



Simple Rules of the Road Apply to Parking Garages

Many people make the mistake of thinking that by parking in a lot or garage that an accident can't happen, after all, they are driving at lower speeds and no one is going to write them a ticket. Right? Nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, drivers are more focused on finding a parking space and least concentrated on their driving. This may increase the likelihood of a fender bender or worse.



Here are some general guidelines for safe on and off-street parking that may help:

-Never stop behind parked vehicles while you are waiting for a spot, this blocks traffic for those who are trying to either enter or exit. If someone is pulling out from their spot or backing out, be courteous and stop for them, do not try and skirt around their vehicle as this may cause injury or an accident.

-Unless you have a valid disabled placard or license plate, do not park in those spaces marked for the disabled. If the spaces closest to the exits are not marked, leave them open for the elderly, disabled, and even for new moms who need the room.

-Watch out for pedestrians. Never assume that they see you or that they will stop for you. Generally, pedestrians always have the right of way, whether the crossing is marked or not. And pedestrians can be difficult to see in low light or if they are in your blind spot. Stay alert and always yield to pedestrians.

-Remember the rules of the road apply to parking garages and surface lots. Most garages and surface lots post speed limits and they are there for a reason – high speed parking garage journeys are best left for the movies. In real life, **obey the speed limits and slow down** – this will protect you, pedestrians, and your vehicle. Do not race for an open parking space, there's plenty for everyone.

-Obey the stop signs, yield, and always be watchful for pedestrians crossing your path. Drive slowly around curves and on ramps and when navigating into the exit or entrance lanes. When selecting a space to park, select one that fits the size of your vehicle. Never force your vehicle into too tight of a space. **Small spaces marked as a "compact spot" are really for a compact, small car, not a larger van or SUV.** Be sure to park as straight as possible and be aware of the vehicle on either side of you as to not hit the doors and produce dings, scratches or dints. And let's face it; no one wants a ding in their paint.

-Don't double park—this means always park within the lines, even if a car beside of you is outside of the lines. To avoid a chain reaction of double parking, just move to another parking space.

Be courteous and forgiving to the other driver. Everyone makes a mistake at some point in time. By following some simple courteous rules, everyone can be safe and accident free. For more information on parking safety, regulations including a guide to parallel parking, visit our website at www.PARKRoanoke.com/safety

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Specials & Discounts
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Payments for Monthly Parking and Citations may be paid on-line or over a toll free telephone line.

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IT'S EASY TO PARK ONCE AND ENJOY ALL THAT DOWNTOWN ROANOKE OFFERS!

How to Start a Carpool Submitted by Jeremy Holmes, Director RIDE Solutions

It may not look like it, but every day our streets are filled with a tremendous mass transit opportunity. Look at any car commuting on I-81 into Roanoke, or check out the vehicle next to you while you're crawling onto 220 north in Clearbrook one morning, and you'll see it. In fact, there's a good chance all you have to do is look in your own rearview mirror and you're likely to see a way to move more people through the same number of lanes at twice the speed, all while cutting your commute costs by half or more as you see empty seats in every car.

Sure, commuting alone is unavoidable for many people, for many reasons. But for most folks, filling an empty seat is easy and has immediate financial benefits.

As an employee, you can work with your employer to find ways to encourage coworkers and even nearby companies to consider carpooling. But how to get started?

RIDE Solutions has some easy recommendations to get you going.

- Start at Work:** Ideal carpool partners are those who already work in the same building, so start there. Ask for an employee message board in a common area like a lunch room or printer room where folks can post both rideshare needs and offers. If your company uses an intranet, ask about creating an online forum where your coworkers can make requests.
- Implement Incentives:** Incentives don't have to be complicated, or even cost you money. Something as simple as reserved parking spaces for carpoolers can be highly sought after, particularly at worksites where parking is limited, or employees are paying for parking. You know what your challenges are in getting to work each day – talk to your employer about what they can do to help.
- Register with RIDE Solutions:** Our carpool matching program is an easy way for you to find a match and we do all the work. You have complete control with how your information is shared by choosing to match only with coworkers or the public, and RIDE Solutions never provides your information to a third party. Once your request is made, you'll receive a match list of other commuters matching your route and schedule, along with the contact information you've provided. And if you don't have a match, we keep searching with every new member until we find someone, and we'll let you know right away when you have a new match. Carpooling is more than a way to save gas money – it can extend the life of your vehicle and even cut your maintenance costs and insurance rates. Switching vehicles from week to week with other carpool members can cut the annual mileage on your vehicle. Fewer miles on the engine mean a longer life for the car, and many insurance companies offer discounted rates if a vehicle's annual mileage is 12,000 or lower.



For more information on getting started in a carpool, growing an existing carpool, or managing carpools visit RIDEsolutions.org

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A program of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

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Slow Down: Back to School Means Sharing the Road

by the National Safety Council

School days bring congestion: Yellow school buses are picking up their charges, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.

If You're Dropping Off

Schools often have very specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. More children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location, according to the National Safe Routes to School program.

The following apply to all school zones:

- o Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles
- o Don't load or unload children across the street from the school
- o Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school



Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- o Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- o In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- o Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- o Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- o Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- o Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- o Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way

Sharing the Road with School Buses

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- o Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children
- o If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- o The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- o Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

2018 Safety Observance and Event Calendar

Date	Event	Website
August	Children's Eye Health & Safety Month	preventblindness.org
Aug. 13-19, 2018	Safe + Sound Week	osha.gov
Aug. 17-Sept. 3, 2018	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over	nhtsa.gov