
Fact Sheets

**Sharing the Road
with Vulnerable Users**



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Fact Sheets

**Sharing the Road
with Vulnerable Users**

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Introduction

Sharing the road is a collective responsibility to ensure road safety for all users.

The road is a public space where people use various means of transportation. You may use the road as a pedestrian, cyclist and driver, all on the same day. We therefore all have a stake in sharing the road with courtesy and respect.

Fact sheets on sharing the road with vulnerable users

The following nine fact sheets have been developed to help you understand the things you need to watch out for with each type of vulnerable road user, and where you are more likely to encounter them.

Each fact sheet addresses a different type of vulnerable road user: pedestrians, children, the visually impaired, school crossing guards, flagpersons, cyclists, moped and scooter riders, motorcyclists and motorized mobility aid users.

The purpose of these fact sheets is to describe the different characteristics of each type of vulnerable road user to give you an idea of what to expect and what to do in specific driving environments and situations. Essentially, as a driver, you must fulfill your duty of care, apply the Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy and adapt your driving to weather and road conditions. Understanding what you need to observe and evaluate will help you share the road safely with vulnerable users.

You can use these fact sheets when studying Module 9.

Fact sheets on sharing the road with heavy vehicle drivers, bus drivers and emergency vehicle drivers are also available.

Sharing the Road with Pedestrians

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows you to continuously process information from your driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

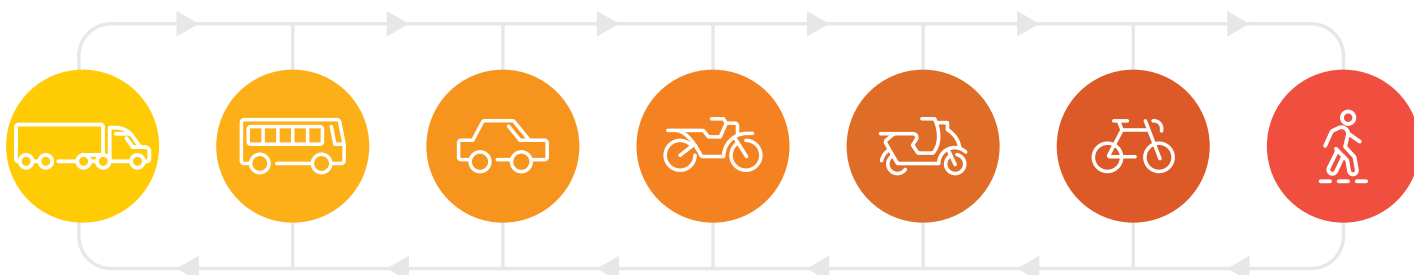
Properly evaluating potentially hazardous situations gives you the opportunity to act safely. That is why you must look closely and carefully at your surroundings and, more importantly, adequately anticipate traffic situations.

Applying the OEA strategy as a driver allows you to communicate and interact with other road users in an understanding, courteous and safe manner:

- › by reducing your speed and adjusting your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Pedestrians

Typically, pedestrians:

- › are less visible;
- › have less protection and are more likely to be injured in a collision;
- › are more likely to be in certain places (e.g. in the vicinity of schools, daycare centres, shopping malls, hospitals, parks, residential areas and playgrounds).

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Scan both sides of the road, sidewalks, intersections and the shoulder.
- › Be mindful in places where more pedestrians are present.
- › Carefully observe your surroundings in residential areas and school zones.
- › Watch out for workers in roadwork zones.
- › Keep an eye out for vulnerable road users not only at intersections, but also on either side of the road, whether you are driving in the city or the country.
- › Pay close attention to seniors crossing at intersections.
- › Always check to see whether any pedestrians are around your vehicle, especially before turning.

**Watch out for pedestrians—
they are vulnerable.**

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Locate crosswalks; this will help you prepare to stop if a pedestrian wishes to cross.
- › Keep in mind that seniors and people with disabilities need more time to cross the road.
- › Keep in mind that pedestrians may change direction or cross the street without checking traffic or signalling their intentions.
- › Take into account that pedestrians may be in a hurry in bad weather, making them even more vulnerable.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Speed

- › Reduce your speed as needed.
- › Drive slowly, be vigilant and careful in residential areas and school zones where pedestrian traffic is more frequent.

Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.

Communication

- › Make eye contact with pedestrians and gesture with your hand or your head to let them know that they can go ahead.

Sharing the road

- › Be patient and courteous when pedestrians need more time to cross.
- › Yield to pedestrians, even when they do not have the right-of-way.
- › Pay close attention at intersections where there are many pedestrians.
- › Facilitate pedestrian traffic.
- › Obey the rules of the road to ensure the safety of pedestrians.
- › Pay attention to pedestrians when approaching and exiting a roundabout and always use your turn signal when exiting.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians:
 - at crosswalks;
 - at intersections;
 - when entering traffic from a driveway or private road;
 - on a shared street.
- › Stop to allow pedestrians to cross when they:
 - enter a pedestrian crossing;
 - clearly demonstrate the intention to cross;
 - are approaching a pedestrian crossing;
 - are waiting on the sidewalk next to a pedestrian crossing;
 - make eye contact or gesture with their hand or head.
- › Do not stop or park your vehicle on or within five metres of an intersection or a pedestrian, bicycle or level crossing (see the *Driver's Handbook*, p. 252).
- › When approaching oncoming pedestrians participating in a special event with a police escort, slow down and maintain a safety margin.
- › When following a group of pedestrians participating in a special event with a police escort on a two-way roadway:
 - If the roadway has one lane in each direction, do not pass unless authorized to do so by a peace officer.
 - If the roadway has two or more traffic lanes in each direction, be sure to slow down and move over into another lane in the same direction when passing.



Takeaway

When approaching an intersection, you need to scan both sides of the road and closely check the blind spots created by the windshield pillars, also called A-pillars. You should also get into the habit of leaning forward to look behind the windshield pillars because they can block your view of a pedestrian or another user on the road or wanting to cross.

Sharing the Road with Children

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows you to continuously process information from your driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

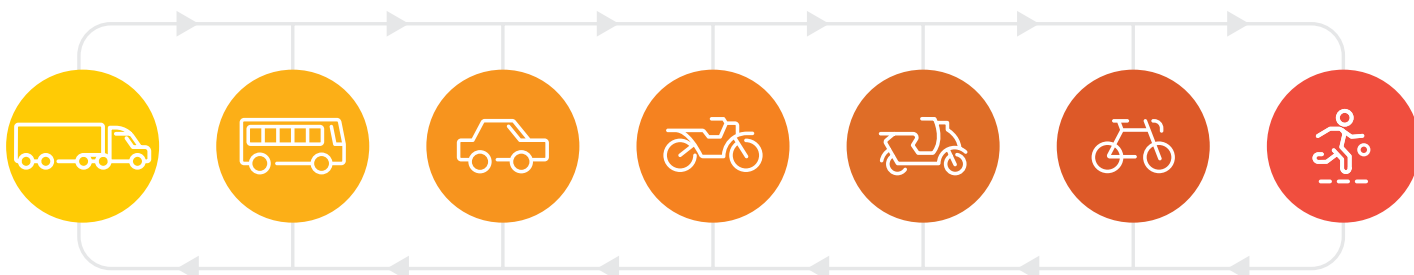
Properly evaluating potentially hazardous situations gives you the opportunity to act safely. That is why you must look closely and carefully at your surroundings and, more importantly, adequately anticipate traffic situations.

Applying the OEA strategy as a driver allows you to communicate and interact with other road users in an understanding, courteous and safe manner:

- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to maintain a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Children

Typically, children:

- › can be encountered at crosswalks near playgrounds and schools;
- › do not know traffic rules, let alone braking distances;
- › can cross the street without looking when near schools;
- › do not have fully developed peripheral vision;
- › are short and often cannot see past parked cars;
- › are unable to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles;
- › are impatient, especially when crossing the street;
- › are vulnerable due to their impulsive nature and lack of awareness of danger;
- › are not used to dealing with traffic;
- › can be startled by oncoming vehicles and react in an unpredictable manner;
- › are more likely to be involved in an automobile accident.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Scan both sides of the road, sidewalks, intersections and the shoulder in residential areas.
- › Be watchful in school zones and near playgrounds.
- › Take extra care to look for little children playing in the street or needing to cross.
- › Watch out for clues that point to the presence of children (e.g. a stray ball rolling onto the street, a school zone sign).
- › Locate school zones by watching for school zone and speed limit signs.

**Watch out for children—
they are vulnerable.**

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Be especially watchful when children are present.
- › Do not overestimate children's capabilities.
- › Bear in mind the time of day (when school starts or lets out).
- › Consider the season (in summer, children are often outside; in winter, children often play on snowbanks; in fall, the sun is low on the horizon in the late afternoon).
- › Anticipate children's reactions.
- › Keep in mind that children may cross the street elsewhere than at intersections.
- › Keep in mind that children may cross without looking or dart out from between parked cars.
- › Take into account human risk factors that may affect your driving:
 - noise-induced stress, information overload or sign clutter;
 - decreased vigilance along familiar routes.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Speed

- › Reduce your speed as needed.
- › Brake as needed.

Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.

Communication

- › Make eye contact with children and gesture with your hand or head to let them know that they can go ahead.



Sharing the road

- › Yield the right-of-way to children.
- › Facilitate child pedestrian traffic.
- › Act in a way that keeps children safe.
- › Be patient with little children.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable users.
- › Stop and yield the right-of-way to children:
 - at crosswalks;
 - at intersections;
 - when entering traffic from a driveway or private road;
 - on a shared street.
- › Stop to allow children to cross when they:
 - enter a pedestrian crossing;
 - clearly demonstrate the intention to cross;
 - are approaching a pedestrian crossing;
 - are waiting on the sidewalk next to a pedestrian crossing;
 - make eye contact or gesture with their hand or head.
- › Do not stop your vehicle on or within five metres of a pedestrian crossing.



Takeaway

When parking in a driveway or a parking lot, it is best to back into the parking spot to minimize your blind spots when exiting. That way you can more easily see a child or an object that may be around your vehicle.

Sharing the Road with the Visually Impaired

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows you to continuously process information from your driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

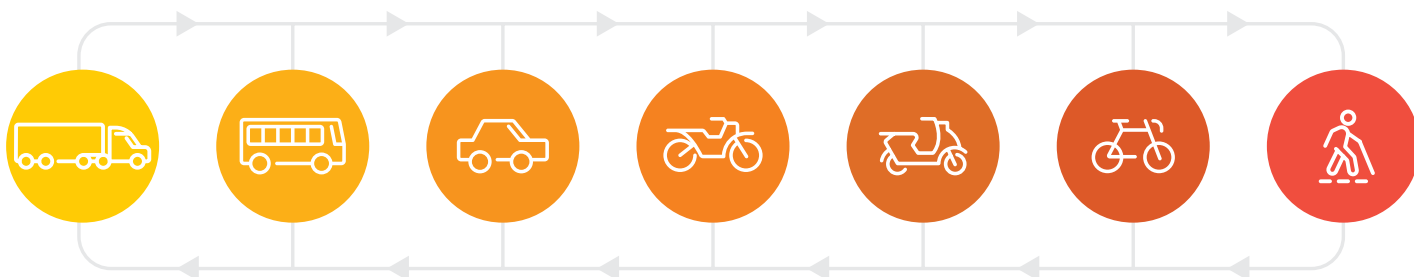
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- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to maintain a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

The Visually Impaired

Typically, visually impaired pedestrians:

- › use a white cane or seeing-eye dog;
- › listen to ambient noise and engine noises to determine traffic movement;
- › can more easily cross the street at accessible crosswalks with an audible signal that sounds throughout the pedestrian signal.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Pay attention to visually impaired pedestrians on the street and take note of where they are going.
- › Scan both sides of the road, sidewalks, intersections and the shoulder.

Watch out for visually impaired pedestrians—they are vulnerable.

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Keep in mind that visually impaired pedestrians need more time to cross the street and adequately assess traffic movement based on what they hear.
- › Keep in mind that these pedestrians cannot see you or react to any driving errors you may make, nor can they see the impact of weather on road conditions.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.

- › Do not back up close to visually impaired pedestrians.

Communication

- › Avoid distracting visually impaired pedestrians or startling them by honking or turning up the volume of the radio.



Sharing the road

- › Be patient and respectful.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Stop and yield the right-of-way to visually impaired pedestrians:
 - at crosswalks;
 - at intersections;
 - when entering traffic from a driveway or private lane;
 - on a shared street.
- › Stop to allow visually impaired pedestrians to cross when they:
 - enter a pedestrian crossing;
 - clearly demonstrate their intention to cross;
 - are approaching a pedestrian crossing;
 - are waiting on the sidewalk next to a pedestrian crossing;
- › Do not stop your vehicle on or within five metres of a pedestrian crossing.
- › Give visually impaired pedestrians the right-of-way when turning at an intersection.



Takeaway

At intersections, you must stop your vehicle before the stop line or pedestrian crossing or, if there is no crossing, the edge of the roadway. You must also yield the right-of-way to visually impaired pedestrians, including before turning right on a red light.

Sharing the Road with Flagpersons

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

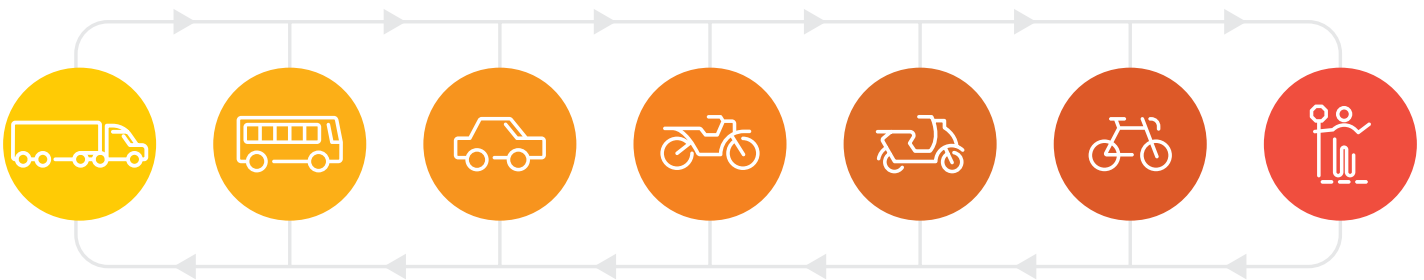
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- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Flagpersons

Typically, flagpersons:

- › stand on or beside the road while roadwork is being done;
- › manage traffic flow in roadwork zones using an eight-sided reversible sign with “Lentement” (slow) written on one side, and “Arrêt” (stop) on the other;
- › are surrounded by a series of orange diamond-shaped signs indicating that roadwork is underway;
- › must be obeyed as if they were peace officers, and their orders have priority over any existing road signs or traffic signals.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Pay attention to road signs in and around roadwork zones.
- › Be on the lookout for traffic slowdowns or lane closures.
- › Be aware of detours and narrowed lanes.
- › Pay attention to the flagperson's signals telling you to stop, proceed with caution or slow down.
- › Be on the lookout for signs indicating ongoing roadwork like orange cones and signs, pavement markings, flashing arrows or temporary traffic lights.

**Watch out for flagpersons—
they are vulnerable.**

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Keep in mind that flagpersons managing traffic flow have the same authority as peace officers.
- › Keep in mind that workers and construction vehicles may be present in roadwork zones.
- › Pay close attention to road signs indicating a roadwork zone or that flagpersons are present, as these signs mean that traffic must be slowed, detoured or stopped.
- › Keep in mind that traffic will be slower in roadwork zones.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT

Speed

- › Do not make sudden manoeuvres, like braking unexpectedly or abruptly changing lanes.
- › Reduce your speed in order to observe the posted speed limit in the roadwork zone and maintain a greater distance from other vehicles to allow enough time to react safely to warning signs.

Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.

Sharing the road

- › Be patient, respectful and courteous.

Rules of the road

- › Obey flagpersons' orders and all road signs.
 - At a flagperson's "Arrêt" (stop) sign, you must:
 - stop a safe distance from the flagperson;
 - remain stopped as long as the stop-slow sign shows "Arrêt" (stop).
 - At a flagperson's "Lentement" (slow) sign, you must:
 - slow down;
 - proceed with caution;
 - keep a safe distance from the flagperson;
 - preserve the safety of other road users.
- › Keep in mind that flagpersons managing traffic flow have the same authority as peace officers.
- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.



Takeaway

You must always obey a flagperson's orders because they have the same authority as peace officers when directing traffic.

Sharing the Road with School Crossing Guards

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

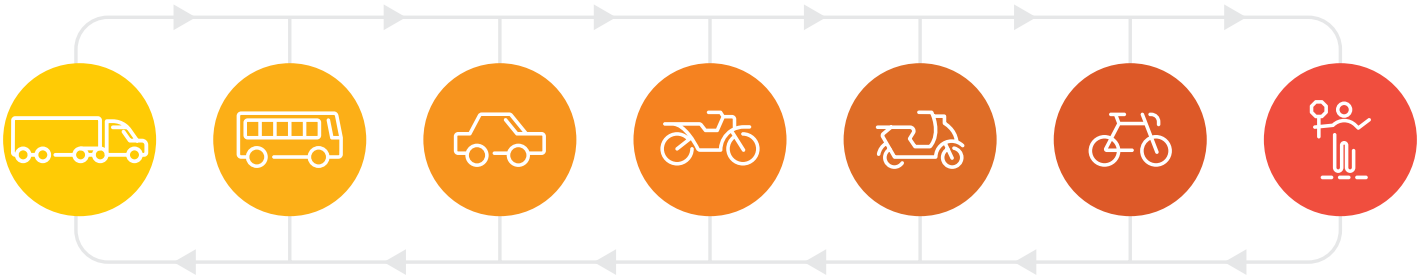
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- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

School crossing guards

Typically, school crossing guards:

- › play an important role; they escort certain schoolchildren across the street and monitor others who are crossing to ensure they cross the street safely;
- › can signal to you to stop; you must obey their orders and signals, just as you would those of a peace officer or flagperson, as they have priority over any existing road signs or traffic signals;
- › work in school zones and remind drivers to slow down near school crossings.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Pay attention to road signs in school zones and the crossing guards and school safety patrollers wearing reflective vests at intersections and on neighbouring streets.
- › Locate the stop line—a thick, solid white line showing you where to stop.
- › Take note of the crosswalks marked by two parallel white lines or yellow or white stripes on the pavement.

Watch out for crossing guards and schoolchildren—they are vulnerable.

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Be aware that children can be impulsive and unpredictable.
- › Obey the signals given by crossing guards because they have the same authority as peace officers when stopping traffic.
- › Keep in mind that the presence of a crossing guard means a school is nearby and that you are travelling in a school zone where the speed limit may be reduced.
- › Be especially vigilant around schoolchildren.
- › Keep in mind that children may cross the street elsewhere than at intersections.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.



Rules of the road

- › Obey school crossing guards' orders when they raise their "Arrêt" (stop) paddle, as their orders have priority over any existing road signs or traffic signals. This means that you must:
 - slow down;
 - stop at a safe distance from the crossing guard;
 - stop at least five metres away from the pedestrian crossing;
 - proceed only once the crossing guard has lowered their "Arrêt" (stop) paddle and everyone has finished crossing the street.
- › Keep in mind that adult crossing guards have the same authority as peace officers when stopping traffic.
- › Observe the speed limit.
- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Do not stop or park your vehicle on or within five metres of an intersection or a pedestrian, bicycle or level crossing (see the *Driver's Handbook*, p. 252).

Sharing the road

- › Be patient and courteous.



Takeaway

In school zones, you must obey the speed limit, crosswalks and crossing guards' signals to ensure the safety of students.

Sharing the Road with Cyclists

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

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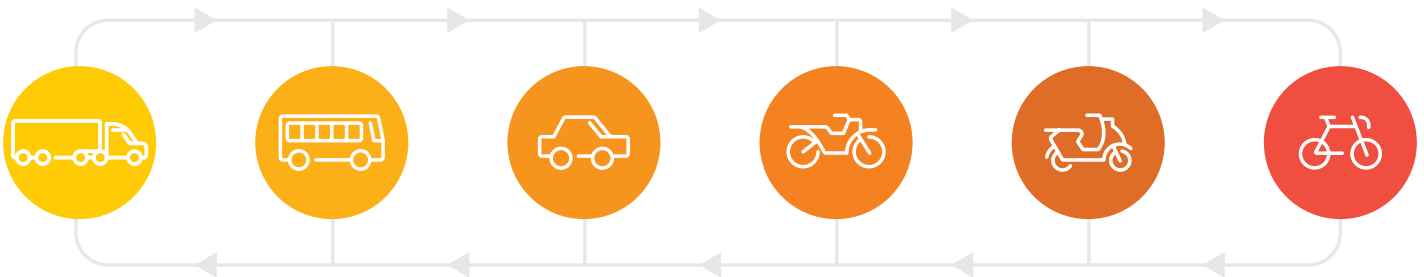
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- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Cyclists

Typically, cyclists:

- › travel on the right side of the road, but also use the left lane to turn left. They may also move into the left lane for safety reasons;
- › are affected by high winds;
- › need to be surrounded by a safety margin;
- › travel at lower speeds than motor vehicles;
- › can shift from one riding environment to another: lane, bike path, shoulder, bus lane, etc.;
- › are more agile than motorists and can sometimes make unexpected moves, such as weaving through traffic;
- › are known to suddenly appear alongside vehicles when turning right at an intersection.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Check the side of the road, bike paths, sidewalks and the shoulder.
- › Scan your surroundings.
- › Watch for cyclists' signals (arm movements).
- › Pay close attention at intersections, since cyclists:
 - may cross the intersection;
 - may turn left or right without using a hand signal when this manoeuvre poses a risk to their safety.
- › Be careful in the dark when cyclists are harder to see.
- › Check your blind spots and your rear-view mirrors before turning at an intersection.
- › Perform visual checks before opening your car door to avoid dooring a cyclist, whether you are the driver or a passenger. This means that you must:
 - check your blind spots;
 - look carefully in your rear-view mirrors;
 - exit your vehicle using what is known as the Dutch reach (if you can), which consists of opening your door with your hand that is furthest from the door.

**Watch out for cyclists—
they are vulnerable.**

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Keep in mind that cyclists who are on the shoulder or the sidewalk may merge into traffic.
- › Be careful around bikeways, especially where they end, as cyclists will have to merge into traffic.
- › Keep in mind that cyclists can change direction without checking to see if the way is clear.
- › Anticipate sudden, unexpected manoeuvres from cyclists in poor road conditions or high winds.
- › Be aware that cyclists may veer toward the outside of their lane when preparing to turn.
- › Keep in mind that cyclists may pass each other and in doing so cross over into your lane.
- › Keep in mind that cyclists may not use a hand signal when turning if doing so compromises their safety.
- › Keep in mind that cyclists may have to manoeuvre abruptly to avoid being doored by someone exiting their vehicle.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Speed

- › Reduce your speed as needed.
- › Drive slowly and cautiously in residential areas and school zones.

Mandatory safety margins

- › Make sure you leave enough space between your vehicle and cyclists.
- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.

- › Do not follow a cyclist too closely.
- › Use the left lane when it is safe to do so to pass a cyclist if you cannot maintain the mandatory safety margin.
- › Make sure you have enough room to safely pass a cyclist.

Communication

- › Try to make eye contact when possible.
- › Avoid honking because the noise may startle cyclists.

Sharing the road

- › Yield the right-of-way to cyclists:
 - when pulling onto a public road;
 - when turning at an intersection, even if your turn signal is flashing.
- › To exit a vehicle safely and avoid the risk of dooring a cyclist, you should apply the OEA strategy and use the Dutch reach.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Protect cyclists by applying safety rules. This means:
 - slowing down;
 - maintaining a safety margin between your vehicle and cyclists.
- › When passing cyclists, put as much distance between them and your vehicle as possible while staying in the same lane or, if necessary, move over into the adjacent lane after making sure it is safe to do so.
- › Do not drive on bike paths—they are reserved for cyclists.
- › Do not stop on or within five metres of a bike path.
- › Look in your rear-view mirrors and check the left side blind spot before opening your car door to avoid dooring a cyclist when exiting your parked car and make sure your passengers do the same.
- › Use the Dutch reach, which consists of opening your door with your hand that is furthest from the door. In doing so, you naturally turn your head, making a blind spot check an easy next step to avoid hitting a cyclist.
- › Yield the right-of-way to cyclists on bikeways.
- › Obey traffic rules for everyone's safety and avoid taking unnecessary risks by passing when it is not safe to do so.
- › Do not stop your vehicle in a bike box. You must stop at the stop line before the bike box.



Takeaway

Urban areas are also living environments, and streets are public spaces used by residents. A significant proportion of accidents on municipal roads involving pedestrians and cyclists occur in urban areas. It is therefore essential to slow down for the safety of vulnerable road users.



Sharing the Road with Moped and Scooter Riders

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

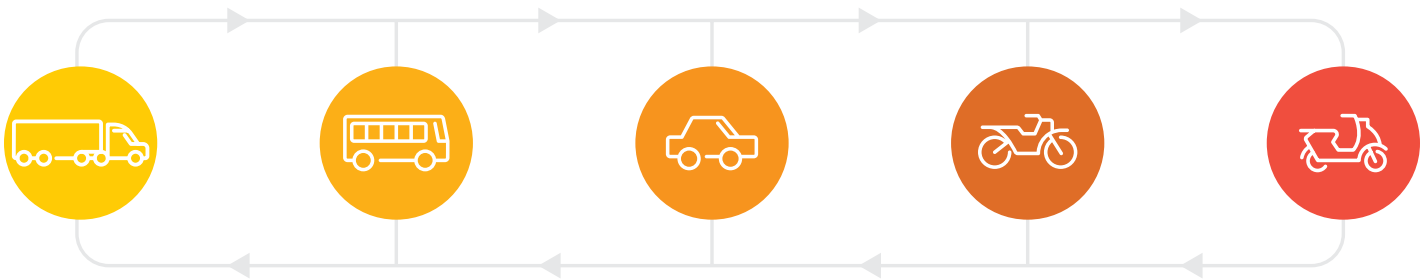
Properly evaluating potentially hazardous situations gives you the opportunity to act safely. That is why you must look closely and carefully at your surroundings and, more importantly, adequately anticipate traffic situations.

Applying the OEA strategy as a driver allows you to communicate and interact with other road users in an understanding, courteous and safe manner:

- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Moped and scooter riders

Typically, moped and scooter riders:

- › are harder to see on the road due to their vehicle's small size;
- › have no built-in safety features like air bags or bumpers to protect them in an accident;
- › are entitled to the full width of the lane;
- › can make sudden moves due to uneven pavement or weather conditions (like wind gusts);
- › need to be surrounded by a safety margin;
- › are agile and can easily weave through traffic;
- › travel at lower speeds than motorcycles and cars;
- › must obey the same traffic rules as drivers;
- › have turn signals that are sometimes hard to see and do not necessarily stop flashing automatically;
- › are more vulnerable when drivers go over the speed limit or exhibit aggressive driving behaviours.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Scan intersections and the right side of the lane.
- › Check your blind spots, especially before changing lanes, because mopeds and scooters are small enough to be completely hidden in a blind spot.
- › Be on the lookout for signs of riders' intentions, such as looking over their shoulder before changing lanes or turning.

Watch out for moped and scooter riders—they are vulnerable.

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Prepare for moped and scooter riders to make sudden manoeuvres in poor road conditions or high winds.
- › Keep in mind that moped and scooter riders may veer toward the outside of their lane when preparing to turn.
- › Keep an eye out for moped and scooter riders in the vicinity of schools, parks and shopping malls.
- › Be careful around moped and scooter riders because, unlike cyclists, they are not required to stay to the right side of the road.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Safety margins

- › Never pass moped and scooter riders without changing lanes.
- › Do not tailgate moped and scooter riders.
- › Maintain sufficient safety margins around moped and scooter riders (front, back and sides).

Communication

- › Make eye contact if possible or as needed.
- › Avoid honking for no reason, considering that the noise could startle moped and scooter riders.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Adopt appropriate driving behaviours when moped and scooter riders are present.

Takeaway

Sharing the road properly means treating other road users with respect and patience, whether they are drivers, pedestrians, moped and scooter riders or cyclists.



Sharing the Road with Motorcyclists

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

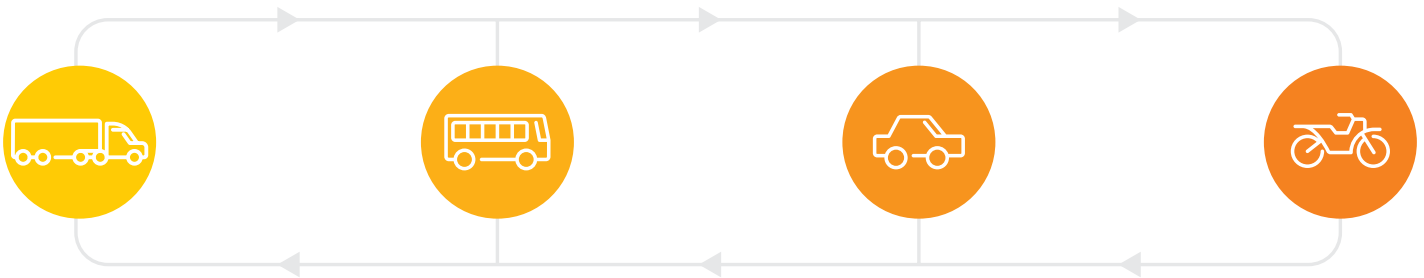
Properly evaluating potentially hazardous situations gives you the opportunity to act safely. That is why you must look closely and carefully at your surroundings and, more importantly, adequately anticipate traffic situations.

Applying the OEA strategy as a driver allows you to communicate and interact with other road users in an understanding, courteous and safe manner:

- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Motorcyclists

Typically, motorcyclists:

- › have no built-in safety features like air bags or bumpers to protect them in an accident;
- › are entitled to the full width of the lane;
- › can make sudden moves due to uneven pavement or weather conditions (like wind gusts);
- › need to be surrounded by a safety margin;
- › are agile and can easily weave through traffic;
- › have turn signals that are sometimes hard to see and do not always stop flashing automatically;
- › are more vulnerable when drivers go over the speed limit or exhibit aggressive driving behaviours.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Be on the lookout for signs of motorcyclists' intentions, such as looking over their shoulder before changing lanes or turning.
- › Scan intersections.
- › Check your blind spots, especially before changing lanes, since a motorcycle is small enough to be completely hidden in a blind spot.
- › Expect to find motorcyclists riding in a staggered formation for safety reasons.

**Watch out for motorcyclists—
they are vulnerable.**

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Be careful when turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle with its turn signal flashing, for two reasons: It is difficult to judge the motorcyclist's speed, and the turn signal may have been left on by mistake since motorcycle turn signals do not always stop flashing automatically.
- › Make sure that the motorcyclist actually intends to turn before initiating your manoeuvre.
- › Be aware that motorcyclists may brake suddenly and that motorcycles have a very short braking distance.
- › Keep in mind that it is hard to tell how fast motorcycles are going and how far away they actually are.
- › Do not pass a motorcycle without changing lanes.
- › Prepare for motorcyclists to make sudden manoeuvres in poor road conditions or high winds.
- › Keep in mind that motorcycles have impressive acceleration capabilities, which means that you need to allow yourself time and room to react appropriately.
- › Keep in mind that motorcycles have a shorter stopping distance than other vehicles. That is why you should not follow motorcyclists too closely.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT



Safety margins

- › Maintain sufficient safety margins around motorcyclists (front, back and sides).
- › Maintain a sufficient safety margin when passing a motorcycle.

Communication

- › Make eye contact with motorcyclists.
- › Avoid honking for no reason, considering that the noise could startle motorcyclists.

Sharing the road

- › Never pass a motorcycle without changing lanes.
- › Do not tailgate motorcyclists.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.



Takeaway

Signaling your intentions at the right time is not an option—it's an obligation. This lets other road users know what you are planning to do, such as turn, change lanes or pass another road user.

Sharing the Road with Motorized Mobility Aid¹ Users

What to know

Duty of care

- › All road users have a duty to be careful and considerate around more vulnerable users when travelling on a public road.
- › As a driver, you have a duty to show extra care toward vulnerable users such as people with reduced mobility, pedestrians, cyclists and road workers.
- › In turn, vulnerable users have a duty to adopt behaviours that enhance their own safety.

What strategy to apply

The Observe-Evaluate-Act (OEA) strategy

The OEA strategy allows drivers to continuously process information from their driving environment using different visual exploration techniques, such as scanning, shoulder checks, A-pillar blind spot checks and rear-view and side mirror checks.

Carefully observing your surroundings allows you to identify potential risks and dangerous situations and react appropriately to the presence of other road users. Paying close attention when driving in areas where vulnerable road users are usually found also makes you a safe and responsible driver. Moreover, it is crucial that you accurately interpret what other road users are trying to communicate, such as pedestrians who are indicating their intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection.

Properly evaluating potentially hazardous situations gives you the opportunity to act safely. That is why you must look closely and carefully at your surroundings and, more importantly, adequately anticipate traffic situations.

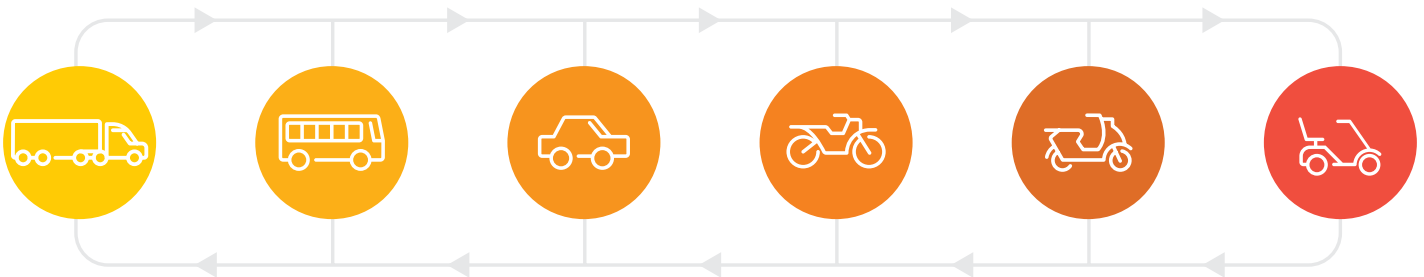
Applying the OEA strategy as a driver allows you to communicate and interact with other road users in an understanding, courteous and safe manner:

- › by reducing your speed and controlling your steering to keep a safe distance from any obstacles on the road or another road user;
- › by signaling your intentions at the proper time (turn signals, headlights, brake lights);
- › by yielding the right-of-way.

The OEA strategy is basically a risk management strategy for the road.

¹ Motorized mobility aids include three- or four-wheeled electric scooters and electric wheelchairs.

Chain of Responsibility



What to expect

Motorized mobility aid users

Typically, motorized mobility aid users:

- › are hard to see at night because their vehicle does not always have headlights, tail lights or a pennant;
- › are hard to hear because their vehicle is fairly quiet;
- › may sometimes exhibit unpredictable or reckless behaviours;
- › have no protection, increasing their risk of injury in an accident.

What to do

Apply the OEA strategy

OBSERVE



- › Check the side of the road, bike paths, sidewalks and the shoulder.
- › Scan your surroundings.
- › Pay close attention at intersections, especially when turning.

Watch out for motorized mobility aid users—they are vulnerable.

Adapt your driving.



Apply the OEA strategy

EVALUATE



- › Keep in mind that motorized mobility aid users can sometimes exhibit unpredictable behaviours.
- › Keep in mind that motorized mobility aid users need more time to cross.
- › Keep in mind that motorized mobility aid users may go from the sidewalk to the roadway and back again without signalling their intentions.

Apply the OEA strategy

ACT

Speed

- › Reduce your speed as needed.

Mandatory safety margins

- › Maintain a safety margin of at least:
 - 1 metre on a road where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres on a road where the speed limit is over 50 km/h.

Note: One metre is about the same width as an open car door.



Sharing the road

- › Be careful and courteous when passing a motorized mobility aid user.

Rules of the road

- › Drive carefully and be considerate of vulnerable road users.
- › Yield the right-of-way to motorized mobility aid users:
 - at crosswalks;
 - at intersections;
 - when entering traffic from a driveway or private lane;
 - on a shared street.
- › Stop to allow motorized mobility aid users to cross when they:
 - enter a pedestrian crossing;
 - demonstrate their intention to cross;
 - are approaching a pedestrian crossing;
 - are waiting on the sidewalk next to a pedestrian crossing;
 - make eye contact or gesture with their hand or head.
- › Do not stop your vehicle on or within five metres of a pedestrian crossing.

Takeaway

You must be extra cautious around motorized mobility aid users because they may sometimes operate their vehicle on the roadway or the shoulder.



**Société de l'assurance
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Avec vous,
au cœur de votre sécurité