

DRIVING BUSINESS ~ Who's Right in the Right of Way?

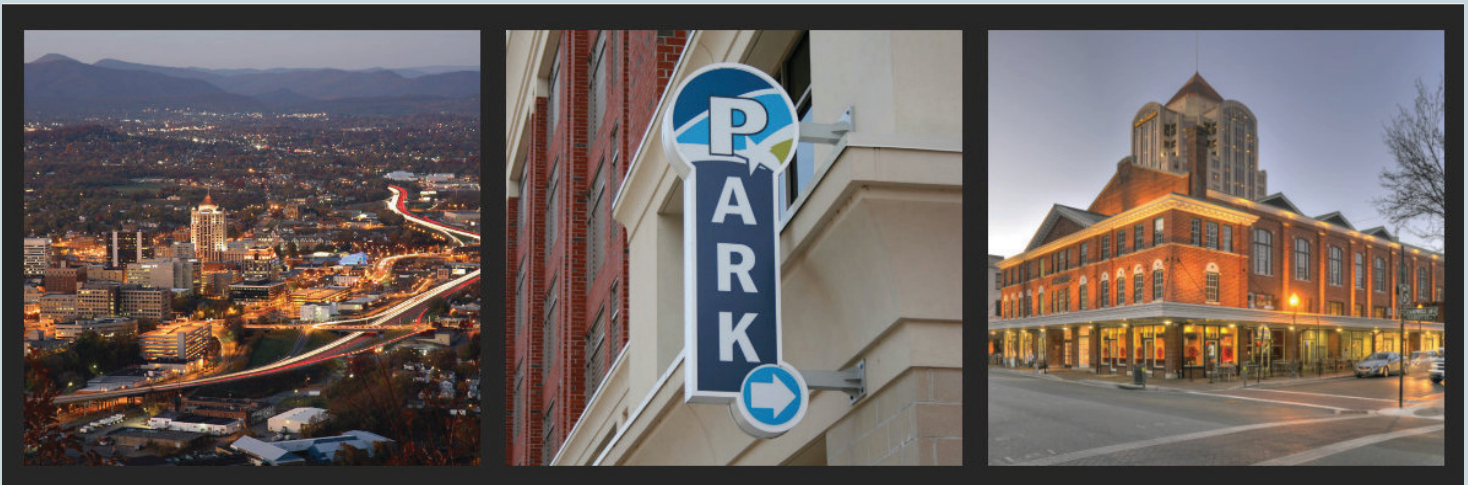
Few driving rules are more misunderstood and confusing than who has the Right of Way when cars meet at intersections. And Right of Way rules also apply in parking garages and parking lots. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, these simple rules help to take the guesswork out of Right of Ways:



1. The Base Rule: **The First to Stop is the First to Go.**
2. If the base rule doesn't apply:
The Farthest vehicle to the Right goes first.
3. If neither base rule or the furthest right rule apply, then
Straight Traffic Goes First.
4. **When in Doubt, Bail Out** - This trumps all rules. Even if you have the right of way, if for any reason you feel uncomfortable or that your safety is threatened, let the other traffic go ahead. Your safety always comes first.

Just like on the street, parking lots and parking garages have rules for the Right of Way. The general rule is the Right of Way is for anyone going straight ahead such as the vehicle in the aisle or through traffic. If a vehicle has to cross paths with another vehicle, it should yield. This also applies to vehicles backing out of a space. With the rule of yielding to the vehicle going straight in the aisle, those backing out of a space must yield the right of way to the vehicle in the driving aisle or lane. Of course, the driver may choose to be courteous and stop to allow the vehicle to back out of the space. However, the vehicle in the aisle still has the Right of Way. This same Right of Way rule applies to vehicles needing to turn onto a ramp in a parking garage; they must yield to the vehicle going straight. And, remember, all vehicles must stop at cross walks and walkways that give pedestrians the Right of Way.

Right of Way rules are all about courtesy and safety. Safety is important to PARK Roanoke and we hope it's important to you; that's why we've offered this information – to make parking better and safer for everyone!



Tourism News - Record Travel Expenditures for Virginia's Blue Ridge in 2013

Tourism spending reached new records in 2013 as an economic driver for the region. Travel expenditures for Virginia's Blue Ridge (including the cities of Roanoke and Salem and the counties of Botetourt, Franklin and Roanoke) reached \$754,714,762, resulting in a 3.3 percent increase over 2012 while the state of Virginia claimed a 1.4 percent increase. Regional tourism-supported jobs were also up, increasing to 7,450. Combined state and local tourism-related taxes totaled \$54,374,224. This data was recently released by the Virginia Tourism Corporation in accordance with the United States Travel Association and is based on domestic visitor spending (travelers from within the United States) from per person trips taken 50 miles or more away from home.

"Tourism is BIG Business for Virginia's Blue Ridge", said Landon Howard, President of the Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The travel and tourism industry continues to play a key role in economic development and growth in the region, providing valuable jobs and revenue."

Go to <http://www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/> for detailed economic impact reports.