

Guide 20: Traffic Lights: Timing and/or Turning Left

Approaching Traffic Light Controlled Intersections

1. See Light In Target Area

When checking the condition of the target area, look for status of the traffic light. What color and for how long?

2. See Red Light As Closed Zone

As soon as the red light is detected, make an attempt to arrive into a green traffic light with no stopped traffic.

3. Check Rear Zone

Evaluate the rear zone condition.

4. Alert Rear –Tap Brake Lights

With a vehicle close to your rear, a tap on the brake can dynamically communicate that you're making a speed reduction.

5. Begin Constant Braking

Constant braking is a steady light pressure on the brake pedal from the beginning of the braking process until the complete stop is made.

6. Time Arrival Into Open Zone

Each car stopped at the red light will add one second to the time it takes for the last car to move.

7. At 10 mph, Go or Stop

With constant braking, when your speed is reduced to approximately 10 mph, you should know if you will have an open or closed front zone.

8. Green Light, Search Intersection

If you have an open zone as you arrive, it is important to check the left, right and front zones to detect any traffic running the light.

9. Red Light, Make Smooth Stop

If the light is red, continue the braking to make a smooth stop.

Left Turn At Green Light

1. Waiting For Opening

Waiting to make a left turn at a green traffic light, with oncoming traffic, is a high risk rear zone exposure.

2. Get 1/4 Into Intersection (unless your state law prohibits waiting in the intersection).

You must never enter the intersection unless you are certain that you will be able to make the turn. The only opening to make a left turn, without a turn arrow, may occur when the green light changes to yellow. If you make the commitment to enter the intersection, you must continually search these four areas for the exact opportunity to make the turn and clear the intersection.

Four Areas To Search While Waiting To Make Left Turn In Traffic

1. Check REAR For Unstable Zone

Check the rear zone for fast closing traffic and continue the monitoring until there are at least two vehicles stopped in back.

2. Look For A GAP To Enter

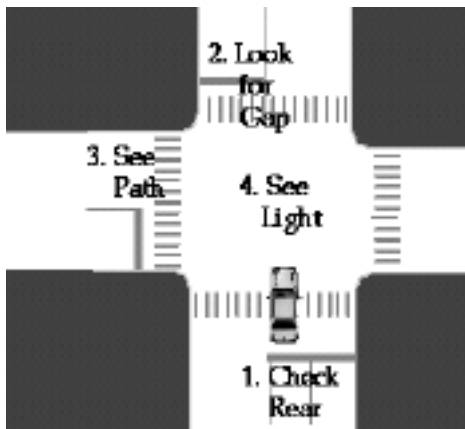
Look for a gap in the traffic flow.

3. See An Open Turning PATH

Check the path you want to enter.

4. See The LIGHT Change

When you see the green light changing to yellow, look to see if oncoming traffic is stopping. If able, complete your turn without delay.



Guide 21: Using The ABCs of Zone Control

A Alert switch on: See One LOS-POT blockage

Look for conditions when your LOS (line-of-sight) and/or your POT (path-of-travel) has blockages which prevent you from seeing someone or something that may occupy the space where you intend to put your vehicle. Or, you see someone or something that prevents you from maintaining the speed or lane position you expect to occupy en route to your target area.

Examples of LOS-POT Zone Changes:

- A red traffic light is a closed front zone POT.
- A hill crest is a closed front zone LOS.
- A parked car to your right is a closed right zone LOS-POT.
- A bicyclist to your right is a closed right zone POT.
- Oncoming traffic is a closed left zone POT.
- A truck following closely is a closed rear zone LOS-POT.

B Before Acting: Check The Other Zones

• **Check Rear Zone.** See what actions are needed to control the rear zone in preparation for a speed reduction.

• **Check Opposite the zone change.** See if the zone is open, and look for related information.

• **Check for an Alternate Path,** and look for related information. If the space you intended to occupy is no longer available, it is good to know where you can safely put the car as an alternative path of travel. You obtain related information when you see one element which should serve as a springboard for other events to occur.

For example: You are following a city bus; ahead you see people stopped at a bus stop; you can expect the bus will pull over to stop.

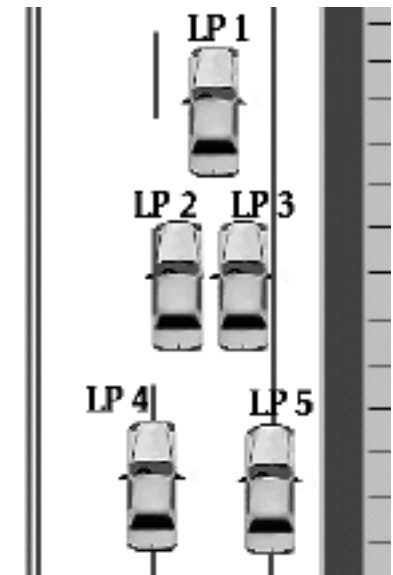
C Create time/space management:

Speed Control Options

After making an evaluation of the zone conditions, you have five options for speed control. One of these five choices is the best option.

1. Same Speed
2. Decelerate
3. Off Gas - Cover Brake
4. Off Gas - Apply Brake
5. Increase Speed

Lane Position Options



Communication Options

Effective use of the communication process can eliminate surprises.

- Signal Lights
- Headlights
- Brake Lights
- Lane Positioning
- Horn Usage
- Speed of Other Car

Guide 22: Precision Lane Changes, Entering Traffic

1. Why Change Lanes, What's Gained?

Consider the reason for making a lane change. Avoid unnecessary lane changes.

2. Check Other Lane's LOS-POT

Evaluate the condition of the zone you will be entering and the zone that will be alongside your new lane position.

3. Mirror Checks

Look for where the opening will occur. See if there will be other vehicles attempting to change lanes at the same time.

4. Signal For Communication

Hold signal lever in the on position for a minimum of 5 seconds.

5. Move To LP 2 or LP 3

When changing from left to right, move into lane position 3 first. When going from right to left, move into lane position 2 first.

6. Check Blind Spot

A head movement check, or a check of a convex mirror, is needed to detect traffic that is not seen by the car's regular outside mirrors.

7. Time Arrival For Open Zones

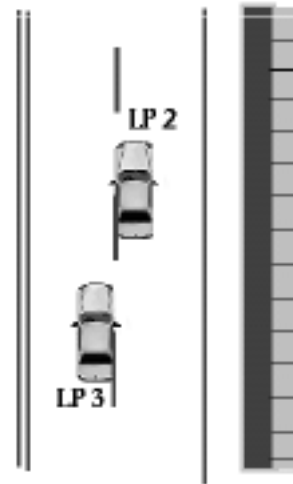
Get the best opening of the lane to be entered and the zone alongside it.

8. Increase Speed, If Needed

Normally it is best to slightly increase speed to prevent a rapid closure of rear traffic.

9. Enter LP 2 or LP 3

Use the least amount of space. When entering from the right, enter LP3. When entering from the left, enter LP2.



Make a lane change to the right lane from LP3 to LP2.

10. Release Signal Light Lever

Take your finger off the signal lever to release it.

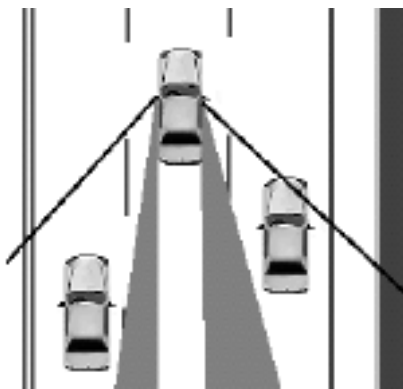
11. Check Rear Zone

Get an update of the rear zone status.

12. Decide On Best Lane Position

Get into the best lane position of the new lane.

The behavioral patterns for entering traffic flows from curbside are the same as those for making precision lane changes.



In the diagram above, the shaded area shows the range of the side view mirrors. The dark lines, from the car's sides, show the range of a convex mirror.

Guide 23: Perpendicular Parking, Backing Into Space

1. Side Position, Signal

Get 2-3 feet from the parked cars. Look for cars that may back into your vehicle. Use signal. Check rear.

2. Forward Position

This is where your body, as the driver of the car, appears to be aligned in the center of the space.

3. Select 45-Degree Target

Use the outside edge of the driver's side mirror to align your vision to a stationary object.

4. Creep and Turn Wheel Fast

Check for traffic. Aim for the target.

5. Use The Least Forward Movement

Try to move the car as little as possible to get on target. This will prevent cars from driving to the rear of your car while you are attempting to back up.

6. Line Up Car With Space

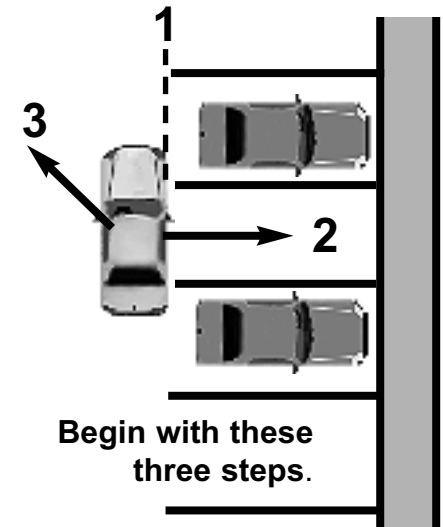
Before straightening the tires, look over your right shoulder, or check the SmartView Mirrors, for alignment to the space.

7. Shift To Reverse

Shift to reverse after the back of the vehicle is aligned to the space and the tires are straight.

8. Back To Rear Pivot Point

This is when the corner of the parked car is in the rear window's blind spot.



9. Inch and Turn Wheel Fast

Once the car is at the pivot point, move the car inch-by-inch and quickly turn the steering wheel fully to the right.

10. Get Car Straight In Space

Observe when the car is straight in the space.

11. Inch and Straighten Tires

Inch the car slowly back while you quickly straighten the tires.

12. Back To Rear Reference

Use your rear reference point by seeing over your left shoulder, or by using convex mirrors.

Advantages Gained By Backing Into The Space:

1. Can get into and out of tight spaces.
2. Takes less time to park and "unpark."
3. Better view while leaving space.
4. Avoids backing out into traffic.
5. Others let you cut into traffic flow.
6. Gives you best control and less stress.
7. Less risk of hitting something or of being hit.