

Traffic Safety Tips



Traffic Engineering
Department

200 Old Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566

925-931-5650

Can citizens install signs in the public right-of-way?

The California Vehicle Code only authorizes municipal agencies, such as the City of Pleasanton to install signs in the public right-of-way. Therefore no signs can be installed in the public right-of-way without a permit from the City. Such permits are normally only issued to contractors who are performing work in the right-of-way and need signs to warn drivers about street construction.

Who is responsible for trimming vegetation that is obscuring street signs in the public right-of-way?

If a tree or bush that is growing within the public right-of-way is obscuring a street sign or traffic signal, the City will trim the vegetation to improve visibility of the sign or signal upon being notified of the problem. If vegetation growing outside the right-of-way is involved (i.e. trees and plants growing on private property) the respective property owner is required to trim the vegetation. If the owner fails to trim the vegetation, the City will complete the work and bill the property owner. Property owners should keep vegetation trimmed and not allow it to overhang into the public right-of-way.

What does the Anti-Gridlock Law mean?

A driver is not permitted to enter an intersection or crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection to exit the intersection or crosswalk. Drivers must completely vacate both of these areas to allow through passage of cross traffic and pedestrians.

What are the most common causes of traffic collisions?

Drivers can help to reduce collisions by bearing in mind that the most common causes of collisions are as follows.

Unsafe Speeds/Following Too Closely:

Drivers who follow vehicles too closely cause rear-end collisions. Drivers should maintain at least a 2-second gap between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead of them in order to avoid rear-end collisions. Drivers travelling too fast for the prevailing conditions are a major factor in causing rear-end collisions. It is important to drive at or below the posted speed limit at all times.

Improper Turning Movements: Right turns should begin and end in the right most lane. Left turns should begin in the farthest left hand lane or turn pocket and end in any lane lawfully available. Side swipes are caused by drivers changing lanes abruptly. Drivers should always look over their shoulder and signal whenever changing lanes to make sure the travel lanes adjacent to them are clear of traffic.

Right of way violations: Drivers who select too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy major street from a side street or driveway are frequently involved in severe broadside collisions. It is important to always wait until there is a sufficient gap in traffic when entering a busy street from a side street or driveway. It is also important to yield to oncoming traffic when turning left by selecting a safe gap in oncoming traffic before beginning a left- turn.

Stop Sign and Traffic Signal Violations:

Drivers running red lights frequently cause severe broadside collisions. Drivers should never enter signalized intersections on the red light. They may enter on the green light once vehicles lawfully in the intersection have cleared. Drivers must always come to a complete stop at all stop signs.

Driving Under the Influence: Drivers who are intoxicated or on drugs and alcohol cause a large number of collisions. Motorists should never drive while under the influence of any substance that will impair their ability to properly operate a vehicle

What do Double Yellow Lines mean?

Most drivers know that they are not permitted to cross or drive on the left side of double yellow center lines except to turn left at an intersection, to turn into or out of a private driveway/public street or to make a legal U-turn. Drivers need to be especially aware that U-turns are not permitted on streets in business districts such as the Downtown area. It is also illegal to make a partial U-turn to enter an angled parking space on the other side of the street.

It is always illegal to cross two sets of double yellow centerlines.

What is the most common factor involving bicycle accidents?

City studies show that the single most common factor in bicycle collisions is that the bicyclist rode on the wrong side of the street. The reason for these collisions occurring is that when vehicles are turning at intersections and

bicyclists are riding the wrong way, drivers do not see them coming because they are not expecting these bicyclists to be travelling against traffic flow. Therefore, bicyclists should ride with traffic.

Why can't bikeways be located on City sidewalks?

As a rule, on-street bicycle lanes are safer because the bicyclist is visible to traffic. Bike traffic is not normally expected on sidewalks. Drivers are frequently caught unaware of fast moving bike traffic on sidewalks, at driveways, and street intersections.



Can I get the City to post a "Slow Children..." or "Children at Play" sign?

The City does not install these signs, as they are not approved by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Studies have found no change in driver behavior after installation. There is no way to enforce a "slow" sign because slow is subjective. The City also has a concern that the City would appear to encourage play in the streets, which we know to be unwise.

If you need further information please call the Traffic Engineering Department at:

925-931-5650