

The following text emphasizes safe practices at railroad crossings, including obeying warning devices, stopping when necessary, and avoiding stopping on tracks. It also highlights the importance of accurately judging train speed and distance, while providing guidelines for interacting with light rail systems, responding to school buses with flashing lights, and sharing the road with bicycles and motorcycles.

RAILROAD CROSSING When approaching a railroad crossing, be cautious because a train can arrive at any time, day or night. Obey all warning devices, lights, gates and signs. When approaching a railroad crossing that is not marked with flashing lights or gates you should stop (if necessary) before reaching the crossing, to check for approaching trains. Never stop on the tracks. Stopping on the tracks is illegal and very dangerous. Do not drive onto the crossing until you are sure the tracks are clear and you have enough room on the other side of the tracks to clear a train, especially when there are multiple tracks as there may be a second train. If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, get everyone out and immediately move as far away as possible, even if you do not see a train approaching. Call the phone number on the blue Emergency Notification Sign located near the crossbuck sign or contact local law enforcement. Take time to properly judge the train's speed and distance. Because of its large size, a train appears to be moving much slower than it appears. The average freight train traveling at 55 mph requires about one mile to stop. Advance warning signs: A railroad crossing is ahead. The warning sign is at a sufficient distance to allow you to stop (if necessary) before reaching the crossing. It is the only round traffic sign. Pavement markings: Consists of an "R X R" and a stop line and may be painted on the pavement in front of a crossing. Always stay behind the painted stop line while waiting for a passing train. If no line is visible, you must be at least 10 feet from the tracks. Trains overhang the tracks by 3 feet. 29 30 Colorado Driver Handbook Colorado Driver Handbook direction from other traffic. The LRV's will be governed by all traffic signals and signs when operating on the streets. Driver safety tips: Each light rail car weighs up to 40 tons and can't stop quickly. Remember these important tips while driving in a light rail area: • Never turn in front of an approaching LRV • Never turn across a set of light rail tracks without checking in all directions • Watch for people getting on and off a stopped LRV • Be especially alert in light rail areas as nearby buildings and foliage can make it difficult for motorists to see them The light rail crossing areas for motorists can have regular traffic lights. Some have warning lights and some have gates with railroad type traffic arms. All these signals mean the same thing: Stop! Do not cross the tracks. Never drive around traffic gates, even if a LRV has just passed. Another vehicle may be coming from the other direction. Be aware of your vehicle height. Overhead wires are a standard height of 18 feet, 6 inches above the center of the tracks. Always assume a wire hanging from the overhead catenary is electrified so never touch the wire or anything it is touching. Pay particular attention to these special traffic warning signs in connection with light rail: If you find a wire hanging from the overhead or if you think any safety devices are malfunctioning, please call RTD at 303-299-6000 and report the situation. 13.4 SCHOOL BUSES It is unlawful to: • Pass in any marked no-passing zones. • Exceed the posted speed limit when passing. Crossbuck signs: These signs should be treated the same as a yield sign. If there is more than one track, a sign below the Crossbuck indicates the number of tracks at this crossing. Commercial buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials are required to stop at most railroad crossings. Be prepared to stop if you are following one of these vehicles approaching a crossing. Flashing light signals: Always stop when the lights flash. Do not attempt to cross until the lights have stopped flashing. Gates: Gates are used with flashing light signals at certain crossings. Do not cross until the gates are raised and the lights have stopped flashing. Never stop on the tracks. Stopping on the tracks is illegal. Before you cross be sure

there is plenty of room on the other side to completely clear the tracks and not become trapped. If your vehicle stalls on a crossing get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train approaching. Call the phone number on the blue Emergency Notification Sign located near the crossbuck sign or contact local law enforcement. Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign: All public highway-rail grade crossings have BLUE colored Emergency Notification System (ENS) signs that provide a 24/7/365 telephone number to call for reporting problems or emergencies at railroad crossing locations. The ENS signs are typically located on the railroad crossing posts below the crossbuck. The ENS signs are for emergencies that would require stopping a train due to an obstruction or any other problem at or near the crossing. By providing the DOT (X-ING) crossing number located on the sign, the railroad dispatcher knows exactly where the crossing is and can quickly notify trains moving in that direction to stop prior to the crossing or location of the problem when possible.

13.3 LIGHT RAIL

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has Light Rail Transit (LRT) in its mass-transit fleet in the Denver Metropolitan area. Clean, quiet and reliable, light rail is safe, proven technology — but it requires additional attention from pedestrians and motorists. In some areas, LRVs will operate on streets in the same way as other motor vehicles, and will have the same rights and responsibilities as other motorists. In other areas (such as on Stout and California streets in downtown Denver) LRV's will operate in the opposite

- Pass a school bus with flashing red lights and stop arm extended.
- Pass within 100 feet of any intersection.
- Pass within 100 feet of any railroad crossing.
- Pass on any hill, curve or bridge where vision is obstructed

Always be alert for students on or near the roadway when a school bus is stopped. If a school bus is displaying alternating flashing red light signals, visible from the front or rear you must stop immediately before reaching the bus. Do not proceed until the flashing red lights stop. If you are traveling on a divided highway having four or more lanes with a median separating the traffic, it is only necessary for the vehicles traveling in both lanes behind the school bus to stop, and not the traffic traveling in the opposite direction. If you are traveling on a two-lane roadway, traffic in both directions are required to stop. If you are traveling on a four-lane roadway without a median, traffic in both directions are required to stop. If you are traveling on a highway having five or more lanes and having a shared center turn lane, it is only required for the vehicle in both lanes behind the school bus to come to a complete stop. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction are not legally required to stop. Violating school bus traffic laws is considered a class-one or class-two misdemeanor offense. Drivers can be fined up to \$300, with a mandatory court appearance and six points on a driver's license. A second offense within a five-year period has a fine up to \$1,000.

Overhead Amber Warning Lights: When a school bus is about to stop and load or unload children, the bus driver activates amber warning lights. The amber warning lights will stay on until the bus door opens.

Overhead Red STOP Lights/STOP Arm: When the bus driver opens the bus door, the red STOP lights and STOP arm activates. Stop and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and deactivates the red warning lights. Vehicles must stop no less than 20 feet from the front or rear bumper of the school bus.

You Must Stop: Not stopping when approaching or overtaking a school bus which has stop lights on and the stop arm extended is unlawful. **CAUTION:** Motorists should use extreme care when near a stopped school bus because children are likely to dart from the bus's front or rear.

13.5 BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES

Motorists must lookout for cyclists and anticipate their sudden and unexpected moves. A share-the-road attitude is the best policy to promote safe highways in Colorado. The most common motorist-caused car-bicycle or car-motorcycle collision is a motorist turning left in front of an oncoming bicycle or motorcycle. Drivers may fail to see cyclists or a driver may fail to judge the speed of oncoming cyclists. As a driver, remember to look for cyclists at the right side of the lane or on the shoulder and then look again. Make sure you see the cyclist and know

their speed before you make your left turn. Bicycles travel in the same direction as motor vehicles and are entitled to the full lane when traveling at the normal speed of traffic. Bicycles are “vehicles” under state law. Per C.R.S. 42-4-1412, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities to follow all rules, signs and markings that motor vehicles are required to obey. Similar to pedestrians, bicyclists have the potential to be seriously injured if struck by a motorized vehicle. Complying with the laws impacting their movement helps everyone be safer on the road.

- On a multi-lane, one-way street, know that a bicyclist can ride to the right or the left side of the roadway.
- Don’t startle a bicyclist by honking your horn.

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Quiet Zone signs: Crossings in designated quiet zones will have a “No Train Horn” sign posted below the Advance Warning signs. Train horns do not blow at these crossings. The flashing lights and gates warn you of an approaching train. Crossbuck signs: These signs should be treated the same as a yield sign. If there is more than one track, a sign below the Crossbuck indicates the number of tracks at this crossing. They normally serve as caution signs, but become regulatory when a train approaches. Commercial buses and trucks carrying hazardous materials must stop at most railroad crossings. Be prepared to stop if you are following one of these vehicles approaching a crossing. Flashing light signals: Always stop when the lights flash. Do not attempt to cross until the lights have stopped flashing. Gates: Gates are used with flashing light signals at certain crossings. Do not cross until the gates are raised and the lights have stopped flashing. While the gates are down, the road is closed. Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign: All public highway-rail grade crossings have BLUE colored Emergency Notification System (ENS) signs that provide a 24/7/365 telephone number to call for reporting problems or emergencies at railroad crossing locations. The ENS signs are typically located on the railroad crossing posts below the crossbuck. The ENS signs are for emergencies that would require stopping a train due to an obstruction or any other problem at or near the crossing. By providing the DOT (X-ING) crossing number located on the sign, the railroad dispatcher knows exactly where the crossing is and can quickly notify trains moving in that direction to stop before the crossing or location of the problem when possible.