

## City Driving

### Being alert to the challenges

City driving requires your undivided attention. Heavy traffic, narrow streets, and obstructed views are just some of the challenges you face. When driving in the city:

- Stay on posted routes,
- Manage your speed and space,
- Continually scan ahead and check your mirrors,
- Be aware of traffic signals/watch for signs, and
- Keep an eye out for bicycles and pedestrians.

### Right and left turns

**Right turns.** When approaching an intersection, you need to adjust your vehicle's speed. The sharper the turn, the slower the vehicle should be moving.

Shift into the correct gear before the turn and complete the turn in the same gear.

A semi-trailer must pull further into the intersection than a smaller vehicle in order to avoid hitting the curb. One basic rule of thumb is to get about one-half of the rig past the corner before beginning the turn. Once the vehicle has reached that point, turn the steering wheel to the right and complete the turn. Accelerate slightly to smooth out the turn.

During the turn, watch the vehicle's right mirror for the position of the trailer wheels. Also watch for vehicles that may have moved between the curb and the rig from the time the maneuver started. Immediately after the turn is complete, turn the steering wheel back to straighten out the wheels.

**Left turns.** As with a right turn, you need to reduce vehicle speed when approaching the intersection.

Shift into the correct gear and keep your vehicle's wheels straight before starting the turn. As with the right turn, you will want to complete the turn in the same gear.

When executing the turn, you must turn from as far right as possible to allow plenty of room for the tractor. If you turn too soon or too tightly, off-tracking may cause the left side of the vehicle to hit another vehicle.

Watch your left mirror before, during, and after the turn.

Immediately after the turn is complete, turn the steering wheel back to the right to straighten out the wheels.

### Intersections

Crossing an intersection with a long vehicle can be a difficult maneuver. You must take into account the vehicle's additional length and slower acceleration (compared to your personal vehicle) when making the decision to cross an intersection.

Always stop at an intersection or unmarked crossing, and always assume you do not have the right of way.

After stopping, proceed slowly. This allows you to stop again before crossing. Look to the left, then right, then left again before pulling into the intersection.

The approach at a controlled intersection is very similar. You should stop two times. First, at the stop sign or light, then again after easing forward to a point where you can clearly see oncoming traffic.

When a traffic light turns yellow as your vehicle approaches a crossing, slow down and stop.



## Roundabouts

Roundabouts are becoming more common throughout the United States. By moving traffic one-way in a counterclockwise direction, traffic flows at a slower speed and there are fewer conflict points.

Many of the same general rules apply when driving through a roundabout as other types of intersections.

When approaching a roundabout:

- Watch for signs to assist you in selecting the appropriate lane,
- Slow down,
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists, and
- Yield to traffic on your left that is already in the roundabout.

Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic, and then maintain a low speed within the roundabout. As you approach your exit, turn on your right signal, and make sure to yield to pedestrians and bicycles as you exit.

As the driver of a large vehicle, there are additional steps you need to take to ensure safe navigation through a roundabout.

First, and foremost, a large truck is expected to stay in its lane when approaching a roundabout. As you navigate a roundabout, there will be times that your trailer may track into other lanes, you may have to use all available space, or your vehicle may have to use the truck apron. A truck apron is a paved area on the inside of the roundabout that is used by trucks when off-tracking.

When making a right turn, you may need more space than what is provided in your lane of travel, and in some cases you may need all available space. Be alert for surrounding traffic, and as you enter the roundabout, proceed with caution.

When making a left turn, select the lane that allows you to keep traffic on your "sight side," if possible. Check for surrounding traffic and when clear,

enter the roundabout keeping in mind that your trailer may off-track onto the truck apron. Continually check your mirrors until you have cleared the roundabout.

When making a through movement, select the correct lane, and if possible try to keep traffic to your left. Check for surrounding traffic, and continually check your mirrors until you have safely cleared the roundabout.



## Expressways

The weight of a vehicle's load as well as the ramp's length and degree of turn will determine how much time you have to get your vehicle up to speed to safely merge with oncoming traffic. The size of the vehicle will determine how much space you will need to enter traffic.

When entering traffic:

- Size up the traffic,
- Signal early,
- Watch for an opening,
- Build up speed to merge smoothly,
- Watch your mirrors, and
- Watch for oncoming traffic.

When leaving an expressway:

- Signal and get into the turn lane as soon as possible,
- Check your mirrors to monitor the speed of the traffic that is behind your vehicle on the ramp, and
- Shift down to a lower gear and make the exit.



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