

The Council  
on Aging  
of Ottawa



Le Conseil sur  
le vieillissement  
d'Ottawa

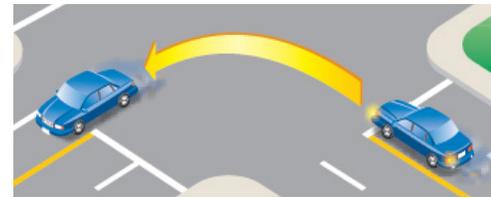
# Reminders for Older Drivers

**1 School Bus.** When you come across a stopped school bus with the stop arm activated and/or lights flashing, it is important to understand the rules. If there is no median on the roadway, all vehicles in all lanes must stop. If there is a median on the roadway, ONLY the vehicles in the lanes going in the same direction as the bus must stop.

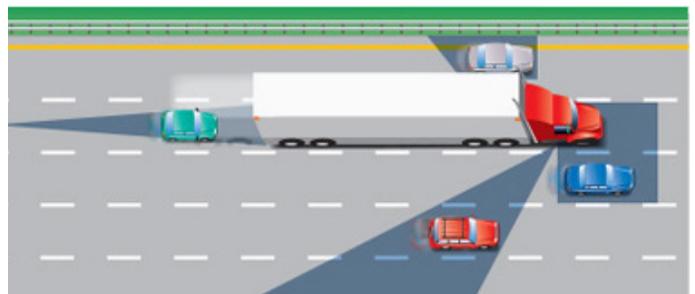


**2 Sharing the road with municipal buses.** If you are approaching in the lane adjacent to a bus bay, and a city bus begins flashing its left-turn signals indicating that it is ready to leave the bus bay, you must yield and allow the bus to re-enter traffic.

**3 Left Turns.** When you are stopped at an intersection waiting for approaching traffic to clear, don't turn your steering wheel to the left until you can complete the turn. With your wheels turned to the left, your vehicle could be pushed into the path of oncoming traffic. Turn onto the left lane first, and move into the right curb lane when you can or it is safe to do so.



**4 Truck's blind spots.** Be aware that commercial trucks have large blind spots at the front and back. Avoid driving and staying in their blind spots. Leave plenty of space and avoid merging too soon into the lane in front. They need more time to stop.



**5 Slow down move over.** Drivers must slow down and move over to the left when approaching stopped police, fire, ambulance or tow trucks with amber lights flashing at roadside.



**9 Pedestrian crossovers.** Stop behind the yield line. Make eye contact to ensure pedestrian sees you. Wait until pedestrian has reached the curb before proceeding.

**6 Signals.** Traffic and pedestrians must yield to public transit vehicles at a transit priority signal (white vertical bar on a dark background). This allows transit vehicles to go through,



turn right or left, while all conflicting traffic faces a red light. When you're turning right on to a road, yield to cyclists (check your blind spot).

**10 Make sure your license is valid.** If you had a traffic violation and you took a while to pay the fine, your driver's license might be suspended and insurance policy voided. Check the status of your license online at [www.ontario.ca/licenceCheck](http://www.ontario.ca/licenceCheck) or by calling Service Ontario's Driver and vehicle Contact Centre 1-800-267-8097.

**11 Driver update.** Participate in the 55 Alive program designed for the mature driver. Check the city of Ottawa recreation program for location and timing or take private lessons with a Government-approved driving school.

**7 Watch for people, wheelchairs and medical scooters.** Usually these operators will travel on a sidewalk but, if there is no sidewalk available, persons using mobility devices should travel, like pedestrians, along the left shoulder of the roadway facing oncoming traffic.



**12 Accessible parking permit.** Accessible parking permits are issued to a person not a vehicle. You will need to renew it every 5 years. You will receive a renewal notice 3 months before your permit expires. You can be fined for misuse or expired permit.



**8 Bike boxes.** Bike boxes help prevent collisions between motorists and bicycles at intersections. It is typically a green painted box on the road with a white bicycle symbol inside. Bicycle lanes approaching and leaving the box may also be painted. As a driver, you must stop for a traffic signal behind the bike box. Do not stop in the box.



**13 Know your vehicle.** Take the time to get to know the different symbols in your car and know how to adjust mirrors, headrest, distance to air bag (minimum 10 inches), and line of vision over the steering wheel (minimum 3 inches). Find a CarFit event in your area by contacting the Council on Aging of Ottawa at (613) 789-3577 (Ext. 101).

