

**The following text explains pavement markings and lane controls. It details the meaning of yellow and white lines on roads, as well as markings for bike lanes, transit lanes, HOV lanes, and two-way left-turn lanes. It also covers rules for navigating roundabouts and diverging diamond interchanges. Overall, it provides essential information for safe driving.**

**PAVEMENT MARKINGS** Lines and symbols on the roadway divide lanes, tell when you may pass other vehicles or change lanes, indicate which lanes to use for turns, define pedestrian walkways, and mark where you must stop for traffic signals or signs.

**Yellow lines:** Separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

- Broken yellow line: Passing is permitted.
- Solid yellow lines: No passing is permitted, unless to pass a bicyclist with a minimum of three feet of space when the oncoming travel lane is clear.
- Double solid yellow lines: Neither side can pass, unless to pass a bicyclist with a minimum of three feet of space when the oncoming travel lane is clear.
- Solid and broken yellow lines: You may not pass if the solid yellow line is on your side. If the broken yellow line is on your side, you may pass if it is safe to do so. You must return to your lane before the broken lines turn solid. You may cross a solid yellow line for a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway or to pass a bicyclist with a minimum of three feet of space when such movement can be made safely.

**White lines:** Separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.

- Broken white line: You may change lanes if it is safe.
- Solid white line: Requires you to stay within the lane and also marks the shoulder of the roadway.
- Green Paint: A lane or area on the roadway designated for bicyclists, and increases visibility of bicyclists.
- Sharrows: Some streets have shared lane markings or “sharrows” painted on them letting road users know that the lane may be too narrow for drivers and bicyclists to travel side-by-side. Bicyclists may ride in the center of a lane with a sharrow or in any situation where they need to avoid obstacles or increase visibility for their safety.
- Crosswalks: A crosswalk is a marked or unmarked part of a road where pedestrians have the right-of-way to cross. The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way by slowing down or stopping, if need be, for pedestrians crossing the roadway within a crosswalk. Whenever you approach a vehicle from the rear that is stopped at a crosswalk, you must not pass and must stop behind the vehicle or behind the crosswalk in the adjacent lane if a multi-lane roadway.
- Conflict Zones: Broken lines in a bike or bus lane that alert drivers and bicyclists that they will be crossing each other’s path.

**LANE CONTROLS** As a general rule, you must drive your vehicle on the right half of the road. Use only one lane, do not straddle lanes. On roads without marked lanes, drive just to the right of the center of the road.

**Restricted lanes:** One or more lanes may be restricted for special use. Restricted lanes are marked by signs or pavement markings stating that the lane is restricted for special use. There will be a white diamond painted on the road within the lane, and/or a sign posted at the side of the road which specifies its use. Some examples are transit or bicycle lanes.

**Bike lanes:** Bike lanes are for the exclusive use of bicyclists and other authorized users. These users have the right-of-way in a bike lane and drivers are prohibited from driving, idling or parking in or otherwise obstructing a bike lane. A bike lane extends through an intersection regardless of whether paint connects the bike lane on either side.

**Transit lanes:** Transit lanes are where a portion of the street, designated by signs and markings, is reserved for Colorado Driver Handbook 10 the preferential or exclusive use of transit vehicles (for example bus or light rail), sometimes allowing limited use by other vehicles.

**High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes:** These lanes are identified by a white diamond painted on the roadway. Signs will identify the types of vehicles and the number of occupants required per vehicle to use the lane.

**Two-way left-turn lane (Sometimes also referred to as center turn lane):** This lane is for the exclusive use of left turning vehicles and may be used by drivers making a left turn in either direction. It shall not be used for passing or travel by a driver except to make a left turn. You may stop in this lane until it

is safe to complete the turn. When a street has a shared center turn lane, you may not turn left from any other lane and you may not drive in this lane. Unmarked lane: When there are no signs or pavement markings to control the use of lanes, drive just to the right of the center of the road. Do not drive on the shoulder of the road. The same rules for passing and turning on marked roads apply with unmarked roads. Roundabout lane: A roundabout or traffic circle is a circular intersection. Vehicles travel to the right around a center island while entering traffic yields the right-of-way to circulating traffic. When you approach the roundabout, read signs and roadway markers to help you navigate. Before entering the roundabout, Colorado law requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to the driver of a truck, bus, emergency vehicle or recreational vehicle (large vehicle) when entering, exiting or driving in a roundabout. The law also requires when two drivers of large vehicles enter, exit or drive in a roundabout at the same time, the driver on the right must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the left. As you approach a roundabout, if no large trucks are present, you must yield to approaching traffic on the left. Do not stop completely unless existing traffic prevents you from merging. Check crosswalks for any pedestrians. Yield to any pedestrians waiting to cross. As you enter or leave a roundabout, you must yield to pedestrians or bicyclists in any crosswalk and to any traffic already inside the roundabout. Drive to the right and watch for directional signs and signals. Once you are clear to proceed, merge into the roundabout lane. To alert traffic of your intentions, please use your turn signals when changing lanes and exiting the roundabout. Reversible lanes: Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are separated by a barrier or marked by double-broken yellow lines. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Sometimes special lights are used. Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI): A diverging diamond interchange crosses traffic to the opposite side of the road across an interchange so vehicles have uninterrupted movements onto the freeway ramps. Left-turn movements, which are a typical challenge with standard four-way interchanges, are eliminated with a DDI, which allows for fewer conflicts with other vehicles.