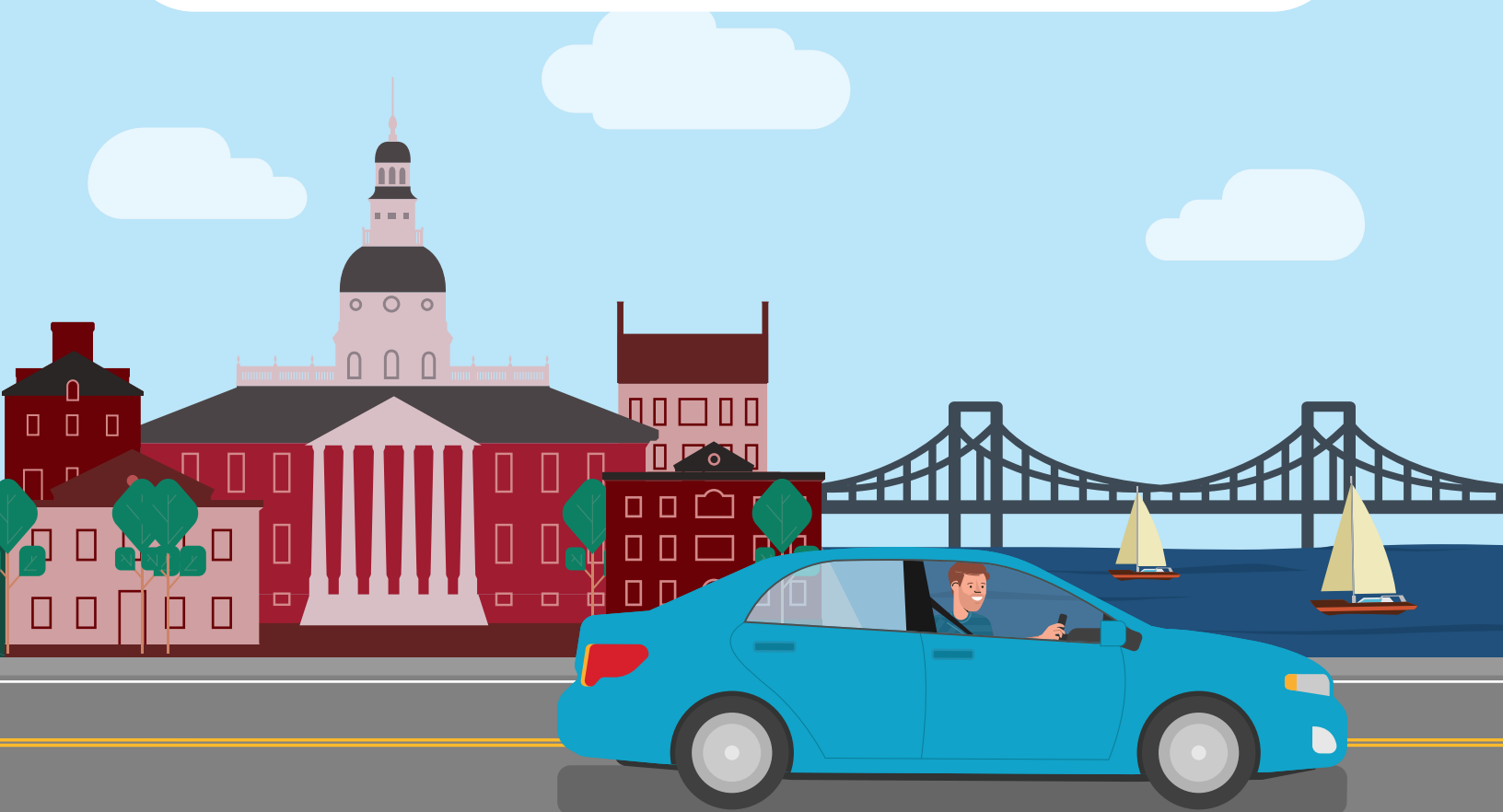


# MARYLAND Driver's Manual

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**MOT** MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION



For more information, visit:

**[mva.maryland.gov](http://mva.maryland.gov)**

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 MarylandMVA

 MD\_MVA

DL-002 (07-22)

# Administrator's Message

## Dear Future Motorist:

You are about to begin your journey of getting a Maryland driver's license. While this is an exciting time for any new driver, it is important to remember that driving is a privilege, and you play a role in ensuring that all drivers remain safe on our roadways.

## Be the Driver Who Saves Lives

As you travel Maryland's roadways, you will encounter drivers of different ages and skill levels, and varying modes of transportation. But we all have one thing in common – a personal responsibility to each other – to Be the Driver Who Saves Lives.

As a new driver, it is very important to take your time, understand the rules of the road, listen and learn from your teachers and instructors and be thoughtful of your fellow drivers and passengers out on our roads. Like any other new skill you are learning, you will get better at driving with more experience on different roadways, under varying conditions and in different environments.

Each of us has a responsibility every time we get behind the wheel to choose to drive focused and sober, wear a seat belt, follow the posted speed limits, look twice for motorcycles, and share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists. It is up to you to make safe choices behind the wheel. Unfortunately, every day, thousands of drivers make the decision to drive distracted or impaired, speed, or take their aggression out on other road users, putting themselves and others at risk. We all need to look out for each other.

It is our commitment at the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) to promote driver safety. Our goal in Maryland is to reach zero fatalities on Maryland roadways, because even one life lost is an unnecessary tragedy.

After reading this manual, test YOUR knowledge of the rules of the road and take our Online Driver Test Tutorial located on the MDOT MVA website, [mva.maryland.gov](http://mva.maryland.gov).

We look forward to serving you.

Stay safe,



Administrator, MDOT MVA

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# Meet the drivers who are **saving lives** in Maryland.



**be the  
driver**  
who **saves** lives

Throughout the manual, our “Be the Driver” mascots will tell you about Maryland’s safe driving campaigns, and provide important safety tips!

For more information on the “Be the Driver” campaign, visit:  
[ZeroDeathsMD.gov](https://ZeroDeathsMD.gov).

# SECTION 1:

## Driving Tests Requirements

Licensing requirements include a vision screening, a knowledge test, and a driving skills test on the satisfactory operation of a motor vehicle. In special circumstances, the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) may find it necessary to require additional examinations to determine the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

### A. Vision Screening

All Maryland driver's license applicants must pass a vision screening in order to receive a license. The vision screening may be performed by the MDOT MVA, or the applicant's vision specialist.

To qualify for a driver's license, the applicant must have:

- Binocular vision.
- Visual acuity of at least 20/40 in each eye.
- A continuous field of vision of at least 140 degrees.

If corrective lenses are needed to meet the above standards, a restriction will be included on the license requiring that corrective lenses be worn while driving.

Additional information is available on the MDOT MVA website for individuals who do not meet the vision standards.

### B. Knowledge Test

The knowledge test is designed to check the applicant's knowledge of motor vehicle laws, safe driving practices and signs. The information on which the applicant will be tested is in this manual.

Typically, the test is offered in an automated format with an allotted completion time.

An Online Driver Test Tutorial is available on the MDOT MVA's website. The tutorial is a good study tool since it contains a sample of topics for the knowledge test. You should also be sure to study this entire manual to ensure your success on the knowledge test.

### C. Driving Skills Test

All driving skills tests will be conducted by appointment only. The skills test for a driver's license must be scheduled in advance. Please visit MDOT MVA's website or call 410-768-7000 or 1-800-492-4575 TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing to schedule an appointment.

With the health and safety of our customers and employees in mind, during the on-road portion of the test, the driver's licensing agent and customer will be encouraged to improve the ventilation in the vehicle if possible — for example, by opening the windows or setting the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode. Customers may wear a mask during the test if preferred. Additionally, if customers are not feeling well, they are encouraged to reschedule their appointment.

**In order to be eligible to take a driving test, certain requirements must be met. The vehicle must have valid license plates, registration, and proof of insurance. Additionally, the vehicle must be in safe operating condition, have no cracks or obstructions on the windshield, and have at least a half tank of gas.**

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The driving test includes on-course maneuvers and driving on public roads. The test is designed to assess the applicant's driving skills and observance of traffic laws. The vehicle must be operated in a safe and responsible manner.

A supervising driver (as defined in Section 10) must accompany the applicant to the test site. No one other than the applicant, the examiner(s), and an MDOT MVA-approved interpreter, if applicable, are permitted in the vehicle during the test.

#### **D. Reportable Medical Conditions**

Prior to applying for or renewing a Learner's Instructional Permit or Driver's License, State law requires an applicant, who has been diagnosed with a reportable medical condition, to report the condition to the MDOT MVA Driver Wellness and Safety Division. (See Section 10 – Other Important Information, for a complete listing of reportable medical conditions.)



# SECTION 2:

## Licensing Requirements and Process

New applicants must apply in person at an MDOT MVA full service office and furnish acceptable documentation to prove age and identity, lawful status, Social Security Number (SSN), or proof of ineligibility for a SSN, and two (2) residency documents. At least one of the identity documents presented must include the applicant's full name. Applicants must bring original documents or copies certified by the issuing agency. Photocopies, notarized copies and documents with alterations or erasures will not be accepted. For a complete listing of acceptable documents, please visit the MDOT MVA website.

### A. Rookie Driver/Graduated Licensing System

The Rookie Driver/Graduated Driver Licensing System (GLS) applies to all new noncommercial driver's license applicants, regardless of age. The GLS requires new drivers to gain driving experience, first with a supervising driver while holding a Learner's Instructional Permit, then alone with certain restrictions while holding a Provisional License, and then "graduating" to a Driver's License.

### B. Learner's Instructional Permit

Individuals who have never held a noncommercial, Class C, driver's license are required to obtain a Type 1 Learner's Instructional Permit. There are different periods of time the applicant must hold the Permit before being eligible for a Provisional License, depending on the applicant's age. The Type 1 Learner's Permit is valid for up to 2 years. All applicants must pass a vision screening and knowledge test.

Current driver's license holders who are at least 16 years and 6 months of age who wish

to apply for a driver's license of a different class will be required to apply for a Type 2 Learner's Instructional Permit. The Type 2 Learner's Instructional Permit is valid for up to 180 days and must be held for a minimum of 14 days before the applicant is eligible to take the driving test for a full license.

### Applicants younger than 25:

- Must be at least 15 years and 9 months of age.
- If under age 18, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must co-sign the application.
- If under age 16, must present a completed Learner's Permit School Attendance Certification form (DL-300).

While holding the Learner's Instructional Permit, applicants must complete the Maryland Driver Education Program and accumulate at least 60 practice hours with a supervising driver and maintain a Practice and Skills Log. At least 10 of the practice hours must occur during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise. The Practice and Skills Log is available on the MDOT MVA website.

### Applicants 25 years old and older:

While holding the Learner's Instructional Permit, applicants must complete the Maryland Driver Education Program and accumulate at least 14 practice hours with a supervising driver and maintain a Practice and Skills Log. At least three (3) of the practice hours must occur during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise. The Practice and Skills Log is available on the MDOT MVA website.

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The Permit must be held for a minimum of 45 days before the applicant is eligible for a Provisional License.

## Violations

Any applicant, regardless of age, who has been convicted of or given a Probation Before Judgement (PBJ) for a moving violation is required to hold the permit for a minimum of 9 months following the most recent date the individual was convicted of or granted a PBJ for a moving violation, or if they have been suspended for any reason. They must meet the rest of the above mentioned GLS requirements before they are eligible to take a skills driving test.

For drivers under age 18, the driver must hold the Learner's Instructional Permit for a minimum of nine (9) months violation-free before being eligible for a Provisional License.

For drivers age 18 with a high school diploma or its equivalent, or age 19 to 24, the driver must hold the Learner's Instructional Permit for a minimum of three months violation-free before being eligible for a Provisional License.

## C. Provisional License

A provisional driver's license is a restricted license issued to new drivers who have never held a driver's license or who have held a license for less than 18 months

Applicants who wish to graduate from a Learner's Instructional Permit to a Provisional License must:

- Have successfully completed a Maryland approved driver education program. (A listing of approved providers may be found on the MDOT MVA website.)
- Have a valid, unexpired Maryland Learner's Instructional Permit.

- Hold a Maryland Learner's Instructional Permit violation-free for their required minimum holding period.
- Not be convicted of any moving violations or have been granted probation before judgment for any moving violations during their required holding period.
- Submit a completed and signed Practice and Skills Log to document the minimum number of practice hours with a supervising driver.
- Successfully pass the driving skills test.

## D. Driver's License

A Driver's License is the last stage of the GLS.

To be eligible for a Driver's License, applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have held the Provisional License for at least 18 months.
- Have not been convicted of any moving violations or have been granted probation before judgment for any moving violations within the previous 18 months.

Once the Provisional License holder meets all requirements, the MDOT MVA will automatically convert the Provisional License to a Driver's License. An attachment card, showing the conversion, will be mailed to the driver. The card must be carried with the Provisional License.

## E. Co-Signer of Minor's Application for a License

Minors, under the age of 18, must have a parent or legal guardian co-sign their application. Proof of relationship is required, such as the applicant's original or certified Birth Certificate reflecting parents, court documents reflecting legal

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guardianship, etc. If the applicant is married and proof of marriage is presented, the spouse, if over the age of 18, may co-sign the application. If the applicant has no parent, legal guardian or spouse, an adult employer of the applicant or other responsible adult may co-sign the minor's application. In this case, documentation, such as the death certificates of the parents or proof of emancipation is required.

## **F. Cancellation of Minor's License on Request of Co-Signer**

The co-signer may cancel the minor's license by submitting a written request to the MDOT MVA's Administrative Adjudication Division. The cancellation remains in effect until the minor reaches the age of 18, unless a co-signer, who meets the above qualifications, co-signs and certifies for the minor.

## **G. Out-of-Country Licenses**

Individuals who hold an out-of-country license are required to successfully complete a vision screening, knowledge test, driving skills test, and an MDOT MVA approved three-hour alcohol and drug education program in order to convert their license to a Maryland license. An up-to-date listing of MDOT MVA-approved providers may be found on the MDOT MVA website.

If the out-of-country license is not in English, it must be accompanied by an International License, or a translation into English by an MDOT MVA approved translator. The original document must accompany the English translation. Document translations must be:

- On a document prepared by an MDOT MVA approved provider or court translator; OR
- On the letterhead of the embassy of the country of origin; OR

- On the letterhead of the translator contracted by the State.

All of the above documents must contain the:

- Typed/printed name of the translator; AND
- Telephone number; AND
- Signature of translator.

## **H. Equity for All Customers**

### **For Foreign Language Customers**

For our customers that need language services, MDOT MVA offers several documents and tests in other languages including Spanish, Korean, French, Vietnamese, Nepali, and Traditional Chinese. If you have difficulty communicating in English, you may be able to use an interpreter when you visit the MDOT MVA, particularly when taking a knowledge test or driving test for a class C or M non-commercial driver's license. If we offer the knowledge test in the language that you speak, you must attempt the knowledge test at least five (5) times before an interpreter can be used. If your identity documents and/or driver's license is not in English, the document(s) must be translated by an MDOT MVA approved Interpreter/Translator (see section G). A list of approved interpreters can be found on our website. NOTE: The MDOT MVA does not charge a fee for the use of an interpreter; however, you will be responsible for any fees that the interpreter may require for their services.

During your MDOT MVA visit the in-person interpreter and/or translator provider must show a valid photo identification card (either a state driver's license or identification card) prior to conducting on-site interpretation and/or translation services. Additionally, MDOT MVA

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branch office staff will confirm that interpreter/ translator is on our approved list and in good standing to provide services.

**NOTE:** Interpreters providing services for knowledge/skills testing are prohibited from providing other services on behalf of the customer being tested, such as: certifying residence, conducting the business of a driving school, or issuing lease/rental agreements, etc.

Visit our website for a list of approved interpreters.

### **For Customers with Disabilities**

MDOT MVA has several processes in place to provide accommodations to its customers taking the knowledge and driver's skills tests, including:

- Additional time for test taking.
- Sign language support (American Sign Language and Certified Deaf Interpreters) on a case by case basis.
- Oral testing.
- MDOT MVA provided Screen Readers.
- MDOT MVA provided Headphones.
- MDOT MVA provided Visual Aids.

Please contact customer service at:  
<https://feedback.mva.maryland.gov>

### **Developmental Disability Disclosure Card**

MDOT MVA provides upon request from a customer or parent/guardian, the Developmental Disability Disclosure Card. The blue card is the size of a driver's license. It includes space for an individual to provide details on a developmental disability and gives guidance on effective communication between law enforcement officers and people with developmental disabilities. To obtain a Voluntary Developmental Disability Disclosure Card, please visit the information desk at any of our 24 branches statewide during normal operational hours to request and obtain a card. MDOT MVA will NOT ask customers to disclose or present any documentation of their disability in order to obtain this card.

# SECTION 3:

## Basic Driving

Before you drive, both you and your vehicle should be in good condition to drive. You must have a valid learner's permit/driver's license and vehicle registration card in your possession. You should properly adjust your seat and mirrors and ensure that all passengers are wearing a seat belt.

### A. Drive Defensively

A basic rule of driving is that, at all times, the driver of a vehicle on a highway shall control the vehicle as necessary to avoid a crash. Driving a motor vehicle requires that you take the responsibility to operate the vehicle in a safe manner. Doing so will reduce the risks for yourself, your passengers and other roadway users.

#### Visual Search/Driver Awareness

To better prepare for the constant decisions necessary for safe, defensive driving, you must know what is happening around your vehicle. Constantly observing your surroundings, to the front, side and rear of your vehicle, helps you to see problems that may cause you to change speed or roadway position.

By searching ahead and being ready to change speed or change lanes, you can operate a vehicle more safely and allow yourself time to identify risks.

#### Risk Management

Operating a motor vehicle is a risky activity. Consider the following steps to manage risk and be a safe and responsible driver:

- Adjust your speed, position, and direction to respond to roadway conditions, enhance vehicle control, and increase response time.

- Let other drivers know your intentions by using turn signals, etc.
- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and other roadway users.
- Do not assume that other drivers will do what they are supposed to do.
- Use caution at all times.

### B. Right-of-Way

Right-of-way rules provide drivers with guidance for situations when other drivers or pedestrians are present. These rules determine which driver should yield the right-of-way and the sequence for entering and driving through an intersection or other driving scenarios.

Although the right-of-way rules provide a guide to determine who should yield the right-of-way, no one should assume they automatically have the right-of-way. The situation and circumstances at the intersection must always be considered.

You should yield the right-of-way to:

- The driver who is at or arrives before you at the intersection.
- Drivers in the opposing traffic lane, when you are making a left turn.
- The driver on your right, if both of you arrive at the intersection at the same time.
- Drivers on a public highway, if you are entering the highway from a driveway or a private road. (*continued*)



**You are responsible for controlling your vehicle as necessary to avoid a crash.**

- Drivers already on a limited access or interstate highway, if you are on the entrance or acceleration ramp.
- The driver on your right at a four way intersection controlled by stop signs.
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are still in the intersection.
- Drivers on the through highway, if you are at a “T” intersection and you are entering the through highway by either making a right or left turn.
- Other drivers, if you are approaching an intersection with a yield sign facing you.

## C. Understanding Vehicle Speed

The posted speed limit is the maximum legal speed you can travel on a road under ideal conditions. Maintaining a safe speed at all times is a responsibility shared by all motorists.

It is safest to drive at the same speed that most traffic is moving, up to the maximum speed limit. In fact, traveling at a speed lower than other traffic encourages other vehicles to constantly pass you and increases the chances of a crash.

### Speeding

Excessive speed is one of the most common contributing factors of vehicle crashes. Excessive speed does not save time and often leads to high-risk decision-making.



**In areas where you see “stay right” signage on the highway, drive in the right hand lane or lanes unless you are passing a vehicle.**

Excessive vehicle speed has severe and often times disastrous effects because it:

- Reduces the ability to negotiate curves or maneuver around obstacles in the roadway.
- Extends the distance necessary for a vehicle to stop.
- Decreases the driver’s ability to realize and react to a hazard or dangerous situation.
- Increases the risk of crashes because other roadway users and pedestrians may not be able to judge distance accurately.
- Increases the force and impact in a crash, which more likely results in serious bodily injuries and deaths.

### Appropriate Speed for Conditions

Drivers must recognize and adjust their speed to adverse conditions. Maryland Vehicle Law requires that motorists drive at a reasonable and prudent speed and with a regard for existing and potential hazards. You may drive slower than the posted speed limit, based on road conditions, but it is illegal to drive any faster than the posted speed limit.

Some conditions, which require reduced speed for safety, include:

- Sharp curves or hills – where visibility is limited.
- Slippery roads.
- Roads where there may be pedestrians or animals present.
- Shopping centers, parking lots and downtown areas.
- Traffic congestion.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels.

- 
- Toll plazas.
  - Schools, playgrounds and residential streets.
  - Railroad grade crossings.

## D. Following Distance

Always maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. Most rear-end collisions are caused by following too closely. A minimum following distance of 3 to 4 seconds is recommended under ideal driving conditions. This means it takes you 3 to 4 seconds to get to the same reference point as the car ahead of you. To determine if you are following at a safe distance, choose a fixed object ahead, such as a bridge, overpass, sign, mile marker, etc. As the car in front of you passes that object, begin counting 1 one thousand, 2 one thousand, 3 one thousand, etc. If you reach 3 one thousand or greater before your car reaches the same fixed object, you are at least 3 seconds behind the car in front of you and traveling at a safe distance.

When you are following vehicles which stop often (buses, delivery vans), you should increase the distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you to four or five seconds, and possibly more as needed.

## E. Stopping Distance

The distance it takes to stop your vehicle is important to help you choose a safe driving speed. Your actual stopping distance will depend upon many factors, including:

- The length of time it takes a driver to see and recognize that there is a dangerous situation.
- The type and condition of the roadway.
- The condition of the tire treads.
- The condition of the brakes.

## F. Lane Driving

Your vehicle should be driven in a single lane. Do not switch lanes until you determine it is safe to do so. You should avoid drifting across lane lines and making lane changes within an intersection.

Generally, you should keep your vehicle to the right of the center of the roadway, unless you are passing another vehicle going in the same direction, there is a traffic signal designating it is okay to do so, or there is an obstruction that makes it necessary to safely adjust your position.

## G. Turning

When turning, you should:

- Look for signs and signals that give direction on when you can turn.
- Plan your turn before reaching the turning point.
- Activate your turn signal in advance to alert other drivers.
- Look behind and to both sides to ensure it is safe to proceed before making a turn.
- Adjust your speed for the turn.

## H. U-turn

U-turns can be extremely dangerous and are not legal everywhere. If you must make a U-turn, first check to see if U-turns are allowed, and then turn on your left turn signal, stop and yield for approaching traffic. When the way is clear, proceed into the outside or right-hand lane traveling in the opposite direction.



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## I. Passing

When passing is permitted, you must:

- Estimate the time and space necessary to pass and be sure you can pass without interfering with any other vehicle.
- Use your turn signal before passing so that you inform other drivers around you of your intentions.
- Leave plenty of space and go around the other vehicle at a safe distance.
- See both headlights of the passed vehicle in your rear view mirror before returning to the original lane.

Generally, you should pass to the left of the other vehicle. However, it is acceptable to pass on the right if it is safe to do so, you stay on the roadway, and:

- The other vehicle is about to make a left turn.
- You are on an unobstructed highway with two or more lanes moving in the same direction.
- You are on an unobstructed one-way roadway wide enough for two lanes or more.

When being passed by another vehicle, you must yield to the other vehicle and not increase your speed.

You may not pass:

- Where there is a no-passing zone.
- Where the solid yellow line is on your side of the center of the roadway.
- Where there are double solid yellow lines.
- When passing will interfere with the safe operation of oncoming vehicles.

- When approaching the top of the hill or on a curve and you do not have a sufficiently clear view ahead.
- When crossing or within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad grade crossing.
- When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, elevated roadway, or tunnel.
- On the shoulder of the highway either to the right or to the left.

## J. General Parking Rules

You are responsible for making sure that your vehicle is not a hazard when it is parked. A parked vehicle must be in a space that is far enough from any travel lane to avoid interfering with traffic and visible to vehicles approaching from either direction.

You should always:

- Park in a designated area as required.
- When parking along the roadway, park your vehicle as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park as close to it as possible.
- Set your parking brake when you park.
- Place the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission or in 'park' if it has an automatic transmission.
- Check your mirrors and traffic before opening the door. Shut the door as soon as you can after getting out.
- Take the ignition keys with you. It is a good habit to lock the doors whenever you leave your vehicle.





# SECTION 4:

## Signs, Signals and Pavement Markings

Traffic signals, signs and pavement markings apply to everyone on a roadway or highway, and they are the primary way of regulating, warning or guiding traffic on all roadways. Failing to obey the traffic control devices is a major cause of crashes. The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic control device may not drive across private property or leave the roadway for the purpose of avoiding a traffic control device.

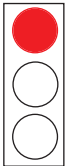
The only exceptions to obeying all traffic control devices are emergency situations when directions from a police officer or other emergency

personnel take priority. Uniformed school crossing guards also have the authority to direct traffic at locations near schools.

When a traffic signal is not working, you are now required to stop at a clearly marked stop line; or if there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk; or if there is no clearly marked stop line or crosswalk, before entering the intersection, and yield to any vehicle or pedestrian in the intersection; and remain stopped until it is safe to enter and continue through the intersection. If the street lights are not functioning, be sure to keep your headlights on to assist you with visibility and to ensure others can see you as well.

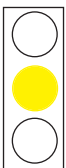
### A. Traffic Signals

#### Vehicle Signals



#### 1. Steady Red Signal

Come to a complete stop at the stop line or, if there is no stop line, prior to the crosswalk and before entering the intersection, and remain stopped as long as the signal is red. Unless a sign prohibits turning on red, after coming to a complete stop, you may turn right or you may turn left from a one-way street to another one-way street. When turning on a red signal, you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and all other traffic.



#### 2. Steady Yellow Signal

This means that the signal is changing from green to red. Its purpose is to provide time for approaching traffic to stop safely and to clear other vehicles from the intersection before the signal turns red. If you are too close to the intersection to stop safely, continue through the intersection with care.



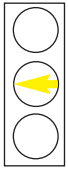
#### 3. Steady Green Signal

Proceed with caution after you have checked first to see that other vehicles have cleared the intersection. When it is safe to proceed, you may enter the intersection to go straight-ahead or turn unless a sign or additional signal prohibits the turn. You must yield to pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.



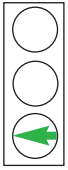
#### 4. Steady Red Arrow Signal

If you intend to move in the direction indicated by the arrow, come to a complete stop before reaching the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. Remain stopped as long as the arrow signal is red.



### 5. Steady Yellow Arrow Signal

This means that the movement indicated by the arrow is ending. You should slow down and proceed with caution.



### 6. Steady Green Arrow Signal

Proceed with caution in the direction the arrow points. Remember that you must yield to all pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.



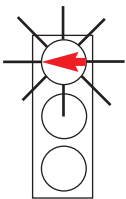
### 7. Flashing Red Signal

Come to a complete stop at the stop line or, if there is no stop line, prior to the crosswalk and before entering the intersection. Yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Proceed when the way is clear. If an alternately flashing red signal is located at a railroad crossing, you must come to a complete stop, even if you do not see a train, and proceed when the way is clear.



### 8. Flashing Yellow Signal

You must slow down and proceed with caution.



### 9. Flashing Red Arrow Signal

Come to a complete stop before reaching the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection and yield to all other traffic and to pedestrians. Proceed in the direction of the arrow when the way is clear.

## 10. Lane Use Signals

These signals are used to control traffic flow by reversing a lane's direction during different hours of the day. The lanes and their directions may be marked with signs, signals, and markings.



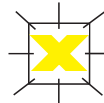
You must never drive in a lane under a red "X" signal.



You are permitted to drive in a lane under a green arrow signal.



A steady yellow "X" signal means a driver should move out of the lane as soon as safely possible.



A flashing yellow "X" signal or two-way left-turn arrows mean that a driver is permitted to use the lane for a left turn. It is likely that you will be sharing the lane with left-turning vehicles coming from the opposite direction.



## PHB Signals

A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) signal is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians cross busy streets safely. While it might look different to motorists, the beacon works like any other push-button pedestrian crossing device at a traffic signal - it alerts drivers to stop, first with a yellow light followed by a red light; then it alerts pedestrians to cross with the white walk signal.

### Pedestrians



Stop. Push button to cross.



Wait!



Continue to wait.



Look both ways.  
Start crossing after  
traffic has stopped.

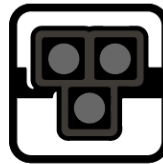


Don't start. Finish  
crossing if started.

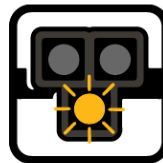


Stop. Traffic has  
resumed moving.

### Motorists



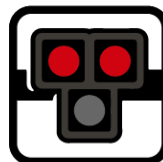
Proceed. Beacon is  
deactivated.



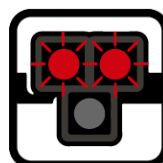
Flashing yellow.  
Slow down.



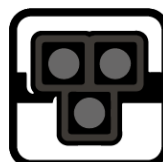
Solid yellow.  
Prepare to stop.



Solid red. Stop!



Flashing red. Stop.  
Proceed with caution.






Proceed with caution.

## B. Traffic Signs

### Colors

Traffic signs use both symbols and word messages to convey information to road users. You should be able to quickly identify traffic signs by their shapes and colors as well as by the words, numbers, or symbols on them. The principal background color of a traffic sign can tell you at first glance what kind of information it has to offer.






-  **Red** - Prohibitive: Stop, yield, do not enter, or wrong way.
-  **Yellow** - General warning of what to expect ahead.
-  **White** - Regulatory: such as speed limit, keep right, and some guide signs.

-  **Orange** - Construction and maintenance work area warning.
-  **Green** - Guidance information: destinations, distances, and directions.
-  **Blue** - Road user services: such as food, gas, rest area signs.
-  **Brown** - Recreation and cultural interest areas.
-  **Fluorescent Yellow-Green** - School, pedestrian and bicycle signs.
-  **Fluorescent Pink** - Emergency traffic incidents.
-  **Black** - Certain regulatory signs, such as One Way signs, and changeable message signs.

### Shapes

The shape of a traffic sign can tell you as much about the sign's message as its color. In poor visibility conditions, such as heavy fog, you may be able to make out only the shape of a sign, which could convey valuable information.

-  **Octagon: Stop**  
The octagonal (eight-sided) shape always means stop. You must come to a complete stop.
-  **Triangle: Yield**  
Slow down and, if necessary, stop to give the right of way to vehicles and pedestrians.
-  **Diamond: Warning**  
These signs warn you of special conditions or hazards ahead. You may have to slow down, so be ready to take appropriate action.
-  **Pennant: No Passing**  
Indicates the start of a no passing zone.

-  **Rectangle: Regulatory or Guide**  
Vertical signs are generally used to give instructions or tell you the rules of the road. In the horizontal position, the signs generally give directions or information.
-  **Pentagon: School Zone and School Crossing**  
The pentagon (five-sided) shape warns you of school zones and marks school crossings.
-  **Round: Railroad Warning**  
Used to warn that there is a railroad crossing ahead.
-  **Crossbuck: Highway—Rail Grade Crossing**  
Identifies the location of a railroad crossing.
-  **Trapezoid**  
Recreation and cultural interest areas and National Forest Routes.

These signs provide notice to road users of traffic laws, and they must be obeyed.



## 1. 8-Sided Sign, White Letters on Red

The stop sign is the only 8-sided sign you will see on the highway. When you come to a stop sign, you must make a complete stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before entering a crosswalk. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection. Before starting, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians. You may not proceed until it is safe to do so and until the way is clear to completely pass through the intersection.



## 2. 3-Sided Sign, Red Letters on White

You will see no other signs of this shape on the highway. Slow down as you approach a yield sign. Look to the left and the right. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles. Once you have yielded to vehicles or pedestrians, you may proceed only when you can do so safely.



## 3. Rectangular (4-Sided) Signs, Black on White

These signs are used to regulate traffic. This particular sign tells you the maximum speed limit for the stretch of highway where it is posted.



No Right Turn



No Left Turn



No U-Turn



No Turns



Left Turn Only



One Way



Do Not Enter



No Turn On Red



Do Not Pass



Stay to Right of Median



Two-way Left



No Parking



Wrong Way



Left Turn Yield on Green



High Occupancy Vehicles



Reserved as a Disability Parking Space



Bike Lane

## Warning Signs

These signs provide notice to road users of a situation that might not be readily apparent.



Stop Ahead



Yield Ahead



Signal Ahead



Sharp Right Turn



Pedestrian Crossing



Roundabout



Advisory Speed



Exit Ramp Advisory Speed



No Passing Zone



Roadway Merging



Road Divides Ahead



Divided Road Ends Ahead



Road Curves



Sharp Turns



Road Curves



Side Road Enters Ahead



Lane Ends Merge Left



Intersection



"T" Intersection Ahead



Railroad before "T" Intersection



Steep Hill



Slippery When Wet



Lane Ends



Truck Crossing



Trail Crossing



Pedestrian Bicycle Crossing



Flagger Ahead



Roadwork Ahead



Detour



School Crossing Ahead



School Bus Stop Ahead

## Other Traffic Sign Types

### Overhead Lane Use

These signs are placed above the roadway to provide direction on the specific use of lanes or to provide destination or directional information.



### Route Marker Signs

These signs identify the route number and the type of roadway.



Interstate

U.S. Route

State Route

### Service Information and Guide Signs

These signs identify the commercial business, product or service offered at particular exits.



Park and Ride

Destination Guide

General Services Sign

Lodging

Hospital

Gas

Food

Airport

Train Station

### Mile Marker Signs

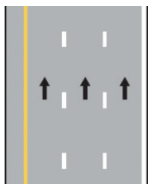
These are located every mile on interstate roadways to serve as a location point for drivers when they need assistance.



## C. Highway Pavement Markings

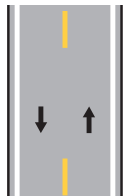
### Types of Line Markings

Highway markings, used alone or to supplement other traffic control devices, provide important guidance and information to drivers without requiring them to divert their attention from the roadway. You should recognize all of the following pavement markings and understand what they mean. Lines may be extra wide in some locations and/or supplemented by reflective markers attached to the road surface to increase the visibility of the lines and to give them greater emphasis.



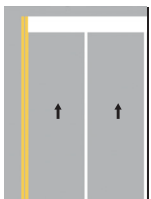
#### Single Broken - White

Separation of lanes where travel is in the same direction, and crossing from one lane to the other is permitted; i.e. lane lines on multi-lane roadways.



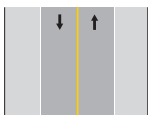
#### Single Broken - Yellow

Separation of lanes where travel is in opposite directions, and where passing with care is permitted; i.e. centerline on 2-lane, 2-way roadways.



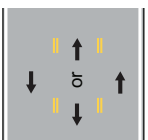
#### Single Solid - White

Marks the right edge of the roadway and the separation of lanes where travel is in the same direction, but where lane changing is discouraged. Also used in advance of obstructions that may be passed to either side; i.e. right edge lines and lane lines at intersection approaches.



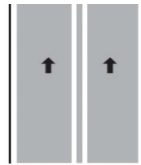
#### Single Solid - Yellow

Marks left edge lines on divided highways, one-way roads, and ramps.



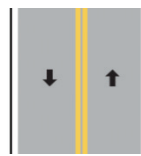
#### Double (side-by-side) Broken - Yellow

Marks the edges of Broken-Yellow reversible lanes.



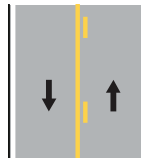
#### Double (side-by-side) Solid - White

Separation of lanes where travel is in the same direction and lane changing is prohibited. May be used to separate general travel lanes from adjacent preferential lanes, such as HOV lanes. Also may be used in advance of obstructions that may be passed on either side.



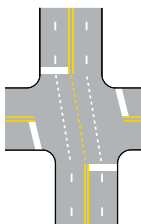
#### Double (side-by-side) Solid - Yellow

Separation of lanes where travel is in opposite directions and passing is prohibited in both directions. Left turn maneuvers across this marking are permitted. Also used in advance of obstructions that may be passed only on the right side.



#### Solid plus Broken - Yellow

Separation of lanes where travel is in opposite directions and passing is permitted with care for traffic adjacent to the broken line, but prohibited for traffic adjacent to the solid line. Used on two-way roadways where passing is permitted in only one direction. Also used to mark edges of two-way left turn lanes – solid lines on the outside, broken lines on the inside.



#### Single Dotted - Yellow or White

Extension of lines through intersections. Color the same as that of the line being extended. Also used to separate turn, entrance and exit lanes from through lanes.



## Other Pavement Markings

Other highway pavement markings are critical to safe driving and it is important to recognize and understand them as well. They include:

### Stop Line

White, solid lines that indicate where a vehicle is to stop for a STOP sign or red traffic signal.

### Yield Lines

Rows of small triangles extending across the lane that indicate where a vehicle is to yield to other vehicles or pedestrians.

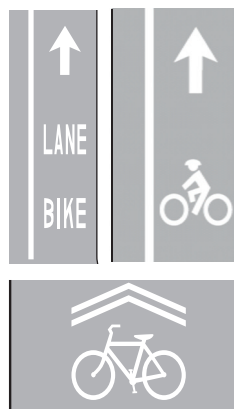
### Word and Symbol Markings

- Markings to designate lane use, lane reductions, and direction of travel;
- Markings used with arrows or other word messages to advise that only the movement indicated may be made from the lane in which the message is shown;
- 'SCHOOL' and 'RxR' markings to warn drivers that they are approaching school areas and railroad crossings.

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Pavement Markings

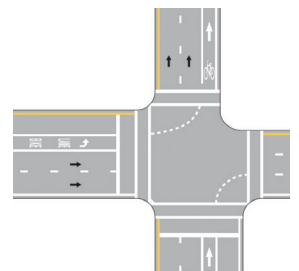
Bicycles share most of Maryland's roads with motor vehicles without specific traffic signs or pavement markings. Some roads, mostly in urban areas, do have shared-use lane markings (see photos). These markings alert motorists that bicyclists may be on the road, indicate to bicyclists where to ride, and discourage bicycling in the wrong direction.

Some roads have pavement markings that show lanes specifically designated for the exclusive use of bicycles. Solid or broken white lines separate these bike lanes from motor vehicle travel lanes. You may see bike lanes marked with bike lane signs or by a combination of bicycle symbols and arrows.



Where parallel parking is allowed, similar lines may separate the bicycle lanes from the parking lanes.

Pedestrian crosswalk lines are white, solid lines that emphasize pedestrian crossing points. Crosswalks may have additional lines between the white, solid lines or in place of the parallel lines.





According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph, and nearly five times as likely as a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or lower.

Be the SLOW DOWN Driver urges motorists to obey speed limits. If you have a need for speed, stick to playing video games.



Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to prevent death and serious injury in a car crash. Be the BUCKLED UP Driver and wear your seat belt – every trip, every ride, front seat or back seat.

About 90 percent of Maryland drivers and passengers wear their seat belt, but our goal is 100 percent. Each year, hundreds of unbelted drivers and passengers are seriously injured or killed on our roads. The vast majority of those injuries or deaths could have been avoided if those people were properly buckled at the time of their crash. It takes three seconds to buckle up but it can make a lifetime of difference.

**For more information, visit:**  
**[ZeroDeathsMD.gov](http://ZeroDeathsMD.gov)**

# SECTION 5:

## Driving Situations and Conditions

### A. Driving in Reduced Visibility

Driving in reduced visibility situations is more difficult than “normal” driving and requires additional concentration and preparation. Low visibility driving can encompass a variety of situations, but it is most commonly associated with nighttime driving and driving in fog.

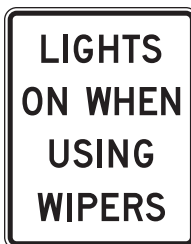
When driving in reduced visibility situations, use the road edge lines or the right side of the road as a guide. You may not see highway signs until too late. Yellow pavement markings should never be on your right side, but always on your left side. Yellow is used to divide opposing roadway traffic and indicate the left travel edge of the roadway. White pavement markings denote the right travel edge of the roadway, as well as traffic traveling in the same direction.

#### Headlight Use

Knowing when and how to use your headlights is critical for safe driving. Headlights are not only used by drivers to help them see in low visibility situations, they are also helpful in identifying your vehicle to oncoming traffic.

Below are some basic rules for headlight usage:

- When driving, you must turn on your headlights anytime there is not enough light to clearly see at least 1,000 feet ahead of your vehicle.
- Key times to use headlights are nighttime, foggy conditions and stormy weather.
- Maryland law requires that you turn on your headlights when you are using your windshield wipers in inclement weather.



### Low Beam vs. High Beam Headlight Usage

Use low beams when:

- Operating your vehicle in normal driving situations, such as driving at night on a highway or roadway with streetlights.
- Driving in fog, rain, snow, etc.
- Entering a tunnel or construction area. (While not required by law in all areas, this increases visibility to other motorists and construction workers.)

Use high beams when on open roads, which are not lighted by streetlights, in order to see persons or vehicles ahead. Be aware, you must:

- Change to low beam at least 500 feet before meeting oncoming vehicles.
- Change to low beam when following a vehicle at a distance of 300 feet or less.

### B. Driving at Night

Night driving creates a different set of problems for drivers. Driving at night is more hazardous and more difficult than daytime driving making it more difficult to judge distance and traveling speed of other vehicles. You can see only as far as your headlights allow. Risks increase at night due to visibility problems, which make it difficult to clearly see the path of travel and determine the actions of other drivers.

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Below are some suggestions to follow when driving at night:

- Make sure to use your headlights and follow the suggestions for when to use high beams.
- When approaching oncoming traffic in the opposite lane, do not stare into the vehicle's headlights, as this will impair your ability to see. Instead, keep your eyes focused on the road in front of you, or slightly to the right of the lane you are traveling in (i.e. the right edge of your lane or the edge of the road).
- Increase your following distance. This will help prevent a collision in the event the vehicle in front of you needs to stop quickly.

### C. Driving in Fog

There are some unique circumstances while driving in fog that require additional actions on the part of the driver. Below are some general guidelines and requirements for operating a vehicle in foggy conditions:

- Reduce your normal driving speed.
- When you see headlights or another vehicle's taillights ahead, reduce speed still further. You must be prepared to stop quickly.
- If the fog is so thick that you cannot safely operate your vehicle, pull completely off the road to a safe location and turn on your emergency flashers.
- Use low beam headlights only, and if you have them, special fog lights.

### D. Driving in Inclement Weather

Wet road surfaces can become slippery, reducing traction and increasing the chances of a crash. These risks increase when road surfaces are covered with snow and/or ice. Driving in

inclement weather requires greater concentration and preparation on the part of the driver.

When driving in inclement weather, it is important to take proactive steps to diminish the likelihood of a crash, and provide sufficient space in the event your vehicle loses traction. Some simple precautions when driving in inclement weather include:

- Keeping a safe distance - the space needed between you and the car in front of you is much greater on wet roads than it is in dry conditions. This distance should be even further when the roadway is covered with snow/ice; reducing speed to allow more time to react.
- Making sure your tires have sufficient tread, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and vehicle guidelines.
- Avoiding slamming on the brakes, as this may cause your vehicle to skid. If your car does not have an anti-lock braking system, pump the brakes to prevent skidding.
- Avoiding sharp steering or changing speed quickly.
- Making sure your windshield wipers are in working condition.
- Using your headlights.



**Remember: Ramps and bridges freeze first before highways and roads. Also, plowed roads may refreeze at night or have icy patches from the daylight thawing of snow.**

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## Driving on Snow/Ice

There is no such thing as a “completely safe” speed on ice and snow. In winter weather, every roadway may be different depending upon sun, shade, the amount of salt on the road, and other conditions. Watch ahead for danger spots. Blacktop (asphalt) roads can easily hide a thin layer of ice produced by melting and re-freezing (sometimes known as black ice) and can cause a crash, if you are not aware of the danger.

Four-wheel drive vehicles can also slide on ice and snow. Four-wheel drive improves maneuverability, but driving on snow or ice is always dangerous and always unpredictable. Drivers should exercise extreme caution at all times.

Some special considerations when driving in snow/ice are:

- Slowing down; no precaution makes it safe for you to drive on ice or snow-covered roadways at normal speeds.
- Keeping windows and lights clear. Remove all ice and snow from your vehicle before driving.
- Starting out very slowly, then testing your brakes gently to find out how well you can stop. Start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or turn.
- Keeping your gas tank and windshield fluid reservoir full.
- Using chains, snow tires or radial tires on designated snow emergency routes when a snow emergency is declared.

## Emergency Kit Supplies:

You should keep an emergency kit in your car that contains:

- Flares
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Kitty litter or sand (for traction on snow/ice)
- Small shovel and ice scraper

## E. Skidding

Traction or adhesion is the grip between the tires and the road surface that allows a vehicle to start, stop and/or change direction. Traction between the tires and the road does not remain constant. For example, sand, gravel, uneven road surfaces, oil slicks/spills, increased speed or water on the road decreases the level of traction. The possibility of skidding or sliding increases with decreased traction.

In the event that your vehicle does begin to skid, it is important to know what to do in order to regain control of your vehicle as quickly as possible.

Basic rules include:

- Release the accelerator or brake pedal, whichever is being applied, to regain vehicle balance.
- Steer in the direction of the skid.
- Look where you want the vehicle to go.
- Apply brake pressure only after rolling traction has been reestablished.
- Slowly accelerating may aid in recovery from loss of rear wheel traction.

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## F. Hydroplaning

As vehicle speed increases and the amount of water on the roadway increases, vehicles tend to ride on a cushion of water and the tires lose contact with the road. This is called "hydroplaning." Hydroplaning can cause partial or complete loss of control of the vehicle. To prevent hydroplaning, maintain your tires in good condition, and lower your speed in response to wet roads. If you detect a loss of control, take your foot off the gas, do not apply the brakes, maintain the direction of the vehicle, and allow the vehicle to slow to a manageable speed.

## G. Highway-Railroad Crossings

Remember, trains cannot stop quickly. Extra caution should be used when traveling over railroad crossings.

When approaching railroad tracks, be alert:



- For other vehicles that may be stopping before the RR crossing
  - school buses, commercial buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials must stop before every highway-rail crossing.
- For a train at any time – trains can come from either direction and an approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears.
- If gates are down or warning lights are flashing, the road is closed. Stop and wait until the gates go up and the warning lights stop flashing.

- After a train passes, look both ways before proceeding. Always be certain tracks are clear before proceeding. Another train may be approaching on an adjacent track.
- Never start to cross the tracks unless you can clear the tracks completely. Make sure there is room for your vehicle on the other side of the tracks before proceeding.

## H. Work Zone Safety

You are likely to encounter roadway work zones resulting from construction, maintenance, or utility work along major and secondary roadways. Work zones can mean unexpected conditions, such as:

- New traffic patterns
- Temporary traffic control devices
- Narrow lanes
- Lane shifts
- Lane and shoulder closures
- Pavement drop-offs/uneven surfaces
- Reduced sight distance
- Detours
- Slow moving equipment

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Orange is the standard color for work zone activity. If you see orange signs when driving, stay alert and be prepared for unexpected driving conditions ahead.



When traveling through a work zone, stay alert for temporary traffic control devices. These devices define the safe path through a work zone.

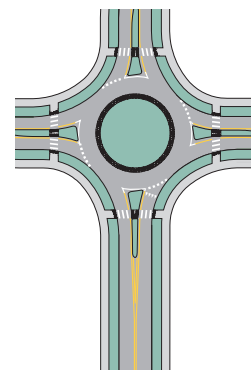
Work zones are set up with your safety in mind. Follow these safety rules while traveling in work zones:

- Stay alert – make safety your first priority.
- Watch your speed – obey posted speed limits and be aware that speed cameras may be in use and speeding fines may be much higher in work zones.
- Expect the unexpected – work zone conditions change constantly – be ready to react.
- Minimize distractions – avoid using cell phones, changing radio stations and other distractions.
- Pay close attention – obey work zone signs and watch for workers, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Drive courteously – merge with caution, don't tailgate and don't change lanes unnecessarily.
- Respect the flagger – obey the flagger's directions.

## I. Roundabouts

Approach roads to roundabouts are controlled by yield signs. Entering traffic must always yield to traffic already in the roundabout. Be cautious when approaching the roundabout the same as any other intersection. As you approach the roundabout:

- Reduce your speed.
- Keep to the right of the island.
- Watch for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Cautiously approach the yield line and wait for an acceptable gap in traffic. Be cautious of vehicles exiting the roundabout. If there is no traffic, you do not need to wait to enter the roundabout.



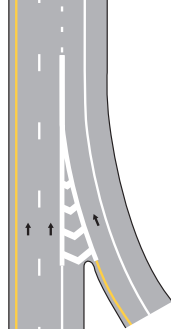
After entering the multilane roundabout, keep to your chosen travel lane. When preparing to exit, turn on your right turn signal and move to the outermost travel lane as you pass the exit prior to where you want to exit.

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## J. Interstate Driving

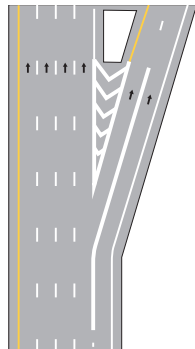
### Entering the Interstate

Interstate and other limited access highways are usually reached by an entrance ramp and an acceleration lane. The entrance ramp provides access to the highway and the acceleration lane provides the opportunity to get up to the speed of the traffic already on the interstate or highway. When entering an interstate, the solid painted lines that divide the entrance and the interstate should not be crossed.



### Exiting the Interstate

Move to the appropriate lane well before reaching the exit. Start slowing down as soon as you enter the deceleration lane and continue slowing to the posted advisory speed for the ramp. If you exit at the wrong place on an interstate, continue until you are off the exit ramp and look for a way to re-enter the interstate. Never stop and back up on any portion of the interstate.



### Stopping

Stopping on the traveled portion of a highway is prohibited. Stopping on the shoulder is permitted only when your vehicle is disabled or in other emergencies. If you must stop on the shoulder of the interstate or highway, turn on your emergency flashers to warn other drivers and stay inside your vehicle if you can. The extremely high speed of traffic makes standing or walking along an interstate highway very dangerous.

## K. Funeral Processions

Vehicles driven in a funeral procession must have headlights turned on and hazard lights flashing in order to be granted the right-of-way.

A vehicle driven in a funeral procession facing a red signal may continue through or make a turn at an intersection.

Other vehicles, even if they have a green signal, must yield the right-of-way to the vehicles in the funeral procession until all vehicles in the procession have passed, unless they can safely proceed without crossing the path of the procession.

## L. Slow Moving Vehicles

You may encounter slow moving vehicles on the roadways, including bicycles, horse-drawn vehicles, and farm vehicles. Some of these vehicles may have the slow-moving emblem (shown) on the back of the vehicle to help warn you they are only going 25 mph or less.



Here are some tips for driving alongside slow moving vehicles:

- Be constantly aware of any vehicles that might be traveling at a much slower speed.
- Adjust the speed and position of your vehicle accordingly.
- Only pass the slow moving vehicle when it is safe to do so.

If you must follow the slower moving vehicle waiting for a safe time to pass, use your emergency flashers to help warn others coming up behind you.



# SECTION 6:

## Dangerous Driving Behaviors

### A. Alcohol, Drugs and Driving

Drunk driving is a very serious threat to highway safety. Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol in a person's blood. Drivers are considered to be driving under the influence of alcohol, in Maryland, when their blood alcohol concentration is .08 or higher. Any amount of alcohol can affect one's judgment and physical coordination and can lead to criminal charges.

Even though Maryland's limit for drunk driving is .08, a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle may be impaired at a much lower BAC and may result in criminal charges. For example, an individual's vision, ability to perform simple motor functions and reaction time may be affected with just one drink and can increase the risk of a collision.

The number of drinks consumed is a poor measure of BAC because of the many factors affecting your body's ability to digest alcohol, such as weight, body fat, and how long ago and how much you ate. Factors like tiredness, your mood and taking certain medications can also make a difference in how alcohol affects your driving ability. It is very difficult to assess your own BAC or impairment.

#### Under 21 – Alcohol Restriction

If you are not yet 21 years of age, it is not legal for you to be drinking at all. If you are pulled over and you have been drinking, your license will be suspended or revoked. In addition, you could be charged with violating the alcohol restriction on your license.

A suspension or revocation for a violation of an Under 21 Alcohol Restriction or any violation of

§21-902 of the Maryland Vehicle Law, (driving under the influence or impaired by alcohol) can result in mandatory participation in the Ignition Interlock Program. Please visit the MDOT MVA's website for additional information regarding the Ignition Interlock Program.

#### Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) – Illegal and Prescription Drugs

Illegal drugs, (marijuana, heroin, etc.), prescription medications (i.e. codeine), and chemical inhalants can severely impact a person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Drugs have serious harmful effects on the skills required to drive safely: alertness, concentration, coordination, and reaction time. All drugs can make it difficult to judge distances and react to signals and sounds on the road.

Using prescription drugs can also impair your ability to drive. It is important to pay close attention to both prescription and over the counter drug label warnings, which instruct individuals to avoid using certain drugs when operating a motor vehicle or heavy machinery. Disregarding this recommendation can lead to criminal penalties should your ability to safely operate a vehicle be impaired.

#### Open Alcohol Container

It is against the law to operate a motor vehicle with an open alcohol container in the passenger area of the vehicle. An open container is any open can, bottle, container or package. For



**If you plan to drink,  
plan not to drive.**

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example, a six-pack of alcohol with an open or missing bottle/can or any empty bottles/cans that previously contained alcohol can be considered an open container. The passenger area is any place designed to seat the driver or a passenger or any place that is readily accessible to the driver or passenger from their seating position.

### **Transporting Children**

If you are convicted of a drunk or drugged driving offense with a child or children in your vehicle, your fine and jail time can be doubled by the judge in court.

## **B. Aggressive Driving and Road Rage**

Aggressive drivers demonstrate behaviors like speeding, tailgating, failing to obey traffic signals and devices, erratic or improper lane changes, failing to yield the right-of-way and improper passing. Some factors that may produce aggressive driving are crowded roads, unexpected delays, rushing, road construction, and stress.

Drivers must respect and cooperate with all other road users and conform to specific rules in order to maintain order and avoid crashes. Some tips to reduce the possibility of becoming involved in an aggressive driving incident are:

- Allow extra time to travel.
- Be patient.
- Be courteous.
- Concentrate on your driving behavior.
- Always signal your intentions.

- Obey all traffic laws, signs, signals and pavement markings.
- Yield the right of way.
- Avoid competing with other drivers.

## **C. Distracted Driving**

Concentration is essential for safe driving. You should be constantly aware of the road and the other vehicles around you. Keep alert and you may be able to foresee a crash and avoid it. Constantly check the position of vehicles behind you, as well as those beside and ahead of you.

The term “distracted driving” refers to anything that takes your eyes, hands or especially your mind, away from driving. Distracted driving is the most common contributing factor in police-reported traffic crashes. Distractions of any sort cause drivers to miss key visual and audio cues needed to avoid a crash.

Many activities contribute to distracted driving. Some examples include:

- Eating and/or drinking;
- Adjusting the radio and/or a portable music system;
- Adjusting or programming a GPS;
- Attending to children and pets;
- Loose objects moving in the vehicle;
- Talking and/or texting on a cell phone;
- Smoking;



**A good general rule is to treat other drivers and road users like you would like to be treated.**

- 
- Putting on makeup;
  - Shaving;
  - Reading;
  - Interaction with others in the vehicle.

### Cell Phones

Maryland Vehicle Law prohibits the use of hand-held cell phones, including texting, while operating a motor vehicle. Although hands-free devices are permitted, drivers should minimize calls and focus on the following safe driving practices:

- Use your cell phone only in emergencies; if possible, have a passenger make the call.
- If you must make a call, pull safely off the road and stop before making the call.
- Let your voicemail answer incoming calls.
- Keep your telephone conversations short.

An individual who is under the age of 18 years may not use a wireless communications device (including a hands-free phone/device) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call.

## D. Drowsy Driving

Not getting enough sleep is another cause of poor driving behavior. Sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness and impairs judgment, just like drugs or alcohol. A lack of sleep can significantly increase your chances of being involved in a crash.

Some drivers are at a higher risk for feeling drowsy while operating a vehicle. Examples include individuals who drive many miles each day, those with sleep disorders, and those taking certain medications.

It is important to be aware of the signs of drowsy driving and to take the necessary action to ensure that you do not put yourself and others in a situation that could result in a crash. Below is a list of common “danger signs” and a general rule to combat drowsy driving.

### Danger Signs for Drowsy Drivers

The following may be indications of drowsiness:

- Your eyes close or go out of focus.
- You have trouble keeping your head up.
- You can't stop yawning.
- You have wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- You don't remember driving the last few miles.
- You missed your exit.
- You keep driving out of your lane.
- Your speed becomes variable.



**If you become tired or sleepy while driving, it is best to rest or change drivers. Being tired dulls your mind and slows down your reactions, making driving hazardous.**



One-third of fatal crashes can be attributed to distracted driving. Cell phone use is one of the leading causes of distracted driving. However, other deadly distractions that take your attention from driving include eating, applying makeup, tending to children and changing radio stations.

Be the FOCUSED Driver who avoids distractions and sticks to the task at hand – **driving**.



Each year, tens of thousands of people are arrested on Maryland's roads for drunk or drugged driving. Alcohol and drugs have effects that result in a person's inability to drive as well as they normally could, or in many cases, not able to drive at all.

Before you go out, be the MAKE A PLAN Driver and make a plan to get home safely, and designate a sober driver. Being arrested for impaired driving carries serious consequences including hefty fines, possible jail time, and thousands of dollars in court costs. Worst of all, impaired driving often results in serious injury or death, both of which can be avoided through good decision-making.

For more information, visit:  
[ZeroDeathsMD.gov](http://ZeroDeathsMD.gov)

# SECTION 7:

## 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.
- Approaching from the nearest lane on the other half of the roadway.

#### Right-of-Way at Crossings for Pedestrians who are Blind, Deaf or have a Mobility Aid

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 pedestrian carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide dog or service animal.
- A deaf or hard of hearing person accompanied by a guide dog or service animal.
- A mobility-impaired individual using a manual or motorized wheelchair, motorized scooter, crutch, cane or walker.

#### 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.

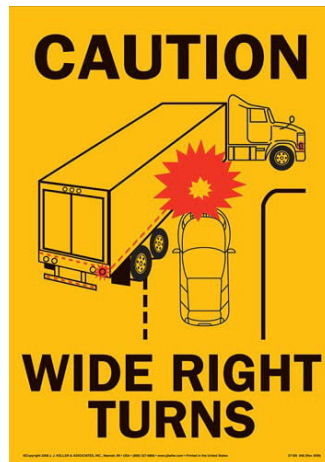
## C. Large Trucks

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.



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

## No-Zones

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

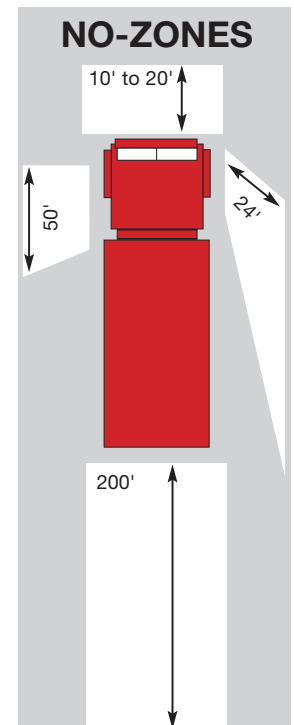
- **Side No-Zones:** Trucks and buses have blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face in the side-view mirror, he or she cannot see you. If the truck changes lanes, you could be in trouble. The right side blind spot runs the length of the trailer and extends out three lanes.

- **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.



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## 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.
- 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.

## E. Motorcycles

Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. But in crashes, a motorcyclist is six times more likely to be hurt than a car driver. Motorcycles are smaller than cars and trucks, and it can be harder to judge the speed and distance of an oncoming motorcycle.

- **Yield right-of-way to an oncoming motorcycle when turning left.** Violating a motorcyclist's right of way can result in a citation with significant penalties if you cause a serious injury. Drivers are at fault in just over half of car crashes with motorcycles.

- **Look twice before changing lanes or merging into traffic.** Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to be sure it is safe before merging or changing lanes. Motorcycles can be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size.
- **Do not share a lane with a motorcycle.** Motorcyclists often adjust their position in the traffic lane to avoid road hazards like potholes or oil spills, because of wind, and to be seen by other road users. Motorcyclists are entitled to use the entire lane.
- **Do not "tailgate" or drive too close to a motorcycle.** Allow at least 3 to 4-second following distance between your vehicle and the motorcycle in front of you. Motorcycles may need to slow for road hazards like gravel, wet road or railroad crossings that don't affect cars the same way. Motorcyclists often reduce speed by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, which do not activate the brake light. So, be alert and leave plenty of space around motorcycles.
- **Allow plenty of space between your vehicle and the motorcycle when passing.** Wind gusts and drafts from a passing vehicle can affect a motorcycle. After passing a rider, make sure you can see the motorcycle's headlight in your rearview mirror before moving back into the lane. If you are being passed by a motorcycle, simply maintain your speed and allow the motorcyclist to complete their passing.
- **Use care when driving near a group of motorcyclists.** Motorcyclists participate in organized rides which can involve many motorcycles. Driving around these groups requires communication and patience. If you



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need to change lanes or reach an exit, signal your intention early and wait for the riders in the group to create gap for you. Do not merge in between groups or riders unless there is sufficient space to do so. If it is a small group, it may be easier to slow and let the group pass before making our lane change.

Please obtain a Motorcycle Operator Manual (DL-001) or review this manual on the MDOT MVA's website, if you wish to obtain a motorcycle license.

## **F. Bicycles**

### **Right-of-Way**

By Maryland law, bicycles are vehicles. Bicyclists are authorized users of the roadway, and have rights-of-way and the same duty to obey all traffic signals as motorists. But bicyclists are less visible, quieter, and don't have a protective barrier around them. Motorists must drive carefully near bicyclists: even a slight mistake can result in serious injury or even death.

### **Expect Bicyclists on the Road**

Expect to find a bicyclist on all types of roads (except interstate highways and toll facilities), at all intersections and roundabouts, in all types of weather, and at all times of the day and night. Bicyclists may ride out in the travel lane for their own safety due to narrow roads, or to avoid obstacles or pavement hazards. On roads without shoulders, or with cars parked along the right side, often the safest place for a bicyclist to ride is in the center of the lane. In Maryland, a

bicyclist may use the full lane even while traveling substantially below the speed of traffic if the lane is too narrow for a car to safely pass a bicycle within the lane). Before opening a car door, check for bicyclists who may be approaching from behind.

### **Following a Bicyclist**

As you approach a bicyclist, slow down. Avoid honking your horn. Bicyclists can usually hear an approaching vehicle and loud noises can startle bicyclists, causing a crash. Bicycles do not have turn signals so bicyclists use hand and arm signals to alert you of their intentions.

Do not follow a bicycle too closely. Remember that small holes, glass, and other hazards can be particularly dangerous to bicyclists. Bicycles can stop and maneuver quickly so a bicyclist may swerve or change speed to avoid a road hazard that a motorist cannot see.

### **Pass with Care - Give Bikes at Least 3 Feet**

Pass a bicyclist as you would any slowly moving vehicle. Be prepared to slow down, wait until oncoming traffic is clear and then allow at least 3 feet of clearance between your car and the bicyclist when passing. The same 3-foot clearance applies if you are passing a bicyclist in a bike lane, on the shoulder, or in the same lane as your car. After passing a bicyclist, check your mirror to ensure that you have completely passed the bicycle with enough room before you move back to the right.



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## **Use Caution at Intersections, Bridges and Driveways**

Always assume that bicyclists are traveling straight through an intersection unless they signal otherwise, and yield to bicycles just as you would to any other vehicle. Bicyclists often ride on sidewalks and trails, so look both ways before crossing a sidewalk or trail. A bicycle may come from an unexpected direction.

Never make a right turn from a through lane immediately after passing a bike on a shoulder or bike lane. Try to avoid any chance that a bicycle will be to your right or in your right blind spot when you turn right. Before starting a right turn, move as far to the right as practicable within the bike lane, shoulder, or right turn lane.

Yield to bicycles as to any other vehicle proceeding straight. Do not turn left immediately in front of a bicycle. Experienced bicyclists often ride very fast (as fast as 35 mph!) and may be closer than you think. If you are passing a left-turning vehicle by moving right, first look closely for bicycles. Wherever a travel way narrows for a bridge, parked cars, or other obstructions on the right, be prepared for a bicyclist riding on the shoulder to merge left into the main traffic lane.

## **Driving at Night**

If you see a dim reflective object at night do not assume that it is outside of the roadway. It could be a bicycle in the main travel lane. Bicyclists sometimes avoid shoulders at night when cars are not present because tree branches, potholes, debris, and even the edge of the pavement are difficult to see. Your headlights may provide enough light for the bicyclist to safely move into the shoulder for you to pass, but it takes longer at night. When approaching a bicycle, use your low beam headlights.

## **Watch for Children**

Children on bicycles are sometimes unpredictable. Expect the unexpected and remember they are small in stature and may be hard to see. Young bicyclists are especially likely to make surprising changes in direction. Be aware of bicyclists entering the roadway from driveways or near parked cars. Strictly observe speed limits in school zones and in residential areas to allow time to see, and safely share the road with, young bicyclists.

## **G. Mopeds and Scooters**

All traffic laws apply to drivers of mopeds and motor scooters. Drivers of cars must always be alert for mopeds and scooters, as their size makes them very difficult to see.

Mopeds and scooters may be ridden on any roadways where the posted maximum speed limit is 50 miles per hour or less. They may be riding side-by-side or alone, and on the roadway or on the shoulder. Generally, they are to be ridden as near to the right side of the roadway as practical and safe.

Be especially cautious of mopeds and scooters at intersections when they may be turning or going straight through the intersection, and on narrow roadways with little room for passing.

## **H. Understanding Vehicle Technologies**

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) vehicle technologies are already helping to save lives and prevent injuries. Many vehicles on the road today use sensors and cameras to detect surroundings to identify potential dangers and may help you to avoid a crash. If used properly, ADAS technology can prevent injuries, save

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lives, and prevent 40% of crashes. While this technology may one day lead to fully self-driving vehicles, you, as the driver, are still responsible for safely operating your vehicle at all times.

ADAS technology includes Automatic Emergency Braking, Lane Keeping Assistance, and Blind Spot Warning. The technology is designed to assist you in the driving task (e.g., staying in lane, parking, avoiding collisions, reducing blind spots, and maintaining a safe distance). You should not rely on ADAS to fully operate your vehicle; you are responsible for the safe operation of your vehicle at all times. It is your responsibility to be aware of everything around you by doing head checks and using mirrors and cameras to observe traffic and other roadway users.

Be aware the technology has limitations and may not work properly in rain, snow, fog, on hills, and around curves. Be aware the technology responds differently from one type of vehicle to another – even the dashboard icons may differ. There are also many different names of the technology, and the names do not always describe the actual function it can perform. Always keep your vehicle sensors clean and damage free, and always keep the software technology up to date to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Be familiar with the technologies installed on whatever vehicle you are about to drive and use the technologies safely and effectively. Learn how by reviewing your vehicle manual or asking your car dealership. Above all, always stay focused when driving and remain engaged in the driving task.



**Be familiar with the technologies installed on whatever vehicle you are about to drive and use the technologies safely and effectively.**

# SECTION 8:

## Crashes and Traffic Stops

### A. Crashes

If you are involved in a crash where someone has been injured, including a pedestrian or bicyclist, you must remain at the scene and:

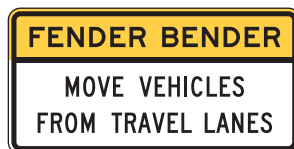
- Call 911 immediately to get help with police, fire and ambulance.
- Identify the number of people involved, the type of injury and the location of the crash.
- Do not move the vehicles.

**If you are convicted of leaving the scene of a crash that results in a serious injury, you will face severe sanctions:**

- Your license will be revoked;
- You face imprisonment of up to 5 years and a fine of up to \$5,000.
- Where there is a death, fleeing is a felony and you face imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$10,000.

**If there are no injuries, but your vehicle cannot move:**

- Call 911 immediately, give the location of the crash, advise there are no injuries but you need police assistance.
- Use your emergency flashers or flares to warn oncoming traffic.
- Be patient and do not attempt to cross the roadway or stop traffic. Make sure you stay away from traffic.



**If there are no injuries and your vehicle can move:**

- Stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the crash, without obstructing traffic more than necessary. If no one has been injured, move it off the roadway to ensure your safety and that of other motorists, and to prevent traffic backups.
- Exchange important information (name, address, phone number, license plate number and state, driver's license number, vehicle make and model, and insurance information).
- Ask witnesses to leave their names, addresses and phone numbers.
- Note collision location, date and time, number of vehicles involved, weather conditions and road conditions.
- Note any damages to the vehicles.
- Record the facts of how the crash happened.

**Remember, you must always call the police when:**

- Someone has been injured.
- A vehicle cannot be moved.
- A driver appears to be under the influence.
- A driver does not have a license.
- A driver tries to leave the scene without providing the proper information.
- Public property has been damaged.

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**If you strike an unattended vehicle or other unattended property, you are required to:**

- Stop the vehicle as close as possible to the scene of the crash, without obstructing traffic more than necessary.
- Attempt to find the driver or owner of the property to notify and provide your information.
- If the driver or owner of the property cannot be found, leave notice and your information in a conspicuous, secure place.

If you strike and injure a domestic animal, you are required to immediately notify the police.

**B. Roadside Emergencies**

While every roadside emergency is different, whether it is a flat tire or tending to a passenger, the most important reminder for motorists is to use caution and common sense – because every incident is unique.

To be ready for the unexpected, motorists and passengers are encouraged to:

- Prepare their vehicle in advance to avoid and minimize emergencies;
- Assess the situation when a roadside emergency occurs;
- Use good judgment in deciding how to respond; and
- Stay vigilant for other motorists, because roadside emergencies are fluid situations and can change in an instant.

Although there are multiple suggested actions that can increase your safety during an incident, there is not one single set of procedures that can guarantee the safety of drivers and passengers.

**Find a Safe Place**

If your vehicle does become disabled, do your best to move it from the travel portion of the road to the shoulder. If there is an opportunity to reach an off-ramp or parking lot, consider that option even if it means driving on a flat tire or damaging a rim. The further from the travel portion of the highway you can be, the safer you will be. Never stop or park in the triangular shaped painted zones where a ramp exits the roadway.

**If you are able to remain in your vehicle:**

If you can remain in your vehicle, stay buckled and face forward. Vehicles are equipped with multiple safety features that will help protect you and your passengers if another vehicle hits your vehicle.

**If you are unable to remain in your vehicle:**

If it is not safe or possible to remain within your vehicle, motorists and passengers are encouraged to evaluate the situation around them to determine an opportune time to exit the vehicle. When exiting the vehicle, move quickly away from the roadway and behind an embankment, traffic barrier or guard-rail and, if possible, to higher ground. Face oncoming traffic and remain alert in the event a vehicle veers into your path. Do not stand near the vehicle.

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## C. Traffic Stops

Law enforcement officers issue written traffic citations to persons who are charged with violating the Maryland Motor Vehicle Law. You must follow the directions of the officer at the time of the stop or you may be subject to arrest.

### **If you are stopped by a police officer:**

- Pull off to the side of the roadway as far away from traffic as possible. Turn on your flashers.
- Turn off your engine and radio, and roll down your window so you can communicate with the officer.
- Stay in your vehicle and keep your seat belt fastened.
- Keep your hands in plain view – preferably on the steering wheel. Do not make any movement that will make the officer think you are hiding or reaching for something.
- If the officer issues you a citation, do not argue with the officer about the citation. You will have your chance to make your case if you go to court.

## D. Move Over Law

Motorists in Maryland must move over when approaching any vehicles while they are stopped, standing, or parked on a highway with their lights flashing. If it is not safe or feasible to move over, motorists must slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

Violating the law is a misdemeanor carrying a \$110 fine and one point on your license. If the violation causes a crash, the fine is \$150 and three points. If there is a death or serious injury, the fine is \$750 and three points.



Pedestrian and Bicyclist safety is an issue that affects everyone in Maryland - everyone is a pedestrian at one point or another. Many unnecessary injuries and fatalities occur because of intoxication, ignorance, or inattentiveness by motorists and pedestrians. Roadways should be safe places for everyone and it's important that we all do our part.

That also extends to bicyclists. Most people don't know that bicycles are actually considered vehicles on Maryland's roadways, just like cars or trucks. As such, drivers and cyclists alike must learn to share the road with one another and do whatever it takes to keep each other safe.

Be the SHARE THE ROAD Driver - slow down, pay attention, and always be alert for pedestrians and bicyclists.

When there is a crash involving a car or truck and a motorcycle, the motorcyclist almost always loses. Because motorcycle riders are not protected by the vehicle like the occupants of a car or truck, motorcyclists are injured in nearly 75 percent of crashes. Drivers and riders have the responsibility to share the road safely.

When there is a crash involving a car and a motorcycle, the car driver is at fault more than half of the time. Be the LOOK TWICE Driver, always check two or more times before merging, changing lanes, and pulling into traffic.

**For more information, visit:**  
**[ZeroDeathsMD.gov](http://ZeroDeathsMD.gov)**

# SECTION 9:

## Other Restrictions, Violations and Penalties

### A. Restrictions

The MDOT MVA is authorized to impose certain restrictions on a driver's license to ensure the safe driving of a motor vehicle by the licensee. Operating a motor vehicle in violation of restriction(s) is a serious offense and could result in the withdrawal of the driving privilege.

Additional restrictions can also be imposed based on your licensing status. Graduated license holders under 18 years of age are subject to the following additional driving restrictions:

#### Seat Belt Restriction

Provisional license holders are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle if the driver and each passenger are not restrained by a seat belt or child safety seat regardless of age or seating position.

#### Passenger Restriction

Provisional license holders, during the first 5 months (151 days) of the provisional period, are not allowed to have passengers under the age of 18, unless accompanied by a qualified supervising driver or the passengers are direct family members. Direct family members can be a spouse, daughter, son, stepdaughter, stepson, sister, brother, stepsister, or stepbrother of the provisional license holder or a relative of the license holder who lives at the same address.

### Nighttime Restriction

Provisional license holders are allowed to drive unsupervised from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., ONLY if the licensee is:

- Driving to, from or during the licensee's employment.
- Driving to or from an organized volunteer program.
- Driving to or from an official school activity.
- Driving to or from an opportunity to participate in an athletic event or related training session.

### Wireless Device Restriction

All provisional license and learner's permit holders are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (including a hands-free phone) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call.

### B. Notice to Applicant – Implied Consent

In Maryland, any person who drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a highway or on any private property used by the public in general, consents to take a test to determine alcohol concentration or a test to determine the concentration of a drug or controlled dangerous substance.

A police officer, who has reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is driving while impaired by drugs, alcohol, or a controlled substance, may have a drug recognition expert request that person to submit to a blood test.

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A person may not be compelled to take a drug or alcohol test. However, if upon receipt of a certified statement from a police officer that a test was refused, the MDOT MVA will impose the suspension period for a test refusal.

The MDOT MVA will suspend the license of any driver who submits to the test and is determined to have a test result of 0.08 percent alcohol concentration or higher.

### **C. Obtaining a False or Forged Identification Card, Driver's License or Learner's Instructional Permit**

The law states that if you attempt to secure a false or fraudulent identification card, learner's instructional permit or driver's license, you may be subject to a fine and/or imprisonment under Federal and State Law.

It is a violation of the law to misrepresent your age to purchase, possess or acquire alcoholic beverages. In addition to the above penalties, your driver's license may be suspended.

### **D. Administrative Actions**

The MDOT MVA may suspend, revoke, refuse or cancel a license for violations of motor vehicle laws. The MDOT MVA will send a notice to the individual's address of record to advise of a proposed administrative action, the reason the action is being taken, and what steps the individual may take to either have the action modified or not imposed. In most cases, an administrative hearing may be requested to show

cause why the administrative action should not occur. Maryland Motor Vehicle Law requires the surrender of any license, which is suspended, revoked, refused or cancelled. Credit for the term of the suspension, revocation, or period of restriction will begin only after the license is received by the MDOT MVA.

### **Suspension of Driver's License**

The suspension of a Maryland driver's license is the temporary withdrawal of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle. In some cases, the MDOT MVA may determine to grant the individual a restricted driver's license. The restricted license allows the individual to operate a motor vehicle only for a specific purpose, i.e., employment and educational purposes.

### **Revocation of Driver's License**

The revocation of a Maryland driver's license is the withdrawal of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle until the MDOT MVA determines the individual can safely operate a motor vehicle again. Unlike the suspension period that ends at a specified time, a revocation has a minimum waiting period to apply and is subject to denial by the MDOT MVA.

### **Cancellation of Driver's License**

A cancelled driver's license means that the driving privilege is terminated. The MDOT MVA may cancel a driver's license if it is determined that the licensee was not entitled to be issued the license, failed to give required or



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correct information on the license application, or committed fraud in making application or obtaining the license. A parent can also request the cancellation of the driver's license of a minor child (see Section II, F).

## **E. Sanctions**

Provisional licensees must hold a valid provisional license for an assigned conviction free period before becoming eligible for full license status. Convictions or "Probation before Judgment" (PBJ) for moving violations while holding a provisional license will require the completion of a driver improvement program and/or a suspension or revocation of the driver's license followed by the imposition of an employment and education only restriction on the driver's license.

### **Sanctions for Minors**

If the licensee is under 18 years of age and receives a moving violation with a provisional license, then becomes convicted of or granted probation before judgment for the violation, the following sanctions apply:

- The FIRST offense requires the licensee to complete a driver improvement program.
- A SECOND offense will result in a 30-day suspension of the driver's license/privilege followed by an employment and education only restriction for a period of 90 days.

- A THIRD offense will result in a 180-day suspension of the driver's license/privilege, require attendance at a driver improvement program designed for young drivers, and imposition of an employment and education only restriction for a period of 180 days.
- A FOURTH or SUBSEQUENT offense will result in the revocation of the driver's license/privilege and will require all licensing tests to be successfully passed when reinstated.

### **Sanctions for Adults**

If the provisional license holder is 18 years of age or older and receives a moving violation with a provisional license, then becomes convicted of or granted a probation before judgment for the violation, the following sanctions apply:

- The FIRST offense requires the licensee to complete a driver improvement program.
- A SECOND offense will result in a 30-day suspension of the driver's license/privilege.
- A THIRD or SUBSEQUENT offense will result in up to a 180-day suspension or revocation of the driver's license/privilege.

The above sanctions will be imposed IN ADDITION to any of the sanctions that apply as a result of the conviction(s). Also, each conviction or probation before judgment for a moving violation (offense) will automatically require the licensee to begin a new 18-month conviction-free period.

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## F. Use of Disability Parking Spaces, License Plates and Placards

Substantial fines may be imposed for the illegal use or abuse of disability parking spaces and disability license plates and placards. Citations may be issued for the following violations:

- Parking in disability parking spaces unless you have a disability license plate or placard issued by the MDOT MVA and the person who qualified for the privilege is either operating or being transported in the vehicle.
- Parking in front of or blocking any part of a curb cut (even if you have a disability license plate or placard).
- Parking on any part of an access aisle next to a disability parking space (even if you have a disability license plate or placard).
- Using a disability placard after its expiration date.
- Using a disability license plate or placard, without the person with the disability present and being transported, and without proper identification.
- Any fraud or misrepresentation when applying for a disability license plate or placard.



Additional information regarding disability parking may be obtained by visiting the MDOT MVA website.

# SECTION 10:

## Other Important Information

### A. Medical Conditions to Report to MDOT MVA

Approval by the MDOT MVA's Driver Wellness and Safety Division and/or the Medical Advisory Board is required if a person has any of the conditions listed below which may affect their ability to drive. If someone has one of these medical conditions, they must notify MDOT MVA when the condition is diagnosed or when applying for or renewing a driver's license:

- Diabetes that has caused a low blood sugar episode requiring assistance from another person in the last 6 months.
- Epilepsy or seizures.
- A heart condition that has caused a loss of consciousness in the past 6 months.
- Stroke.
- A condition that causes you to have dizzy spells, fainting, or blackouts.
- Sleep apnea or narcolepsy.
- A history of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- A condition that causes weakness, shaking, or numbness in the arms, hands, legs, or feet that may affect your ability to drive.
- A hand, arm, foot, or leg that is absent, amputated, or has a loss of function that may affect your ability to drive.
- An eye problem which prevents a corrected minimum visual acuity of 20/70 in at least one eye or binocular field of vision of at least 110 degrees.
- Alcohol use problem.
- Drug use problem.
- A mental health condition that may affect your ability to drive.
- Schizophrenia.
- Dementia.

### B. Supervising Driver – Requirements and Responsibilities

Maryland learner's permit holders may drive only the vehicles or class of vehicles specified on the learner's permit, and then only while accompanied by a supervising driver who:

- Is at least 21 years old.
- Is currently licensed for at least three years in Maryland or another state to drive vehicles of the class being driven by the holder of the permit.
- Is seated beside the holder of the learner's permit, unless the vehicle is a motorcycle.

### C. Organ Donor

Maryland residents can give the gift of life and health to someone else by donating organs or tissues after death. Anyone 18 years of age or older may be an organ donor. Minors who are at least 16 years old may add a donor designation if a parent or guardian consents in writing. Look for the statement on your license application or renewal notice that states "Please check, if upon your death, you desire to help others by becoming an organ donor. By checking "YES," you authorize all necessary personal information to be forwarded to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and maintained in the Maryland Organ Donor Registry." Additional information on the organ donor program may be found on the MDOT MVA website.

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## D. Register to Vote

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, often referred to as “Motor Voter,” is a federal law that requires the MDOT MVA to provide its eligible customers the opportunity to apply to register to vote, or update voting information, during a driver’s license or photo identification (ID) card transaction.

## E. Insurance Requirements

All motor vehicles registered in Maryland must be insured by a company licensed in Maryland. Vehicle owners must have their vehicles insured for personal injury and property damage liability in amounts required by law. See the MDOT MVA website for additional information regarding specific amounts of required insurance.

All drivers are required to have in their possession a valid insurance identification card at all times while operating a motor vehicle.. This card may be in electronic format and must be presented on request of a law enforcement officer. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the imposition of fines.

## F. Seat Belt Law

Maryland Motor Vehicle Law requires that the driver and all passengers of a motor vehicle must wear a seat belt or be restrained in a child safety seat if applicable.



## G. Child Safety Seats

All children under age eight must ride in an appropriate child safety seat, unless the child is 4’9” or taller. Children younger than 2 years old must ride in a rear-facing child safety seat that complies with federal guidelines until the child reaches the height or weight specified by

the manufacturer. The restraint must be used in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers’ instructions. Child safety seats include car seats, booster seats or other federally approved child safety devices. If you are unable to purchase or obtain a child safety seat, you may contact Kids In Safety Seats (KISS), at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at 800-370-SEAT. KISS coordinates loaner programs in various areas of the State that rent car seats or booster seats at a minimal cost to families who cannot afford to purchase them. Seat availability may vary per site.

## H. Air Bags

Air bags are important safety devices that provide protection in crashes. For best protection:

- They must be used in combination with the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt.
- Children in a rear-facing car seat should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Sit as far back from the steering wheel as practical. Try to maintain 10- 12 inches from the steering wheel to the chest.
- Children, under age 13, should ride buckled up in a rear seat, in an appropriate child safety seat or seat belt.
- Pregnant women should place the lap portion of the seat belt under the abdomen as low as possible on the hips and across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt over the rounding of the belly.

## I. Braking with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)

Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS) are designed to prevent your wheels from locking up and allow

you to steer. Whenever the vehicle's computer detects that one or more wheels are locking, ABS begins to pump the brakes at a much faster rate to avoid locking. When the ABS engages, you may hear a rumble from the brakes and the brake pedal will vibrate under your foot. You should refer to your vehicle owner's manual for more information regarding anti-lock braking systems.

## J. Wearing of Headsets, Earphones and Earplugs Prohibited

Earplugs, headsets or earphones, attached to a radio, portable audio device, CD player or other audio device, that are in or cover both ears are prohibited while driving a motor vehicle. Hearing aid devices are acceptable.

## K. Parallel Parking

Parallel parking is no longer required during the on course testing, but is still included in the driving education curriculum. While this maneuver provides visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking and acceleration control, etc., these skills are demonstrated during the "Reverse Two-Point Turn", that is required during course testing.

## L. Pull-In Parking, Back-In Parking, and Three-Point Turnabout

Required of all applicants to obtain/reinstate a Class "C" driver's license. These maneuvers

provide a demonstration of the applicant's judgement of space; use of mirrors and turn signals; steering; breaking; acceleration control; and visual, backing, and general driving skills. The parking is demonstrated in a 10' by 20' space, and the turnabout in a 16' by 20' space.

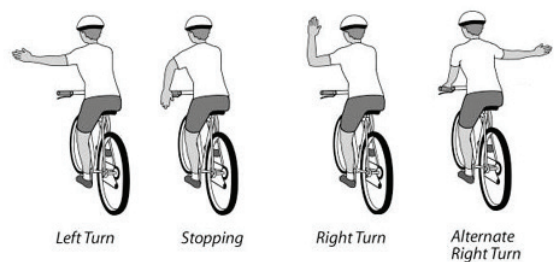
## M. Rules and Tips for Bicyclists

Like motor vehicle operators, bicyclists have both rights and responsibilities for operating on the road safely. Do your part by being a safe and courteous bicyclist.

**Obey the Rules of the Road:** Ride straight and single file in a predictable manner. Plan ahead and allow time to maneuver around road hazards and to negotiate with traffic and open car doors. Yield to pedestrians and obey all traffic signals and signs.

**Ride with Traffic:** Always ride on the right side. Use caution if passing other traffic on the right. When approaching an intersection, use the appropriate lane for the direction you intend to travel (left, straight, right).

**Signal All Turns:** Look back before you make a lane change or turn. Signal safely in advance using one of these signals:



**Make Left Hand Turns Safely:** You may turn left as a vehicle (1) by moving into the left side of the travel lane (or left turn lane) OR cross like a pedestrian (2) by stopping, dismounting, and walking across crosswalks.



**Remember: it is against the law to drive without vehicle insurance! If you do not maintain your vehicle insurance on all vehicles, you will be fined up to \$2,500 per vehicle each year.**

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**Be Prepared for Slick Road Conditions:**

When braking in the rain or snow, allow extra distance to stop and look for pavement markings and utility covers, which may become slippery.

**Be Visible - Use Lights at Night:** When riding at night, Maryland State Law requires a white headlight on the front and a red reflector on the back visible from at least 600 feet. In addition, it is recommended that you wear bright clothing in the daytime and reflective clothing for night riding.

**Bicycle Equipment:**

Helmets are required for operators or passengers of bicycles under the age of 16. They are, however, strongly recommended for all operators or passengers regardless of age. By law, all bicycles must be equipped with:

- Brakes capable of stopping from a speed of 10 mph within 15 feet on dry, level, clean pavement.
- A white beam headlight visible at a distance of 500 feet, and a red rear reflector, visible at a distance of 600 feet, if ridden at night or during unfavorable light conditions;
- A safety seat, firmly secured to the bicycle, or a trailer must be used if traveling with a small child;
- A bicycle basket, rack or bag must be used in transporting small articles so that both hands may be kept on the handlebars.

- Has two or three wheels.
- Has a motor with a rating of 750 watts or less.

**Electric Bicycle Classes**

**Class 1:** Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour

**Class 2:** Equipped with a motor that provides assistance whether or not the rider is pedaling the bicycle and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour

**Class 3:** Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour

**Electric Low Speed Scooters**

- Designed to transport only the operator.
- Weighs less than 100 pounds.
- Has single wheels in tandem or a combination of one or two wheels at the front and rear of the vehicle.
- Is equipped with handlebars and a platform designed to be stood on while riding.
- Is solely powered by an electric motor and human power.
- Is capable of operating at a speed of up to 20 miles per hour.

Note: Users of low speed electric vehicles should check local jurisdictional restrictions to determine the legal operation of these vehicles.

**N. Electric Low Speed Vehicles (Definitions)****Electric Bicycles**

- Operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor.
- Equipped with fully operable pedals.



