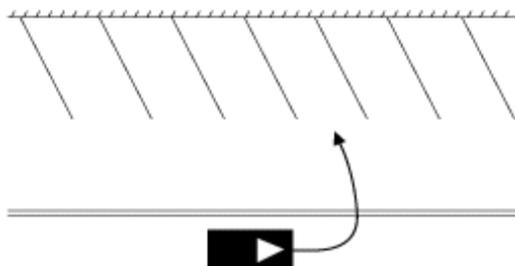




# TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

## WHAT DO DOUBLE YELLOW LINES MEAN?

Most drivers know that they are not permitted to cross or drive on the left side of double yellow center lines except to turn left at an intersection, to turn into or out of a private driveway/public street, or to make a legal U-turn. Drivers need to be especially aware that U-turns are not permitted on streets in business districts except at intersections and in openings on roadways divided by medians. Making a partial U-turn to enter an angled parking space on the other side of the street, as shown in the diagram below, is also NOT considered a safe maneuver.



Most drivers are also not aware that it is always illegal to cross double-double yellow center lines. These types of center lines cannot be crossed for any reason during normal traffic flow conditions.

## WHAT IS THE BIGGEST FACTOR INVOLVING BICYCLE COLLISIONS?

Studies show that the single most common factor in bicycle accidents is that bicyclists ride on the wrong side of the street. When vehicles are turning at intersections and bicyclists are riding the wrong way, drivers do not see them coming because they are not expecting these bicyclists to be traveling in the opposite direction against traffic flow.

Therefore, bicyclists should ride with traffic and NOT against traffic. Bicyclists should also use the push button at signalized intersections to cross the street. Signals are usually timed to handle vehicular traffic. Bicyclists frequently need extra time to cross intersections. They can only receive that extra time by pushing the pedestrian or bicycle button.

## WHY CAN'T BIKEWAYS BE LOCATED ON SIDEWALKS?

Under current State regulations, it is illegal for the city to place new bicycle lanes on sidewalks. Existing sidewalk bicycle lanes were placed there when State laws were different. Bicycle lanes on sidewalks also have a higher accident rate. Drivers turning across these types of lanes often do not notice bicyclists because they are on the sidewalk instead of the street which results in accidents.

## CAN CITIZENS INSTALL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?

The California Vehicle Code only authorizes municipal agencies, such as the City, to install signs in the public right-of-way. Therefore, no signs can be installed in the public right of way with a permit from the City. Such permits are normally only issued to contractors who are performing work in the right-of-way and need detour signs to advise drivers about street construction for traffic safety reasons.

## WHICH STREETS ARE THE CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY?

All public streets and alleys within the City incorporated area are the City's responsibility except for State Highways such as Highway 86 which is also known as Imperial Avenue, Adams Avenue and 4th Street. Highway 86 begins at the City Limits on Imperial Avenue and continues south Adams Avenue and from Imperial Avenue East on Adams to 4th Street and then on 4th Street South to the City limits.

## WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF COLLISIONS?

- 1. Right-of-Way Violations:** Drivers who select too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy major street from a side street or driveway are frequently involved in severe broadside collisions. It is important to always wait until there is a sufficient gap in traffic when entering a busy street from a side street or driveway. It is also important to yield to oncoming traffic when turning left by selecting a safe gap in oncoming traffic before beginning a left turn.
- 2. Unsafe Speeds:** Drivers who follow vehicles ahead of them too closely cause rear-end accidents. Drivers should maintain at least a 3 second gap between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead of them in order to avoid rear-end collisions. Drivers traveling too fast for the prevailing conditions are a major factor in causing rear-end type collisions at all times.
- 3. Stop Sign and Traffic Signal Violations:** Drivers running red lights frequently cause severe broadside accidents. Drivers should never enter signalized intersections on the red light. They may enter on the green light once vehicles lawfully in the intersection have cleared. Drivers must always come to a complete stop at all stop signs.
- 4. Improper Turning Movements:** Right turns should begin and end in the farthest right lane. Left turns should begin in the farthest left hand lane or turn pocket and end in any lane lawfully available to them. Side swipes are also caused by drivers changing lanes abruptly. Drivers should always look over their shoulders and signal whenever changing lanes to make sure that adjacent travel lanes are clear of traffic.

## REQUESTS AND INQUIRES

If you have any questions, requests or suggestions concerning crosswalks or traffic in general, please call the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department at **(760) 337-5182** or submit your request via the Online Request for City Service Form.