

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- Cross streets at the intersection, not mid-block, between parked cars or in front of a bus
- Push the pedestrian signal button to ensure you are allotted ample time to cross the street safely
- Where there are no signs or signals, wait until it is safe to cross. Keep your head up and make eye contact with motorists, especially those turning right on a red light
- Watch for all moving vehicles. Don't assume that motorists see you or that all vehicles will stop
- When there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible



BICYCLE SAFETY

As more people choose on-road cycling as a viable transportation option, it's important that both motorists and cyclists learn to share the road. To increase shared-use safety and awareness, the Transportation and Works Department will be marking designated roadways with cycle-friendly signage together with enhanced pavement markings. Examples include:

- **Bicycle Lanes** are on-road bike lanes reserved exclusively for cyclists. The lane is approximately 1.5 metres (4.92 feet) wide identified by regulatory bicycle lane signs and white bicycle and diamond symbols on the pavement. White solid and dashed pavement markings indicate the separation of the lane. Vehicle parking is prohibited along these routes.



- **Sharrows** are shared use lanes designed to accommodate shared motor vehicle and bicycle traffic. Side by side sharrow lanes are a minimum of 4 metres wide (13.12 feet) identified by "Share the Road" warning signs and white bicycle/chevron symbols on the pavement. The symbols are painted on the pavement in the intended space for bicycle travel. The pavement markings also promote motor vehicles to drive further away from the curb.



- **Edge Lines** are similar to Bicycle Lanes however they are not identified by signs or symbols on the pavement. They are typically 1.5 metres wide (4.92 feet) identified by white solid and dashed pavement markings that define the travelled portion of the roadway. Vehicle parking may be permitted along these routes.



- **Bike Routes** are roadways signed for bicycle use. They provide cyclists with a suggested route alternative between destinations. They are identified by directional and informational bike route signs.



Road Positions for Cyclists

According to the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario, bicycles are vehicles. Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists and are subject to the same traffic laws, signs and signals.



Cyclist's position from curb



Parked cars



Wide lane



Narrow lane



Right turn only lane



Making a left turn



Be careful at intersections.



Obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.



Watch out for parked cars, doors may be opened suddenly.



Ride with the flow of traffic and single file.



Stay off sidewalks.



Keep out of the blind spots of bus and truck drivers.



Use lights at night.



Make eye contact with motorists.

Ontario's Bicycle Helmet Law



WRONG WRONG RIGHT

It is strongly recommended that all cyclists, irrespective of age, wear a CSA, ANSI or SNELL approved bicycle helmet. Your personal safety is your responsibility. However, it is the law for those 17 years old and younger to wear a helmet. Wearing an approved bicycle helmet will reduce the number and severity of head injuries sustained in bicycle crashes. Following the rules of the road and using safe equipment may prevent collisions. The CSA, ANSI or SNELL approved helmet should cover the top of your forehead. If the helmet is tipped too far forward or backward, it will not protect you properly. The straps should be snug without pinching and be easy to fasten and release. Helmets with four fully adjustable straps are best.

Be Alert - Be Predictable - Be Visible - Be Courteous

Signals to Indicate Turns



STOP LEFT RIGHT or RIGHT

Failure to use proper signals and ride in proper road positions can result in charges under the Ontario highway traffic Act and worse an accident.

TRANSIT RIDER SAFETY

- When waiting for a bus, stand back from the curb to avoid contact with the side view mirror
- Never cross the street in front of a bus; wait for the bus to pass before crossing at the closest intersection
- When exiting from the front of the bus, hold onto the yellow handrails for support
- When exiting from the rear of the bus, push the handle for the doors to open and do not release the handle until you have fully disembarked
- When standing on a moving bus, hold onto stanchions or handrails for support
- Signal a stop well in advance to allow the driver enough time to safely brake
- It is a Mississauga Transit safety policy that bus drivers may only drop passengers off at designated bus stops. The only exception is the Request Stop Program which takes effect after dark. If passengers are concerned for their safety during the evening, they may request to be dropped off closer to their homes. This service is available when safety permits, on all non-express routes
- Arrive at your bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus departs



SAFETY TIPS

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

- Form a line when boarding; do not push or shove. If you have to cross the street while the bus is stopped, do so carefully
- Step quickly and use the hand rail when you are entering or leaving the bus
- Go directly to your seat and sit down; don't wait for a friend to board before you take a seat
- Be quiet as the driver requires concentration
- Keep the aisles clear of books, bags, arms and legs. Do not stand in the aisle. If the driver makes a quick stop, you could be thrown
- If you are allowed to open the windows, keep hands, arms and head inside. Do not throw things out of the windows



DRIVERS - ALWAYS STOP FOR THE BUS

Whether on a city street, highway or county road, and regardless of the speed limit and the number of lanes, **motorists travelling in both directions must stop when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing.**

A flashing stop arm will swing out while passengers are boarding or leaving the bus. The only exception to this is on a roadway where the two directions of travel are separated by a



centre island or barrier. On this type of roadway, a motorist approaching a stopped school bus from the opposite direction with its lights flashing is not required to stop. Once all passengers have boarded, the stop arm will fold away. Do not start moving until the red lights have stopped flashing and the bus begins to move.

Penalties for not stopping include a substantial fine and demerit points.



CHILD CAR SEAT SAFETY

- All children under age 13 should sit in the back seat, especially if you have an active passenger side air bag
- Infants must be in a rear facing infant seat until they are one year old and 9 kg (20 pounds)
- After they are 9 kg (20 pounds) and have passed their first birthday, toddlers can use a forward facing car seat with teather until they are 18 kg (40 pounds). However, it is recommended that they remain rear-facing as long as possible. Some seats go rear-facing up to 14 kg (30 pounds)
- Children under the age of eight, weighing 18 kg - 36 kg (40-80 pounds) and who stand less than 145 cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall must be placed in a booster seat
- Children should not be using your car's regular seat belts until any one of the following criteria is met: the child turns eight years old; the child weighs 36 kg (80 pounds); the child is 145 cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall
- Be sure to read the car seat manufacturer's instructions and your car owner's manual to be sure that you are installing and using your car seat correctly



St. John Ambulance Mississauga perform car seat inspections.

Phone: 905-568-1905 ext. 445 to arrange an appointment.

Ontario Provincial Police, Port Credit perform car seat inspections.

Phone: 905-278-6131 to arrange an appointment.

For the most recent legislative updates check the MTO website at:

www.mto.gov.on.ca

WINTER ROAD SAFETY

- Remove parked vehicles from the street during snow clearing operations
- Beware of black ice; drive slowly
- Ensure your vehicle is in top operating condition - it is especially important to get it winterized and to use snow tires
- Always fill the gas tank before entering open country, even for a short distance
- Know your route before you begin driving
- If possible, avoid driving in extreme weather altogether
- Always allow yourself extra time to reach your destination
- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights - even the hood and roof - before driving
- Leave plenty of room for stopping
- Stay back at least 61 m (200 feet) from winter maintenance vehicles and don't attempt to pass
- Do not use cruise control in wintry conditions

Visit www.mississauga.ca for winter snow clearing updates.

WET ROAD SAFETY

- Travel slowly when the road is wet. On water-covered surfaces, your car can hydroplane. That's when your tires ride on top of the water like a water ski. The faster you go, the more likely you are to hydroplane, but this dangerous effect can occur at low speeds as well
- Always drive with your lights on
- Be sure your windshield wipers are working efficiently and you have plenty of washer fluid. Always carry extra fluid just in case
- Accelerate more gradually than usual and take turns and curves more slowly than you would in dry conditions
- Leave extra space between you and the car in front of you. Also, keep your distance from trucks and larger vehicles to avoid the splash and spray that can result from rain

- Avoid driving through deep puddles but if you get caught in one, tap your brake pedal lightly to dry off some of the water on your rotors
- Know the features of your vehicle and how they work. Rain can quickly cause windows to mist up inside your car - know how your defroster system works.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY

- Stay alert and give full attention to the roadway
- Pay close attention to signs and work zone flaggers
- Turn on headlights so workers and other drivers can see you
- Do not tailgate - leave room for any sudden stops
- Do not speed - slow down to the posted speed limits
- Keep up with the traffic flow
- Do not change lanes in work zones
- Minimize distractions - avoid changing radio stations and using cell phones (see Are You a Distracted Driver on pg. 10)
- Expect the unexpected
- Keep an eye on workers and their equipment
- Be patient. Remember, work zones are necessary to improve roads and make them safer

**SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS**

- Stay visible when behind a truck. When you come to a stop, keep to the left of your lane so the driver can see you in the side mirror. If you can't see one of the truck's mirrors, he/she probably can't see you
- Roll back - Always leave plenty of room between your vehicle and the truck to prevent roll back incidents, which can happen when a truck driver is forced to stop on an upgrade

- Avoid tailgating - The truck's size will almost totally block your view and you will have to rely on the truck's brake lights for a signal that something is happening in front. At the same time you will be in one of the truck driver's blind spots
- Stopping distances - Never pull in front of a truck with out leaving adequate room between your vehicle and the front of the truck.
- Backing up - When a truck driver is backing up he/she has to use side mirrors. Even though they are very large mirrors, they still leave a big blind spot. Be patient and never cross behind a truck which is preparing to back up
- Passing trucks - The same rules apply for passing a truck as for passing a car. Be sure you maintain your speed when you are in front of a truck. Truck drivers sometime shift through as many as 15 gears to get up to normal highway speeds. For this reason trucks take longer to get up to highway speed and must work harder to maintain their speed
- Right hand turns - Always pay close attention to truck turn signals. Many car drivers don't realize that a truck approaching an intersection to make a right turn may move to the left to avoid running the trailer onto the curb
- Keep the centre lane open - The centre lane is the trucker's passing lane as on many major roadways transport trucks are forbidden from using the high speed (far left) lane. If you travel in the centre lane be sure you are traveling at the posted speed limit
- Keep your distance - Large vehicles need extra space and time to manoeuvre and stop



WATCHING FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

There are two situations where motorists will encounter an emergency vehicle on our roads and highways: when a police, fire or ambulance vehicle is approaching from either direction or when any of these vehicles, with their red lights flashing, is stopped in the same direction on the road or the shoulder ahead.



It is the law that a motorist who sees or hears an emergency vehicle must clear the way. When a police, fire or ambulance vehicle is approaching from either direction, with lights flashing or siren on, motorists are required to pull to the right, and if possible, stop. This is especially important during peak traffic times. Motorists must yield to an emergency vehicle at intersections. It is illegal to follow within 150 m (approximately 492 feet) of a fire vehicle or ambulance responding to a call. Failing to pull over and stop for an approaching emergency vehicle can result in a substantial fine and demerit points.

- Enforcing the law and providing emergency assistance often require emergency vehicles to park in a lane or on the shoulder of a road or highway. To increase safety, Ontario's Highway Traffic Act now requires motorists when approaching a police, fire or ambulance vehicle stopped with its red lights flashing in the same direction of travel, either in a lane or on the shoulder of a road or highway, to slow down and pass with caution. If the road has two or more lanes, the motorist must move over into another lane, if it can be done safely. Failing to do so can result in substantial fines, demerit points, drivers license suspension and possible jail time.

Courtesy of the Ontario Trucking Association