

Chapter 480

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

[HISTORY: The Selectmen of the Town of Natick, acting under authority conferred by Section 22 of Chapter 40 of the General Laws and by virtue of any and every other enabling power, do hereby make, adopt, and establish the following rules and orders for the regulations of carriages and vehicles used in said Town and hereinafter referred to collectively as "rules." These "rules" are a compilation of the Full Set of Rules and orders adopted by the Board of Selectmen on February 19, 1951 and the subsequent amendments thereto, all of which have existing approval of the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.]

ARTICLE I Terminology

§ 480-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of these rules and orders, the words and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

BICYCLE - A human-powered vehicle with two wheels in tandem design to transport by the act of peddling one or more persons seated on one or more saddle seats on it frame.

BICYCLE LANE - Any area or space except sidewalks set aside within a roadway for the exclusive use of bicyclists and which has been indicated by signs or markings.

BUS STOP - An area in the roadway set aside for the Boarding of or alighting from and the parking of buses.

BUSINESS DISTRICT - The territory contiguous to any way which is built up with structures devoted to business.

CHIEF OF POLICE - The top official in the chain of command of the Natick Police Department.

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE - Any vehicle used in the transportation of goods, wares or merchandise.

CROSSWALK - That portion of a roadway ordinarily included within the prolongation or connection of curblines and property lines at intersections, or at any portion of roadway clearly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines on the road surface or by other markings or signs.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE - A fire apparatus, police vehicle, ambulance, or disaster vehicle.

FIRE LANE - According to the NFPA, a fire lane is an access road used by fire departments that must have a width of at least 20 feet and a clearance of at least 13.5 feet. Fire lanes are required to provide access to a point at least 50 feet from at least one exterior door of a building, though this distance can be increased in a family home with a sprinkler system. In addition, no part of a

building may be farther than 150 feet from an access point provided by a fire lane, though again, this distance may be greater in a home with a sprinkler system.

FUNERAL PROCESSION - Any procession of mourners properly identified as such accompanying the remains of a human body. A funeral procession is two or more vehicles, including a lead or escort vehicle, traveling during daylight hours with the body or cremated remains of a deceased person. The rules for operating in and around a funeral procession are set by MGL c. 85, § 14A. Funeral processions have the right-of-way at intersections, with the exception that they must yield to emergency vehicles with flashing lights or sirens or when directed by law enforcement. If the lead vehicle in a funeral procession (which may be a hearse or a police vehicle) legally drives through an intersection, all vehicles in the procession may also drive through the intersection, even if a traffic light changes or there is a stop sign.

HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLE - Any commercial vehicle which with its load weighs in excess of 2 1/2 tons/5,000 pounds.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE - A vehicle used for the maintenance of highways and roadways:

- A. That is owned or operated by the executive office of transportation and public works, a county, a municipality or any political subdivision thereof: or
- B. That is owned or operated by a person under contract with the executive office of transportation and public works, a county a municipality or any political subdivision thereof.

INTERSECTION

- A. The area embraced within the extensions of the lateral curblines, or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of intersecting ways as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, including divided ways.
- B. The rules and regulations herein contained governing and restricting the movement of motor vehicles at and near intersecting ways shall apply at any place along any way at which drivers are to be controlled by traffic control signals, whether or not such place is an intersection as herein defined.

LANE - A longitudinal division of a roadway into a strip of sufficient width to accommodate the passage of a single line of motor vehicles.

LOADING ZONE - An area in the roadway set aside for the accommodation of commercial and transient vehicular traffic.

MOTOR VEHICLE - All vehicles constructed and designed for propulsion by power other than muscular power, including such vehicles when pulled or towed by another motor vehicle, except railroad and railway cars, vehicles operated by the system known as trolley motor or trackless trolley under Chapter 163 or § 10 of Ch. 544, Acts of 1947, vehicles running only upon rails or tracks, vehicles used for other purposes than the transportation of property and incapable of being driven at a speed exceeding 12 miles per hour and which are used exclusively for the building, repair and maintenance of highways or designed especially for use elsewhere than on the traveled part of ways, wheelchairs owned and operated by invalids and vehicles which are

operated or guided by a person on foot; provided, however, that the exception for trackless trolleys provided herein shall not apply to MGL c. 90, §§ 17, 21, 24, 24I, 25 and 26. The definition of "motor vehicles" shall not include motorized bicycles. In doubtful cases, the registrar may determine whether or not any particular vehicle is a motor vehicle as herein defined. If he determines that it should be so classified, he may require that it be registered under this chapter, but such determination shall not be admissible as evidence in any action at law arising out of the use or operation of such vehicle previous to such determination.

MOVE OVER LAW - Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle with flashing lights an operator shall:

- A. Proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions, and, if practicable and on a highway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in the same direction as the operator's vehicle, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or recovery vehicle; or
- B. If changing lanes is impracticable, proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle to that of a reasonable and safe speed for road conditions.

OFFICER - For the purpose of these rules and orders, "an officer" shall be construed to mean a Police Officer, Constable, Auxiliary or Special Officer, provided he has his badge of office conspicuously displayed upon his outer garment.

OFFICIAL CURB MARKING - That portion of a curbing, the painting of which has been authorized by the Board of Selectmen, and which has the written approval of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

OFFICIAL STREET MARKING - Any painted line, legend, marking or marker of any description painted or placed upon any way which purports to direct or regulate traffic and which has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in writing.

OFFICIAL TRAFFIC SIGNS - All signs, signals and devices, conforming to the standards as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, not inconsistent with these rules and orders, placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of directing or warning traffic.

PARKING - The stopping or standing of a motor vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily, except that a motor vehicle shall not be deemed parked when stopped or standing for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading or in obedience to an officer or traffic control signs or while arrangements are being made to move such motor vehicle. No motor vehicle shall park upon and/or obstruct any sidewalk which has more than any one part of wheel is on obstructing sidewalk or driveway.

PARKING CONTROL OFFICER - Enforces parking meter violations and other illegal parking violations in the downtown area, business area and municipal parking lots by appropriate ticketing of offenders using a handheld digital parking ticket device.

PARKING METER SPACE - Any space within a parking meter zone, adjacent to a parking meter which is duly designated for the parking of a single motor vehicle by lines painted on the surface of the street or off-street parking area adjacent to or adjoining each parking meter.

PARKING METER ZONE - Any street or off-street parking area or portion thereof upon which parking meters are installed and in operation and upon which parking of motor vehicles is permitted for a limited time subject to compliance with the further provisions of this regulation.

PARKING METER/KIOSK - Any mechanical or electrical device, not inconsistent with the provisions of these rules and orders, and placed or erected on any public way or off-street parking area within the Town of Natick for the regulation of parking. Each parking meter or kiosk installed shall indicate by proper legend the legal parking time established by this chapter and when operated/shall at all times indicate the balance of legal parking time permitted and at the expiration of such period shall indicate illegal or overtime parking.

PEDESTRIAN - Any person afoot or riding on conveyance moved by human power, or by motorized wheelchair, except bicycles.

PERSON - Any individual, firm, copartnership, association or corporation.

RAILROAD CROSSING - Any intersection of ways with a railroad right-of-way.

ROADWAY - That portion of a street or highway between the regularly established curblines or that part, exclusive of shoulders, improved and intended to be used for vehicular traffic.

SAFETY ZONE - Any area or space set aside within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and which has been indicated by signs, lines or markings, having the written approval of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS - School zone speed limits are a statutory speed limit, but may be marked with regulatory (black legend on white background) signage. Speed limits within a school zone must be set at 20 miles per hour, but the limit is only in effect during days of the week and hours of the day when children are accessing the school grounds. School must include one or more grades between Grade 1 and Grade 8, inclusive.

SIDEWALK - That portion of a street or highway set aside for pedestrian travel.

SPECIAL SPEED REGULATIONS - Shall only be established after an engineering study has been conducted in compliance with standard traffic engineering practices; a special speed regulation that has been signed by the roadway owner, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and the MassDOT Traffic and Safety Engineering Section, and the appropriate numerical speed limit signage erected to clearly define the special speed zones.

STREET or HIGHWAY - The entire width between property lines of every way open to the use of the public for purposes of travel.

TAXICAB STANDS - An area in the roadway in which certain taxicabs are required to park while waiting to be engaged.

TRAFFIC - Pedestrians, motor vehicles, or other conveyances either singly or together while using any street or highway for the purpose of travel.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AREA - Any area along a way, other than an intersecting way, at which drivers are to be controlled by traffic control signals, or others on duty in the performance of their duties.

TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL - Any device using colored lights which conforms to the standards as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, which traffic may be alternately directed to stop or proceed.

TRAFFIC ISLAND - Any area or space set aside, within a roadway, which is not intended for use by vehicular traffic.

U-TURN - The turning of a motor vehicle by means of a continuous left or right turn whereby the direction of such motor vehicle is reversed.

ARTICLE II **Authority and Duties of Police**

§ 480-2. Officers to Direct Traffic.

It shall be the duty of the officers designated by the Chief of Police to enforce the provisions of these rules and orders. Such officers are hereby authorized to direct all traffic either in person or by means of visible or audible signal in conformance with the provisions of these rules and orders, provided that in the event of a fire or other emergency to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians, officers of the Police or Fire Department may direct traffic, as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of these rules and orders.

§ 480-3. Police May Close Streets Temporarily.

The Chief of Police is hereby authorized to prohibit, temporarily, parking on any street or highway or part thereof in an impending or existing emergency or for a lawful assemblage, demonstration or procession, provided there is reasonable justification for such prohibition. Motor vehicles parked in places where parking is prohibited temporarily may be moved by or under the direction of an officer.

§ 480-4. Public Employees to Obey Traffic Regulations.

The provisions of these rules and orders shall apply to the operator of any motor vehicle owned by or used in the service of the United States Government, this State, County or Town, and it shall be unlawful for any said operator to violate any of the provisions of these rules/and orders, except as otherwise provided by law.

§ 480-5. Exemptions.

The provisions of these rules and orders shall not apply to drivers actually engaged in work upon a street or highway closed to travel or under construction or repair, to officers when engaged in the performance of public duties, nor to drivers of emergency motor vehicles while operating in an emergency and in performance of public duties when the nature of the work of any of these necessitates a departure from any part of these rules and orders. These exemptions shall not, however, protect the driver of any motor vehicle from the consequence of reckless disregard of the safety of others.

ARTICLE III **Traffic Signs, Markings and Zones**

§ 480-6. Traffic Signs and Signals.

The Director of Public Works is hereby authorized and as to those signs and signals required hereunder it shall be his duty, to place and maintain or cause to be placed and maintained all official traffic signs, signals, markings and safety zones. All signs, markings and safety zones shall conform to the standards as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and or Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

- A. Section 480-3 and Section 480-4 of Article II and §§ 480-14 through to 480-21B of Article III, inclusive, and § 480-22 of Article IV relating to parking, and §§ 480-35 and 480-46 of Article VI, shall be effective only during such times as a sufficient number of official signs are erected and maintained in each block designating the provisions of such sections and located so as to be easily visible to approaching drivers.
- B. Sections relating to one-way streets shall be effective only during such time as a sufficient number of official signs are erected and maintained at each of the exits for each one-way street, so that at least one sign will be clearly visible for a distance of at least 75 feet to drivers approaching such an exit.

§ 480-7. Unauthorized Signs, Signals, and Markings Prohibited.

No person or corporation shall place, maintain or display upon, or in view of any street any unofficial device, sign, signal, curb marking or street marking which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic device, sign, signal, curb marking or street marking or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic or which hides from view any official sign, signal, marking or device. The Chief of Police is hereby empowered to remove every such prohibited sign, signal marking or device or cause it to be removed without notice.

§ 480-8. Obedience to Traffic Signs, and Markings.

No driver of any motor vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any official traffic control signal, sign, marking, marker or legend unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

§ 480-9. Interference with Signs, Signals and Markings.

Any person who willfully defaces, injures, moves, or interferes with any official, traffic sign, signal, or marking, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$20 for each and every offense.

§ 480-10. Location of Bus Stops, Taxicabs Stand and Loading Zones.

The location of all bus stops, taxicab stands and zones shall be specified by the Board of Selectmen, and in the case of taxicab stands, the Board of Selectmen shall designate who may use them as such.

§ 480-11. Selectmen Authorized to Designate Crosswalks.

The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to establish and to designate and shall cause to be maintained official markings or lines upon the surface of the roadway, crosswalks at intersections where in its opinion there is particular danger to pedestrians crossing the roadway, and at such places as it may deem necessary.

§ 480-12. Handicap Signs.

All requests for installation of handicap signs or handicap parking spots must appear before Commission on Disability. The Commission on Disability will review on annual basis. All handicap signs and handicap parking spots must be ADA compliant and shall be prominently displayed, as well as, a painted symbol on the ground for each designated space.

**ARTICLE IV
Stopping, Standing, and Parking**

§ 480-13. General Prohibitions.

No person shall stand or park any motor vehicle in any street, way, highway, road or parkway under the control of the Town of Natick, and no person shall allow, permit, or suffer any motor vehicles registered in his name to stand or park in any street, way, highway, road or parkway under the control of the Town of Natick in violation of any of the Traffic Rules and Orders adopted by the Board of Selectmen, and in particular in any of the following places except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or traffic sign or signal. Motor vehicles found violating any of the provisions of this section may be moved by or under the direction of an officer, and at the expense of the owner, to a place where parking is allowed.

- A. Within an intersection, except in those areas where the installation of parking meter or kiosks has been approved by the Natick Board of Selectmen.
- B. Upon and/or obstructing any sidewalk which has more than any one part of wheel is or obstructing sidewalk or driveway in any way.
- C. Upon any crosswalk.
- D. Upon any bicycle lane.
- E. Upon any roadway where parking is permitted unless both wheels on the right side of the motor vehicle are within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, except upon those streets which are designated as one-way streets. On such one-way streets, motor vehicles shall be parked in the direction in which said motor vehicle is moving and with both wheels within 12 inches of the curb. This shall not apply to streets or parts of streets where angle parking is required by these rules and regulations.
- F. Upon the roadway in a rural or sparsely settled district.
- G. Upon any roadway where the parking of a motor vehicle will not leave clear an unobstructed lane at least 10 feet wide for passing traffic.
- H. Upon any street or highway within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- I. In front of any private road or driveway.
- J. Upon any street or highway within 20 feet of an intersecting way, except alleys.
- K. Within 15 feet of the wall of a fire station or directly across the street from such station, provided signs are erected acquainting the driver of such regulation or restriction.

- L. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic.

§ 480-14. Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets.

Refer to Schedule A.¹

Upon the following streets or highways or parts thereof, parking is hereby prohibited, except as may be otherwise permitted by this article.

§ 480-15. Prohibited at Safety Zones.

No person shall park a motor vehicle within 20 feet of either end of a safety zone which is located within 30 feet of the curb or edge of the roadway.

§ 480-16. Bus Stops.

- A. No person shall park a motor vehicle other than a bus in a bus stop.
- B. No person shall park a bus upon any street within the business district at any place other than a bus stop, when a nearby bus stop is available for use.

§ 480-17. Taxicab Stands.

- A. No person shall park a motor vehicle other than a taxicab licensed by the Board of Selectmen, in any authorized taxi stand upon any street.
- B. No person shall park a taxicab upon any street within the business district, at any place other than the taxicab stand or stands designated for the use of his taxicab or taxicabs except while actually engaged or while waiting for an opportunity to use a taxicab stand designated for his use.

§ 480-18. Loading Zones.

No person shall park a motor vehicle upon any street in any loading zone for a period of time longer than 30 minutes and unless actually engaged in loading or unloading.

§ 480-19. Parking Time Limited in Designated Places.

Refer to Schedule B.²

- A. No person shall park a motor vehicle longer than a period of two consecutive hours on the following described streets or parts thereof between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. This restriction shall not apply on Sundays or during hours of legal holidays during which business establishments are required by law to remain closed.
- B. No person shall park a motor vehicle longer than a period of two consecutive hours on the

1. Editor's Note: Schedule A is included as an attachment to this chapter.

2. Editor's Note: Schedule B is included as an attachment to this chapter.

following described streets or parts thereof during the hours indicated. This restriction shall not apply on Sundays or during hours of legal holidays during which business establishments are required by law to remain closed.

§ 480-20. Parking Meter/Kiosk Zones.

Refer to Schedule C.³

No person shall park a motor vehicle in a parking meter zone for a period longer than designated in Schedule C, between the hours 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., on any of the streets hereinafter designated in Schedule C, or as may hereafter be fixed by the Board of Selectmen, on any day. No person shall park a motor vehicle for a period of time longer than allowed by the kiosk zones as designated in Schedule C, between the hours 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This restriction shall not apply on Sundays or during hours of legal holidays during which business establishments are required by law to remain closed. In accordance with the foregoing, parking meter or kiosk zones are hereby established in the streets or parts of streets in Schedule C.

§ 480-21. Parking Meter and Kiosk Regulations.

Whenever any motor vehicle shall be parked adjacent to a parking meter or kiosk, the owner or operator of said motor vehicle shall park within the space designated by street marking lines and, upon entering such space, shall immediately deposit in said meter or kiosk the required coin of the United States for no more than the maximum legal parking period as indicated or shown on the meter, except any motor vehicle owned and bearing indicia of ownership by the Town of Natick or state government; those with "Council on Aging COA Permits" or handicap placards shall not be required to deposit any fee in a parking meter or kiosk as provided in this section.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit or cause to be deposited in a parking meter or kiosk any coin for the purpose of permitting the motor vehicle of which he is in charge to remain in a parking space beyond the maximum period of time allowed in a particular zone. For the purposes of Article IV, a motor vehicle shall be deemed to have parked beyond the maximum period of time allowed if the motor vehicle has not been moved to a different block upon the expiration of the parking time limit posted on the parking meter or kiosk.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle within a parking meter or kiosk space unless such motor vehicle is wholly within the painted lines adjacent to such meter or kiosk.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to tamper with, break, or injure or destroy any parking meter or kiosk or to deposit or cause to be deposited in such meter any slug, device, or metallic substance or any other substitute for the coins required.
- D. Operators of commercial motor vehicles may park in a metered space without depositing a coin for a period not to exceed 30 minutes for the purposes of loading or unloading. Parking in excess of this time limit without depositing the proper coin shall be deemed a

3. Editor's Note: Schedule C is included as an attachment to this chapter.

violation of the provisions of these rules and orders.

- E. The Chief of Police is hereby designated as the person authorized to collect monies deposited in parking meter or kiosks or to cause the same to be collected. Such monies shall be deposited forthwith with the Town Treasurer in a separate account to be known as the "Natick Parking Meter Account."
- F. All fees received by said Town Treasurer of the Town of Natick from the operation and use of parking meter or kiosks shall be used by the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Natick as authorized by Statute 1947, Chapter 442, of the General Laws.
- G. It shall be the duty of officers to enforce the provisions of this section.
- H. Any person who violates any parking provision of these rules and orders shall be subject to the penalties provided by Chapter 90, Section 20a, of the General Laws and any other violation shall be punished as may be provided by law.

§ 480-22. Angle Parking.

Refer to Schedule D.⁴

- A. The Board of Selectmen shall determine upon what angle parking shall be permitted and shall mark or sign such streets or cause to be marked or signed.
- B. Upon the following streets or parts thereof which have been marked or signed for angle parking. The motor vehicle shall be parked wholly within the painted lines approved.

§ 480-23. Parking Motor Vehicles for Sale Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park upon any street or highway any motor vehicle displayed for sale.

§ 480-24. No All-Night Parking.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any motor vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to park said motor vehicle on any street, public way, or municipal lots between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any day between October 1 and April 30.

ARTICLE V
One-Way Streets

§ 480-25. One-Way Streets Designated.

Refer to Schedule E.⁵

Upon the following streets or parts of streets, vehicular traffic shall move only in the direction indicated.

4. Editor's Note: Schedule D is included as an attachment to this chapter.

5. Editor's Note: Schedule E is included as an attachment to this chapter.

ARTICLE VI
Operation of Motor Vehicles

§ 480-26. Drive Within Marked Lanes.

When any roadway has been marked or divided into lanes, a driver of a motor vehicle shall drive so as to be entirely within a single lane and shall not move from the lane in which he is driving until he has first ascertained if such movement can be made with safety.

§ 480-27. Use Right Lane.

Upon all roadways, the driver of a motor vehicle shall drive in the lane nearest the right side of the roadway when said lane is available for travel except when overtaking another motor vehicle or when preparing for a left turn.

§ 480-28. Overtake Only When There is Space Ahead.

The driver of a motor vehicle shall not overtake and pass a motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless there is sufficient clear space ahead on the right side of the roadway to permit the overtaking to be completed without impeding the safe operation of any motor vehicle ahead.

§ 480-29. Driver to Give Way to Overtaking Motor Vehicle.

The driver of a motor vehicle, when about to be overtaken and passed by another motor vehicle approaching from the rear, shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking motor vehicle, on suitable and audible signal being given by the driver of the overtaking motor vehicle, and shall not increase the speed of his motor vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking motor vehicle.

§ 480-30. Obstructing Traffic.

- A. No person shall drive in such a manner as to obstruct unnecessarily the normal movement to traffic upon any street or highway. Officers are hereby authorized to require any driver who fails to comply with this section to drive to the right side of the roadway and wait until such traffic as has been delayed has passed.
- B. No driver shall enter an intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk and on the right half of the roadway to accommodate the motor vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of other motor vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.

§ 480-31. Following too Closely.

The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another motor vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the speed of such motor vehicle and to the traffic upon and conditions of the street or highway.

§ 480-32. Slow Motor Vehicles to Stay 200 Feet Apart.

Upon roadways less than 27 feet wide and upon which vehicular traffic is permitted to operate in both directions, the driver of any slow-moving motor vehicle, when traveling outside of a business or residential district, shall not follow another slow-moving motor vehicle within 200 feet, but this shall not be construed to prevent such slow-moving motor vehicle from overtaking and passing another slow-moving motor vehicle. This section shall not apply to funerals or other lawful processions.

§ 480-33. Care in Starting, Stopping, Turning and Backing.

- A. The driver of any motor vehicle, before starting, stopping, turning from a direct line or backing, shall first see that such movement can be made in safety, or if it interferes unduly with the normal movement of other traffic, said driver shall wait for a more favorable opportunity to make such movement.
- B. If the operation of another motor vehicle should be affected by a stopping or turning movement, the driver of such other motor vehicle shall be given a plainly visible signal, as required by the following sections.

§ 480-34. Stopping and Turning Signals.

- A. Any signal herein required shall be given sufficient time in advance of the movement indicated to give ample warning to any person who may be affected by said movement, and shall be given either by means of the hand or arm in the manner specified, or by suitable mechanical or electrical devices, except that when a motor vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent the hand and arm signal from being made or being visible both to the front and rear, the signal shall be given by a suitable device.
- B. Hand and arm signals, as required herein, shall be made as follows:
 - (1) An intention to stop shall be indicated by extending the arm horizontally to the left of and beyond the side of the motor vehicle.
 - (2) An intention to turn to the left shall be indicated by extending the arm horizontally to the left of and beyond the side of the motor vehicle, and by pointing to the left with the index finger.
 - (3) An intention to turn to the right shall be indicated by extending the arm horizontally to the left of and beyond the side of the motor vehicle, and by moving the hand in a circle.

§ 480-35. U-Turn Prohibited.

Refer to Schedule F.⁶

No operator shall back or turn a motor vehicle so as to proceed in the direction opposite to that in which said motor vehicle is traveling.

§ 480-36. Sound Horn When Necessary.

6. Editor's Note: Schedule F is included as an attachment to this chapter.

The driver of a motor vehicle shall give an audible warning with his horn or other suitable warning device whenever necessary to insure the safe operation.

§ 480-37. Emerging from Alley or Private Driveway.

The operator of a motor vehicle emerging from an alley, driveway or garage shall stop such motor vehicle immediately prior to driving on to a sidewalk or on to the sidewalk area extending across alleyway or driveway.

§ 480-38. Obedience to Traffic Control Signals.

Refer to Schedule G.⁷

Colors and arrow indications in traffic control signals shall have the commands ascribed to them in this section, and no other meanings, and every driver of a motor vehicle, railway car or other conveyance shall comply with them, except when otherwise directed by an officer or by a lawful regulating sign (other than a "Stop" sign), signal or device, or except as provided in Schedule G of these rules and orders. In no case shall a driver enter or proceed through an intersection without due regard to the safety of other persons within the intersection regardless of what the indications may be given by traffic control signals.

- A. Green. While the green lens is illuminated, driver facing the signal may proceed through the intersection, but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and motor vehicles lawfully within a crosswalk or the intersection at the time such signal was exhibited. Drivers of motor vehicles making a right or left turn shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing with the flow of traffic.
- B. Right, left and vertical green arrows.
 - (1) When a right green arrow is illuminated, drivers facing said signal may turn right.
 - (2) When a left green arrow is illuminated, drivers facing said signal may turn left.
 - (3) When a vertical green arrow is illuminated, drivers facing said signal may go straight ahead.
- C. Yellow. While the yellow lens is illuminated, waiting drivers shall not proceed and any driver approaching the intersection or a marked stop line shall stop at such point unless so close to the intersection that a stop cannot be made in safety; provided, however, that if a green arrow is illuminated at the same time, drivers may enter the intersection to make the movement permitted by such arrow.
- D. Red. While the red lens is illuminated, drivers facing the signal shall stop outside the intersection, or such a point as may be clearly marked by a sign or line; provided, however, that if a green arrow is illuminated at the same time, drivers may enter the intersection to make the movement permitted by such arrow.
- E. Red arrow. Right turn allowed unless prohibited by signage.

7. Editor's Note: Schedule G is included as an attachment to this chapter.

- F. Flashing red. When a red lens is illuminated in a traffic control signal by rapid intermittent flashes, and its use has been specifically authorized by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, drivers shall stop before entering the nearer line or crosswalk of the street intersection, or at a stop line, when marked, and the right to proceed shall then be governed by provisions of Chapter 89, Section 8, of the General Laws.
- G. Flashing yellow. A flashing yellow lens shall indicate the presence of a hazard and drivers may proceed only with caution.
- H. Flashing green. A flashing green lens shall indicate an intersection or pedestrian crosswalk in use or subject to use by entering or crossing traffic. Drivers may proceed only with caution and shall be prepared to comply with a change in the signal to red or yellow or red and yellow.

§ 480-39. Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs and Signals.

Refer to Schedule H.⁸

Except when directed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign or a flashing red signal indication shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic in the intersecting roadway before entering it. After having stopped, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.

§ 480-40. Keep to the Right of Roadway Division.

Upon such roadways as are divided by a parkway, grass plot, reservation viaduct, subway or by any structure or area, drivers shall keep to the right of such division except when otherwise directed by an officer, signs, signals, or markings.

§ 480-41. Driving on Road Surfaces Under Construction or Repair.

No operator shall enter upon the road surface of any street or highway section thereof, when, by reason of construction, surface treatment, maintenance or the like, or because of some unprotected hazard, such road surface is closed to travel, and one or more signs, lights, or signals have been erected to indicate that all or part of the road surface of the street or highway is not to be used, or when so advised by an officer, watchman, member of a street or highway crew or employee of the Town, either audibly or by signals.

§ 480-42. No Driving on Sidewalks.

The driver of a motor vehicle shall not drive upon any sidewalk except at a permanent or temporary driveway.

⁸. Editor's Note: Schedule H is included as an attachment to this chapter.

§ 480-43. No Driving Through Safety Zones.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of a motor vehicle, except on signal from a police officer, to drive the same over or through a safety zone.

§ 480-44. Funerals to Be Properly Identified.

A vehicle being operated in any funeral procession must have its headlights and taillights illuminated. The turn signals must be flashing simultaneously as warning lights on a vehicle that is the first vehicle in a funeral procession and on a vehicle which the operator has reason to believe is the last vehicle in the funeral procession.

§ 480-45. Rights and Duties of Drivers in Funerals or Other Processions.

- A. It shall be the duty of each driver in a funeral or other procession to keep as near the right edge of the roadway as it is feasible and to follow the motor vehicles ahead as closely as practicable and safe.
- B. At an intersection where a traffic control signal is operating, the driver of the first motor vehicle of a funeral procession shall be the only one required to stop for red, or red and yellow indication.
- C. At an intersection where a lawful stop sign or flashing red lens exists, the driver of the first motor vehicle in a funeral or other procession shall be the only one required to stop before proceeding through the intersection.

§ 480-46. Commercial Motor Vehicles Prohibited.

Refer to Schedule I.⁹

- A. No heavy commercial motor vehicles, except as hereinafter indicated, shall be operated at any time.
- B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:
 - (1) Heavy commercial motor vehicles going to or from premises situated on any street or portion thereof named or referred to in this section, from or to which vehicular access cannot be had by means of a public way, except by the use of said street or portions thereof;
 - (2) Heavy commercial motor vehicles belonging to the Town of Natick and operated by or in connection with departments thereof or such motor vehicles/belonging to or operated by public service or public utility corporations, in connection with work required to be done on such streets or portions thereof; Carby's Lumber, 155 Hartford Street, Framingham, MA, is excluded from this restriction.
 - (3) Police or Fire Department vehicles, ambulances or funeral processions;
 - (4) Motor vehicles engaged in collecting or distributing United States Mail;

9. Editor's Note: Schedule I is included as an attachment to this chapter.

- (5) Heavy commercial motor vehicles owned or operated by the federal government or an instrumentality thereof, or motor vehicles in interstate commerce, so far as the Town does not have legal right to regulate or control the operating of such motor vehicles to exclude them from the use of any street or portion thereof.

§ 480-47. Prohibited Turns on Red Signals.

Refer to Schedule J.¹⁰

No person shall make a right turn when facing a steady red signal as described in Schedule J.

§ 480-48. Left Turns Prohibited.

Refer to Schedule J.¹¹

No driver operating a motor vehicle shall make a left turn at intersections as described in Schedule J.

§ 480-49. Right Turns Prohibited.

Refer to Schedule J.¹²

No driver operating a motor vehicle shall make a right turn at intersections as described in Schedule J.

ARTICLE VII

Accident Reports, Responsibility, Penalties and Repeals

§ 480-50. Drivers Must Report Accidents.

- A. As per MGL c. 90, § 26, every person operating a motor vehicle which is involved in an accident in which any person is killed or injured or in which there is damage in excess of \$1,000 to any one vehicle or other property shall, within five days after such accident, report in writing to the registrar on a form approved by him and send a copy thereof to the police department having jurisdiction on the way where such accident occurred; provided, however, that such police department shall accept a report filed by an owner or operator whose vehicle has been damaged in an accident in which another person has unlawfully left the scene of such accident. Such report shall not be required during the period of incapacity of any person who is physically incapable of making a report. If the operator is not the owner of the vehicle and is physically incapable of making such written report, the owner shall within five days after the accident make such report based on such knowledge as he may have and such information as he can obtain regarding the accident.
- B. The registrar may require any such operator or owner to file a supplementary written report whenever in the opinion of the registrar the original report is insufficient. The registrar may

10. Editor's Note: Schedule J is included as an attachment to this chapter.

11. Editor's Note: Schedule J is included as an attachment to this chapter.

12. Editor's Note: Schedule J is included as an attachment to this chapter.

revoke or suspend the license of any person violating any provision of this section.

§ 480-51. Violations and Penalties.

Refer to Schedule K.¹³

- A. Any person convicted of a violation of any rule, regulation or order made hereunder, excepted or otherwise provided shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$20 for each offense.
- B. Pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 90, Section 20c, of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.), any person violating any rule, regulation or order made herein regulating the parking of motor vehicles shall be punished by a fine for each offense as hereinafter set forth in Schedule K.

§ 480-52. Effect of Regulations.

These rules are adopted with the intent that each of them shall have force and effect separately and independently of every other except insofar as by express reference or necessary implication of any rule or any part of a rule is made dependent upon another rule or part thereof.

13. Editor's Note: Schedule K is included as an attachment to this chapter.