



# FACT SHEET

## Module 3.2

## Gap Selection

**The typical sizes of gaps needed to perform the maneuver in a passenger vehicle**

- Right turn: 7-9 second gap to the left
- Left Turn: 9 second gap to the right and 7 second gap to the left
- Crossing a Four Lane Road: 6-7 second gap in traffic from both directions
- Merging: 8-second gap in traffic
- Changing Lanes 4-second gap in traffic
- Passing You will need to accelerate 10-15 mph faster than the vehicle you are passing. At 50 mph it will take 6 seconds to pass a vehicle traveling at 40 mph.
- 3-Point Turnabout: 20-30 second gap in both directions

When stopped in traffic, wait 2 seconds before moving your vehicle – search the front zones.

When you are the first one stopped in line at a traffic light, wait 2 seconds before moving when the light turns green. Search the intersection for red light runners.

You will need to increase these times and distances for:

- Large trucks
- Campers
- Buses
- Heavy traffic
- Adverse road conditions
- Personal performance is below normal

**Sample gaps based upon speed**

Miles per hour	To cross Traffic 4-5 seconds	Turn Right and join traffic 6 seconds	Turn Left and join traffic 7 seconds
<b>20mph</b>	More than ½ block away	More than ½ block away	More than 2/3 block away
<b>30mph</b>	More than 2/3 block away	1 block away	More than 1 block away
<b>45mph</b>	More than 1 block away	More than 2 blocks away	More than 2 ½ blocks away
<b>55mph</b>	More than 1 ½ blocks away	More than 3 blocks away	More than 3 ½ blocks away