

**5. Driving Under the Influence:** Drivers who are intoxicated or on drugs cause a large number of accidents. Drivers should never drive while under the influence of any substance that will impair their ability to properly operate a vehicle.

**Other Traffic Information  
Brochures Available:**

- Avoiding Parking Tickets**
- Children At Play**
- Speed Limits; How Are They Set**
- Pedestrian Signals**
- Stop Signs**
- Traffic Signal Systems**
- Traffic Signals**

*If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the Department of Public Works At (785) 309-5725 TDD" (785) 309-5747 Website: [www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov)*

Revised December 2010

  
City of  
Salina  
Department of Public Works  
PO Box 736, 300 W Ash  
Salina, KS 67402-0736

# TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

---

---



DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

## Traffic Safety Tips

Most drivers know they are not permitted to cross or drive on the left side of double yellow center lines except to turn left at an intersection, to turn into or out of a private driveway/public street, or to make a legal U-turn. Drivers need to be especially aware that U-turns are not permitted on streets in business districts. It is also illegal to make a partial U-turn to enter an angled parking space on the other side of the street.

## What is the Biggest Factor Involving Bicycle Accidents?

City studies show that the single most common factor in bicycle accidents is that bicyclists ride on the wrong side of the street. The reason these accidents occur is that when vehicles are turning at intersections and bicyclists are riding the wrong way, drivers do not see them coming from the opposite direction against traffic flow. Therefore, bicyclists should ride with traffic and not against traffic. Bicyclists should also use the pedestrian crossing push button at signalized intersections to cross the street. Signals are timed to handle vehicular traffic, and bicyclists frequently need extra time to cross streets at intersections. Bicyclists can only receive that extra time by pushing the pedestrian crossing button.

## Can Citizens Install Signs in the Public Right-of-Way?

Salina City Code authorizes City agencies to install signs in the public right-of-way. Therefore, no signs can be installed in the public right-of-way without a City permit. Such permits are normally only issued to contractors who are performing work in

the right-of-way and need detour signs to advise drivers about street construction for traffic safety reasons.

## Who is Responsible for Trimming Vegetation Obscuring Street Signs in the Public Right-of-Way?

Property owners have a responsibility to keep their vegetation trimmed. If a tree or bush growing within the right-of-way is obscuring a street sign or traffic signal, the City upon notification trims the vegetation to improve visibility. If the vegetation growing outside the right-of-way overhangs into the right-of-way and obscures signs and signals, the City sends a letter to the property owner whose vegetation is causing the problem. The property owner is required to trim the vegetation. If the owner fails to take action within a specified period of time, the City will trim the vegetation and bill the property owner.

## What Are the Most Common Causes of Traffic Accidents?

The City has an on-going traffic safety improvement program. Traffic accidents and unusual traffic patterns are monitored to determine the need for additional traffic control. Drivers can help reduce further accidents by bearing in mind that the most common causes of accidents are as follows:

**1. Right-of-Way Violations:** Drivers who select too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy major street from a side street or driveway are frequently involved in severe broadside accidents. It is important to always wait until there is a sufficient gap in traffic when entering

a busy street from a side street or driveway. It is also important to yield to oncoming traffic when turning left by selecting a safe gap in oncoming traffic before beginning a left turn.

- 2. Unsafe Speeds:** Drivers who follow vehicles ahead of them too closely cause rear-end accidents. Drivers should maintain at least a two second gap between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead of them in order to avoid rear-end collisions. Drivers traveling too fast for the prevailing conditions are a major factor in causing rear-end type collisions. It is important to always drive at or below the posted speed limit at all times.
- 3. Stop Sign and Traffic Signal Violations:** Drivers running red lights frequently cause severe broadside accidents. Drivers should never enter signalized intersections on the red light. They may enter on the green light once vehicles lawfully in the intersection have cleared. Drivers running stop signs also cause broadside accidents. Drivers must always come to a complete stop at all stop signs.
- 4. Improper Turning Movements:** Right turns should begin and end in the farthest right lane. Left turns should begin in the farthest left hand lane or turn pocket and end in any lane lawfully available to them. Side swipes commonly occur when drivers change lanes abruptly. Drivers should always look over their shoulders and signal whenever changing lanes to make sure that travel lanes adjacent to them are clear of traffic before making a lane change.