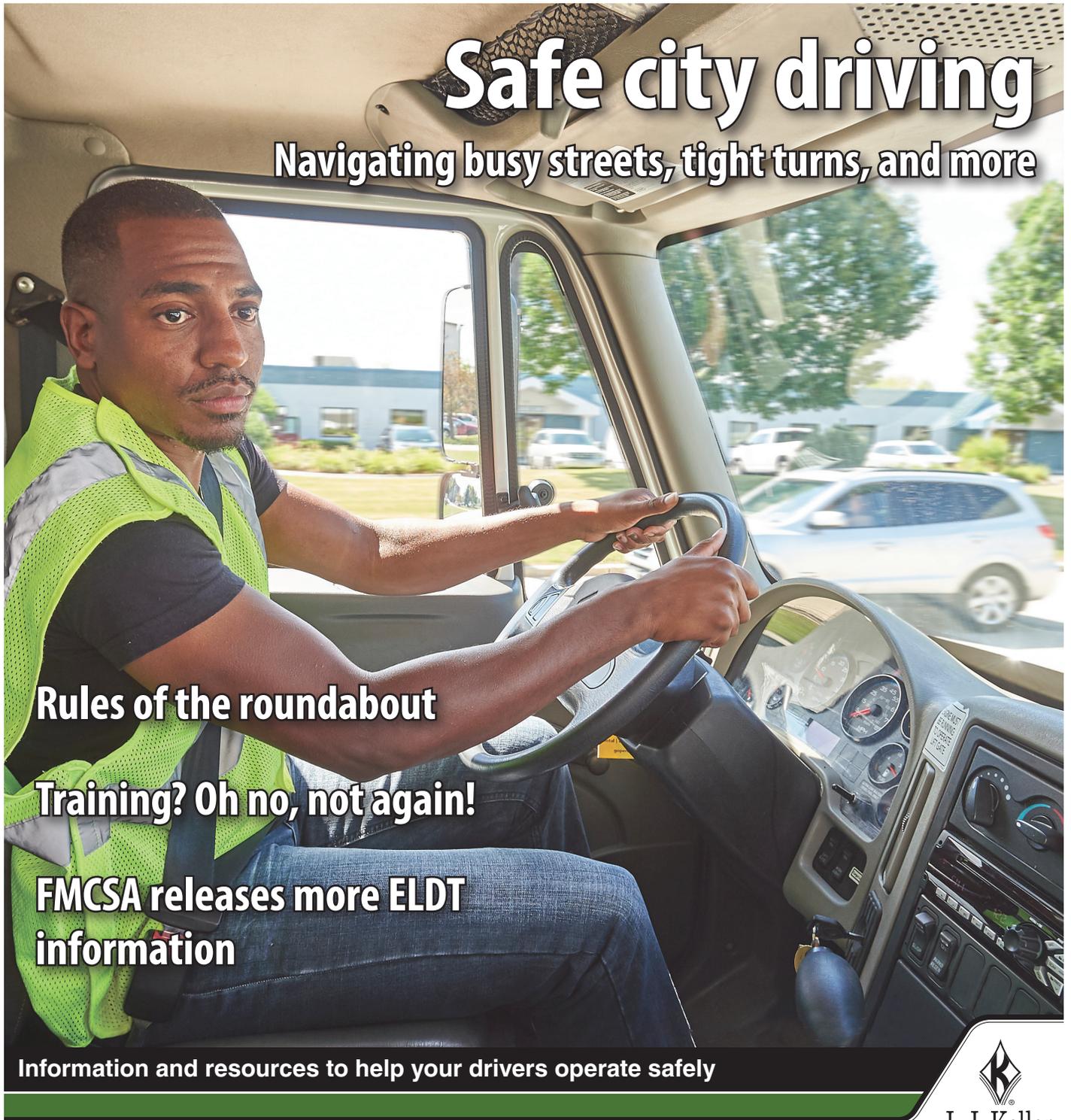


Transportation Safety

Training ADVISOR

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May 2021



Safe city driving

Navigating busy streets, tight turns, and more

Rules of the roundabout

Training? Oh no, not again!

FMCSA releases more ELDT
information

Information and resources to help your drivers operate safely


J. J. Keller
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Rules of the roundabout

As cities around the country continue to install roundabouts, truck drivers must know how to navigate them safely. Consider including safety tips for roundabouts in your regular driver training.

Approaching. When approaching a roundabout, watch for signs to assist in selecting the appropriate lane and slow down. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists as well as traffic on the left that is already in the roundabout.

Entering. When there is a safe gap in traffic, enter the roundabout and maintain a low speed. When approaching the exit, turn on the vehicle's right signal, and make sure to yield to pedestrians and bicycles when exiting the roundabout.

Trailer Tracking. A large truck is expected to stay in its lane when approaching a roundabout. When navigating a roundabout, there will be times that the trailer may track into other lanes, using all available space or the truck apron. A truck apron is a paved area on the inside of the roundabout that is used by trucks when off-tracking.

Turning Right. When making a right turn, the vehicle may need more space than what is provided in the lane of travel, and in some cases the vehicle may need all available space. Be alert for surrounding traffic, and proceed with caution.

Turning Left. When making a left turn, select the lane that allows traffic to remain on the "sight side," if possible. Check for surrounding traffic, and, when clear, enter the roundabout, keeping in mind that the trailer may off-track onto the truck apron. Check mirrors continually until the truck clears the roundabout.

Going Straight. When making a through movement, select the correct lane, and try to keep traffic to the left, if possible. Check for surrounding traffic, and continually check the mirrors until the vehicle has safely cleared the roundabout. ♦



Remember, several states have laws addressing truck right-of-way in roundabouts. For questions about your state's laws (or anything else!), don't hesitate to reach out to us using the **Expert Help feature at JJKellerLibrary.com.**



Ann Potratz

Ann Potratz is an Editor at J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc. She researches and creates content for a variety of transport-related subject matters and contributes to a number of products, including the *Personnel Management for the Transportation Industry* manual, *Transportation Safety Training Advisor Newsletter*, *Transportation Safety Training Advisor: Driver's Report*, and the *Driver Training Awareness Program*. Ann specializes in issues such as driver qualification, alcohol and drug testing, and driver training.



TRAINING BLUEPRINT — CITY DRIVING

A different set of challenges

City driving requires a driver's undivided attention. Heavy traffic, narrow streets, and obstructed views are just some of the challenges the professional driver faces when operating in the city.

The professional driver needs to be alert to the challenges and potential dangers associated with city driving.

TIP: Use of a video is one way to introduce this topic. When selecting a video, consider your drivers' experience and the type(s) of vehicles they operate. Also, take into consideration the types of situations they deal with on a regular basis.



Defensive driving basics

The importance of defensive driving is magnified when operating in an urban area.

Driving defensively means the driver:

- Observes the entire situation;
- Watches for changes;
- Recognizes potential hazards;
- Plans for the appropriate response; and
- Carries out that plan when necessary.

Specifically, when driving in the city, a driver should:

- Stay on posted routes;
- Manage speed and space, allowing for plenty of room to maneuver;
- Be alert at all times;
- Never focus on one object or event;
- Continually scan a block or two ahead and check the vehicle's mirrors;
- Be aware of traffic signals;
- Watch for signs; and
- Keep an eye out for bicycles and pedestrians.

TIP: Stress the importance of being alert and scanning.



Intersections

Crossing an intersection with a long vehicle can be a difficult maneuver. The driver must consider the vehicle's additional length and slower acceleration (compared to a personal vehicle) when making the decision to cross an intersection.

A driver should always stop at an intersection or unmarked crossing, and always assume the truck does not have the right of way.

After stopping, the driver should proceed slowly. This allows time to stop again, look to the left, then right, and then left again before pulling into the intersection.

The approach at a controlled intersection is very similar. The driver should stop two times. First, at the stop sign or light, then again after easing forward to a point where oncoming traffic is clearly visible.



Crosswalks

At a crosswalk, additional attention should be paid to what is happening to the driver's right. Pedestrians and bicyclists are often hidden from a driver's line of sight.

The driver also needs to remember to yield the right of way to pedestrians when turning on green.



GPS use

When driving in an unfamiliar city, a global positioning system (GPS) navigation system can be of help in finding a destination, if the right type of device is used.

It is key to remember that all GPSs do not perform the same tasks. A general GPS is intended for personal vehicle use. Professional drivers need devices designed for their specific driving tasks.

A GPS designed for the professional driver includes information addressing truck routes, low overpasses, and axle limits.

All relevant information should be entered into the GPS prior to the driver beginning the trip. This includes:

- Vehicle length, width, height;
- Axle weights; and
- Hazardous materials being transported (if applicable).

The driver should follow the route suggested by the GPS, but should pay attention and obey traffic signs and advisories, especially if they provide restrictions and/or directions the GPS did not alert the driver to.

TIP: Several states have laws addressing technology use while driving. Review the laws for the states in which your vehicles travel. ♦



TRAINING HANDOUT — CITY DRIVING

Good judgment, proper speed control, and accurate steering are all important in executing safe turns. Keep five steps in mind:

1

When approaching an intersection, adjust the vehicle's speed.

- The sharper the turn, the slower the vehicle should be moving.

2

When making a right turn, pull farther into the intersection than a smaller vehicle to avoid hitting the curb.

- One basic rule of thumb is to get about one-half of the rig past the corner before beginning the turn.

3

Once the vehicle has reached that point, turn the steering wheel to the right and complete the turn.

- Accelerate slightly to smooth out the turn.

4

During the turn, watch the vehicle's right mirror for the position of the trailer's wheels.

- Watch for vehicles that may have moved between the curb and the rig from the time the maneuver started.

5

When executing a left turn, turn from as far right as possible to allow plenty of room for the tractor.

- Watch the vehicle's left mirror before, during, and after the turn.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE — CITY DRIVING

Directions: Read each statement carefully and mark the response that best answers the question.

1. When driving in the city, it is important to stay on posted routes and follow posted directions.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. When driving in the city, you should focus on one object or event.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. Driving defensively means:
 - a. Observing the entire situation
 - b. Watching for changes
 - c. Recognizing potential hazards
 - d. All of the above

4. When driving in the city, it is important to check your vehicle's mirrors.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. When driving in the city, you should:
 - a. Rely solely on the directions provided by your GPS
 - b. Stay on the back bumper of the vehicle ahead of your vehicle
 - c. Manage speed and space and allow plenty of room to maneuver
 - d. All of the above

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____



Training? Oh no, not again!

You schedule the training session. You send notices to your drivers and post a notice in the break room. Then, you overhear the inevitable, “Training? Oh no, not again!”

Sound familiar? Do your drivers dread training? Do they view these sessions as unnecessary or as an inconvenience? Do you sense a negative or indifferent attitude among your drivers when it comes to training?

Preparing your drivers by telling them what will happen may ease these negative thoughts and opinions.

Distribute an agenda

Distribute an agenda prior to the training session.

An agenda lets everyone involved know exactly what will happen during the training session. It also shows that your session is organized and well thought out.

As well as giving your drivers an idea of what will be covered, it shows that you value the time being taken out of their busy schedules for this training session.

The agenda should include:

- The topic(s) that will be covered;
- A sentence or two describing the topic(s);
- The names of the people presenting (if more than one person is presenting during the session); and
- The approximate amount of time that will be devoted to each topic.

Briefly review the agenda with your drivers at the start of the training session.



Explain why it's important

After reviewing the agenda with your drivers, briefly explain why you are doing the training and how the topic(s) covered will apply to their work.

When drafting a short explanation of the training session, consider what is important and/or of interest to your drivers.

Imagine you are a driver attending the session. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Why is this training important to me?
- How is this training going to affect me?
- What can I expect from this training? ♦



FMCSA releases more entry-level driver training information

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has released more information related to the new entry-level driver training (ELDT) requirements, set to go into effect in less than a year.

With the opening of the ELDT Training Provider Registry (TPR) slated for this summer, FMCSA has released details on what information a training provider will be required to submit to be listed on the TPR. Being listed on the TPR is a requirement to provide ELDT as of February 7, 2022.

When registering for the TPR, providers will need to supply certain information, including:

- Provider name and contact information;
- Facility name and contact information;
- Type of provider (for-hire/not-for-hire, in-house/not-in-house);
- Type of training provided;
- Average training hours;
- Third-party affiliations, certifications, or accreditations;
- Average training cost; and
- Self-certification that the provider meets all requirements.

If a training provider operates more than one location, each location will need to register.

No fee will be required to register on the TPR. ♦



Answers to quiz on page 5:

1. A 2. B 3. D 4. A 5. C



Next Month's Topic: Construction Zone Safety

Temporary lane closures, narrow lanes, and detours are all signs of the season — road construction season. Driving in a work zone magnifies the importance of defensive driving skills and safe-driving practices.

Expert Help: Questions of the Month

Question: Can we conduct road tests on our private lot to ensure all drivers are tested consistently?

Answer: We see no issue with this road test as a preliminary screening for drivers. In fact, it sounds like a great safety management control.

However, it's important to note that this would not satisfy all the road test requirements in §391.31, particularly (c)(6): "Operating the commercial motor vehicle in traffic and while passing other motor vehicles." Therefore, you would still need to conduct a separate road test to meet all of the requirements in §391.31.

Question: How often do we need to repeat road tests?

Answer: The road test is only required when the driver is first hired. There is no requirement to repeat it throughout the driver's employment. Some employers repeat the road test as a best practice if a driver upgrades or moves to a different type of vehicle, but it is not required. ♦



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EDITOR: Ann Potratz

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Home Office
100 Erie Insurance Place
Erie, Pennsylvania 16530
814.870.2000
Toll free 1.800.458.0811
erieinsurance.com

[Check out our website! erieinsurance.com/business-insurance](http://erieinsurance.com/business-insurance)

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Policyholders with as
near perfect protection,
as near perfect service
as is humanly possible,
and to do so at the
lowest possible cost.”***

***Co-founder H.O. Hirt
Our Founding Purpose***