

## SECTION VII – SHARING THE ROAD

### A. Pedestrian Right-of-Way

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at street crossings but must obey traffic control signals. Where a traffic signal is not present, vehicles must stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked when a pedestrian is:

- on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling; or,
- approaching from the nearest lane on the other half of the roadway.

#### 1. Blind or Deaf Pedestrians or Mobility Impaired Individuals Right-of-Way at Crossings

Drivers should be especially alert for pedestrians who are deaf, blind or mobility impaired. These individuals may have difficulty detecting oncoming traffic and may need extra time to cross the road. The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to:

- a blind or partially blind pedestrian carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide dog/service animal;
- a deaf or partially deaf person accompanied by a guide/service dog;
- a mobility-impaired individual using a manual or motorized wheelchair, motorized scooter, crutch, cane or walker.

#### 2. Crossing at Crosswalks



A crosswalk is the portion of the roadway meant to be used for pedestrian crossings. Crosswalks can be marked on the pavement surface, however, a crosswalk exists across most intersection approaches even if no crosswalk marking is present.

Where a traffic signal is in operation, drivers and pedestrians must obey the traffic signal. A driver may not pass any vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk. Drivers must yield to pedestrians when turning on a steady green signal and when making a turn, after stopping, where turning on a red signal is permitted.

### B. Emergency Vehicles

Authorized emergency vehicles, such as police cars, ambulances and fire engines, have the right-of-way when they are using their audible or visual signals, i.e. sirens and flashing lights.

- Immediately after you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching that is using its signals, you must move as close as possible to the edge of the roadway, clear of any intersection, and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- If you are proceeding in the same direction as an emergency vehicle using its signals, you may not pass the emergency vehicle unless the emergency vehicle stops or you are otherwise directed by a police officer.
- If you are approaching an emergency vehicle, tow truck, or other service vehicle that is stopped on a roadway, you must pull into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the referenced vehicle. If it is not possible to move over, you must slow down to a safe speed for the conditions and be prepared to stop if necessary.

### C. Large Trucks

Watch for turning trucks. Trucks make wide turns at intersections and require additional space. When making a right turn, large trucks will often move left prior to making the turn. Car drivers may see this as a lane change to the left and attempt to pass on the right. Passing any truck on the right can be risky. Wait

to assess the truck driver's intent before passing. If a truck is stopped at or approaching an intersection, never attempt to cut in along the right side, as the truck driver begins their turn. You could find yourself caught between the turning truck and the curb.

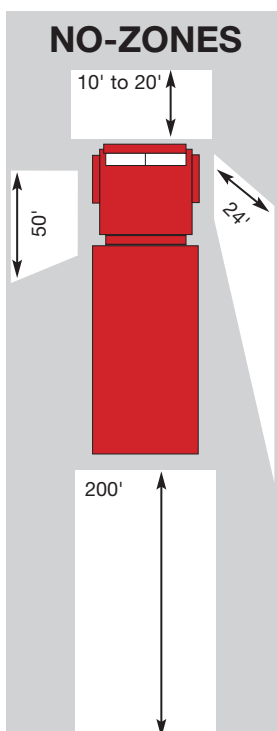
When passing a truck that is going in the same direction, pass quickly to resume visibility and change lanes only when you can see both of the truck's headlights in your rearview mirror.

Many intersections are marked with stop lines. Crowding the intersection by stopping beyond the stop line can leave your vehicle exposed to trucks attempting to turn from a cross street.

Never cut in front of a truck. Fully loaded trucks can weigh more than 80,000 pounds and take the length of a football field to stop. Most cars weigh only 2,000 pounds.

### No-Zones

There are four large blind spots around trucks where cars "disappear" from view and the driver cannot see you.



**Side No-Zones:** Trucks and buses have blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face in the side-view mirror, he or she cannot see you. If the truck changes lanes, you could be in trouble. The right side blind spot runs the length of the trailer and extends out three lanes.

**Rear No-Zones:** Avoid tailgating. Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge no zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver cannot see your car back there. If the truck or bus brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

**Front No-Zones:** Do not cut in front too soon after passing a truck or bus. Truck and bus drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. Look for the entire front of the truck in your rear view mirror before you pull in front, and then do not slow down.

**Backing Up No-Zones:** Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Hundreds of motorists are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks that are backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.

**Remember, if you cannot see a truck's mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you!**

## D. School Vehicles

**Drivers are to stop for school vehicles.**

If a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights, the driver of any vehicle following or approaching the school vehicle shall:

- stop at least 20 feet from the rear of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its rear; or
- at least 20 feet from the front of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its front.



The driver of any vehicle following or approaching the school vehicle may not proceed until the school vehicle resumes motion or the alternately flashing red lights are deactivated. This does not apply to the driver of a vehicle on a physically divided highway.