

## TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND ROAD MARKINGS

Traffic signs, signals and road markings are set up to control the flow of traffic, making streets and highways safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. A safe driver always watches for and obeys all traffic signals, signs and road markings. During heavy traffic or in an emergency, a police officer may direct traffic. A police officer can overrule traffic signals. Law enforcement orders or directions must always be obeyed.

Court penalties will be imposed for stealing or damaging airport, traffic or railroad-crossing signs or equipment.

### TRAFFIC SIGNALS

When traffic signals are hung vertically, the red light is always on top. The yellow is in the center. The green light is third in line. If there is a green arrow, it is always on the bottom. When the lights are horizontal, red is always on the left.

#### RED LIGHT

A motorist must stop before the intersection or crosswalk and remain stopped until the light changes to green.

#### YELLOW LIGHT

A motorist should stop before entering the intersection or crosswalk, unless his/her vehicle is so close to the intersection that it cannot be stopped safely. A yellow arrow means the signal is changing from green to red and gives the motorist a chance to stop safely.

#### GREEN LIGHT

A motorist should proceed through the intersection. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in the intersection and when turning left or right. Before making a left turn, yield to approaching vehicles.

#### GREEN ARROW

When shown alone or in combination with the red signal, proceed only as shown by the arrow. Be cautious and yield to pedestrians.

#### FLASHING YELLOW LIGHT

Slow down and proceed with care.



## ▼ FLASHING RED LIGHT

Stop. Yield to traffic and pedestrians. Go only when safe.

## ▼ UNLIT SIGNAL

Stop if a signal does not have any of its bulbs working and no one is directing traffic. It is considered a four-way stop sign. Look left and right. Yield to traffic coming from the right or left. Be careful and go only when safe.

## ▼ ORANGE, STEADY RAISED-PALM SYMBOL

Pedestrians must not leave the sidewalk or enter the roadway when facing the light. Those already in the roadway should quickly go to a safe spot. Pedestrians already within the crosswalk will have time to cross the intersection before the signal changes. Those who have not yet left the sidewalk or curb should not enter the roadway.

## ▼ WHITE, STEADY PEDESTRIAN SILHOUETTE/COUNTDOWN PEDESTRIAN SIGN WITH STEADY PEDESTRIAN SILHOUETTE

Pedestrians facing the signal may cross the roadway in the direction of the signal. New Jersey law requires turning motorists to yield to pedestrians crossing on this signal and to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Pedestrian push-buttons are located at certain traffic signals. A short time after the button is pushed, the flow of traffic at the intersection changes to a longer green for the side street.

Traffic engineers use color, such as an optional yellow-green or a standard yellow, for the pedestrian crossing and bicycle warning signs which are of utmost importance. These signs alert New Jersey motorists that they must share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists and yield to them.

## ▼ TRAFFIC SIGNS

Signs are divided into three basic categories:

- **Warning:** Warn motorists of hazards ahead that are difficult to see.
- **Guidance:** Guide motorists to a destination by clearly identifying the route.
- **Regulatory:** Regulate traffic speed and movement.

The signs are manufactured in different shapes and colors to convey a particular message. Examples of the various sign types, shapes and colors are found in the diagram on page 170.

COLOR	SHAPE	# OF SIDES	MESSAGE
White	Vertical rectangle	4	Regulation (such as speed signs) <sup>1</sup>
Blue	Rectangle, square	4	Motorists services and information
Brown	Rectangle	4	Public recreation and scenic guidance
Green	Rectangle	4	Direction guidance
Orange	Diamond	4	Construction and maintenance warning
Red	Octagon	8	STOP signs only
Red	Triangle	3	YIELD signs
Yellow	Pennant	3	No-passing warning signs
Yellow	Pentagon	5	School signs
Yellow	Round		Railroad warning signs
Yellow	Diamond	4	Roadway hazard signs

<sup>1</sup> When the maximum safe speed around a curve or turn is lower than the posted speed limit, an advisory speed sign is used with the proper warning sign.

## ▼ WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs are for road conditions that need caution and for specific hazards that may be encountered during certain road operations. Some of the warning signs alert motorists to road conditions, school crossings or curved roadways. The signs are yellow and diamond-shaped with a black symbol or word message.

## ▼ ROAD WORK SIGNS

Road work signs alert motorists to a variety of temporary roadway conditions. It is important to look for:

- Orange, diamond-shaped signs that warn the motorist of lane closings, lane shifts, flaggers, uneven pavement and detours. Road work may temporarily close lanes or divert them, changing traffic patterns
- Reduced speed limit signs that are posted alongside orange work zone signs. In New Jersey, all traffic fines are doubled in work zones.

A Motorist should react to road work signs by:

- Controlling the distance between his/her vehicle and the one in front, as well as his/her reaction time. Always read the signs, follow directions and prepare to slow down or stop
- Staying alert to the moving construction machinery in the work zone. With patience, a motorist will contribute to the overall safety of motorists and workers in the work zone
- Watching for workers on the road, who risk injury, possibly death. Flaggers may stop and release traffic through the work zone. Note that flaggers have the same authority as a regulatory sign, so a motorist may be cited if he/she disobeys their directions.

## ▼ GUIDANCE SIGNS

Guidance signs identify destinations and routes for motorists; some examples are shown on pages 174-176.

### **Motorist Service Signs**

Motorist service signs have white letters or symbols on a blue background and provide information about motorist services. Some examples are shown on pages 174 and 175.

## ▼ REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs are generally rectangular, with the longer vertical dimension, and have black wording and borders on a white background. Some important regulatory signs to know are:

- **STOP:** Octagonal sign with white wording and border on red background
- **YIELD:** White inverted triangle with red wording and border with a white border band
- **DO NOT ENTER:** White square with a red circle that has a white band horizontally across the center of the circle and the words "DO NOT ENTER" in white letters on the upper and lower parts of the circle

Two national signs that indicate where certain interstate trucks can or cannot travel are now being used in New Jersey:

- **Green:** Marks the routes and ramps where trucks are permitted; also marks the travel route to services and terminals
- **Red:** Marks the routes and ramps where trucks are prohibited; also marks the end of designated routes

## ROAD MARKINGS

Road markings have the same force of law as signs or traffic signals.

- **Yellow center lines:** Separate traffic flow going in opposite directions
- **White lines:** Separate traffic going the same way when there is more than one lane; show edges of roads
- **Dashed lines:** On a motorist's side of the center line of the road mean that passing is permitted when safe
- **Solid line:** On a motorist's side of the center line means do not pass
- **Road arrows:** When used with other signs, show the correct direction a motorist must make in that particular lane
- **White dashed lines:** Separate traffic lanes on multi-lane highways
- **Yellow solid lines:** Prohibit passing. Do not cross the solid yellow line to pass. Stay in the lane. Keep to the right when driving slowly
- **Yellow solid and dashed lines:** Control passing. If the solid yellow line is on the motorist's side of the road, do not pass. Pass only if the dashed line is on the motorist's side of the road. A pass must be completed before the yellow dashed lines become solid
- **Edge lines:** Separate the shoulder from the travel lane and show the edges of highways; **Yellow edge lines** separate the shoulder from the travel lane and show the edge of the highway
- **White crosswalks:** Indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Pedestrians should use these areas when crossing the road. At intersections where stop lines are missing stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by traffic signs or signals or for pedestrians
- **White stop lines:** Show where to stop at stop signs or traffic signals
- **White special markings:** Show special conditions, such as STOP AHEAD, SCHOOL and R X R, as a motorist alert. At some railroad crossings, there may be a crossbuck, flashing lights and/or gate lowered across the road as a train approaches. The pavement markings, signs and crossbucks are passive warnings; the flashing lights and lowered gates are active warnings. A motorist must always yield to trains
- **White diamonds:** Indicate high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes reserved for a particular vehicle type or vehicles carrying multiple riders, as identified by posted regulatory signs. Such signs will also indicate hours that HOV lanes are in operation. HOV lanes may also be marked with white diamonds painted on the pavement of the lane

## ▼ SPECIAL WARNING SIGNS

These signs alert motorists to slow-moving vehicles. A fluorescent and reflective orange triangular sign indicates slow-moving vehicles, such as farm and construction equipment operating on public highways. The operators must obey all traffic rules and place a slow-moving vehicle sign on the back of their vehicles to warn approaching motorists.

## ▼ RUMBLE STRIPS

Transverse and longitudinal rumble strips are small indentations or narrow, raised strips on the highway or shoulder that are put there to alert the motorist there is a decision point ahead (such as a four-way intersection after miles of uninterrupted travel). As the strips vibrate the steering wheel and make a noise, they will wake the motorist who may have dozed off or caution the motorist about the danger ahead. Rumble strips will not damage a vehicle. They are meant to get a motorist to drive slowly. They are almost always used with a cautionary sign.

## ▼ SPEED HUMPS/SPEED BUMPS

Other types of speed control devices include speed humps and speed bumps. A speed hump is a low ridge that runs across a street and that is designed to slow down cars. A speed hump is a longer, flatter version of a speed bump, which is more raised.

## ▼ ROUNDABOUTS

A roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection in which traffic flows around a center island. Roundabouts are designed to meet the needs of all road users – drivers, pedestrians, pedestrians with disabilities, and bicyclists. A roundabout eliminates some of the conflicting traffic, such as left turns, which cause crashes at traditional intersections. Because roundabout traffic enters or exits only through right turns, the occurrence of severe crashes is substantially reduced.



Sharp Turn Ahead



Divided Highway



Cattle Crossing



Winding Road



Merge



Hill



Lane Reduction Ahead



Cross Road



Railroad



School



Slippery When Wet



Hospital



Handicapped



Yield Ahead



Signal Ahead



Workers



Flagman Ahead



Detour



Road Closed



Stop



Left Turn Only



No Trucks



Multiple Turning Lanes



Do Not Enter



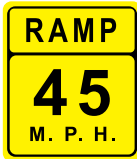
No U-Turns



No Parking Any Time



Do Not Pass



Advisory Ramp Speed



Side Road



No Passing Zone



Stop Sign Ahead



Two-Lane Traffic



Road Narrows



Road Closed



Reserved Parking



U.S. Route Marker



State Route Marker



Rest Area



Stop Here on Red



County Route Marker



Exit Marker



Mile Marker



No Standing Any Time



No Pedestrians



No Turns



Left Turn Only



Interstate



Left or Straight Only



Bus/Car Pool Lane



One Way



Keep Right



Wrong Way



Yield



No Right Turn