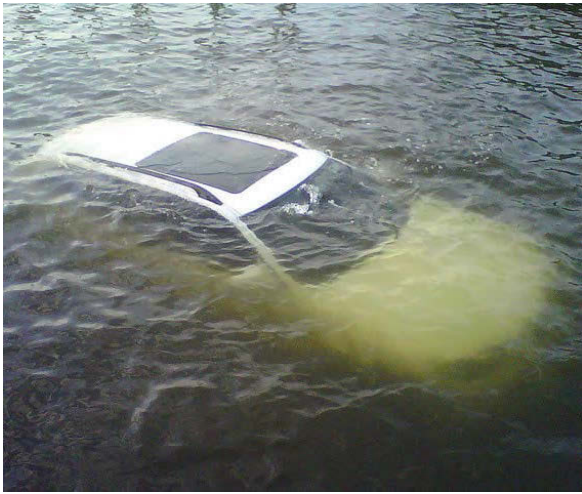
Flooding (a lot of water on the road) can happen when streams or rivers overflow, when dams or levees break, where there is run-off from deep snow or any time there is a lot of rain. Floodwaters can be found on roads, bridges, and low areas. Flash floods happen very quickly and unexpectedly (without warning). They can happen within minutes or hours of a heavy rainfall (lots of rain).

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a road under water ahead, turn around and find another route to get to where you are going.
- Be careful, especially at night, when you can not see very well
- 6 inches of water will be as high as the bottom of most cars which can cause loss of control or stalling
- Two feet of moving water can move a car
- Even if the water looks shallow (not very high), do not try to cross it. Water can hide dangers or damage the road
- If there is no other way to where you are going, wait for the water to away



## Plunging Under Water

Most cars will float on the surface of water from 30 seconds to 60 seconds. If your car enters deep water try everything to get out of the car immediately. If it is an option, try to get out of the car through an open window before the water reaches the window.



If your vehicle becomes submerged (completely under water), try not to panic. Car doors can not be opened unless the water pressure inside the car is equal to the water pressure outside the car. This means that if you want to open the door, you have to wait until the car is filled with water. The doors will open if there is no damage to the car.

The front end of the car will sink first. You can wait in the rear part of the car. If there are other people in the car, try to work with them.

## Fire

If you see smoke coming out from under the hood of your car, pull off the road, turn off the car, and get out of the car right away. Do not use water to put out the fire – this will make it worse.

## Overheating

Most cars have dashboard notifications that tell you what the temperature of the engine is. Driving in stop-and-go traffic (when you have to stop a lot while driving) on a hot day, driving up steep hills, and towing a trailer can make your engine hotter than normal.

When your engine becomes too hot, turn off unneeded vehicle equipment, like the air conditioning. If the temperature is still too high, turning on the heater will help bring hot air away from the engine. If this does not work and the temperature continues to rise and steam comes from the engine, pull over to the side of the road, stop the car, and turn it off.

## Headlight Failure

If your headlights suddenly turn off, try your parking lights, hazards warning lights, or turn signals – one of them might work and give you enough light to get off the road. If your headlights fail (stop working) on a busy or lighted road, you will probably have enough light to direct you. If all your lights fail on a dark, empty road, slow down and keep your car on the road until you can safely go onto the shoulder.

## Windshield Wiper Failure or Sudden Opening of Hood

If your windshield wipers suddenly stop working in heavy rain or snow, slow down and activate your hazard lights. Do not slow down quickly if there are cars behind you. Pull off the road and move to a safe location.



If the hood of your car opens blocking your view of the road, you might be able to see through the space between the hood and the dashboard. If you can not see, roll down the window and lean out to see the road. Turn on your hazard lights, slow down, and steer off the road safely.

### **Stuck Gas Pedal**

If your gas pedal gets stuck (will not move up), you might be able to free it by putting your toe under the pedal and lifting it up. If that does not work, press the brakes and shift your car into neutral. This will disengage the engine (disconnect the engine from the gas). After you do that, find a safe path to the shoulder of the road. If the shoulder is not paved (there is no pavement), turn on your hazard lights and steer the vehicle straight until you can safely pull to the side of the road.

### **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Safety Tips**

Carbon monoxide is a dangerous gas that does not have a smell or color. It is created by engines. It can collect inside your car when the windows are closed, or in your garage if the engine is idling. Idling means the car is on, but not moving. The only cure (fix) for carbon monoxide poisoning is fresh air.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sudden fatigue (tiredness), headache, dizziness, and nausea (feeling like you want to throw up). If you feel any of these, open the windows and turn off the car. Get out of the car or garage as quick as you can.

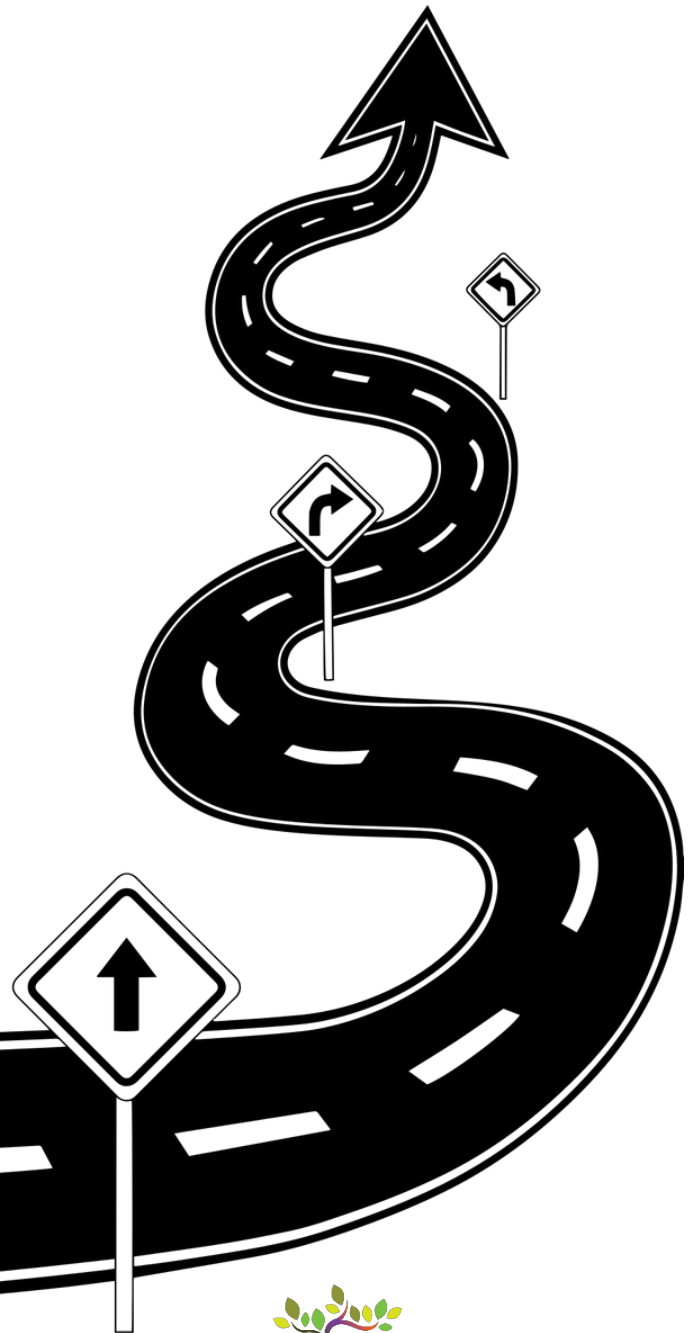
This happens most often in winter.

To reduce the chance of this:

- Don't idle a car in a garage – warm up the car in a driveway instead
- Do not sit in a car when the engine is idling
- Do not drive with all windows tightly closes – this is harder in winter
- Do not idle the vehicle when it is stuck in snow or mud
- Make sure the exhaust system does not leak
- Occasionally (sometimes) let air into the car by opening the windows

# Student Minnesota Driver's Manual

An Adapted Study Guide Developed by the [International Institute of Minnesota](#)





## CHAPTER 7: YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGES

**Chapter 7 is not as important for the knowledge/written test – however you should know these rules for when you drive.**

*You have to follow rules to drive in Minnesota. If you break some laws or do not meet requirements, you can lose your license. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has a copy of your driving record, so they know if you have broken many rules. If you break many rules, or commit a serious crime you can lose your license or have restrictions on how, where to, and when you can drive.*

### License Withdrawal

Your license may be withdrawn (taken away) by suspension, revocation, or cancellation. If you break a rule and your license is withdrawn (taken away), the Department of Public Safety will send you a notice of withdrawal (tell you your license has been withdrawn) and a list of what you have to do to get your license back.

### Suspension

Suspension is when you lose your license for a set period of time, and you can get it back at the end of the time period if you pay a fee.

Your license can be suspended if you:

- Break traffic laws many times (repeatedly)
- Are convicted in court (the judge says you are guilty) for a violation (breaking the rules) that caused a crash that resulted in death, personal injury, or serious property damage.
- Use, or let someone else use, your license for illegal actions. It is illegal to let anyone use your license or permit. They are for you, and only you.
- Commit a traffic offense (break a traffic rule) in another state that is illegal and a reason to lose your license in Minnesota.
- A judge in court decides you are not legally able to drive a car or another vehicle.
- Fail to report (do not report when you need to) a medical condition that would be the cause of losing your driving privileges.
- Do not stop for a school bus with its stop arm extended and its red lights flashing, within 5 years of doing the same thing.
- Have a fake or altered (edited) license.
- Make a fake application for a driver's license or ID card.
- Do any part of the driver's license test for someone else, or let someone else take the test for you.
- Falsely identify (lie about who you are) to a police officer.
- Do not show up in court or do not pay a fine on a car-related violation (breaking a traffic or parking rule) when you need to.
- Are convicted (are guilty) of a misdemeanor for breaking a traffic law in Minnesota.
- Do not pay court ordered child support.
- Use, or let someone else use, a license, permit, or ID card to buy tobacco for someone who is under 18, or alcohol for someone who is under 21.
- Are younger than 21, and the court decides that you drove a car while drinking, or after drinking, alcohol.

- Pay a fee to a driver's license agent with a check that does not work.
- Are guilty of stealing gasoline.

After the amount of time without your license (can be 30 days, 90 days, or longer) has ended, you can have your license back – if you do everything you need to do. You have to pay a reinstatement fee. The fee is different depending on which rule you broke.

### Revocation

Revocation is when you lose your license for a set period of time and you can get it back at the end of the time period if you pay a fee and pass the driving tests again.

Your license can be revoked if you:

- Refuse to take a test to see if you had alcohol or drugs before you drove, or if you do take the test and fail. You can not drink alcohol or take drugs before driving (more in Chapter 8).
- Are guilty of manslaughter or any other crime while driving a car or other vehicle.
- Are guilty of driving a car or other vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol (took them before driving).
- Are guilty of a felony in which you used a car.
- Are guilty of driving over 100 miles per hour.
- Are guilty of fleeing a police officer.
- Are guilty of not stopping, saying who you are, and helping when you are part of a car crash – especially one that involves death or personal injury to other people.
- Are guilty of lying under oath (when you're in court), signing any legal document or paper with wrong information about who legally owns a car, or telling the Department of Public Safety wrong information.
- Plead guilty (say you are guilty) or give up bail for 3 violations (3 times breaking the rules) in one year of any Minnesota driving rule.
- Are guilty of breaking a rule in another state that would be a reason for revocation in Minnesota.
- Are guilty of a misdemeanor for driving a car knowing that the owner of the car did not have insurance.
- Own a car without insurance and have driven it or let other people drive it.
- Are guilty of a gross-misdemeanor for not stopping for a school bus with its stop arm out and its lights flashing,
- Are guilty of selling or having drugs while driving.

After the amount of time without your license, you can have your license back if you pay a fee and take the tests again. You need identification when you take the knowledge or road test.

**Revocation is worse than suspension.**

### Limited License

Sometimes a driver will get a limited license. They will get this license after their license has been revoked or suspended. In order to get a limited license the driver will need to do some things. The driver will have to wait a certain period of time before they can get their limited license. If you have a limited license you can only:

- Drive to and home from work.
- Drive to and home from chemical dependency (drug) treatment or counseling.

- Drive dependent children or other dependent people in your house to school, the doctor, or appointments.
- Drive to and home from college, university, or other classes you are in.

### **Cancellation**

Your license can be cancelled if you do not have a legal right (you are not allowed) to a drivers license that was yours in the past. Your license can be cancelled if you:

- Get a mental or physical disability that makes you unable to drive safely.
- Do not pass a test that is legally asked for by the Department of Public Safety to see if you can drive safely.
- Give wrong or untrue information on your application for a license. (Your license will be cancelled for 60 days or until the right information is given – whichever is longer)
- Commit a crime for which the punishment is the cancellation of your license.
- Do not qualify (can not have) for a license in Minnesota.

Cancellation can be temporary or permanent.

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## CHAPTER 8: DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

*It is illegal to drive a car or other vehicle on roads in Minnesota when impaired (negatively affected) by alcohol or other substances, like drugs.*



### Alcohol and Driving

Drinking alcohol and driving is a serious problem. People who drink alcohol before they drive cause more than 1/3 (33%) of the deaths on roads in Minnesota every year.

Crashes that involve people impaired by alcohol kill about 240 people every year in Minnesota and injure many others.



### Drugs and Driving

Drug-impaired driving is as dangerous as alcohol-impaired driving. It is illegal to drive while impaired by drugs. These can decrease (make less) a driver's mental (mind) and physical (body) ability to safely drive and respond to conditions on the road.

There are some legal drugs, like prescriptions that can cause impairment too – so be careful.



### Effect of Alcohol on Driving Skills

Alcohol makes your body slower and decreases your ability to react to things. The amount of alcohol in the body and blood is called the "alcohol concentration" (BAC). A higher alcohol concentration means the driver is less able to drive. One drink makes driving ability worse.

### Types of Effects

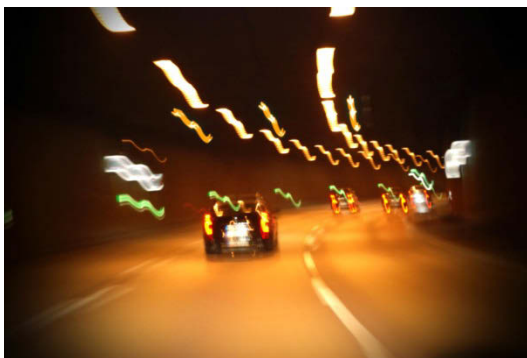
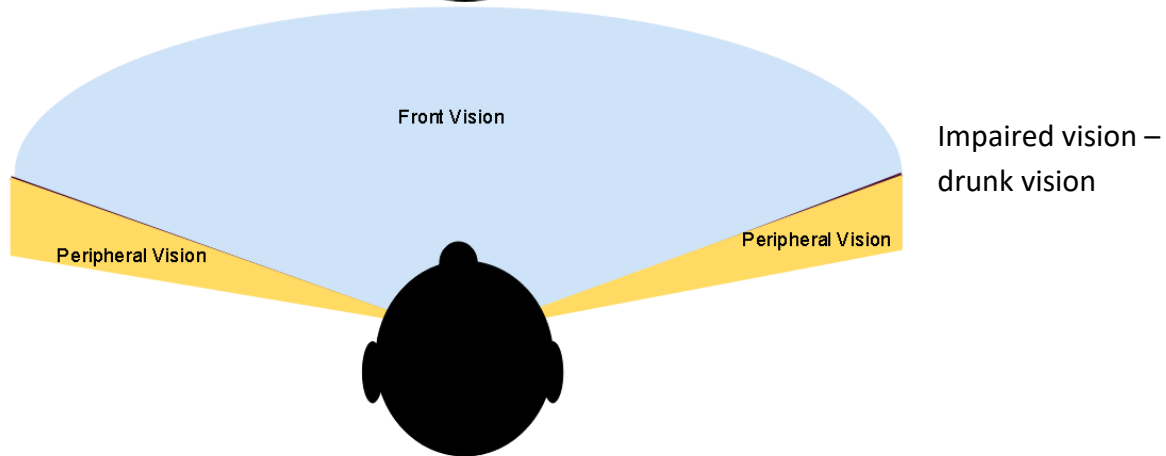
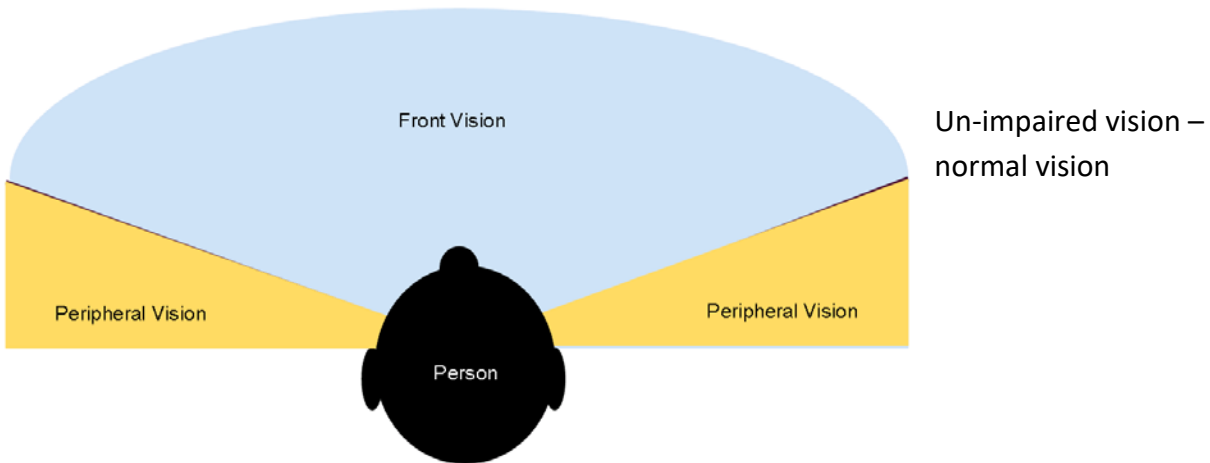
Alcohol affects the body and makes it hard for drivers to drive safely.

### Judgment

Drivers who drink alcohol can not properly judge (guess wrong) how impaired they are. They might drive too fast, guess stopping distance wrong, not wear a seatbelt, or forget to look out for other drivers.

## Vision

Drivers who drink alcohol (drunk drivers or impaired drivers) can not see as well. Drivers can not move their eyes as much and their peripheral vision (side of vision) gets smaller. Vision might also be blurry.



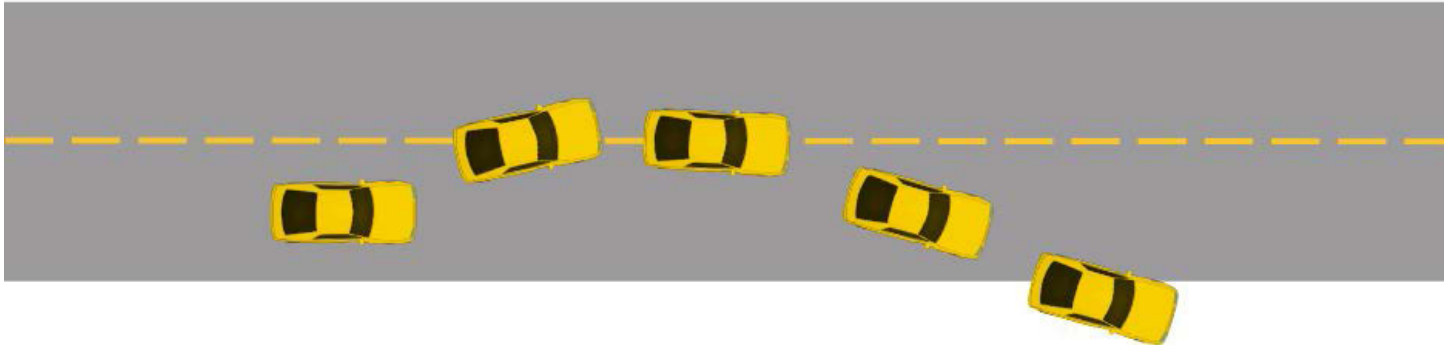
Blurry vision – drunk vision

## Reaction Time

Reaction time or the amount it takes a driver to react to something on the road is shorter. Drunk drivers can not respond quickly to other drivers, pedestrians, or things that happen on the road.

## Steering

Drunk drivers over steer (they turn their steering wheel too much), which can lead to weaving and driving off the road.



## Perception

Drunk drivers do not notice sights and sounds. Or they do not understand them correctly and make mistakes.

## Coordination and Balance

Drunk drivers can not combine speed and steadiness (the ability to drive straight).

## Attention

Drunk drivers can not focus on everything a driver needs to do to drive a car safely.

## Things to Know About Alcohol

A 12-ounce beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, a mixed drink, and nine-ounce wine cooler usually have the same amount of alcohol. Some do have more than the standard amount for a drink! The standard amount of alcohol in a drink is one and a half ounces.



The word “proof” means how strong a drink is or how much alcohol is in it. Proof is twice the amount percent of alcohol in the drink. A bottle of 80 proof whiskey has 40% alcohol.

The amount of time between drinks affects your alcohol concentration. If you drink more than one standard drink per hour your alcohol concentration will increase.

Alcohol affects everyone differently. Age, gender, body weight, how much food you’ve eaten, mood, and genetics all impact how alcohol affects you. You might be affected differently by alcohol if you are more tired, or have eaten more one day than another.

Males and females are affected differently by alcohol. Generally females are affected more – males can drink more than females and have the same alcohol concentration. This is not always true though.



**The only way to decrease your alcohol concentration is to wait. You can not decrease your alcohol content with coffee, showers, or exercising.**

### Making Lower-Risk Choices

If you drink at all, the safest thing to do is not to drive at all, and if you are going to drive, not drink at all. What you can do instead is:

- Decide who the driver is going to be before you leave
- Call a taxi or a friend
- Stay overnight at a friend's house
- Take away your friend's keys if they are drunk.

### Minnesota DWI Law

A person who has an alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher, who is driving or in control of a parked vehicle, can be arrested for driving while impaired (DWI) or drunk driving. If a police officer can prove that alcohol is the reason a driver made driving mistakes, the driver can be arrested for DWI. It is illegal to drive with a BAC at 0.08 or higher.

### Implied Consent/Search Warrant Law

If a police officer believes that a driver is impaired (drunk) and is driving, the driver has to have their blood, breath, or urine (pee) tested. It is a crime to refuse doing this test. If you refuse this test you can lose your license for 1 to 6 years.



A police officer might ask you to blow into a breathalyzer (pre-arrest breath test). This machine tells the officer how much alcohol you have in your system. It says what your blood-alcohol content is. This is only used to figure out what your alcohol content is and that information has limited power in court. If you are arrested, you'll have to take more tests. An officer can ask you to take these tests when:

- You are under arrest for a DWI
- Refuse to use the breathalyzer
- Fail a breathalyzer test
- Are involved in a crash that was because of alcohol

Sometimes a breathalyzer test is a good thing. Someone who is not drunk but looks intoxicated can take this test to prove they have not had alcohol.

### Penalties (Punishments)

If you have your license revoked because of alcohol, you have to:

- Pay a \$680 fee to get your license back
- Pass a DWI knowledge test
- Fill out a driver's license application

You might have to take a chemical assessment.

Penalties will be worse if the driver:

- Has been arrested for a DWI before

- Has an alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.16 or higher
- Has a child younger than 16 years old when the car is pulled over
- Is younger than 21 years old
- Refuses to take a breathalyzer (pre-arrest breath) test

If a driver has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher and they refuse to take a test to take alcohol concentration, they might get a 7 day temporary license. At the end of the 7 days, the license will be revoked.

If a driver gets arrested for DWI there are different punishments depending on how many times the driver has had DWI before.

### First Offense (First Time - 1)

- Minimum 90 day revocation (30 if the driver says they are guilty of DWI)
- No work permit will be given until 15 days of revocation have passed or until reinstatement requirements have been met. If the driver had an alcohol concentration of 0.16 or higher, a work permit is not an option.
- Can enroll in the Ignition Interlock Device Program. (There is a breathalyzer in the car and the driver has to blow in it before they can start the car.)
- 90 days in jail and/or \$1000 fine.

### Second Offense (Second Time - 2)

- Minimum one year license revocation if the second offense occurred within 10 years of the first offense.
- Can enroll in the Ignition Interlock Device Program.
- One year in jail and/or a \$3000 fine
- License plates are taken away



### Third Offense (Third Time - 3)

- Loss of license for minimum 3 years
- License is cancelled
- Have to do a chemical use treatment assessment
- Have to enroll in Ignition Interlock Device Program
- One year in jail and/or \$3000 fine.
- Have to give up your car and license plates are taken away
- Jail or bail and electronic monitoring (you are watched)



### Ignition Interlock Device Program

The Ignition Interlock Device Program makes sure people who got a DWI can not drive drunk. It is a machine that is connected to the car starter. To start the car, the driver has to blow into the machine. If the machine notices an alcohol concentration at or above 0.02, the car will not start.

The amount of time this machine is in a driver's car depends on how serious the DWI was. It can be up to 6 years.

## **Felony DWI**

You can get a felony for a DWI if:

- If it your 4<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years
- Have had a felony DWI before
- Have killed someone while driving drunk or under the influence of drugs

The penalties for a 4<sup>th</sup> DWI can be 7 years in prison and a \$14,000 fine.

## **Underage Drinking**

In Minnesota it is illegal to drink alcohol if you are under 21. It is illegal for anyone under 21 to drive if they have any alcohol in their system.

## **Other Laws Related to Alcohol and Controlled Substances (Drugs)**

### **Open Container**

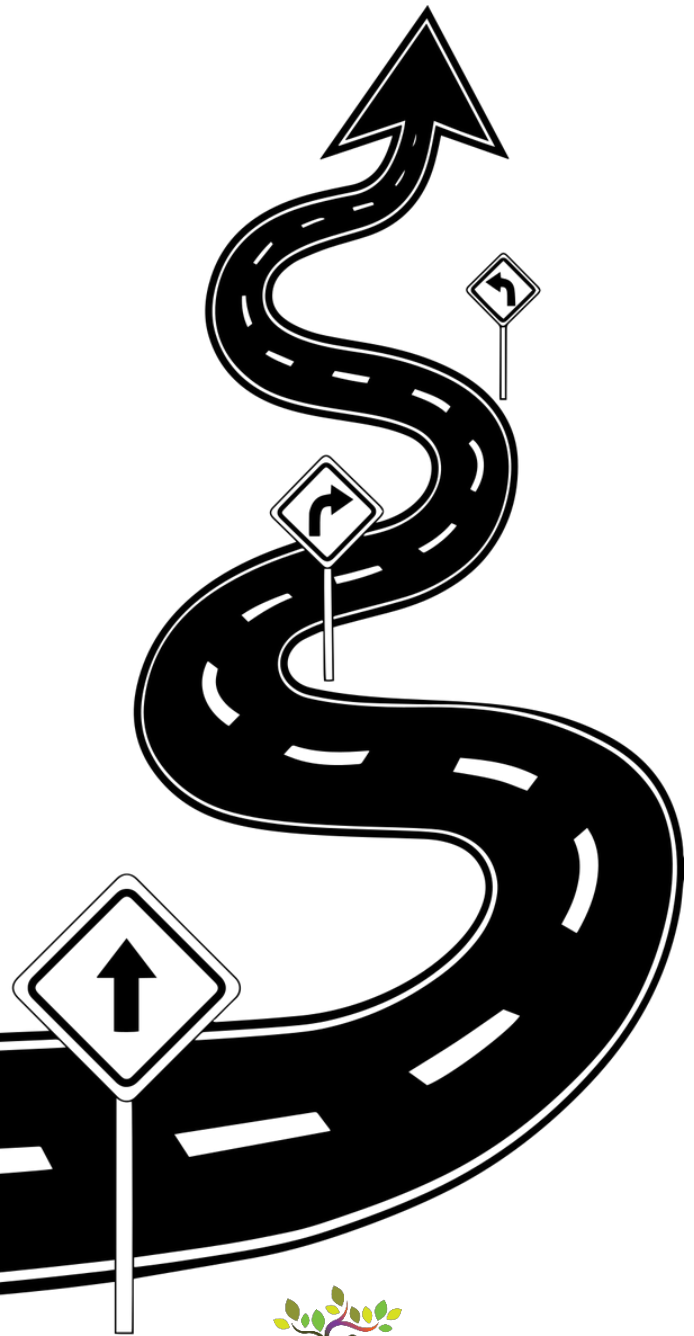
It is illegal to drink, or to have an open container of any alcohol drink inside a car when it is on a public street or highway. It is also illegal to let a passenger drink alcohol inside your car.

### **Controlled Substances (Drugs) in Cars**

It is illegal to use, have or sell drugs in a car.

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## CHAPTER 9: INFORMATION DIRECTORY AND INDEX

This chapter has information about where you can do things and where you can find information about driving in Minnesota.

### Web (Internet) Services

You can do many things online. You can go to [dvs.dps.mn.gov](http://dvs.dps.mn.gov) . Some things you can do are:

- Schedule the road test
- Find out where offices are
- Check to see if your driving privileges are valid (if you can drive)
- Make a report if you sell your car or buy a car
- Print a driver's license manual
- Download forms

### Office Locations

There are more than 200 places where you can get services. You can call 651-297-2005 or go to the website [dvs.dps.mn.gov](http://dvs.dps.mn.gov) to learn where you can get a permit or a license.

### Contacts

You can email [dvs.driverslicense@state.mn.us](mailto:dvs.driverslicense@state.mn.us) with questions or there are many numbers you can call if you have questions.

Road Test Scheduling (Metro Only) .....	651-284-1234
Office Locations.....	651-297-2005
Driver's License Information .....	651-297-3298
CDL Information .....	651-297-5029
Driver Evaluation.....	651-296-2025
Ignition Interlock.....	651-296-2948
No-fault Insurance Compliance .....	651-296-2025
Impounded Plates .....	651-297-5034
Vehicle Registration and Title.....	651-297-2126
Specialty Plates .....	651-297-3166
Customer Assistance for Hearing-Impaired callers (TTY/TDD) .....	651-282-6555
State Patrol Information Line .....	651-201-7100
MnDOT Road Conditions.....	511 or visit <a href="http://www.511mn.org">www.511mn.org</a>
MnDOT Motor Carrier Services.....	651-215-6330

Attorney General's Office ..... 651-296-3353  
Toll-free .....800-657-3787  
TTY for hearing impaired ..... 651-297-7206  
Toll-free ..... 800-366-4812  
Website: [www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer)

### **Voter Registration**

You can register to vote at the same time you apply for a driver's license or ID. All you need to do is check the registration box on the driver's license application.

### **Organ and Tissue Donation**

Driver's license applications have a section where you can decide to become a donor after you die. If you check this box, you give permission to be a donor. If you are a donor, your organs will go to someone who needs them after you die.

Your heart, lungs, liver, kidney, pancreas, intestines, skin, heart valves, bone, eyes, and connective tissue can be donated.

You do not have to be a donor if you do not want to.