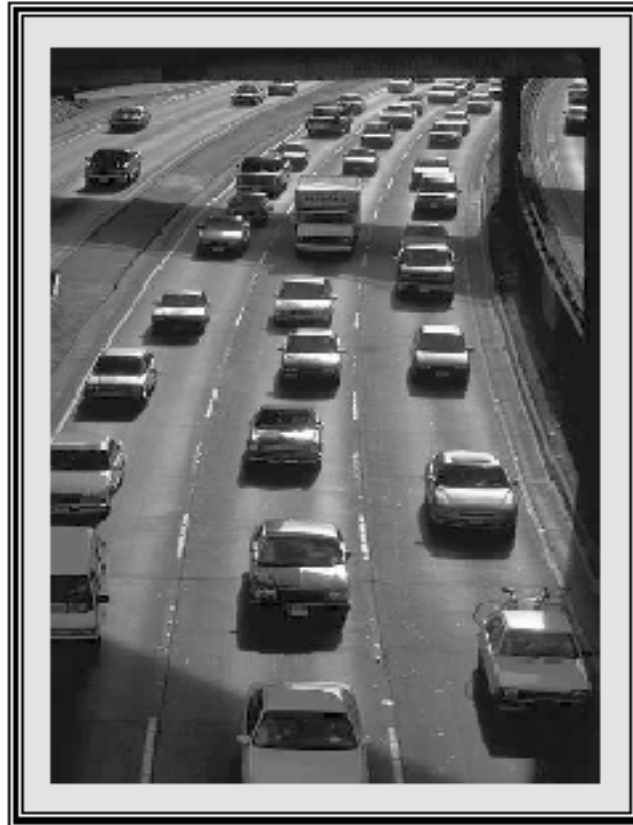


BTW Lesson 6

Traffic Flow/Freeways



Introduction to Lesson 6

In this lesson, your student will be practicing merging onto and exiting from the freeway; passing and being passed; managing time, space and visibility; and using scanning skills.

Your student should practice entering and exiting on various types of freeway interchanges. The key is to enter the flow of traffic and maintain speed until your student gets off the freeway at the exit ramp.

When driving on the freeway, have your student drive at the speed of the traffic flow. If the traffic flow is going too fast, drive in the right lane to eliminate anxiety.

It is important that your student master the task of entering and exiting the freeway efficiently and comfortably before moving on to lane changing and overtaking on the freeway.

Once you are comfortable with your student's progress entering and exiting the freeway, it is time for your young driver to practice lane changes, passing, and being passed.

Scanning is the key to success in practicing this lesson. Your student will need to be aware of conditions ahead, behind, and beside his/her vehicle at all times.

It is important for your novice driver to scan way ahead (20 to 30 seconds) to be aware of the immediate path of travel his/her vehicle will be occupying.

Make sure your student is continually checking his/her mirrors and blind spot areas. Check behind and beside the driver's vehicle before moving back into the original lane of travel he/she was previously driving in.

Good space management is another essential key. Maintaining a following time of at least 4 seconds is of primary importance at high speed. Attention should also be paid to keeping the side and rear space areas open.

BTW Lesson 6 Checklist

Merging:

Check Traffic Ahead and Behind _____
Locate Gap _____
Signal _____
Accelerate _____
Recheck Traffic _____
Merge and Adjust Speed _____
Cancel Signal _____
Adjust Speed and Following Time _____

Lane Changes/Overtaking:

Traffic Check and Target POT _____
Signal and Check Areas 4 or 5 (left rear or right rear) _____
Target New POT _____
Steering Control to New Lane _____
Proper Lane Position _____
Speed Control _____

Exiting:

Select Proper Lane _____
Check Traffic in Area 6 (rear) _____
Signal _____
Check Area 5 (right rear) _____
Move Into Lane _____
Speed Control _____
Cancel Signal _____

BTW Lesson 6

Title: Traffic Flow/Freeways

Prerequisites:

1. Complete BTW Lesson 5

2. Classroom:

Module 5 relates to high-speed multi-lane merging, lane changing, overtaking, exiting, space management and area control.

3. Simulation:

“Limited Access Highway” or other related programs.

This includes the freeway driving “Gaining Expressway

Confidence” 16 mm film.

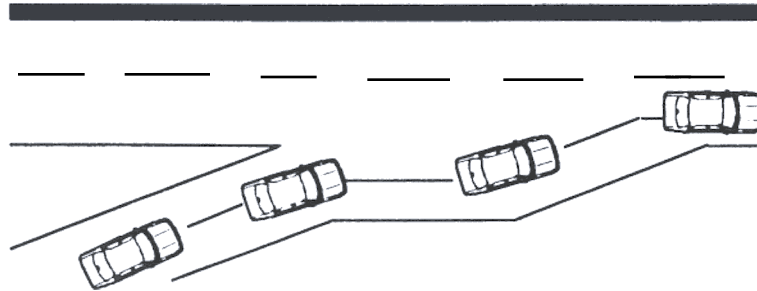
Skills to be Practiced:

- Merging onto a freeway.
- Exiting from freeway.
- Managing time, space, visibility.
- Passing.
- Being passed.
- Scanning skills.
- Lane control.
- Lane changing.

BTW Lesson 6 Helpful Hints

1. Check your student's understanding of the specific task that will be practiced. Reference the procedure sheet that accompanies this guide.
2. This practice session will place more responsibility on the student driving with minimal assistance from you.
3. Have predetermined destinations set in advance. Have a plan of various places that you need to go (e.g., grocery store, bank, post office, clothing store). This will require that the driver make decisions regarding the most efficient route to take.
4. You may use the checklist as a guide to evaluate performance.
5. Emphasize positive performances to build confidence.
6. Encourage commentary driving throughout the drive.
7. The student should be asked to demonstrate reference points for vehicle positioning. Also, visual targeting 20-30 seconds in advance and using line of sight and path of travel need to be practiced.
8. Practice sign recognition and navigation skills by directing the student to take you to destinations by following the freeway guide signs. ("Take me north to Seattle ... Now take me south to Portland.")
9. Begin with straight entrance ramps on diamond interchanges and then proceed to more complex interchanges such as cloverleaf/weave lanes.

Merging Onto Freeway



1. CHECK TRAFFIC AHEAD AND BEHIND.
2. CHECK REAR AND LEFT REAR AREAS (6 and 4).
3. LOCATE GAP AND SIGNAL.
4. ACCELERATE AND RECHECK TRAFFIC.
5. MERGE AND ADJUST SPEED.
6. CANCEL SIGNAL, CHECK REARVIEW MIRROR.
7. TARGET AHEAD, ESTABLISH A PROPER FOLLOWING TIME.

Merging Onto Freeway

Objective

When directed and with minimal assistance, the student will perform proper procedures for merging into traffic at least two times.

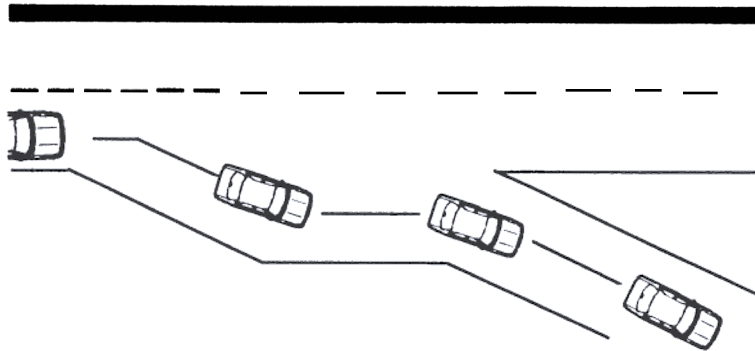
Driving Environment

- A variety of freeway entrance ramps (diamond, clover-leaf, trumpet, etc.).
- Weave lane entrances.
- Freeway rest areas.

Common Errors

- Speed too slow.
- Poor judgment of space and gaps in traffic.
- Failure to signal or cancel signal.
- Not performing blind spot checks in right rear area (5).
- Jerky, abrupt, or excessive steering.
- Crossing the solid white line/merging too early.
- Not maintaining awareness ahead and behind while locating a gap.
- Drifting while making visual checks.

Exiting Freeway



1. VISUALLY TARGET AND SELECT PROPER LANE FOR EXITING.
2. VISUALLY CHECK REAR AREA (6).
3. SIGNAL, CHECK RIGHT REAR AREA (5), AND MOVE INTO DECELERATION LANE.
4. MAINTAIN SPEED UNTIL OFF THE FREEWAY IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT SPACE.
5. REDUCE TO POSTED SPEED AFTER ENTERING DECELERATION LANE/ EXIT RAMP.
6. CANCEL SIGNAL.
7. ADJUST SPEED AND POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR STOPPING AND/OR ENTERING ANOTHER ROADWAY.

Exiting Freeway

Objective

When directed and with minimal assistance, the student will perform at least twice, proper procedures for exiting from the freeway.

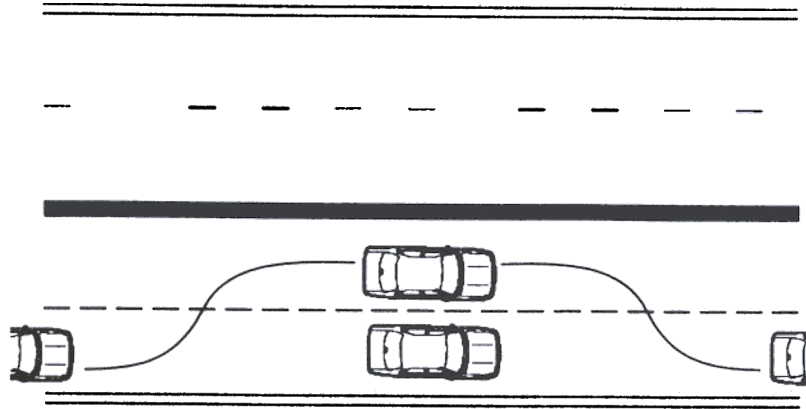
Driving Environment

- Exit ramps from freeways.

Common Errors

- Reducing speed too soon.
- Not checking rear and right rear areas (6 and 5).
- Braking on the freeway when not necessary.
- Not visually targeting to identify exit area in advance.
- Velocitation (the sensation that you are going slower than you really are).
- Not checking speedometer.

Lane Changing/Overtaking



1. CHECK TRAFFIC AHEAD, BEHIND, AND IN THE INTENDED PATH OF TRAVEL.
2. SIGNAL AND CHECK BLIND SPOT IN DIRECTION OF LANE CHANGE.
3. TARGET NEW PATH-OF-TRAVEL.
4. STEER SLIGHTLY TO MOVE INTO NEW LANE WHILE MAINTAINING SPEED.
5. CANCEL SIGNAL.
6. ESTABLISH SAFE LANE POSITION, SPEED, AND FOLLOWING TIME.
7. IF OVERTAKING AND RETURNING TO ORIGINAL LANE, PROCEED AHEAD UNTIL BOTH HEADLIGHTS ARE VISIBLE IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR, THEN:
8. CHECK MIRRORS, SIGNAL AND CHECK BLIND SPOT.

Passing

Objective

When directed or as the opportunity occurs and with minimal assistance, the student will demonstrate proper procedures while lane changing or overtaking another vehicle at least three times.

Driving Environment

- Limited access roadways: freeways, expressways, divided highways.

Common Errors

- Not looking 20-30 seconds ahead.
- Speed too slow while overtaking.
- Forgets to cancel signal after changing lanes.
- Moves back to lane before seeing both headlights in the rearview mirror.
- Failure to make blind spot checks.
- Turning the wheel while making blind spot checks.
- Jerky, abrupt, or excessive steering.
- Not aware of other vehicles moving into the same lane you are in.

NOTES
