

# Guide 34: Limited Access Highways: Getting On/Off

## Getting On The Highway

### On Ramp Behavior

#### 1. Check The Rear Zone

When planning to get onto a limited access highway, be aware of the status of the rear zone. When there is a closed rear zone, go slower to avoid abrupt stops.

#### 2. Keep 4 Seconds of Space

If there is a vehicle in front, keep 4 or more seconds of space for independent action.

#### 3. Slow On Ramp Speed

Avoid going fast on the ramp to prevent a slowdown or stop while in the acceleration lane.

### On Acceleration Lane

#### 4. Search For Gap To Enter

With a slower speed on the ramp, you have more time to find a suitable gap to enter.

#### 5. Blind Spot Checks

If your vehicle has a convex mirror attached to the outside, it will show vehicles not seen in existing outside mirrors. Without a suitable convex mirror, an over-the-shoulder check is needed.

#### 6. Signal Light On

Put your left signal light on, much like making a left lane change

#### 7. Accelerate Briskly

Once a gap is found, accelerate rapidly to enter the traffic flow at highway speed.

### Highway Entry

#### 8. Precision Lane Entry

Use precision lane positioning to occupy the least amount of lane space while entering.

#### 9. Mirror Checks

Immediately after entering, check the mirrors to update the rear zone status.

## Getting Off The Highway

#### 1. Plan 12 Seconds For Exit

Plan for your exit as early as possible. You should have all the problems associated with exiting solved at least 12 seconds before the exit.

#### 2. Get Rear Zone Status

Once your exit is located, evaluate the condition of your rear zone.

#### 3. Communicate

Use of signal lights and/or a tap on the brake pedal can alert rear traffic that you're exiting.

#### 4. Change Lanes, If Needed

Use correct precision lane changing techniques if lane changing is necessary.

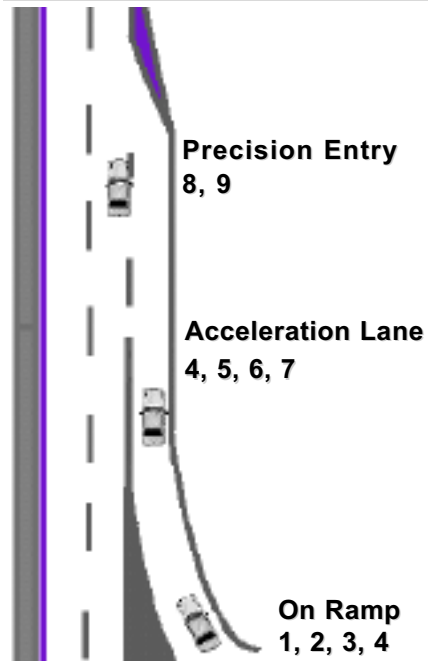
#### 5. Test Brakes Before Exit

While in the deceleration lane, before you are committed to the exit ramp, apply the brake to feel its effect. If there is a problem, you can stay on the highway.

#### 6. Controlled Braking

Use constant pressure for controlled braking.

## Getting On The Highway



# Guide 35A: Behaviors Performance Inventory

Rating Scale: √ = Okay, X = Not Okay

## Basic Skill Techniques (Guide 3)

\_\_\_ Acceleration \_\_\_ Braking \_\_\_ Steering \_\_\_ Shifting

## Reference Point Usage (Guide 5)

\_\_\_ Targets \_\_\_ Target Area \_\_\_ Targeting Path (G 9)

\_\_\_ Target Area to Target Area Searching (Guide 12)

\_\_\_ LOS-POT detection (12 seconds, or more, ahead) (Guide 14)

\_\_\_ Identifying open/closed zones (Guide 14)

\_\_\_ Searching Intersections (left, front, right zones) (G 17)

\_\_\_ Searching into Curves and Over Hills (Guide 25)

### Using The ABC's Of Zone Control (Guide 21)

**A** \_\_\_ See a LOS-POT Zone Change

**B** \_\_\_ Check Other Zones (for options & escape path)

**C** \_\_\_ Get The Best Control

\_\_\_ Speed Selection \_\_\_ Lane Position

\_\_\_ Communication

\_\_\_ Lane Position Usage (Guide 21)

\_\_\_ Straight -- with left /right zone changes

\_\_\_ Curves -- approach, apex, exit positions

\_\_\_ Rear Zone Control unstable, closed, open (Guide 18)

\_\_\_ Inside mirror (moving, stops, turns)

\_\_\_ Outside mirrors

\_\_\_ Convex mirrors (danger zone ok/not ok)

\_\_\_ Over-shoulder checks

\_\_\_ Type Tailgater: \_\_\_ Pacer \_\_\_ Charger \_\_\_ Habitual

\_\_\_ Following Time/Space (Guide 26)

\_\_\_ Closure Rate on approach

\_\_\_ Moving at same speed -- 4 seconds

\_\_\_ When stopped -- see the tires

\_\_\_ Before moving -- delay start 2 seconds

\_\_\_ Communication and Courtesy (Guide 16)