

Driver Education Chapter 14

Driving in City Traffic

14.1 Adjusting to City Traffic

City Driving will test your best abilities

Traffic Density—number of vehicles you meet per mile—heavier in the city.

Using the IPDE Process

Identify—Be vigorous in using your visual skills. Look well ahead of your target area. Check your searching ranges to make sure your front zone is open and you have time to spot things like a line of sight restriction.

Predict—Predict possible points of conflict quickly and gain time to respond.

Decide—Always be ready to communicate or adjust your vehicle position by changing speed and using distance effectively.

Execute—Be ready to use your vehicle's controls to make smooth low-risk maneuvers in traffic.

14.2 Following and Meeting Traffic

3 Second Following distance—increased following distance is not ideal

Stay Alert- Be alert to all things happening around you—brake lights, things on the road, anticipate what the drivers around you are going to do.

Tailgaters—Follows too closely

Managing Tailgaters—Increase your following distance to at least 4 seconds.

Move slightly to the right and let the tailgater see more.

Signal early for turns, stops, and lane changes. Flash your brake lights ahead of time to warn the tailgater.

Sometimes change lanes or pull out of traffic to avoid the situation.

Meeting Traffic

Avoiding Conflicts—If a vehicle comes toward take these actions to avoid conflict.

Slow until the other driver can return to the normal lane.

Turn on or flash your headlights and blow your horn.

If your right front zone is open to the right to give more room.

Swerve sharply to an open space on the right if needed.

14.3 Managing space in City Traffic

You need to be alert for changing situations around you.

Approaching Traffic Signals

Pay attention to light changes, pedestrian signs etc.

Covering the Brake—Take your foot off the accelerator, and hold it over the brake pedal. You can always use this when you sense a conflict.

Ride the Brake—Make sure you don't rest on the brake when covering.

These actions to identify and respond to the risk of parked vehicles

Cover your brake and move left in your lane to lane position 2.

Look for drivers through the windows of parked vehicles.

Be alert for the parked vehicles' brake lights, exhaust, or wheels turned out.

Lightly tap your horn if needed.

Be ready to stop or swerve. Swerve only if the left front zone is open.

Keep at least a door's width away from a vehicle.

Adjusting Speed---Blend into traffic

Stay with traffic flow

Stay within the speed limit

Adjust speed and position ahead of time for other drivers who might block your way.

Selecting the Best Lane—multi-lanes---Select the lane with the smallest number of hazards.

The left lane is usually for faster traffic—choose the lane where the traffic flow is smoothest.

Lane Positioning

Increase your following distance to more than 3 seconds in heavy traffic.

Adjust speed and lane position to stay out of other drivers blind spots

Move to another lane if your front zone closes

Once you are in a lane try to stay

Overtaking and Passing—overtake make sure you can do so safely and legally.

Special Traffic Lanes—HOV Lanes—High Occupancy Vehicle—busses and carpools.

14.4 Special City Situations

Driving on Two-Way Streets

Blind Intersection—view of traffic is impeded.

Some intersections are uncontrolled—if you need to make a left hand turn

Yield to oncoming traffic.

Identifying one-way streets.

Entering one way streets from a left turn or right turn—position your vehicle in the proper lane about a block before your turn.

Leaving a One- Way Street—to turn left be in the left lane, to turn right be in the right lane.

Unexpected Situations on Crowded Streets

Car going wrong way on a one way

Always visually search at all times

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj-9cFqf1eo> Urban Driving

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ql76lTQVo4> City