

CHAPTER 2

TRAFFIC SIGNS & RULES OF THE ROAD

2.1 TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs advise of traffic laws, hazards, location, directions, and where services are located. The shape and color of traffic signs give clues to the type of information they provide.

STANDARD COLORS

RED

Stop, yield, or do what is shown on the sign.

GREEN

Direction. Indicates where a place is, or how far a place is from where you are.

BLUE

Services for travelers. Directs you to places such as rest areas, tourist sites, hospitals, lodging, fuel stations, restaurants, and tourist attractions.

YELLOW

General warning.

FLUORESCENT YELLOW-GREEN

Pedestrian, bicycle, and school warning signs.

WHITE

Regulatory. Provides information regarding enforceable laws and ordinances.

ORANGE

Road work, temporary traffic control, and maintenance warnings. Be sure to watch for changing speed limits and workers on the road.

BROWN

Recreation and cultural points of interest. Provides direction to historical sites, parks, or recreational areas.

FLUORESCENT PINK

Warning and guide signs for incident management such as crash clean up, debris removal, traffic, etc.

STANDARD SHAPES



OCTAGON

Shape is reserved for a stop sign only. Come to a full stop at an intersection controlled by this sign.



DIAMOND

Warning. Alerts you to special road hazards. Words or pictures on the sign will show you why you need to slow down or use extra caution.



EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE

Yield the right of way.



CIRCLE

Railroad crossing ahead.



RECTANGLE

Is used for regulatory, guide, and warning signs.



PENTAGON

School crossing. Signs mark school areas and school crossings.



PENNANT

This sign will be on the left side of the road. It warns you of a no passing zone.



CROSSBUCK

Railroad crossing signs are placed at each crossing. A number sign under the crossbucks shows how many sets of train tracks you must cross.

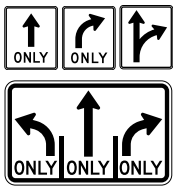
2.2 REGULATORY SIGNS

These signs provide information about rules for traffic direction, lane use, turning, speed, parking, and other special situations. Some regulatory signs have a red circle with a red slash over a symbol. These indicate you cannot do something; for example, no left turn, no right turn, or no U-turn.



SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Speed limit signs indicate the maximum or minimum safe speed that is allowed. Maximum speed limits are for ideal driving conditions. Sometimes you must reduce your speed when conditions require it, such as when the roadway is slippery (during rain or snow) or it is difficult to see clearly down the road (during fog). Some high-speed roads have minimum speed limits. If this minimum speed is too fast for you, then you should use another route.



LANE CONTROL SIGNS

These signs mark where you can go and where you can turn, and often use an arrow symbol. The signs are along the road or hanging over the road. Sometimes white arrows may also be painted on the road.





NO PASSING SIGNS

These signs mark where it is not safe to pass another vehicle. The no passing zone sign is located at the beginning of the no passing zone. Passing areas are based on how far you can see ahead. Where passing is allowed, you may do so only if it is safe. No passing zone pavement markings are described on page 45.



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ENS) SIGN

This blue sign is posted on both sides at each railroad crossings and provides critical information for reporting a problem or emergency on or near the tracks. It includes a phone number to contact the railroad and a unique crossing identification number. Drivers should use the phone number and crossing ID to report stalled vehicles, malfunctioning signals, or any other hazardous situation at the crossing.



STOP SIGN

A stop sign means you must come to a full stop and wait until crossing vehicles and the cross-walk are clear before proceeding. Stop at the stop line if one is present. If necessary, you may then pull forward to the stop sign or the edge of the intersection and then proceed when it is safe to do so.



YIELD SIGN

A yield sign means you must slow down and yield the right of way to traffic in the intersection you are crossing or roadway you are entering.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY

The road ahead is divided. This sign directs traffic around an island or barrier.



ONE-WAY

Traffic moves only in the direction of the arrow.



DO NOT ENTER SIGN

You will see this sign at roadway openings you are not to enter. You will see them at exit ramps, in crossovers on divided roadways, and at numerous locations on one-way roads.



WRONG WAY

You made a wrong turn and have entered a lane of oncoming traffic. Remove your vehicle from the traveled portion of the road and get stopped and turned around as quickly and safely as possible.

2.3 WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs are yellow with black lettering or symbols and most are diamond-shaped. These signs warn you to slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary; a special situation or hazard is ahead. Some common warning signs are shown below.



INTERSECTION/ CROSSROAD

There is another road ahead that crosses the road you are on. Watch carefully for cross traffic in your path.



SIGNAL AHEAD

These signs are used on roads with higher speeds. Be ready for an intersection and a stop light.



MERGING TRAFFIC

If you are on the main road and see this sign, be prepared for other vehicles blending into your lane.



TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

Keep to the right because you are leaving a one-way road and entering a two-way road.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY BEGINS

You are getting close to the place where two-way traffic will be divided by a center strip.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY ENDS

Two-way traffic will no longer be divided by a center strip. Watch out for oncoming vehicles.



HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLE

Be alert for slow-moving, horse-drawn vehicles on the roadways. Reduce your speed and pass slowly.



LANE ENDS

Two lanes of traffic will soon become one lane of traffic. Traffic must yield when merging.



FARM MACHINERY

Be alert for slow-moving, farm equipment on the roadways. Reduce your speed and pass slowly.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Watch out for people walking, running, riding, or using wheelchairs or low-speed micromobility devices. *See section 2.4 for information on pedestrian conveyance.*



DEER CROSSING

There may be deer trying to cross the roadway in the area. Slow down and watch carefully.



HILL

This sign is a warning to all vehicles that the road ahead goes down a hill. You should check your brakes before going down the hill.



T-INTERSECTION AHEAD

The road you are on does not go straight ahead. Prepare to turn right or left.



SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD

You are nearing an area where a stopped school bus will pick up or drop off passengers. Watch for children. Be prepared to stop.



GRADUAL CURVE

Road ahead curves gradually. Be prepared for the change in direction.



SLIPPERY WHEN WET

Road ahead becomes slippery in wet weather. Slow down under these conditions.



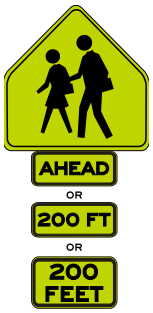
CHEVRON SIGN

Used in addition to the curve signs when there is a need to draw added attention to a change in the road's direction.



RAMP SPEED

The recommended speed on an exit ramp.



ADVANCE SCHOOL CROSSING

You are nearing a school area with a crossing. Watch for children and the marked school crossing. The color of this sign may be yellow.

2.4 PEDESTRIAN CONVEYANCE

In 2024, a bill was passed to update the Iowa traffic code related to crosswalks. The new law states that vehicles must yield the right of way to pedestrians on foot and those using any human powered device, also known as a pedestrian conveyance.

Pedestrian conveyances are defined as any human-powered device by which a pedestrian may move other than by walking or by which a pedestrian may move another person. Pedestrian conveyances include, but are not limited to:

- Wheelchairs
- Strollers
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Electric personal assistive mobility devices

NOTE: Any time we refer to "pedestrian(s)" in this manual, we are referring to pedestrians AND pedestrian conveyances.

Figure 2.1: Pedestrian Conveyances



2.5 SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE SIGN



A reflective orange triangle on the rear of a vehicle means it is traveling 35 mph or less. You may see this sign on road maintenance equipment, farm vehicles, or horse-drawn wagons.

2.6 GUIDE SIGNS



Guide signs show directions and distance to various locations, or areas such as cities, airports, state lines; or to places of interest such as national parks, historical areas, or museums. Mile markers show the number of miles from where the Interstate route entered the state you are traveling in. They can be used to calculate how far you are from your exit or destination and give your exact location in an emergency.

2.7 SERVICE SIGNS



Service signs show the location of various services; such as rest areas, fuel stations, campgrounds, or hospitals.

2.8 ROUTE SIGNS



Interstate U.S. Highway Iowa Route

The shape of a route sign indicates the type of roadway it is - interstate, U.S. highway, Iowa route, county road, etc. During a trip, follow the signs to stay on your route.

2.9 TRAFFIC SIGNALS

In addition to traffic signals, traffic control can be provided by law enforcement, highway personnel, or school crossing guards. You must follow directions from these persons.



Standard traffic signal



Arrow signal head

Solid red
Come to a complete stop.

Flashing red
Treat it the same as a stop sign.

Solid yellow
Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely. If you cannot stop safely, proceed through the intersection with caution.

Flashing yellow
Proceed with caution. Yield to vehicles and pedestrians and proceed when it is safe.

Solid green
Go, but only when the intersection is clear. Yield to vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection. When the light changes, traffic may be caught in the intersection, and you must give them time to clear.

Steady red arrow
Drivers turning left or right must stop.

Steady yellow arrow
The left or right turn signal is about to turn red. Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely. Complete your left or right turn if you are already within the intersection.

Flashing yellow arrow
Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians; then turn left proceeding with caution. Oncoming traffic has a green light.

Steady green arrow
Drivers can proceed with the left or right turn. Oncoming traffic must stop. Do not go straight. Drive only in the direction of the arrow. Yield the right of way to other vehicles and pedestrians already in the intersection.

2.10 RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Use extra caution at railroad crossings and never stop your vehicle on the railroad tracks. Trains cannot stop quickly.

Advance warning signs and pavement markings indicate railroad tracks cross the road ahead. As you're approaching tracks, eliminate distractions, put your windows down, and turn off your music. ***See figure 2.2 for common railroad crossing signs and signals.***

Highway-railroad crossings have the name of the railroad and a number to call posted in case of emergency. If you become aware of a signal malfunction or other dangerous situation (such as a stalled vehicle, other obstruction, or track damage), call the number posted to notify the appropriate railroad *(see bottom right image of ENS sign).*

ACTIVELY PROTECTED RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Actively protected railroad crossings are equipped with lights and/or gates. If the lights are flashing or gates are down, it means a train is approaching. Always obey these warning signals. Do not cross when lights are flashing or try to go around the gate.

PASSIVELY PROTECTED RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Passively protected railroad crossings do not have lights or gates. They will only be marked with a crossbuck and a stop or yield sign. At this type of crossing, slow down and look for an oncoming train. Do not rely on any lights or gates, and always expect a train.



Passive Crossing Markings

REQUIRED TO STOP

All school buses, charter buses, drivers carrying passengers for hire (such as Uber or Lyft), and all vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous materials, must stop within 15 to 50 feet of railroad tracks before crossing. If a police officer or highway traffic signal directs highway traffic to proceed, you do not have to stop. You also do not have to stop if the crossing is marked with an "EXEMPT" sign.

IF YOUR VEHICLE STALLS

If your car stalls on the tracks as a train approaches:

- Keep trying to restart your car until you see the train
- Stand next to your car and wave at the locomotive engineer
- Get everyone out of the car IMMEDIATELY, move away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle, in the direction of the approaching train

Can You Make the Grade?
Scan here to test your rail safety knowledge

Operation LifeSaver
Rail Safety Education

MAKE SAFE CHOICES

Source: Operation Lifesaver

Cross Legally & Safely

- The only safe and legal place for anyone to cross railroad tracks is at designated crossings.
- Obey warning signs and signals.
- Not all train tracks have gates. Watch for advance warning signs and pavement markings indicating railroad tracks cross the road ahead.
- Rail cars have reflective stripes to enhance their visibility at night and in other low visibility environments, such as rain, snow, or fog. Be on the lookout for these when conditions might make it difficult to spot a train.
- Look for a train before proceeding.

Wait, Look Both Ways

- Always expect a train.
- Trains may be closer and traveling faster than they appear and can run on any track at any time.
- Multiple tracks may mean multiple trains. Ensure you can clearly see down the tracks in both directions before proceeding.
- Avoid crossing while lights are flashing or gates are down. Never try to beat a train

Avoid Getting Stuck

- Before crossing, be sure you can completely clear the tracks. Keep in mind that trains are wider than the tracks.
- When stopped, leave at least 15 feet between the front and rear of your vehicle and the nearest rail.
- Avoid shifting gears while crossing.

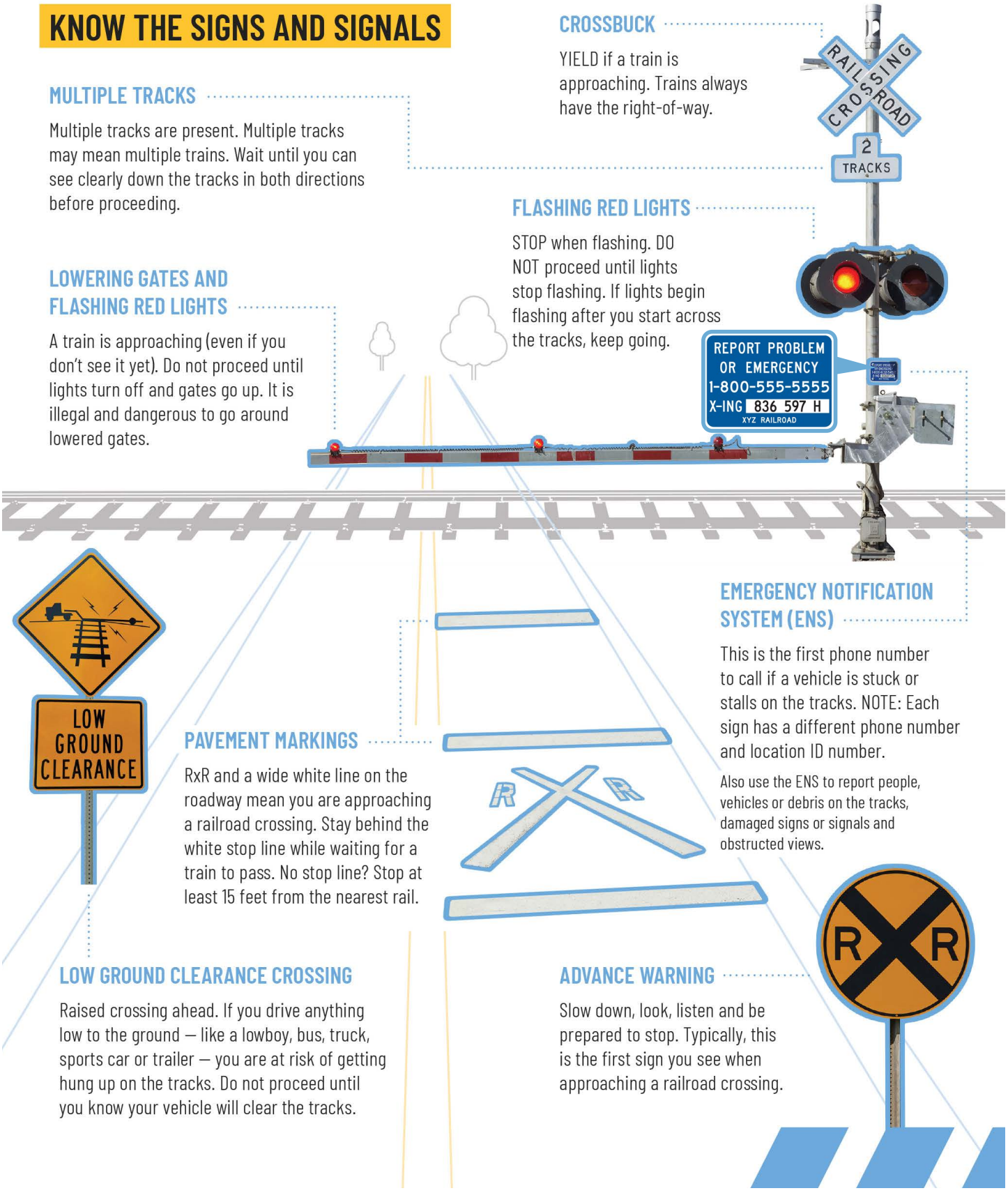
Get Out, Get Away, Find the Blue & White Sign

- If your vehicle gets stuck or stalls at a crossing, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train.
- Call the number on the blue and white Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign. Share the crossing ID number with the dispatcher.
- If there is no sign, call 911.



ENS sign

Figure 2.2: Operation Lifesaver - Know the Signs and Signals



Source: Operation Lifesaver: **https://oli.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/OLI_Brochure_All_Drivers_WEB_version.pdf**

2.11 WORK ZONES



Traffic control devices such as arrow boards, temporary traffic signals, flaggers, and channelizing devices are added in work zones to make drivers aware of different conditions. Most signs in work areas are diamond-shaped, although a few signs are rectangular. Orange is the basic color of these signs and warning devices.

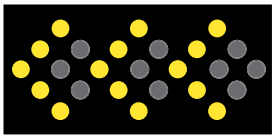
Traffic control devices and signs are used to mark construction, maintenance, survey, and utility work zones. These help direct drivers and pedestrians safely through the work area while keeping it safe for workers on the roadway. **Stay alert and drive cautiously as fines may double in work area zones.**

Work zones can be dangerous, and road workers are relying on you to keep them safe:

- ADJUST YOUR SPEED TO THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.
- OBEY ALL INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY SIGNS, TRAFFIC SIGNALS, AND FLAGGERS.
- INCREASE FOLLOWING DISTANCE.
- GIVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO DRIVING.

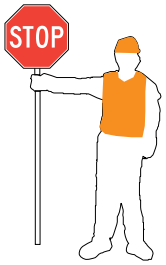
ARROW BOARDS

Large flashing arrow panels are typically used when a lane or shoulder is closed.



FLAGGERS

People with stop/slow paddles help control traffic in work zones. Follow their instructions. They should be wearing fluorescent yellow green or orange vests, shirts or jackets. They will normally use stop/slow signs. Red flags may be used occasionally.



CHANNELIZING DEVICES

Barricades, vertical panels, drums, cones, and tubular markers are the most common devices used to alert drivers of unusual and potentially dangerous conditions, and to guide drivers safely through the work zone.

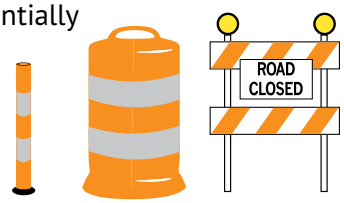
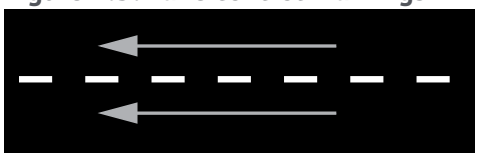




Figure 2.3: Lane control markings



One-direction roadway



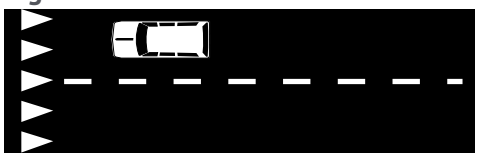
Two-direction roadway

2.12 PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND OTHER LANE CONTROLS

Pavement markings help direct and regulate traffic, just like highway signs. You will find them alone or used with signs and traffic signals. White lines separate traffic moving in the same direction. Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

On two-way roads you will see a solid yellow line with a dashed line beside it in some places. Passing is not allowed on the side with the solid yellow line. Vehicles on the side with the dashed line may pass when safe to do so.

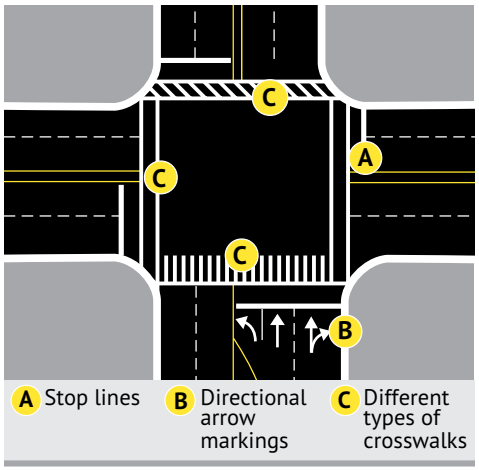
Figure 2.4: Yield lines



2.13 YIELD LINES

Yield lines consist of a row of solid white triangles pointing toward approaching vehicles. These lines extend across a travel lane to indicate the point where vehicles should yield in compliance with "Yield," "Yield Here To Pedestrians,"or "Yield Here to Pedestrians and Bicycles" signs.

Figure 2.5: Crosswalk, stop lines, and directional arrow markings

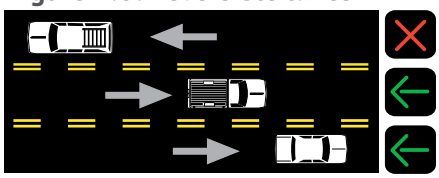


2.14 CROSSWALKS, STOP LINES, AND DIRECTIONAL ARROW MARKINGS

When required to stop because of a sign or signal, you must stop before your vehicle reaches the stop line, or a crosswalk if there is one. Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians are to cross the roadway. You must yield to anyone in or about to enter a crosswalk. Not all crosswalks are marked. Be alert for pedestrians when crossing intersections that do not have defined crosswalks.

Special arrow markings may be present and when used show the movements that are allowed or required when driving in that lane.

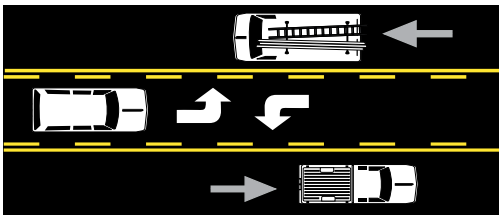
Figure 2.6: Reversible lanes



2.15 REVERSIBLE LANES

Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are usually marked by double-dashed yellow lines. Before you start driving in them, check to see which lanes you can use at that time. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Sometimes special lights are used. A green arrow means you can use the lane beneath it; a red "X" means you may not. A flashing yellow "X" means the lane is only for turning. A steady yellow "X" means that the use of the lane is changing and you should move out of it as soon as it is safe to do so.

Figure 2.7: Shared left-turn lane



2.16 SHARED LEFT-TURN LANE

Shared left-turn lanes are reserved for vehicles making left turns from either direction. On the pavement, left-turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left-hand arrows for traffic coming from the other direction. These lanes are marked on each side by a solid yellow and dashed yellow line. Vehicles may enter and stop in the lane before making a left turn, but the lane cannot be used for passing.



Figure 2.8: Reserved lane sign
In this example, the lane is reserved for high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) carrying two or more people.

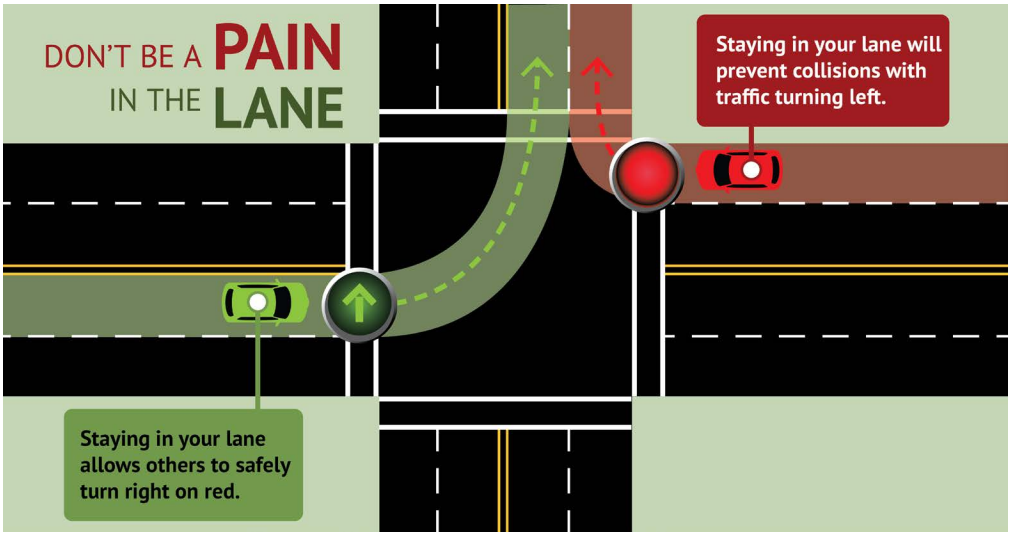
2.17 RESERVED LANES

On various roadways one or more lanes may be reserved for special vehicles. Reserved lanes are marked by signs stating that the lane is reserved for special use, and often have a white diamond posted at the side of the road and/or painted on the road surface. Do not travel in one of these lanes unless operating that type of vehicle.

2.18 GENERAL LANE USE

- On a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction, the left lane is generally used for passing. On a road with three or more lanes stay in the right or center lane except to pass. If there is a lot of entering traffic, it's best to use the center lane.
- Unless instructed to do so by a traffic control device or an official, never drive on the shoulder of the road.
- Never pass on the shoulder, whether it is paved or not. Other drivers will not expect you to be there and may pull off the road without looking.
- Where there are no signs or lane markings to control turning, you should turn from the lane that is closest to the direction you want to go, and turn into the lane closest to the one you came from. *(See figure 2.9)*
- When making turns, go from one lane to the other as directly as possible without crossing lane lines or interfering with traffic. Once you have completed your turn, you can change to another lane if you need to.

Figure 2.9: When making turns, stay in your lane and turn into the lane closest to the one you came from.



2.19 BICYCLE LANES AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

BICYCLE LANES

Bicycle lanes are portions of the roadway that are intended for use by bicyclists and are marked by solid white lines, along with bicycle pavement markings and signs.

- Some bike lanes may be further separated from traffic through the use of double white lines, curbs, posts, or planters.
- Bicycle lanes may be filled with green paint and motorists should pay close attention and look for bicyclists before crossing green pavement. Motorists should not stop on green pavement. *(See figure 2.10)*
- Motorists may only drive in bicycle lanes when making turning movements and must look carefully beside and behind their vehicle for bicyclists and cross with care.

SHARED LANE MARKINGS

Shared lane pavement markings, also called "sharrows" alert motorists of the presence of bicyclists, encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and reduce incidences of wrong-way bicycling and the potential for door crashes. Unlike bike lanes, sharrows do not designate a particular portion of the roadway for the exclusive use of bicycles. *(See figure 2.11)*

BICYCLE BOXES

Bicycle boxes are pavement markings that are installed to allow bicyclists a safe way to turn at a signalized intersection. Bicycle boxes are solid green and have an image of a bicyclist. They are located adjacent to the crosswalk and they cover the entire width of the travel lane. *(See figure 2.12)*

BICYCLE DETECTOR SYMBOL

A symbol may be placed on the pavement indicating the optimum position for a bicyclist to activate/ trigger the traffic signal.



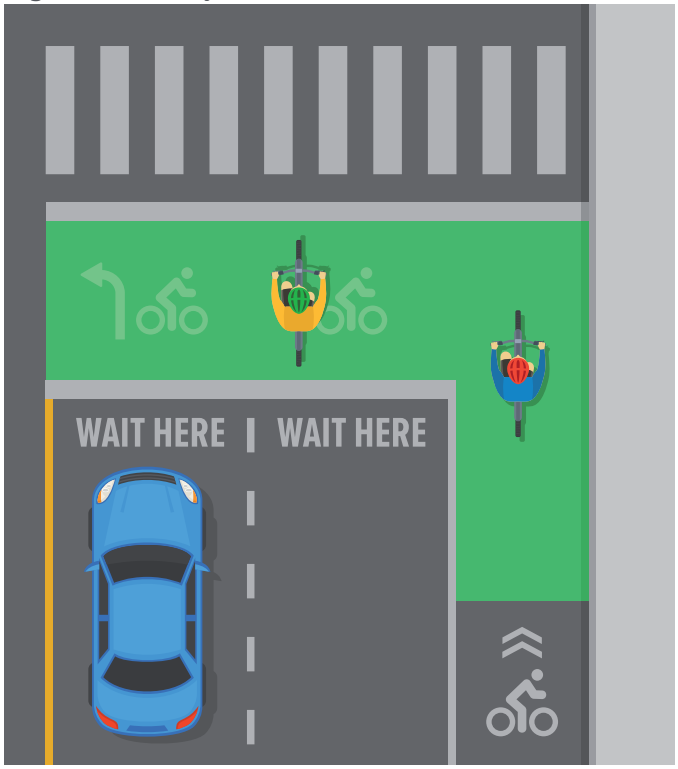
Figure 2.10: Green bicycle lane



Figure 2.11: Shared lane markings



Figure 2.12: Bicycle boxes



2.20 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons are manually activated by a push button and are often located at intersections without traffic signals or at mid-block crosswalks. When activated, amber lights flash in a rapid pattern. Motorists must stop for anyone within the crosswalk and be alert for anyone about to enter the crosswalk when the beacon is flashing.

PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACONS

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons allow pedestrians to safely cross a roadway. These beacons operate only when activated by a pedestrian. When all lights are dark, motorists can proceed with caution. Once activated, the bottom yellow light flashes, and motorists must slow down. Then the bottom yellow light becomes solid, and motorists must prepare to stop. Then the top two red lights become solid, and motorists must stop for pedestrians. After a short time, the top two red lights will begin flashing. Motorists must stop if they haven't already done so, and may then proceed with caution if the crosswalk is clear.



LEARN MORE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

◀ Scan the QR code to watch a video about rectangular rapid flashing beacons.



◀ Scan the QR code to watch a video about pedestrian hybrid beacons.

2.21 SIGHT-IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS

If your vehicle is approaching a person being led by a harnessed service animal, walking with a cane that is white or white with a red tip, the person is likely visually impaired. Use extra caution to prevent injury to that person.

2.22 INTERSECTIONS

WHEN TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Where vehicles or pedestrians are likely to meet one another and there are no signs or signals to regulate traffic, there are rules that say who must yield the right-of-way. These rules tell drivers who goes first and who must wait in different traffic situations. The law says who must **yield** the right-of-way; it does not **give** anyone the right-of-way. Regardless of who has the right-of-way, you should do everything you can to prevent striking a pedestrian or another vehicle.

Be especially alert for bicyclists. While bicyclists and motorists must share the rights and responsibilities of using the road, motorists should realize bicycle riders are very vulnerable in crashes. Therefore, motor vehicle drivers should use good defensive driving skills to avoid collisions with bicyclists. Be ready to yield the right-of-way, even at times the bicyclists should yield to you. They have no defense against a vehicle, so it is your responsibility as a driver to watch out for them.

FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IS THE **#1 CAUSE OF TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES IN IOWA.**

CONTROLLED (MARKED WITH SIGNS) INTERSECTIONS

The following right-of-way rules apply at intersections:

- You must yield when you want to make a right turn after stopping at a red light. Right turns on red are permitted unless there is a sign prohibiting them.
- Drivers crossing a sidewalk, entering or exiting a driveway, alley, or parking lot must yield to pedestrians. It is illegal to drive on a sidewalk except to cross it.
- Drivers turning left must yield to oncoming cars that are going straight ahead. (See figure 2.13a)
- At an all-way stop, the driver reaching the intersection first gets to go first (after coming to a complete stop). For vehicles arriving at the same time, the vehicle to the right gets to go first. (See figure 2.13b)
- Drivers entering a road from a driveway, alley, or roadside must yield to vehicles already on the main road.
- You must yield or stop for pedestrians in marked or unmarked crosswalks.

UNCONTROLLED (UNMARKED) INTERSECTIONS

At an intersection where there is no stop sign or traffic signal, it's the responsibility of all drivers to slow down and approach carefully. All of the rules listed above that apply at a controlled intersection also apply at an uncontrolled intersection. Extra caution should be used at uncontrolled intersections.

The red car must yield to approaching vehicles in these examples.

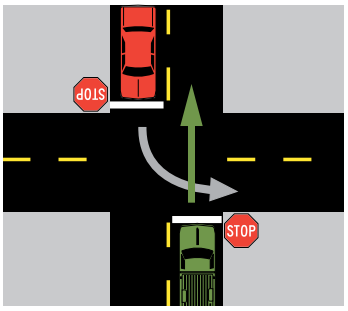


Figure 2.13a: Two-way stop (cross traffic does not stop) - Because the red car is turning left into traffic, the red car must yield to the green car going straight.

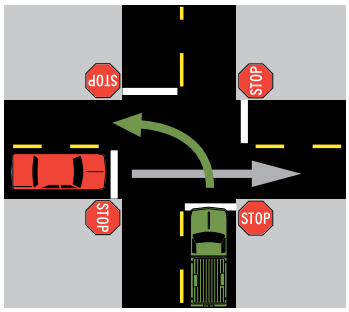


Figure 2.13b: All-way stop - Two vehicles arrive at the intersection at the same time. The driver on the left (red car) must yield to the driver on the right (green car).

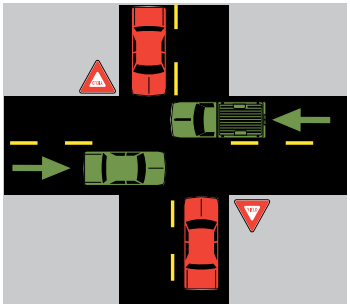


Figure 2.13c: Yielding to cross-traffic - The red cars must yield to the green cars.

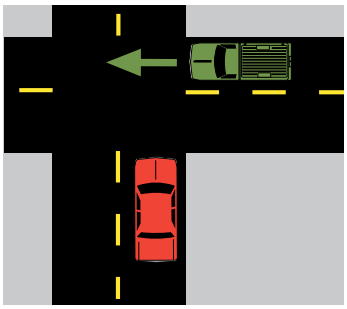


Figure 2.13d: Uncontrolled intersection - Two vehicles arrive at the intersection at roughly the same time. The driver on the left (red car) must yield to the driver on the right (green car).

2.23 EMERGENCY VEHICLES

- Yield the right-of-way to a police vehicle, fire engine, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle using a siren or air horn, and/or red or blue flashing lights by taking the following actions:
- Pull over to the right edge of the road, or as near to the right as possible, when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction.
- If you are in an intersection (including roundabouts), drive through the intersection before you pull over. However, if you are on a street or highway separated by a median, and the emergency vehicle is on the other side, you do not have to stop.
- Stay at least 500 feet behind any emergency vehicle using lights and sirens.

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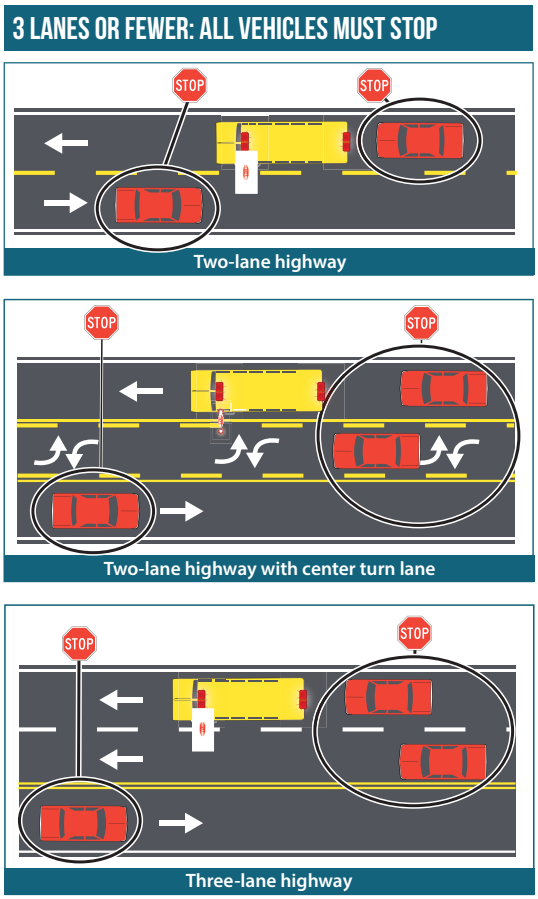

Figure 2.14: Stopped school bus scenarios

2.24 SCHOOL BUSES

SCHOOL BUS SCENARIO 1

You are driving on a two- or three-lane road

Approaching the Bus From the Rear:

When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and the stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

Meeting the Bus From the Front:

When you see amber warning lights flashing, you must slow your vehicle to no more than 20 mph and be prepared to stop. Stop in front of the school bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted. Proceed with caution.

Violating this law may result in your license being suspended for up to 180 days.

SCHOOL BUS SCENARIO 2

You are driving on a road with four or more lanes

Approaching the Bus From the Rear:

When approaching from the rear, the rules are the same as for a two- or three- lane road. When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

Meeting the Bus From the Front:

When meeting the bus in one of the opposite two lanes (or more), you do not need to stop, even if the bus has stopped with lights flashing and stop arm out. This is the only time you may pass a school bus that is stopped and has its stop arm extended.

Violating this law may result in your license being suspended for up to 180 days.



2.25 PARKING

Drivers are responsible for making sure their vehicles do not become a hazard after they have been parked. When parking, follow these guidelines.

- Park in a designated area, if possible.
- If you must park on a roadway, park your vehicle as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park within 18 inches of the curb or closer.
- Park far enough from any travel lane to avoid interfering with traffic.
- Check traffic before you open the door. Get out of the vehicle on the curb side if necessary.

2.26 PARKING NOT ALLOWED

There are many areas where you can't park. Check for signs that prohibit or limit parking. Some parking restrictions are indicated by colored curb markings. **Do not park:**

- On a crosswalk.
- In front of a public or private driveway.
- On any bridge outside city limits or in highway tunnels.
- Alongside another stopped or parked car (double parking).
- Closer than five feet from a fire hydrant; or in a designated hydrant red zone.
- Closer than 10 feet from a stop sign.
- Closer than 20 feet from a fire station entrance.
- Closer than 50 feet from a railroad crossing.
- In "NO PARKING ZONES" which are usually marked with signs, yellow painted curbs, or pavement markings/lines.
- In an intersection.
- On a sidewalk.
- On interstates and highways



PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Only park in a space reserved for persons with disabilities if you have a Persons with Disabilities Parking Permit. For information on eligibility, visit **iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/Persons-with-disabilities**.

2.27 APPROACHING STOPPED VEHICLES IOWA'S MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN LAW

Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down Law requires motorists to change lanes when approaching any of the following stopped vehicles displaying flashing lights:

- Any stopped emergency, tow, recovery, maintenance, construction, solid waste, or recycling collection vehicle that has its flashing lights activated.
- Any stopped motor vehicle, including a passenger vehicle, that is continually displaying hazard lights.

If a lane change is not possible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, you must slow down and be prepared to stop. While no speed is specified, it must be reasonable and proper for the existing conditions.

Violating this law may result in your license being suspended for up to one year.

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2.28 STEER IT-CLEAR IT

If you are involved in a crash with no injuries, Iowa law requires that you move your vehicle out of the driving lanes of traffic if the vehicle is operable and can be safely moved. For every minute a lane of traffic on the interstate is blocked, the risk of a secondary crash increases by roughly 2.8 percent. *(See figure 2.15)*

Figure 2.15: Steer It-Clear It law

