

See Path Before Putting the Car in Motion

2

- See that the Targeting Path you intend to use is clear.
- Turn head in direction of intended movement before turning steering wheel.



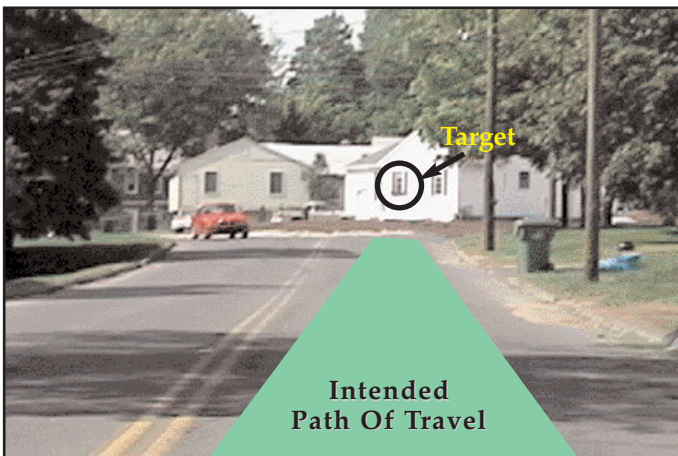
Targeting is the habit of searching as far as your target location to determine if your path of travel will be safe. Targeting is a powerful concept that gives you the automatic ability to be mentally ahead of the path you expect the car to travel. You will be able to see potentially dangerous conditions while there is still plenty of time to respond. To learn the system, we begin with the concept of “targets”.

A Target is a fixed object seen in the center of the path you intend to drive.

To learn target usage: Project your vision as far ahead as possible to select a stationary object in the center of the path you will travel. *Selecting a specific target allows you to acquire the practice of projecting your vision.* Once you have your vision projected to the target, you will then be able to visualize and evaluate the path the car will take to get to the target. The average driver sees 3-5 seconds into the path he will take. By looking ahead to the target you will search the maximum distance available and gain the following advantages:

Target Usage Advantages:

- Helps to visualize the space you intend to occupy.
- Helps you to develop a systematic searching process.
- Helps you to search and plan your moves far in advance.
- Gives you a focal point for steering accuracy.
- Gives you the ability to spontaneously correct a skid.



This photo is taken from the driver's seat.

The target is the window on the house.



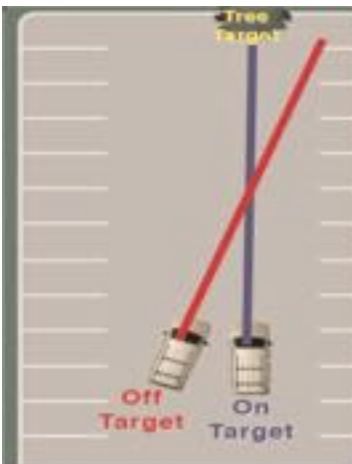
We are in a parking lot to practice seeing a target in relation to our steering wheel.

We will use the pole as our practice target. This photo shows *the car is on target* for the pole. When the target appears in the center of the steering wheel, the car is on target.



To correct for loss of traction to the rear wheels, turn toward the target.

The car is off target to the right. If a correction is not made the car will go towards the stop sign. To get back on target, steer left.



Practicing in a parking lot will give you time and opportunity to discover how to use your central and fringe vision.

You will be able to clearly see when the vehicle is on target, or off target. This practice can make the difference when there is a sudden out of balance condition that you are confronted with, such as: when making an off-road recovery, when the vehicle begins to hydroplane, when taking an evasive steering action, and/or during any situation that creates a loss of traction.



The target is seen with **central vision**. The car is seen in relationship to the target, and in relationship to the road, with **fringe vision**.

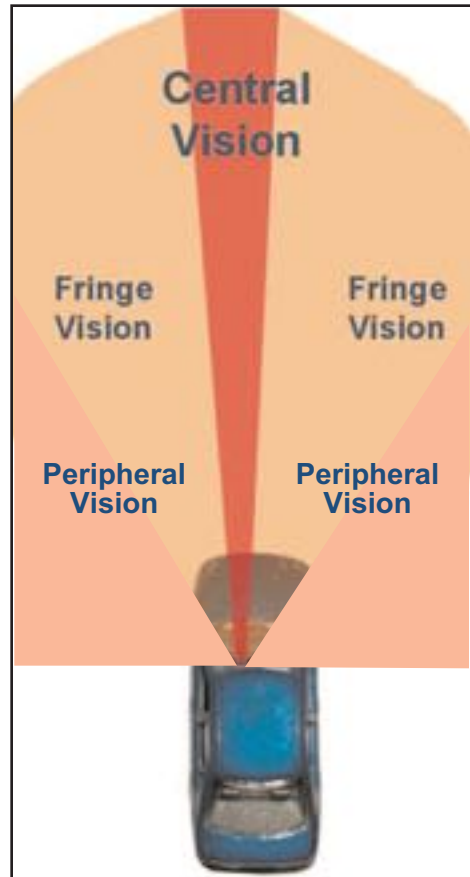
Three Parts of Vision

There are three major parts of vision that we use while driving:

Central Vision is a narrow cone of 5-10 degrees, which is used to identify objects. It is the part of vision that we use for searching, to see a target, and to find LOS-POT blockages. The farther ahead we search the more information we can see with clarity.

Peripheral Vision is the vision surrounding central vision that gives us a 180-degree field of view. The inner part of peripheral vision is what we call "fringe vision." The outer part of peripheral vision is used to detect motion of other vehicles and highway users.

Fringe Vision is the part of peripheral vision that is closest to the area of central vision. This is the most useful part of peripheral vision. It is used to monitor things that have been identified by central vision.

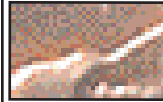




While actually driving on-street we project our vision as far as needed to see a stationary object. In this situation we can see some trees as a target. Most important, we need to know what is in the area of the target, which we will refer to as the Target Area. **The Target Area is the driving environment where the target is located.** For this photo, the car is on target. The target, or target area, appears to be aligned with the center of the steering wheel. While looking to the target area you can see the steering wheel aligned to it with your lower peripheral vision. The car will travel toward what is aligned with the center of the steering wheel.

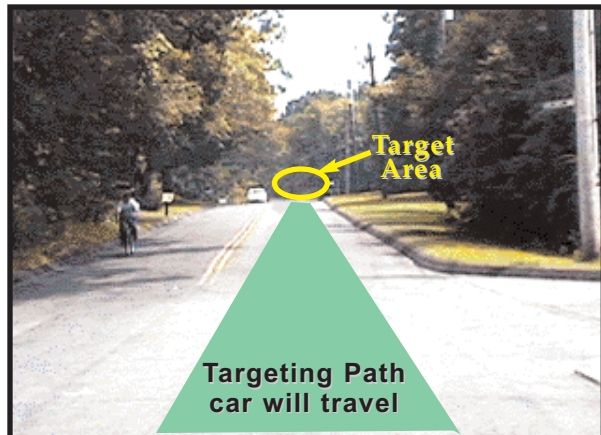
Targeting Path is your intended path-of-travel to the target area.

This is a photo of a familiar subject. Can you tell what it is? See answer on page 18.



Targeting Path

The targeting path helps you to see the actual space you expect your car will travel on the roadway, from the point where you are located when you first see the target, to when you arrive into the target area. It gives you the ability to see elements that can affect your movement. The targeting path is continually monitored



to ascertain that your POT will remain clear of problems. For this situation the intersection on the right, the bicyclist on the left, and the oncoming car can affect the control of your POT.



We can see a house in our target area, which tells us that there is an intersection or a curve at that point. Evaluating our path-of-travel, we see a car entering it. This tips us off to look for other vehicles that may also enter.



Evaluate Your Targeting Path

Once you visualize the path your car will be traveling, en route to the target area, it is easy to evaluate a LOS-POT (Line-Of-Sight, Path-Of-Travel) blockage. For this situation there are LOS blockages to the left and to the right caused by the bus and the parked truck, which could conceal something that may come into your travel path. Further ahead, there is an oncoming vehicle close to the center line that could enter your path. Evaluating your targeting path gives you opportunity to see many potential problems in a timely manner, to best detect and eliminate them from becoming actual problems.

Turn Head in Direction of Intended Movement Before Turning Steering Wheel.



The car is positioned to make a right turn. The photo shows the driver's view looking to the target area.

Whether making a left or right turn or entering a curve, you will be alerted to potential problems in a timely manner if you turn your head in the direction you will be steering *before* you turn the steering wheel. When making a turn to enter an intersection, if your head is turned before steering you are able to search deep into your intended path-of-travel to be mentally ahead of the car's movement, eliminating high risk reactions. Turning your head before beginning your steering actions will get you to see the condition of your targeting path before you commit to it.



Did you recognize Lincoln's nose in the previous challenge? Most likely not.



In order to make accurate decisions we need to have complete information. Turning your head before steering, and looking to the target area, will help you get complete information.

Case Study



A well known athlete with exceptional reaction time failed to reduce speed and stop at a stop sign controlled tee intersection. He attempted to make a left turn while traveling over 60 m.p.h.. With the excessive speed the car was not able to make the turn. It crashed into a stone wall, went airborne and was split in half when it hit a tree. If he had the habit of looking to the target area it would have been easy to reduce speed prior to turning the steering wheel.

Factors: night, tired, over-estimated driving skills, short-wheelbase vehicle, intoxication, no safety belt used, not seeing to target area, late brake application, and excessive speed.