Signs, Signals, and Markings
Session Goals

1. Understand what traffic control devices are and why they are important.
2. Understand the many factors that influence their ability to observe, recognize, understand and react to traffic control devices.
3. Understand why correct application of right of way rules is important.
4. Demonstrate the ability to observe, recognize, understand and react to the three types of traffic control devices: signs, signals, and markings behind the wheel.
5. Demonstrate the ability to implement proper right of way in different situations behind the wheel.
### Key Vocabulary and Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colors for Traffic Signs:</th>
<th>Shapes for Traffic Signs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Red</td>
<td>• Octagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yellow</td>
<td>• Triangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• White</td>
<td>• Diamond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Black</td>
<td>• Circular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Green</td>
<td>• Pentagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Brown</td>
<td>• Rectangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Orange</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fluorescent Yellow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fluorescent Pink</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Vocabulary and Topics

**Types Traffic Signs:**
- Regulatory
- Warning
- Construction
- Guide
- Incident
- Chevron

**Traffic Signals:**
- Steady red/ yellow/green
- Flashing red /yellow
- Flashing yellow arrow
- Red “X” and arrow
- Yellow “X” and arrow
- Green arrow
- Pedestrian signals, countdown timers
- Multiple left turn lanes
- Multiple right turn lanes
Key Vocabulary and Topics

**Pavement Markings:**
- White lines (solid or broken)
- Yellow lines
- Double solid yellow lines
- Solid yellow line with a broken yellow line (on your side of center line)
- Solid yellow line with a broken yellow line (on far side of center line)
- Blue curb or red curb
- Lane marker arrows
- Bicycle paths

**Special Vehicle Lights:**
- Side markers
- Vehicle back-up lights
- License plate light
- Vehicle turn signals
- High mounted brake lights
- Parking lights
Traffic Control Device

Traffic control devices provide information about the condition and shape of the road ahead, laws that govern the roads, and hazards ahead.

They include:
- Pavement markings
- Signal lights
- Traffic lights

They help to improve safety on the road by allowing for the organized and foreseeable movement of traffic.
Recognizing Traffic Control Devices

Why are the below characteristics of traffic control devices important....

• Color?
• Shape?
• Words?
• Placement?
## Traffic Signs

The shape and color of traffic signs give indications of the information they can provide including traffic rules, special hazards, your location, how to get where you are going, and where services are available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>Typically white rectangles with black lettering or symbols; some are different shapes, can use red letters or symbols</td>
<td>Stop Sign, Yield Sign, Speed Limit Signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>Typically yellow diamonds with black letters or symbols</td>
<td>Deer Crossing Sign, Lane Added Sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Green with white letters and symbols</td>
<td>Exit Sign, Mileage Marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Blue with white letters and symbols</td>
<td>Rest Area Signs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Stop Sign (Regulation)

**Color:** Red with white letters

**Meaning:**
- Come to a full stop. Yield the right-of-way to vehicles and pedestrians in or heading towards the intersection. Go when it is safe.
- You must come to a full stop before the stop line if there is one. If not, you must stop before the crosswalk.
- If there isn’t a stop line or crosswalk, you must stop before you enter the intersection, at the point nearest the intersection that gives you a view of traffic on the intersecting roadway.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Yield Sign (Regulation)

**Color:** Red and white with red letters

**Meaning:**
- Decrease speed as you reach the intersection. Prepare to stop and yield the right-of-way to vehicles and pedestrians in or heading toward the intersection.
- You must come to a full stop at YIELD sign IF traffic conditions require it. When you approach a YIELD sign, check carefully for traffic and be prepared to stop.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Other Regulation Signs

**Color:** White, with black and/or red letters or symbols

**Meaning:**
- These signs give information about rules for traffic direction, lane use, turns, speed, parking, and other special requirements.
- Some regulation signs have a red circle with a slash over a symbol. This indicates that an action, like a right turn, is not allowed or that some vehicles are restricted from the road. Rectangular white signs with black or red letters or symbols are indications to be alert for special rules.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Warning Signs

**Color:** Yellow, with black letters or symbols

**Meaning:**
- You are approaching a hazardous location or a location where there is a special rule
- A warning sign can be accompanied by a yellow and black “recommended speed” sign, indicating reduced speed is advise.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Work Area Signs

**Color:** Orange, with black letters or symbols

**Meaning:**
- People are at work on or near the roadway; traffic can be controlled by a flag person
- A work area speed limit as low as 25 can be posted. Even if no speed limit is provided, you must drive at a reduced speed through the work zone and you must always obey the flag persons.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Service Signs

**Color:** Blue, with white letters or symbols

**Meaning:**
- Show the location of services like rest areas, gas stations, camping and medical facilities.
Common Traffic Signs and Meanings

Destination Signs

Color: Green, with white letters

Meaning:
• Show the direction and distance to locations
Traffic Lights

• Usually red, yellow, green from top to bottom or left to right

• Traffic signals indicate who has the right of way at an intersection

• If traffic lights are out of service or not operating correctly when you approach an intersection, you must come to a stop as you would for a stop sign. You must then continue according to the rules of right-of-way, unless you are told to continue by a traffic officer.
# Traffic Lights and What They Indicate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic Light</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steady Red</td>
<td>Stop. Do not go until light is green. If green arrow and red light are present, you can go only toward the arrow if the intersection is clear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashing Red</td>
<td>Same as stop sign; stop, yield right of way, go when it is safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Arrow</td>
<td>Do not go in direction of arrow until red arrow light is off and green light or arrow is on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steady Yellow</td>
<td>Be prepared to stop; light is about to turn red.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashing Yellow</td>
<td>Drive with caution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Arrow</td>
<td>Protection of green arrow will end. If you intend to turn in direction of arrow, be prepared to stop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steady Green</td>
<td>Go but yield right of way to other traffic in intersection as required by law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Arrow</td>
<td>You can go in direction of arrow but must yield right of way as required by law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pedestrian Signals

• Designed to allow pedestrians to cross streets safely

• Some signals are automatic, some must be activated by pushing a button

• Many have audible indications that corresponds with the countdown.
Pavement Markings

What colors are used in pavement markings?

What do pavements markings do?
• Indicate when passing or lane changing is allowed
• Designate turn lanes
• Where to stop for traffic signs and signals
• Direction of traffic
# Edge and Lane Lines

| Solid lines along the edge                                      | - Tells you where the edge is, where the travel lane ends and the shoulder begins  
|                                                                 | - Illegal to drive across  
|                                                                 | - Angled edge lines that move towards the center indicate the road is narrower ahead  
| White lines                                                    | - Driver will always drive on the left side of white lines  
|                                                                 | - Multiple white lines indicate multiple lanes of traffic going in same direction  
| Yellow lines                                                   | - Driver will always drive on the right side  
|                                                                 | - Oncoming traffic should be expected left of line  
| Solid White Lines that Run Across Lanes of Traffic             | - Pedestrian crosswalks  
|                                                                 | - Stopping line  

# White Pavement Markings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marking</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid White Line</td>
<td>• Tells you where the edge is, where the travel lane ends and the shoulder begins (also called the fog line)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dashed White Line    | • You can pass  
• Usually indicates multiple lanes of traffic                                                                                       |
| White Arrows         | • Indicates the direction drivers should move                                                                                                                                                 |
| Double White Line    | • Separate travel lanes  
• Can not change lanes for any reason                                                                                                      |
| White Words          | • Provides information for the driver                                                                                                                                                           |
# Yellow Pavement Markings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellow Pavement Markings</th>
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</tr>
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| Solid Single Yellow Line                 | • If located on left edge, you are traveling on a divided highway or one-way street  
  |                                 | • Marks the edge of a median or divider                             |
| Double Solid Yellow Line                 | • Traffic is traveling in both directions                                   |
|                                         | • You cannot pass on either side                                            |
| Single Dashed Yellow Line                | • Traffic is traveling in both directions                                   |
|                                         | • Both drivers can pass                                                     |
| Double line where one line is solid and the other is dashed | • Traffic is traveling in both directions                                    |
|                                         | • Vehicles directly to the right of dashed line can pass                    |
|                                         | • Vehicles directly to the right of the solid line cannot pass              |
| Double Dashed Yellow Lanes               | • Reversible traffic lanes                                                 |
Pavement Markings

Yellow lines separate traffic moving in what direction?
Drive on which side of yellow lines?
Pavement Markings

Broken yellow - Passing is allowed.
Pavement Markings

Turning left across solid double yellow lines is allowed.
Pavement Markings

Yellow dots are lane guide markers. Keep to the right.
Pavement Markings

White lines separate lanes of traffic moving in what direction?
Pavement Markings

Broken white - Crossing is allowed.
Pavement Markings

Narrow solid white lines mark the right edge of the roadway.
Pavement Markings

Solid white lane lines are barriers. No crossing is allowed.
These white dotted lines separate turning paths. AVOID CONFLICTS! DO NOT CROSS!
Pavement Markings

These wide broken white lines mark exit lanes. Crossing is allowed.
Pavement Markings

These mark where you may cross a bike lane.
Pavement Markings

Stop Line -
Legal stop location is before this line.
Pavement Markings

Yield Line (shark tooth) - Legal yield location is before this line.
Pavement Markings

One way or two way?
Pavement Markings

How many lanes?
What are they used for?
Pavement Markings

One way or two way?
How many lanes?
Pavement Markings

Which lines can be crossed?
Pavement Markings

One way or two way?
Pavement Markings

What’s the purpose of the solid white lines?
Pavement Markings

Who is allowed to pass?
Pavement Markings

Is passing allowed here?
Pavement Markings

What is the purpose of the center lane?
Pavement Markings

Where is passing allowed?
Pavement Markings

This is your view from the driver’s seat.
You have two really big problems!
What are they?
Pavement Markings

Where should you enter the turn lane?
Pavement Markings

What do these markings tell you?
Pavement Markings

You’re the driver. This is your view to the front. What do these roadway markings tell you?
Pavement Markings

Are vehicles allowed to cross the solid white line or green box on the right?
Pavement Markings

Is the black car allowed to turn left into the driveway?
Pavement Markings

Is the red Jeep allowed to turn left at this intersection?
Pavement Markings

Identify 10 roadway markings and explain their meanings.
Pavement Markings
Right-of-Way

• Traffic signs, signals, and markings don’t always resolve traffic conflicts
• Right-of-way rules help to address these conflicts. They tell you how traffic should proceed in different conditions.
General Right-of-Way Rules

• A driver who approaches an intersection must yield the right-of-way to traffic that is in the intersection.

• If drivers approaching from opposite directions reach an intersection at about the same time, a driver that turns left must yield to traffic that moves straight or turns right.

• At intersections not controlled by signs or signals, or where two or more drivers stop at STOP signs at the same time and they are at right angles, the driver on the left must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the right.
General Right-of-Way Rules

• A vehicle that enters a roadway from a driveway, alley, private road, or another place that is not a roadway, must stop and yield the right-of-way to traffic on the roadway and to pedestrians.

• Drivers must yield to pedestrians who legally use marked or unmarked crosswalks. This means you must slow down or stop if necessary.

• You cannot enter an intersection if traffic is backed up on the other side and you cannot get completely through the intersection. Wait until traffic ahead clears, so you do not block the intersection.
General Right-of-Way Rules

• Be alert to cross-streets or offset intersections so that you don’t cause gridlock by blocking another street.

• A driver who enters a traffic circle or rotary must yield the right-of-way to drivers already in the circle.
Intersections

Watch the video “Intersections: Rules of the Road” by the California DMV

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHFpGAmgct4
Review

• What shape does a regulation sign typically have?  
  Rectangular

• What type of pavement marking shows you which lane you must use for a turn?  
  Arrow

• Which of the following must you obey over the other three: Red light, flashing red light, stop sign, or police officer.  
  Police Officer
Review

What do these lines indicate?

**One broken:** You can pass other vehicles or change lanes if you can do so safely without interfering with traffic.

**One solid:** You can pass other vehicles or change lanes, but you can only do so when obstructions in the road or traffic conditions make it necessary.

**Double solid:** You cannot pass or change lanes. You cannot go across the lines except to turn left to enter or leave the highway (e.g., to or from a driveway or to do a U-turn).

**Solid and broken together:** If you are on the side with the solid line, you cannot pass other vehicles or go across the line except to make a left turn into a driveway. If you are on the side with the broken line, you can pass if it is safe to and you will not interfere with traffic.
Review

• You are at a green light, but traffic on the other side of the intersection does not allow you to pass all the way through the intersection. Can you enter the intersection?
  No

• Does a vehicle prepared to enter a traffic circle have right-of-way over vehicles in the circle?
  No
References

• New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. New York State Driver’s Manual.