



SAFETY BRAKE

CITY DRIVING

Operating a commercial vehicle in cities presents unique hazards at every turn, regardless of experience. City driving is never easy, and with construction, rush hour traffic, and pedestrians, you must always be on the lookout. Creating a routine for city driving can help improve your attentiveness and lower the stresses associated with operating a CMV in urban areas. Whether you've been to the city numerous times, or it's your first visit, the following information provides guidance on where to focus your attention while driving in the city:

- Plan ahead:** Know your route ahead of time. Study maps and be familiar with your assigned trip to the final destination. Do not deviate from your route unless absolutely necessary. This can lead to encountering unknown hazards or areas not designed for larger vehicles.
- Be aware of signage:** Be aware of posted signage for weight limits of roadways, one way streets, etc. These signs will alert you for hazards and if the roadway is equipped to handle a vehicle of your size.
- Scan ahead and around:** Being in a larger vehicle, you sometimes have a view above other vehicles. Use this to your advantage to scan ahead for potential hazards, such as brake lights, pedestrians, etc. Ensure you also scan your mirrors regularly to identify hazards, such as pedestrians, vehicles trying to get around you, etc.
- Remove distractions:** While you should be attentive at all times, ensure you increase your alertness and further reduce any potential distractions while driving in cities. As an example, while you may listen to the radio normally, turning it down can assist you in listening for potential hazards, which can be an asset when driving in a city. Also ensure all items are secured in your vehicle so they do not cause a distraction in the event of a harsh brake.
- Pedestrians:** Pedestrians and bicyclists is something you will encounter most often in cities. Pedestrians can also be distracted with cell phones, headphones, etc. and may not hear you coming. Scan for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling near your vehicle, and be prepared to stop, even if they do not have the right of way.
- Leave room:** While cities can often be congested, it is crucial that you leave yourself enough space to maneuver your vehicle. Examples of this include creating space for your tail swing to clear a turn, increasing following distance, etc. While this may not be in your control 100% of the time, continuously adjusting to give yourself space and signaling your intentions will help reduce the potential for an accident.
- Parked vehicles:** Watch for parked vehicles as they can present a hazard. Sometimes, a vehicle that is parked can reduce the space around your vehicles. In addition, sometimes these vehicles can take off without warning, so ensure you monitor these vehicles for movement and potential hazards.

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