

TRACKING & TURNING

Accurate Tracking

Is your ability to place the vehicle in LP1, LP2, or LP3 and maintain that position until a change is needed:

1. when driving straight,
2. when approaching and driving through curves & turns, and
3. when searching and evaluating the target area and your path-of-travel.

TURNING

Make all turns from the nearest legal lane in the direction you are traveling into the nearest legal lane in the direction you want to go.

1. **Signal:** You are required to signal 100 feet before turning.
2. **Check mirrors before using the brake:** Adjust speed to traffic to the rear.
3. **Lane Position:**
 - Right turn: Lane position 3. Move as far right as possible without driving in bicycle lane or parking spaces.
 - If moving your vehicle a car width or more - Check your blind spot.
 - Left turn: Lane position 1 - (Depends if there is oncoming traffic or not)

Moving Turn

Reduce speed gradually prior to turning. Don't stop unnecessarily.

1. The slowest part of the turn should be right after the crosswalk.
2. Hold slight brake pressure as you turn to keep the car in balance.
 - a. Turns made at 10-15 mph
3. Look into the turn: Turn your head before the wheel.
4. Glance at location of line and back to target.
5. Use **peripheral vision** to monitor lane lines as you turn.
6. At the apex of the turn
7. Release all brake pressure.
8. Begin to accelerate through the turn and counter-steer into your lane.

Turning from stopped position

Put the car in motion before turning the wheel. It is difficult to anticipate the vehicle's path without moving.

1. **Right turn:** You could end up striking the curb
2. **Left turn:** You could hit the front of a car approaching the intersection

At the apex of the turn, start to increase speed and counter-steer into the new lane.

Complete the Turn

3. Once the turn is complete, check the rearview mirror for vehicles to the rear.

ENTERING, CROSSING & EXITING TRAFFIC FLOW

Entering Traffic Flow

If approaching your vehicle from the sidewalk, approach from the **front** of the car. Why? **So you are facing traffic.**

Entering Traffic

1. **Shift to Drive** (Sock)
2. **Release the Parking Brake** (Shoe)

The order is important. By setting and releasing your parking brake in the correct order, you are keeping weight off the pinion in the transmission and the weight of the car on the hand brake. The order is like the way you start your day with your sock and shoe.

2. **360 check**

3. **SMOG:** An acronym for the steps **REQUIRED** for safe lateral movements.

Signal: Signal in the direction you want to go.

Mirror: Search the inside mirror and the outside mirror on the side that you will be entering.

- Searching for a gap: When you do see cars that are preventing you from entering the traffic flow, look beyond the vehicles you are waiting for to locate a suitable gap.

Over-the-Shoulder: Check your blind spot. What are you looking for?

Go: Avoid hesitation. Look ahead in the lane you want to travel.

- Your vehicle should not move until you signal, check mirrors, and blind spot check has been made! Start moving when your vision is directed ahead.
- Do not disrupt traffic flow: Get up to speed and check mirrors for cars following.
- Cancel your signal.

Crossing Traffic

Stop required: Make sure that you have a 90° view in each direction.

Stop requirements: 1. Stop line 2. Crosswalk 3. Sidewalk 4. Edge of road

If you can't see, creep forward. You need a clear 90° view in both directions.

Where no stop is required: Search the intersection Left, Front & Right **before** reaching the intersection. Search 45 degrees to the left and right.

What are you looking for?

Exiting Traffic

1. **Find an open location to park.**

2. **SMOG**

- Don't slow too much or stop in the middle of the road! Once you start moving off the roadway, then you begin slowing. Slow to a walking pace before getting close to the curb.
- Park within 12" of the curb.

3. **Secure the car:** Which is first? Transmission in Park or Park Brake

4. **Parking on a Hill:** Turn wheels

Uphill curb: Left

Uphill no curb: Right

Downhill with or without curb: Right

5. **Turn off accessories.**
6. **Before opening the door, check mirrors and blind spot.** Why? Look for traffic & bicycles
7. **When leaving the vehicle, walk to the rear of the vehicle.** Why? Facing traffic

THE LANGUAGE OF THE ROAD

SIGNS

Universal language of the road: Roadway signs in the United States increasingly use symbols rather than words to convey their message. Symbols overcome language barriers, and are becoming standard for traffic control devices throughout the world.

Three categories of signs.

1. **Regulate** traffic, movement, or parking.
2. **Warn** of potential dangers or road conditions.
3. Provide **direction** and information.

REGULATORY SIGNS

Purpose: They require or prohibit an action by you. Give commands and sets limits. The use of red on signs is limited to stop, yield, and prohibition signs.

Color: Black, white, red **Shape:** Rectangle, square, special shapes

WARNING SIGNS

Purpose: Warn you to slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary. Warn you of sharp curves, special situations, speed zones, or hazards ahead.

Color: Yellow **Shape:** Diamond shape, special shapes

Construction Signs:

Purpose: Warns you of construction, maintenance, or emergency operations. Warn of reduced speed, detour, slow moving vehicles ahead, and poor and changing road surfaces. Traffic fines double in these zones.

Color: Orange **Shape:** Diamond, rectangular

Incident Management Signs: Incident signs or temporary traffic control signs are temporary. Prepare to stop: Roadways are closed or detoured due to a road user incident, natural disaster, hazardous material spill, or other unplanned incident.

Color: Pink **Shape:** Diamond, rectangular

GUIDE SIGNS

Purpose: They show directions and distances to various locations.

Color: Green **Shape:** Rectangular

Motorist Services Signs:

Purpose: Show location of various services such as rest areas, gas stations, hospitals, phone.

Color: Blue **Shape:** Rectangular, square

Recreation Signs:

Purpose: Tell you location of recreational areas, points of interest, state parks

Color: Brown **Shape:** Rectangular, special shape

Route number signs: Shape and color indicate the type of roadway; Interstate, US, state, city, county roads.

Odd numbering: odd **Even numbering:** even

SIGNALS

Red:

Flashing Red: Treat it like a stop sign.

- Right turn on Red: Yes, yield to traffic and pedestrians. No signs prohibit.
- Left turn on Red: Yes, onto a one way street. Yield to traffic and pedestrians. No signs prohibit.

Red Arrows: Don't go in direction of arrow: Stop, yield - turn if sign does not prohibit.

- Turn onto one-way street turning left. Make complete stop.

Yellow: Clear the intersection. **Flashing Yellow:** Caution.

Green:

- A stale green light has been green for some time and is a clue it may turn yellow soon.
- A fresh **green light** is one that just turned from red to green.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Yellow line markings

- Mark **left** edge of the roadway.
- Separate traffic moving in **opposite** directions.
- A dashed yellow line means you can cross it to **pass** if it is safe.
- Solid Line on your side - no passing.

May cross over double yellow lines when turning left as long as the lines are not more than **18"** or wider apart.
(median)

White line Markings

- Should not drive to the right of the edge line
- Mark the **right** edge of the roadway.
- Separate traffic moving in the **same** direction.
- Solid white line means you should stay in your lane, generally not to **cross**.
- White lines perpendicular on roadway mark: **Stop lines & crosswalks**

What is the purpose of a stop line? For trucks wide turning radius and for those that cut center line.

Arrows: Must turn in the **direction** of the arrow.

Two-way left turn lanes: Reserved for vehicles making left turns in either direction from or into the roadway. Cannot travel in for further than **300** feet.

*** Review inside covers of Washington Driver Guide & Section 3**