Expressway Driving
Characteristics of Expressway Driving

- An expressway is a limited access or controlled-access highway.
- Vehicles can enter and leave expressways only at interchanges.
Advantages of Expressway

• Designed for low risk higher speed travel.
• Despite high speeds and heavy traffic, you are safer on expressways than any other highways.
Advantages of Expressway

• No cross Traffic.
• Median or Barrier separate traffic
• Pedestrians, non-motorized vehicles and slow moving vehicles are not permitted.

• Wide Shoulders & extra wide underpasses for good escape paths.
• Expressway signs to help drivers anticipate conditions well ahead.
Interchanges

- Interchanges are places where drivers can cross over or under as well to enter or exit an expressway.

- Cloverleaf

- Diamond

Rt 59 over 88 Right Now
Interchanges

- Trumpet Interchange

- All direction Interchange
Safe Driving Strategies

- Collisions on expressways are often more serious.
- Why?
- Higher speeds
Safe Driving Strategies

• When on an expressway you should drive @ about the same speed as other vehicles.
• Not faster
• Not slower
Safe Driving Strategies

Prepare Yourself and your car
Know the name, route number and exit and entrance numbers for your trip

Keep your car in good condition, plan for stops for food, fuel and rest stops
Entering the Expressway

Entering an expressway

- Adjust To Freeway Speed In The Acceleration Lane
- Signal And Move Carefully Into Freeway Lane
- Do Not Enter Freeway Here At Sharp Angle
- Be Prepared To Adjust Speed When Approaching Merging Area

Traffic Flow

MERGING AREA

ACCELERATION LANE

Wrong
• Never back up on an expressway or the entrance ramp.
• Some entrance ramps have traffic lights to help space traffic. How can this help?
• Some times you have an entrance on to the left lane of the expressway. Why can this be difficult?
Entering the Expressway

• Some times you have an entrance on to the left lane of the expressway. Why can this be difficult?
Lane Choice

- It is generally safer to drive in the right lane and pass on the left.
- Left lane is the fastest & most stressful.
- Right lane may have lots of entrances & exits.
- Middle lane is probably best for expressway driving.
Signs & Roadway Markings

- Pay attention to where you are going!!
- Know your speed limits
- Know your exits!
Overhead Signs
Mile Markers
Lane changing

• Check your blind spots.

• Watch for lane changes in front of you.
Special Expressway Problems

- Driving for long periods of time can affect drivers.
- Be alert for problems that can affect you and others on the road.
Special Expressway Problems

• **Highway Hypnosis**

• Staying alert can be a problem when you travel long distances on expressways.

• You can be lulled into an inattentive, drowsy state known as highway hypnosis.
Highway Hypnosis

- If you start to notice you’re becoming drowsy or less focused:
  - Sit up straighter
  - Open a window
  - Stop at the next exit and stretch
  - Stop at a rest stop (safe spot) take a nap.
Fall asleep collisions

• More than 100,000 collisions a year in the USA are caused by sleepiness.
Unusual Expressways
• Glenwood Canyon Colorado
Open Road Tolling