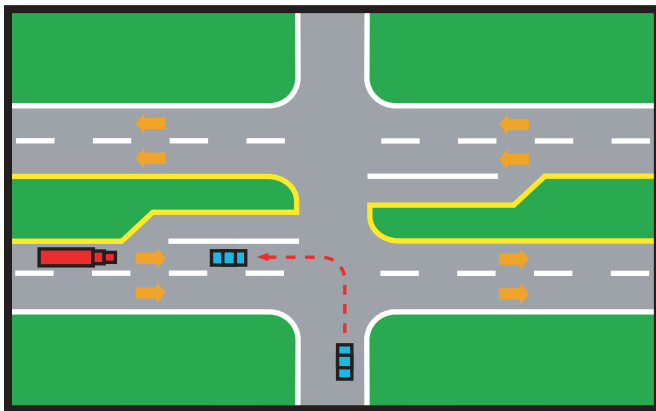


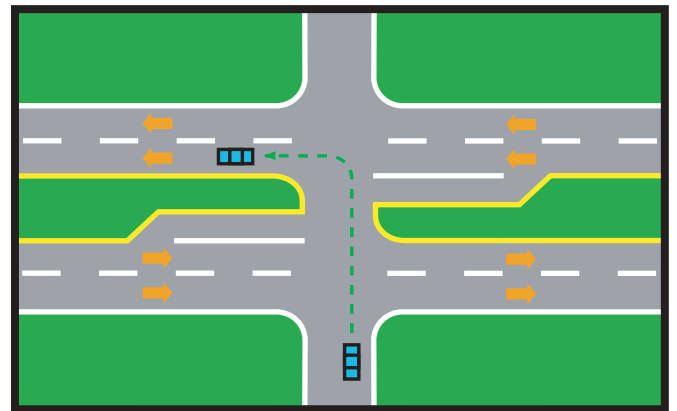
# *Four-Lane Highways*

## **Driving and Awareness Tips**

*From the Nebraska Department of Roads*  
[www.nebraskatransportation.org](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org)



**INCORRECT**



**CORRECT**

*This flyer contains some basic driving rules and safety information on four lane divided highways.*

### **General**

The left lane is generally used for passing other vehicles. Slower-moving vehicles should occupy the right lane. Be aware of the traffic around you. Check your rearview mirrors every few seconds to keep track of approaching traffic. Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you by applying the "two second rule." Increase this distance in inclement weather.

Adjust to traffic. If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to keep passing others. Each time you pass someone, there is a chance for a collision. Slow down and keep pace with traffic. Going much slower than traffic can be more dangerous than going much faster and is a frequent source of rear-end collisions. Going too slow can also ignite road rage and cause aggressive driving in others. Keep pace with traffic and "go with the flow."

## ***Entering the Four-Lane Highway from a Crossing Roadway***

Traffic already on the highway always has the right of way. Always come to a complete stop and carefully look both ways before entering the four-lane highway.

Wait for a gap in traffic before entering the highway.

Assuming traffic is traveling at 65 mph, this is equal to about 850–900 feet. Do not enter the highway such that traffic must slow down or change lanes to accommodate you.

When turning right, turn into the right lane. Do not turn into the passing lane.

When turning left, you must cross the median. Do not turn left into oncoming traffic. (See Figure on previous page.)

When turning left, wait for appropriate gaps in both directions. Make the left turn in one complete maneuver. Do not stage your turn by stopping in the median; there may not be sufficient room to safely accommodate your vehicle.

## ***Exiting the Four-Lane Highway***

Know where you are going. Consult a map and have an idea where you need to exit before entering the highway. Occupy the correct lane to turn from. Turn left from the left turn lane. Turn right from the right lane or right turn lane when provided.

Activate your turn signal well before slowing down to turn. Be aware of the traffic behind you by checking your rearview mirrors every few seconds. Decrease speed gradually before making the turn.

When turning left, be aware there are two lanes of oncoming traffic that you must yield to.

## ***Passing***

Use the left lane to pass another vehicle. You can use the right lane when passing a vehicle that is making a left turn. Never use the shoulders to pass.

Before you pass a vehicle in front of you, make sure you are in a safe passing zone. Check the left lane for traffic by using your left and inside rearview mirrors and briefly looking over your left shoulder. Looking over your left shoulder is important because it allows you to check your blind spot.

Try to avoid driving on either side of or slightly to the rear of another vehicle. Either speed up or drop back so the other driver can see your vehicle more easily.

When passing another vehicle, get through the other driver's blind spot as quickly as you can without exceeding the speed limit. The longer you stay there, the longer you are in danger of having the vehicle change lanes and turn into your vehicle. Never stay alongside a large vehicle such as a truck or a bus. These vehicles have large blind spots and it is hard for their drivers to see you. Truckers call that the "no zone."

If the way is clear, signal that you are changing lanes. Pass the other vehicle quickly and smoothly. Give plenty of room to the vehicle you just passed. Do not turn back into the right lane until you see the vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror. Remember to look over your right shoulder and to check your blind spot, and be sure to signal.

## ***Sleepiness and "Highway Hypnosis"***

When you feel tired, it is hard to make decisions and to react to the traffic around you. Before you get too sleepy, pull off the roadway at the nearest service area and take a break.

Highway hypnosis is caused by the sameness of the road and traffic. The hum of the wind, tires and engine add to the hypnosis. This can make you sleepy. Watch and read the signs around you, move your eyes around or turn on fresh air. Do not risk falling asleep at the wheel or not being alert. Again, pull off at the nearest opportunity and exercise or take a break.

## ***When You're in the Driver's Seat, You Make the Difference!***

All the signs, striping, rumble strips and signals do no good if you, the driver, do not pay attention, read and heed the signs and follow the rules of the road. Four-lane highways in Nebraska have shown accident rates lower than on two-lane rural highways. Multi-vehicle accident rates were especially lower on expressways, according to a recent safety study.

*Safety is no accident. Buckle up and drive as though your life depends on it.*