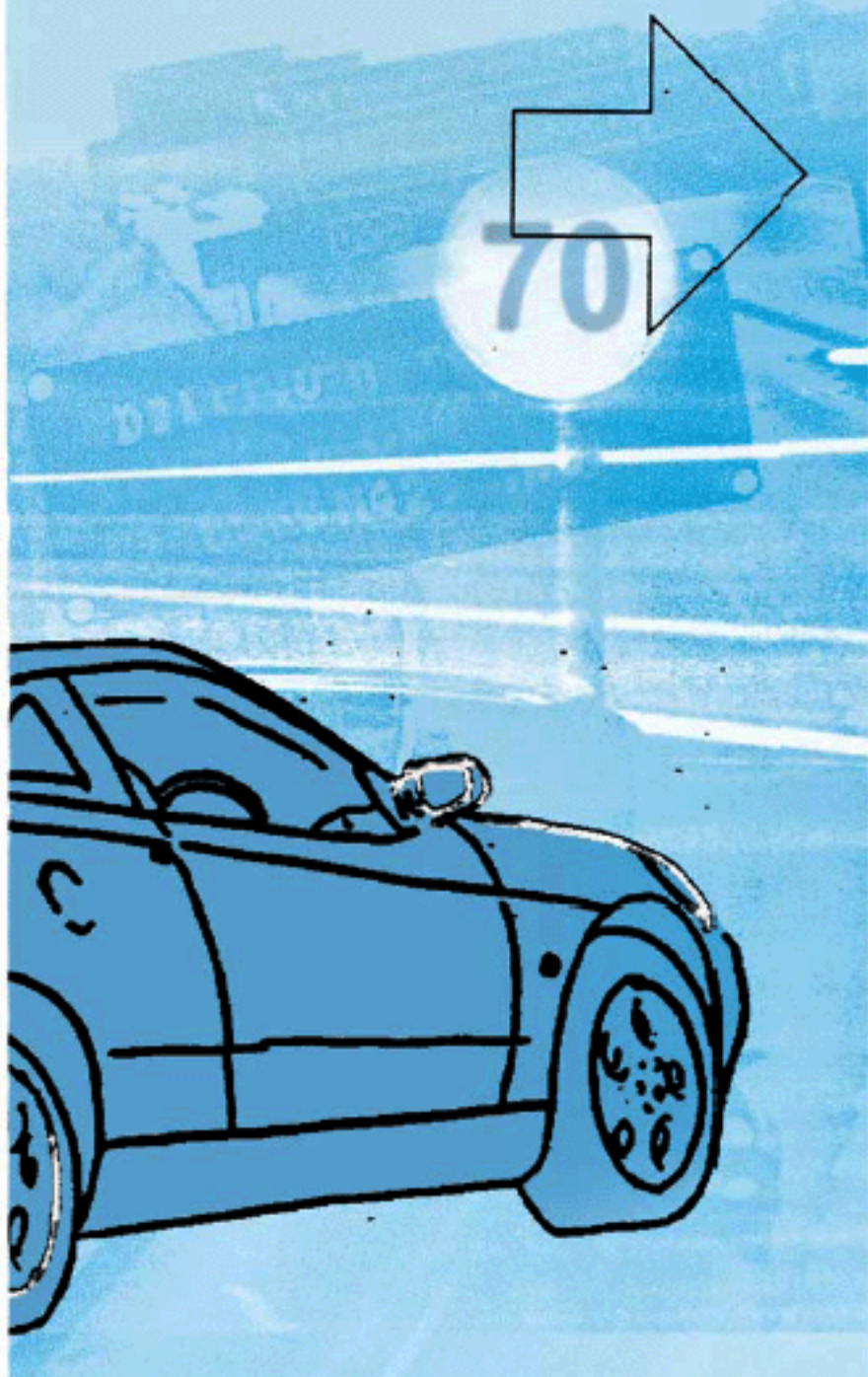


# ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION OFFICE DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS



# DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS

## Never confuse Dual Carriageways with Motorways

The national speed limit for dual carriageways is 70 mph – the same as for motorways.

Many dual carriageways have lower speed limits shown by circular shaped 30/40/50/60 mph signs. Dual carriageways are very different to motorways. They usually permit right turns, allow traffic to join from the left and to cross from left to right. Cyclists, mopeds, farm vehicles and pedestrians can use them. They may have pelican crossings, traffic lights, roundabouts and zebra crossings. Rural dual carriageways often have hard shoulders for emergency use, some urban dual carriageways do not have hard shoulders. Like all roads, dual carriageways are only as safe as the drivers who use them.

## Joining a Dual Carriageway

Obey signs and carriageway markings when joining a dual carriageway. Roundabouts link some single carriageways or motorways to dual carriageways. Single carriageway roads and end of motorways may blend directly on to dual carriageways.

## Crossing or Turning Right

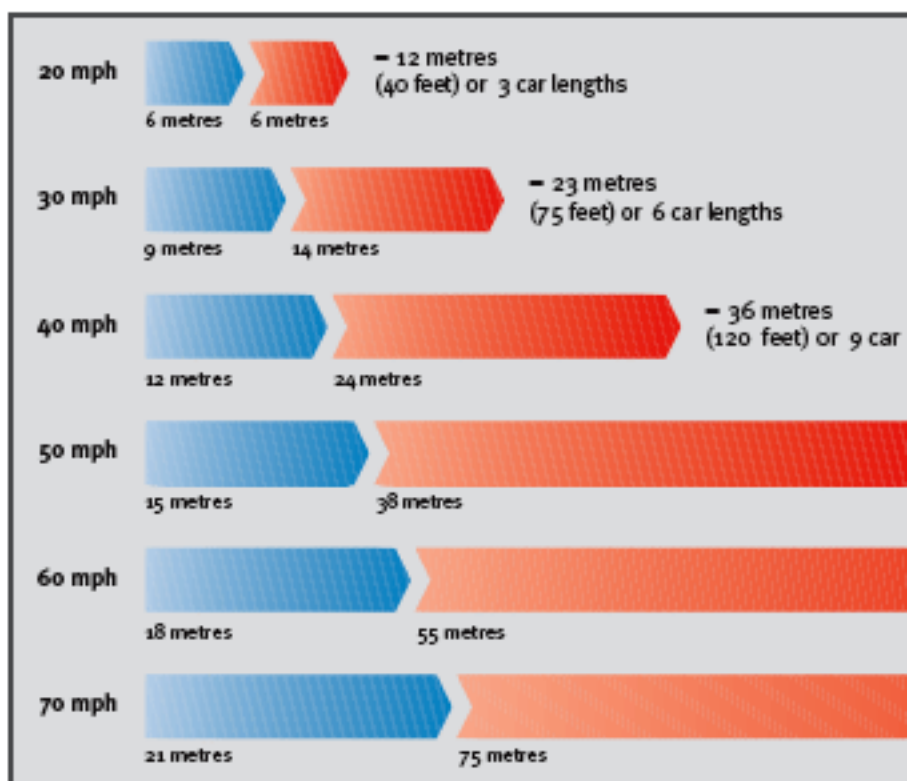
When crossing or turning right, first assess whether the central reservation is deep enough to protect the full length of your vehicle. You should

- treat each half of the carriageway as a separate road. Wait in the central reservation until there is a safe gap in the traffic on the second half of the road.
- wait until you can cross both carriageways in one go, if the central reservation is too shallow for the length of your vehicle.

### Lane Discipline

On a two-lane dual carriageway you should stay in the left-hand lane. Use the right-hand lane for overtaking or turning right. If you use it for overtaking move back to the left-hand lane when it is safe to do so. On a three-lane dual carriageway, you may use the middle lane or the right-hand lane to overtake but return to the middle and then the left-hand lane when it is safe.

### Typical Stopping Distances



### Stopping Distances

Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop well within the distance you can see to be clear. You should

- leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front so that you can pull up safely if it suddenly slows down or stops. The safe rule is never to get closer than the overall stopping distance (see diagram below)
- allow at least a two second gap between you and the vehicle in front on the roads carrying fast traffic. The gap should be at least doubled on wet roads and increased further on icy roads
- remember, large vehicles and motorcycles need a greater distance to stop.



### Road Works on Dual Carriageways

Roadworks on dual carriageways present similar dangers and delays as motorway roadworks. At the first warning sign begin to slow down gradually and obey 'no overtaking' and 'temporary speed limit signs' at all roadworks.






### Breakdowns

If your vehicle breaks down, think of other road users. You should


- get your vehicle off the road if possible
  - warn other traffic by using your hazard warning lights if your vehicle is causing an obstruction
  - put a warning triangle on the road at least 45 metres (147 feet) behind your broken-down vehicle on the same side of the road, or use other permitted warning devices if you have them. Always take great care when placing them
  - keep your sidelights on if it is dark or visibility is poor
  - do not stand (or let anybody else stand), between your vehicle and oncoming traffic
  - at night or in poor visibility do not stand where you will prevent other road users seeing your lights.
-

### End of Dual Carriageway

Dual carriageways often end by simply narrowing down to single carriageways. Note and obey the triangular warning signs and carriageway markings showing the end of the dual carriageway and the presence of two-way traffic ahead. Remember the national speed limit for single carriageways is 60 mph.

TYPE OF VEHICLE	
<b>Cars &amp; motorcycles</b> (including car derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	
<b>Cars towing caravans or trailers</b> (including car derived vans and motorcycles)	
<b>Buses and coaches</b> (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	
<b>Goods vehicles</b> (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	
<b>Goods vehicles</b> (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	

Some dual carriageways end at a roundabout, or merge into a motorway. Again look out for road signs and carriageway markings and obey them. Be alert for a dual carriageway ending at a roundabout followed by a single carriageway.

DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS

MPH
70
60
60
60
60
50

# CONTACTS

Further information on Road Safety may be obtained from the DOE Road Safety Education Offices located at the following addresses:-

## **Belfast Education and Library Board Area**

c/o 40 Academy Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2NQ  
Tel: 028 9050 8181

## **North Eastern Education and Library Board Area**

County Hall  
182 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena  
BT42 1HN  
Tel: 028 2564 4311

## **South Eastern Education and Library Board Area**

Hydebank  
4 Hospital Road  
Belfast  
BT8 8JL  
Tel: 028 9025 3123

## **Southern Education and Library Board Area**

Library Headquarters  
1 Markethill Road  
Armagh  
BT60 1NR  
Tel: 028 3752 0773

## **Western Education and Library Board Area**

Lisnagelvin Crown Building  
2 Crescent Road  
Lisnagelvin  
Londonderry  
BT47 2NJ  
Tel: 028 7131 9319