

## Module 3.3

# Mixing with Traffic





# Essential Questions for Mixing With Traffic

- What are my responsibilities?
- What are the responsibilities of others?
- Do I know what I am capable of doing?
- Can I predict what other drivers might do?
- Do I know how to legally and respectfully share the road with other drivers?



# Getting Ready

- Working in groups of three or four, identify 3 ways you will mix with traffic when you start driving.
  - **An example:** I will use my turn signals to let others know my intentions. If I don't, then ...
  - **Another:** I will yield the right of way at an intersection. If I don't, then ...
  - **And:** I will not speed up to beat a train at a railroad crossing. If I do, then ...

# RIGHT OF WAY

## ROW Must be Given, Not Taken

**Failure to yield right of way causes approximately  
20 percent of all collisions in Montana**

Who must yield when:

- One vehicle arrives first?
- Two vehicles arrive at the same time?



# Pedestrians




What are the right-of-way laws (ROW) for these pedestrians?



You intend to turn right at the next intersection.  
Describe the scene and explain what you need to do.



Montana laws help us safely interact with others.  
What law applies here?



# How do we share the right of way with this pedestrian?



With the addition of this car, what right of way laws do I need to obey?

What do I need to do to share the road with each of these users?

You intend to turn right.  
Where should you check before you turn?



Since the light is red, where should you stop?  
What Zone or Zones should you check?  
Can you turn right after stopping at this red light?



You need to pass this truck. What should you consider before you pull around it?



How is your line of sight?  
If you choose to pass, who must yield to whom?  
What other zones should you check before passing this truck?



# Intersections

- Types of Intersections
  - Uncontrolled
  - Controlled
  - Residential
  - Roundabouts
- Driver Responsibilities
  - Remember essential questions



# Student Activity 2: Looking for Clues

Working in groups of two or three answer the following questions:

- What are ways we know (cues or clues) that we are approaching an intersection?
- What is the difference between a controlled and an uncontrolled intersection?
- What signs or signals are used to control traffic at an intersection?

# Intersections



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?  
Where should you check when you approach this intersection?



Cross traffic does not need to stop.  
You intend to continue ahead.  
What should you do and who must yield?



Where should you stop?  
How should you search this intersection?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?



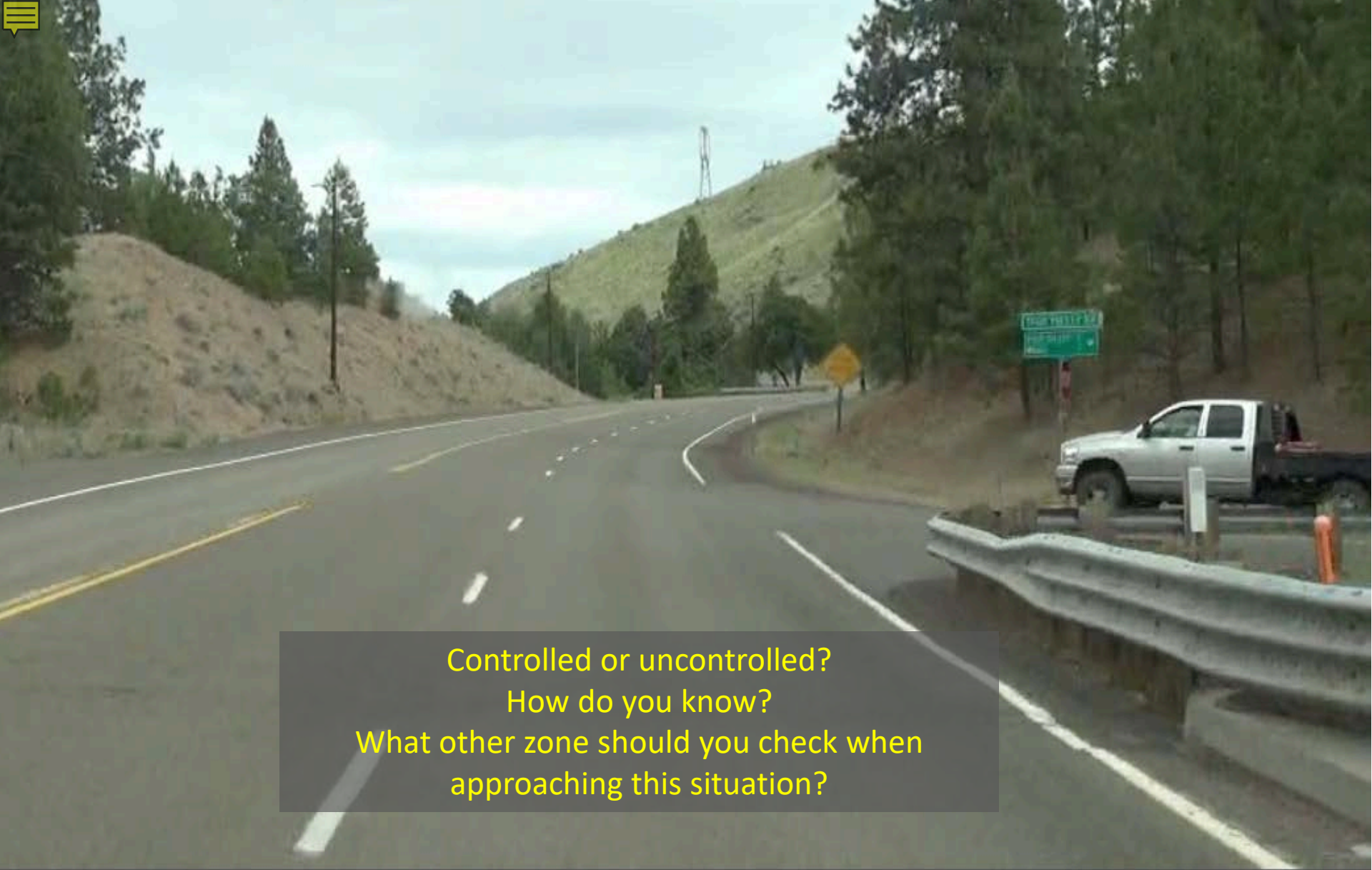
Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?  
What other action is prohibited?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?  
What other zone should you check when  
approaching this situation?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?  
What clues help you see the upcoming intersection?  
What do you predict the oncoming car might do at this intersection?



Controlled or uncontrolled?  
How do you know?  
What other action is prohibited?  
What makes this intersection so complex?



Report a problem Image Date: September 2008



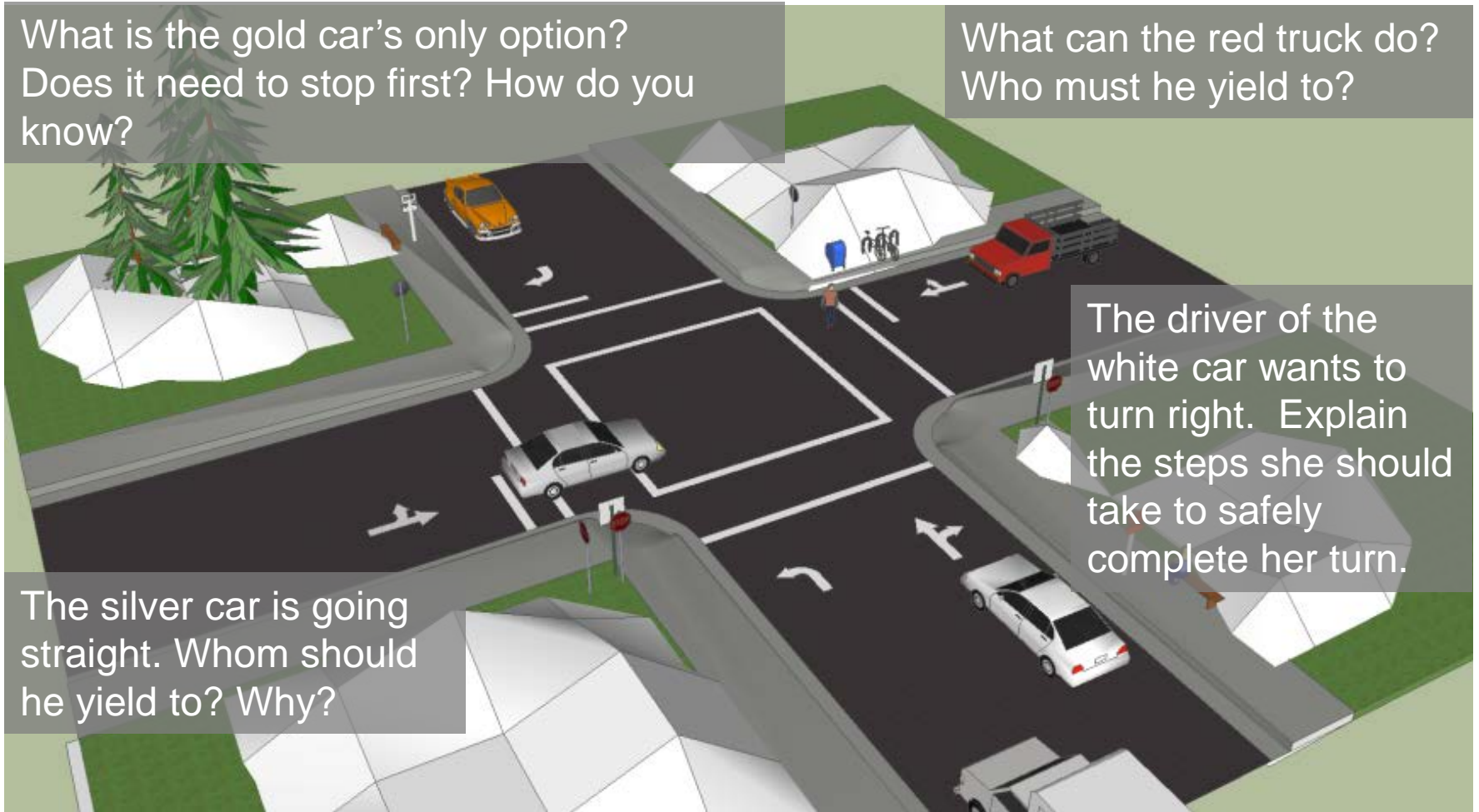
# Use the following diagram to answer the next series of questions.

What is the gold car's only option?  
Does it need to stop first? How do you know?

What can the red truck do?  
Who must he yield to?

The silver car is going straight. Whom should he yield to? Why?

The driver of the white car wants to turn right. Explain the steps she should take to safely complete her turn.





# Roundabout Intersection



PLAY VIDEO (:29)



# Lane Changes

- See the **Need**
  - Why do I need to change lanes?
- See the **Space**
  - Scan and search. Do I have the space to change lanes?
- Check the **Time**
  - Do I have enough time to change lanes safely?



# Group Activity 3:

## Reasons for Changing Lanes

(2 minutes)

- Identify 5 reasons you might need to change lanes.
  - Identify 3 reasons you would delay making a lane change.
  - Identify 2 reasons you would “abort” a lane change.
- Ready? **GO!**



# Reasons for Changing Lanes



PLAY VIDEO (:19)



# Reasons for Changing Freeway Lanes



PLAY VIDEO (1:11)



# Reasons for Changing Lanes

- Before initiating the passing maneuver, ask:
  - What will be gained by passing?
  - What are the risks?
  - Is the pass legal?
  - Will the traffic ahead present additional risks if a pass is attempted?
  - Will the traffic ahead be essentially the same if the pass isn't made?
  - Will there be a better, safer opportunity to pass later, for instance, a passing lane?



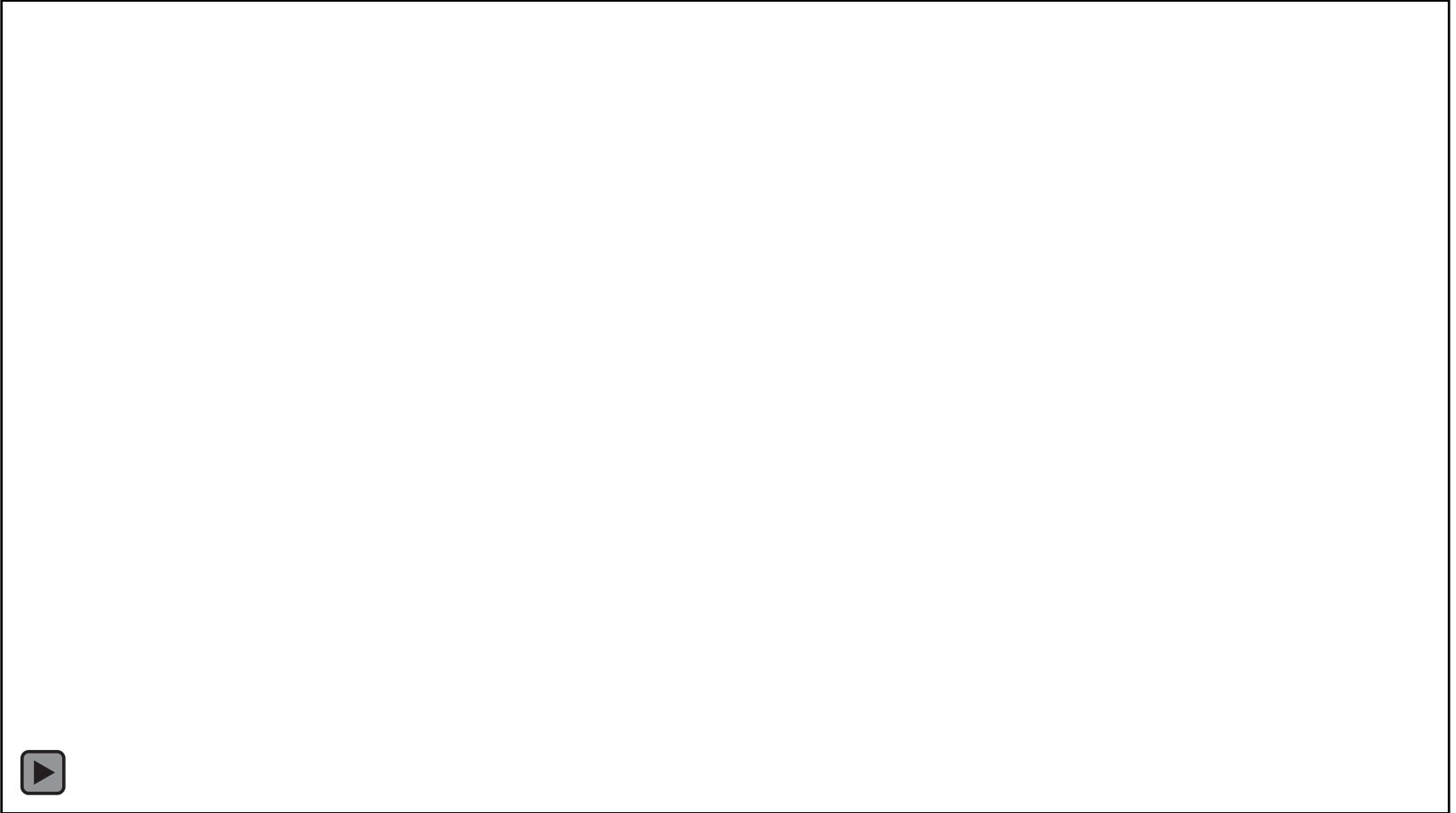
# Classroom Activity:

## Passing Safely

Use “Estimate Passing Gap Requirements” Factsheet

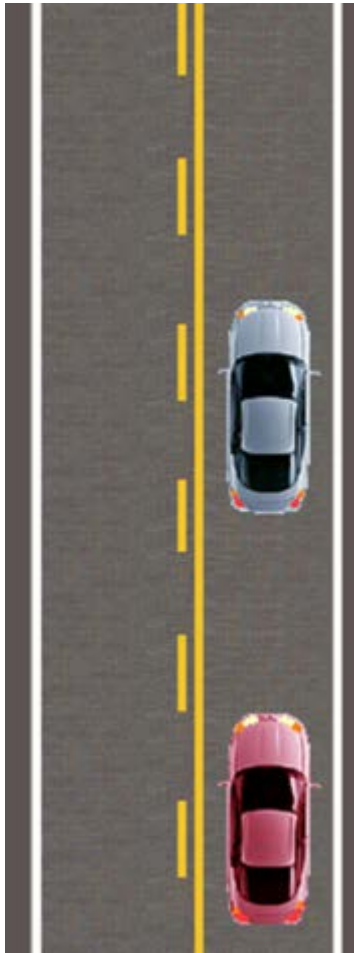
Watch video on next slide and discuss.

# Passing Safely

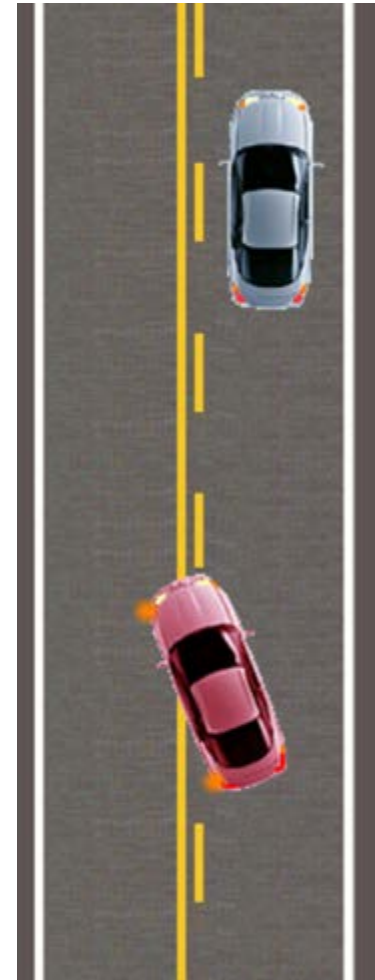


PLAY VIDEO (:26)

# Passing and Being Passed



Why is passing permitted in the right diagram but not in the left diagram?



# When can you pass a school bus?



# Why are the school bus lights flashing?



# Emergency Vehicles



**You look in your rear view mirror and see this.**

1. What are you supposed to do?
2. Explain how you re-enter traffic once the officer has passed.
3. Explain what you should do if she pulls in behind you after you stop.

# Move Over Law

Think back to Strategies for Vision and Scanning

***I can only move over if I see the stopped emergency vehicle in the first place.***

The law requires that I move over to the next lane before I reach the emergency vehicle parked on the side of the road.

If I can't, then I slow down to allow time to respond safely.



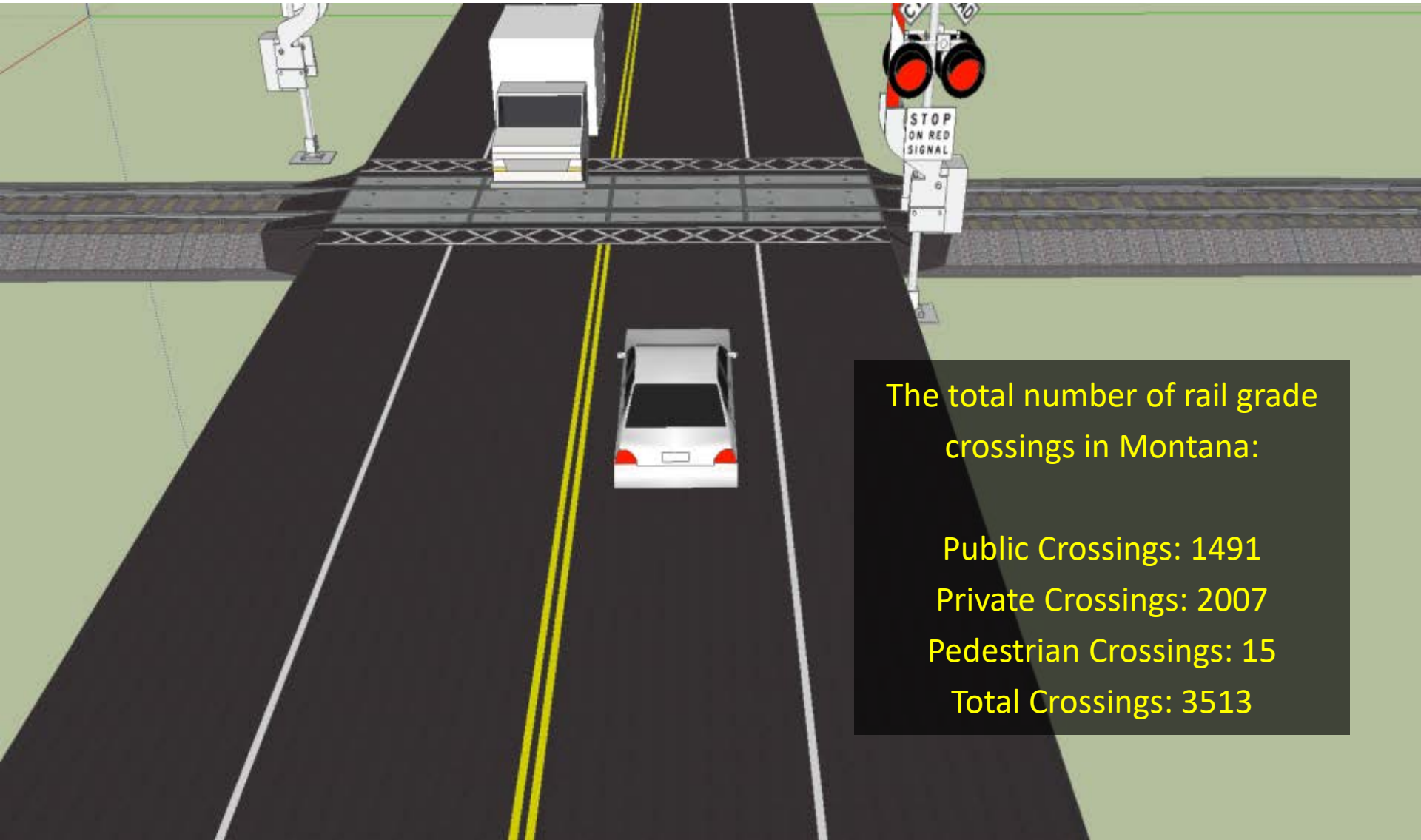
# Emergency Vehicles



# Funeral Processions



# Rail Grade Crossings



The total number of rail grade crossings in Montana:

Public Crossings: 1491

Private Crossings: 2007

Pedestrian Crossings: 15

Total Crossings: 3513



Is it legal to pass here?

How do you know?

How many tracks are at this crossing?

Do you need to search this intersection before you cross?



- Who yields at this RR crossing?
- What kind of signage does this crossing have?
- What speed should you approach and cross this crossing?
- Describe the searching process as you approach this crossing.





What is unique about this intersection?

What precautions should you take when approaching and crossing this intersection?

What are some drivers tempted to do when approaching this intersection?



# Montana Driver Education and Training Standards and Benchmarks

## **1. Laws and Highway System**

- 1.1. know the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual;
- 1.2. understand the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's Manual; and
- 1.3. consistently demonstrate knowledge and understanding by responsible adherence to highway transportation system traffic laws and control devices.

## **2. Responsibility**

- 2.1. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a motor vehicle;
- 2.2. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle;
- 2.3. consistently display respect for other users of the highway transportation system; and
- 2.4. develop positive habits and attitudes for responsible driving.

## **3. Visual Skills**

- 3.1. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle;
- 3.2. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle;
- 3.3. demonstrate the use of proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle; and
- 3.4. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills.

## **4. Vehicle Control**

- 4.1. demonstrate smooth, safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle; and
- 4.2. develop positive habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1. consistently communicate driving intentions (i.e., use of lights, vehicle position, and personal signals);
- 5.2. adjust driver behavior based on observation of the highway transportation system and other roadway users;
- 5.3. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle position, and personal signals) based on observation of the highway transportation system and other users; and
- 5.4. develop positive habits and attitudes for effective communication.

## **6. Risk Management**

- 6.1. understand driver risk-management principles;
- 6.2. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies; and
- 6.3. develop positive habits and attitudes for effective driver risk-management.

## **7. Lifelong Learning**

- 7.1. identify and use a range of learning strategies required to acquire or retain knowledge, positive driving habits, and driving skills for lifelong learning;
- 7.2. establish learning goals that are based on an understanding of one's own current and future learning needs; and
- 7.3. demonstrate knowledge and ability to make informed decisions required for positive driving habits, effective performance, and adaptation to change.

## **8. Driving Experience**

- 8.1. acquire at least the minimum number of BTW hours over at least the minimum number of days, as required by law, with a Montana-approved driver education teacher; and
- 8.2. acquire additional behind-the-wheel driving experience with a parent or guardian's assistance in a variety of driving situations (i.e., night, adverse weather, gravel road, etc.).