



Look for Pedestrians

Pedestrians should be walking against traffic if sidewalks are not provided, however, expect them to be anywhere, especially children. To avoid some of the most common pedestrian crashes be sure to:

- Be particularly alert for pedestrians crossing at intersections.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop for pedestrians at mid-block crosswalks.
- When exiting a driveway or parking area, stop at the back edge of the sidewalk before proceeding.
- Watch for pedestrians darting out into the street especially near schools and recreation areas. (most common crash type among children)
- Come to a complete stop before turning right on a red light at an intersection. Make sure no pedestrians are crossing before you proceed.

Safety with Bicyclists



WHY DO PEOPLE BICYCLE?

People you see bicycling do it for many reasons. Among them:

- **Commuting.** Some people rely on the bicycle for transportation by choice, others by necessity.
- **Exercise.** Bicycling helps people stay healthy.
- **Clean Air.** Bicycles don't pollute the air.
- **Fun.** Bicycling is enjoyable for many people and exercise helps to reduce stress.

Did you know?

90% of all bicycle related deaths involve collisions with motor vehicles (Brain Injury Association)

KNOW YOUR HAND SIGNALS:



FOR



SAFETY,



Left turn

Right turn

Stop

MOTORISTS SHOULD REMEMBER:

- If a bicyclist moves into your lane to avoid something, you should YIELD. If there is room for you to safely pass do so, otherwise wait until they have moved back to the right before passing.
- Bicyclists can be moving faster than they appear. Don't try to beat them at an intersection by turning in front of them. Experienced riders can maintain speeds of 25 miles per hour.
- To avoid 'dooring' someone, be sure to look for bicyclists and others before opening your car door when you park on the street.
- Refrain from honking when approaching a bicyclist. This can startle them and cause an crash. If they seem completely unaware of your presence, a couple "toots" of the horn is okay.
- Try to change lanes before passing a bicyclist. Move from the right lane (where the bicyclist will usually be), to the left lane if available. This will give the bicyclist ample room. If changing lanes is not possible, try to pass them with at least 3' space.

Preparation of this brochure was financed through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation and contributions from local governments of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS).

A Motorist Guide for Rights, Rules and Safety



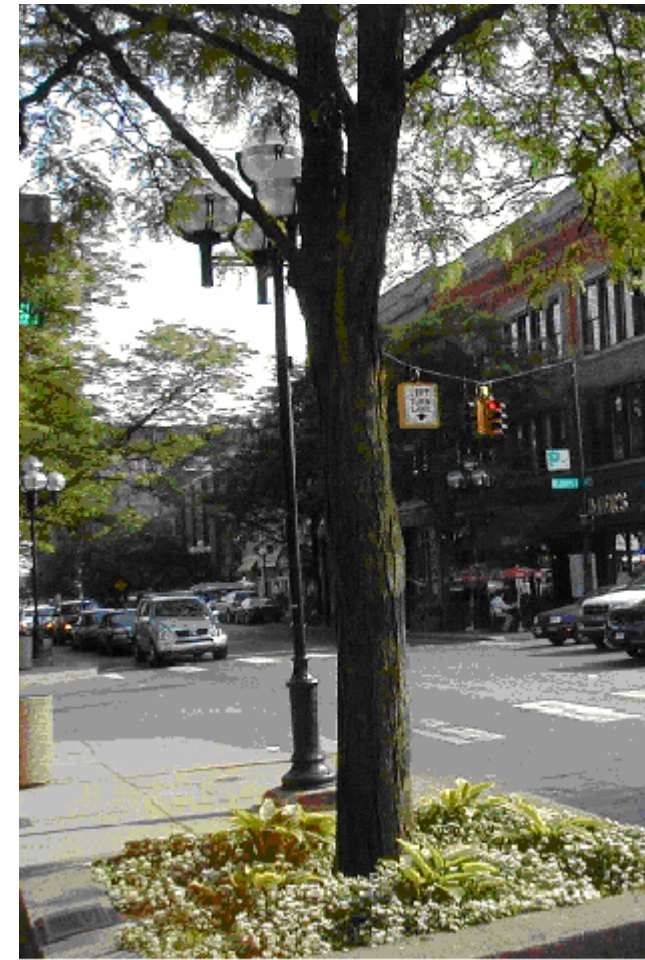
Did you know?

- During the past two decades, the number of vehicles has increased at an annual rate of almost one and one-half times that of the total population. (NPTS survey 1995)
- Bicycles, mopeds and low speed vehicles have the same rights and must obey the same laws as motorists.
- 50,000 child pedestrians are injured in traffic crashes annually, and approximately 40,000 people die each year in crashes.


Washtenaw Area
Transportation
Study (WATS)



Tel: (734)994-3127
Fax: (734)994-3129
Email: wats@miwats.org
WEB: www.miwats.org



Safety With Pedestrians

- Pedestrian injuries represent the second largest category of motor vehicle-related deaths (OHSP) 
- During the past five years in Michigan, a total of 897 pedestrians have been killed, an average of 179 per year. (*OHSP—Office of Highway Safety Planning)
- Of the pedestrians killed, 23.9% were killed while crossing streets other than at intersections. (OHSP)
- Most motorist/pedestrian collisions occur in urban areas (~70%). (FHWA-SA-00-010)

Many signalized intersections have concurrent pedestrian crossings. This is where the pedestrian crossing the side street is given the walk signal at the same time the main street motor vehicles are given a green signal. A turning motor vehicle must yield to the pedestrian.

Michigan Law



Motor Vehicle Laws:

- Motorists cannot turn right on a red arrow. It must be treated as a "no turn on red".
- At a signalized intersection or stop sign, the front wheels of the car must be behind the stop line (white bar).
- Running yellow lights is illegal. It means to stop the car if SAFELY possible. If it is not possible, you may proceed through the intersection with caution.
- When driving on a road with 4 or more clearly marked lanes that provide for 2-way traffic movement, the driver shall use the right lane except when overtaking another vehicle. (Section 257.642)



The following apply to bicyclists and pedestrians

- Bicyclists and persons on mopeds have equal rights and responsibilities as motorists according to Section 257.657. As a motorist, you must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists just like any other vehicle.
- Motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians (Section 257.612) When turning at a signalized intersection- yield to pedestrians in crosswalks- if they have a walk signal, they have the right-of-way.

Driving Under the Influence

In Michigan, there were 459 automobile deaths attributed solely to alcohol use in 2000. There were also 54,806 arrests for driving under the influence or narcotic use in Michigan in 2000. (Michigan State Police) There are 2 levels of bodily alcohol content (BAC) designated under the Michigan Law; Operating While Impaired (OWI) (.07-.10 BAC) and Operating with an Unlawful Bodily Alcohol Content (UBAC) (BAC > .10) For a general reference, a 140 lb woman would be impaired after two drinks, and legally intoxicated after 3 drinks in 1 hour.



Included under the following penalties chart are impairments due to drugs.

Criminal Penalties for a first offence are:

UBAC (>.10)	OWI (.07-.10)
• \$100 -\$500 fine and/or	• Up to \$300 fine and/or
• Up to 90 days jail and/or	• Up to 93 days in jail and/or
• Up to 45 days community service	• Up to 45 days community service
• Drivers license suspended 1-6 months	• 90 day Driver license restriction
• Possible immobilization up to 180 days	• Possible immobilization up to 180 days

Minors:

It is illegal for drivers under the age of 21 to operate a vehicle if they have any blood alcohol content. It is also illegal for minors to transport alcoholic beverages.

Drowsy Driving

A tired driver is a hazardous, although often unrecognized traffic safety problem. The National Sleep Foundation estimates that due to drowsy driving, 100,000 car crashes happen annually claiming more than 1500 lives in the United States. Driving with sleep deprivation can have similar effects as driving under the influence. Therefore, it is important to make sure you are alert and awake for any trip.

To avoid drowsy driving:

- On long trips, take a mid-afternoon break.
- Avoid driving between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.
- Take a passenger with you to keep you talking, and share the driving.
- Schedule a break every 2 hours or 100 miles to take a quick nap or get some exercise.
- Consume a caffeinated beverage to boost your short-term alertness.



No Zone

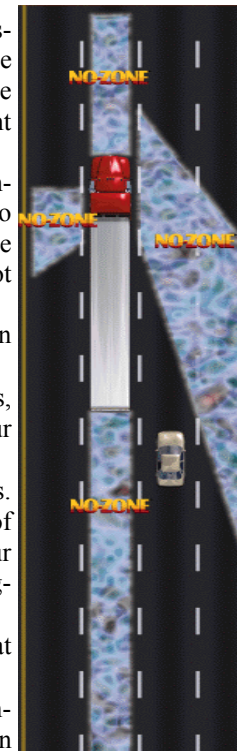
All vehicles have "No Zones", areas where the driver can not see. As the size of the vehicle increases, so do these blind spots. While passenger cars have relatively

small blind spots; trucks and buses have large areas where the drivers cannot see, both on the sides on the vehicle and in front and behind the vehicle.

While sharing the roads, it is important to be aware of these 'No Zones'; if you can not see the driver in the mirror, they can not see you!

Keep the following points in mind:

- Don't hang out in No Zones, crashes are more likely to occur if you are in these areas.
- Don't cut in front of trucks. Make sure the entire front of the truck can be seen in your rear view mirror prior to changing lanes in front of them.
- Don't cross behind a truck that is backing up.
- Don't squeeze up next to a turning truck. Especially in urban settings, drivers need to pull into the left lane to make a right turn.



* FMCSA-Share the Road

Work Zones

According to the Michigan State Police, from 1997-2001 there was an average of 6,803 crashes per year in construction zones with an average of 2,205 injuries and a total of 87 deaths. In 2001, Michigan became the first state to adopt stiffer penalties for motorists who injure or kill highway workers. "Andy's Law" creates penalties of up to one year in prison for injury and up to 15 years for killing a highway worker.

Remember these tips in a work zone:

- Stay alert and give full attention to the roadway.
- Pay close attention to signs and work zone traffic regulators (flaggers).
- Turn on headlights so workers and other drivers can see your vehicle.
- Do not tailgate.
- Slow down to the posted speed limits.
- Do not change lanes in work zones.
- Be patient. Remember work zones are necessary to improve roads and make them safer.



Deer Crashes



In 2000, there were more than 65,000 reported car-deer collisions in Michigan. According to AAA, the average cost of car damage is \$2000, resulting in damages of approximately \$130 million per year. In 2000, the Michigan State Police estimated that approximately 2,150 people were injured and 8 people were killed in deer-related crashes.

Some things to remember to drive safer:

- Most car-deer crashes happen during October through December.
- Most car-deer collisions occur between 6 PM and midnight, as deer are most active during the early morning and late evening hours.
- If you see one deer, expect there will be others.
- Do not swerve your vehicle to avoid striking a deer. It is safer to strike a deer than another vehicle or a fixed object.
- Continually scan the roadside for deer, often times they can be seen approaching the road.
- If you see a deer close to the road edge, slow down and be prepared for emergency braking.

What to Do in Case of a Crash

If you are involved in, or a witness to a traffic collision, take the following steps:



- Call the police. If needed, get medical help immediately.
- Get the following information from every vehicle: driver name, address, phone number, driver's license number, license plate number, the make of the car, the insurance company name and the policy number.
- Get the names and phone numbers of witnesses.
- Get the police report number from police on the scene.
- Write down how the crash happened while it is fresh in your memory.
- Write down a description of the scene, or take a photograph if possible. Also, keep any damaged clothes or equipment.
- Try to remain calm at the scene. This will help you to ask questions and take notes.