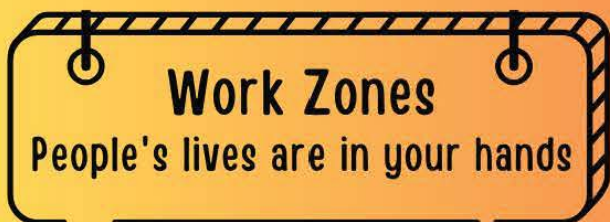


Community Corner



Slow Down.

Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes. Everyone in the work zone is part of a family. It could be yours!

Pay attention to the signs.

The warning signs are there to help you move safely through the work zone. The black and orange signs let you know there is work being done.



Don't Drive Distracted.



100% of your attention should be on the road and its surroundings. Checking your phone could be a matter of life or death.

Obey the Flaggers.

The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely through the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign or a police officer, so you can be cited for disobeying their directions.



Be Patient & Stay Calm.

Work zones aren't there to inconvenience you. The work zone crew members are working to improve the road & make your future drive better.



Community Corner

Children at Play Sign

What is the "Children at Play" Sign?

The "Children at Play" sign is a sign municipalities may put up to indicate children are in the area and drivers should be alert.



Why wont my municipality put one up?

Children at Play signs were originally intended for use in rural areas. Excessive use of this sign causes drivers to develop an insensitivity to the sign's intended goal.



Why can't every road have a "Children at Play" sign?

Use of the **CHILDREN AT PLAY** sign should be limited to locations where, because of unusual conditions, motorists might not expect children to be playing in the vicinity of the roadway. The **CHILDREN AT PLAY** sign should not be used on roads or streets where obvious residential development alerts drivers to the possibility of children at play.

What should I do?



Instead of a sign, try placing a lightweight piece of play equipment by the road while children are outside playing. Do not place something that could cause damage if it is hit by a passing car! Be sure to remove it once the kids are done playing. If left out 24/7 the warning "sign" becomes less effective.

Children at Play signs should only be used when there is a need to do so. They should **NOT** be used for political reasons, or to appease vocal residents.

WHYS OF SNOWPLOWS



1. Why do snowplows drive so slow?

Snowplows typically drive at 35mph, this is to ensure the salt is being distributed evenly throughout the lanes.

2. What is a Travel Advisory?

It's a caution to drivers to avoid travel whenever possible when winter weather makes driving difficult.



3. Why does the plow always bury my driveway?

When digging out your driveway, pile the snow on the right side, as the plow pushes snow from the left

4. Why is my road always plowed last?

Your local highway and DPW departments must plow the highest priority roads first. These roads are the most traveled, including roads that contain hospitals, schools, and evacuation routes.



Department of
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Community Corner

What you need to know

Mailbox Placement

Height of mailbox placement

Your mailbox should be 41 inches to 45 inches from the road surface.



Why: The snow plow wing is 40 inches, having a mailbox at 42 inches is a risky minimum, and does not consider build-up of snow, ice or gravel

How far off the road should a mailbox be placed?

Your mailbox should be placed 6 inches to 8 inches back from the curb or shoulder.



Why: Snowplows have a 15-foot wide pass. NYS Traffic Law prohibits the snowplow from crossing the centerline. Hence anything 15 feet from the centerline will get hit.

Mailbox installation.

A 4" x 4" wood support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, buried no more than 24" deep.



Why: This is recommended by the Federal Highway Administration.

Why all these standards?



Safety! The best mailbox supports must be stable but bend or fall away if hit.



NYSLTAP -
CLRP website



How to install a
mailbox USPS

Community Corner

WHAT IS THE RIGHT OF WAY ON MY ROAD OR STREET?

The right-of-way (ROW) is the space including the road or street and land on either side of a road that is typically used for storm drainage & a safe recovery area for vehicles that leave the road surface.



HOW BIG IS THE ROW?

- If there is a deed or other paperwork filed with the County or Town Clerk, that is the right-of-way (ROW), otherwise...
- The ROW is the area that the highway department maintains on roads & streets used by the public (and has been maintained for at least ten years)

WHY IS THE ROW ON MY PROPERTY?

The NYS Legislature established roads by use & streets by prescription to account for existing public highways in towns and villages in 1797. While you may own to the centerline, the law was written to ensure all of the public has rights to travel on public roads.



WHO OWNS THE ROW?

The landowner still owns the land on these user roads. The highway or street department just has a right (and duty) to maintain the road or street in a safe and efficient manner. The landowner still maintains some rights (such as getting the wood from any trees removed for safety reasons).

References:

Highway Law §189

Village Law § 6-626

Powers & Duties Manual (from NYSLTAP)



Department of
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Property Owner & Highway
Department Maintains



The ROW

Property Owner
Maintains



Community Corner

Sharing the road with farm and construction vehicles

WHAT DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW

- This equipment is heavy, making it hard to accelerate, slow down, & stop.
- They often cross the centerline when making a turn.
- They have large blind spots.



SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS

- Watch for debris and slow down if there is anything in the road.
- Don't assume the operator can see you
- Wait until it is safe to pass.
- Wear a seatbelt and drive with your headlights on.
- When approaching farm or construction equipment leave ample room between the vehicles.



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- Make your equipment more visible by using flashers or lights.
- Avoid signaling for motorists to pass, pull over when it is safe and let them pass.
- Plan your route, try to avoid narrow streets where you could potentially damage signs, lighting, and other roadway structures.
- If moving equipment at night, consider using an escort vehicle.



Department of Transportation

Local Technical Assistance Program



Cornell Local Roads Program

New York State LTAP Center

Information sourced by:
Schmierbach, E;
The Free Press Mankato,
Minn, Oct. 1, 2022

WINTER WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

BEFORE DRIVING

- Check tires, antifreeze, windshield wiper blades, fluids, and batteries
- **COMPLETELY** clean off your vehicle of snow & ice



WHILE DRIVING

- Drive according to the conditions, and stay well below the posted speed limit
- Expect the unexpected, leave plenty of room between yourself & other vehicles



WHAT TO DO IF YOU START SKIDDING

- **Gently** steer into the skid to regain control of the vehicle
- Use safe breaking techniques to avoid skidding



KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT ON YOU

The kit should include:



- Jumper cables
- Blankets
- Tools
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothes
- Flashlight
- Flares



NYS LTAP Center -
Cornell Local Roads
Program website



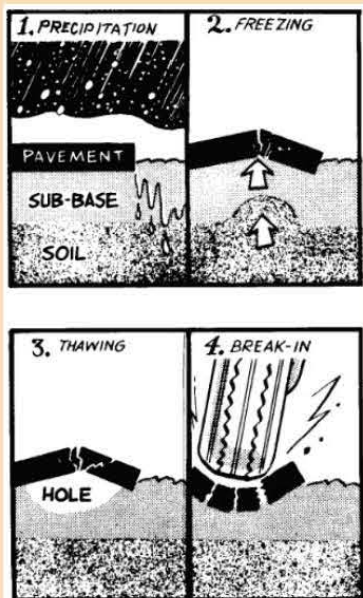
Information sourced
from Washington
County's Safety PINS

Community Corner

POTHOLES

HOW ARE POTHOLES FORMED?

- Potholes develop when two factors are present at the same time - **water & traffic**; hence potholes commonly occur in the wheel path.



Special Report 81-21 Pothole primer
By: R.A Eaton, RH Joubert and E.A Wright 9/1981

POTHOLES IN THE ROAD, WHAT TO DO?

- Try to avoid the pothole, but avoid sharp turns of the steering wheel
- Slow down & drive carefully
- Traveling at full speed, slamming on the breaks, or sudden swerves can cause a crash

HOW ARE THEY FIXED?

- The size of the pothole will determine the fix. A common successful technique for smaller potholes is known as **Throw & Roll**. Your municipality will place a modern asphalt and polymer-based patching mix in the hole. Then they will compact it with a truck tire. Slow down and give the workers room.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROAD

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



STATE ROADS

State roads are identified by a white shield with black letters. NYSDOT is responsible for these roads.

COUNTY ROADS

Blue shield with yellow lettering. The County is responsible for these roads



E Main St

LOCAL ROADS

If there is no state or county shield, look for a street name sign. It may say county or state highway with a number. If so, contact the state or county. If not, start with the local jurisdiction. Even if they do not have maintenance responsibility, they can help you figure out who does.

If in a city or village, contact the DPW. Otherwise, start with the town highway department.



Department of Transportation

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Community Corner

Not so fast!

Why can't the local highway department change the speed of the road?

Speed limits are set for very specific reasons and before making a change, residents and municipalities must conduct a speed study to prove a reason for change. Setting speed limits too low actually can decrease safety as drivers tend to violate speeds that are not properly set.

Who sets the speed of the road?

Most speed limits on Town and County roads are controlled by the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

NYS Vehicle & Traffic law gives the authority to set speed limits to:

- Villages & cities
- Counties and Towns within towns whose population is over 50,000 or is designated by law as "suburban."

Note that all changes in speed limit must be done **AFTER** a study by a licensed professional engineer.

How can the community ask for a speed study?

For roads where the speed limit is set by NYSDOT:

- Create a petition to the town board requesting they look at improvements to traffic safety. Don't just ask for a lower speed limit.
- The board will review the request and if there appears to be a need, they will ask the County Highway Superintendent to endorse the request.
- The request will be forwarded to NYSDOT who will conduct a speed study.

For roads and streets where the municipality can set the speed limit, the study will be conducted by an engineer working for or hired by the municipality. A proper speed study will look at safety issues as well.

Turn over for more information



Department of Transportation

Local Technical Assistance Program



Not so fast - Speed Limit Study

A speed study involves:

- **Bringing key community members together**; such as residents, highway officials, police, and school district reps to discuss the issue
- **Conducting a site visit & gathering data**; including traffic speeds and counts plus crash info
- **Meeting to discuss the findings**; share concerns and brainstorm solutions
- **Creating a plan**; such as community education, enforcement, structural changes, or speed limit changes
- **Keeping an open mind**; if the first solution doesn't work be flexible, this is a process that takes time & patience. Lowering the speed is just one possible outcome

Some possible outcomes:

- Changing the speed limit to match both driver expectations and the surrounding community
 - Note the lowest speed limit outside a school zone is 25 mph
- Suggesting other measures such as traffic calming, more enforcement, or an overall local roads safety plan may be a better fit than changing the speed limit.

How long does a speed study take?

- NYSDOT will need to collect data and visit the site to review conditions. Depending on the time of year, this can take several months. This is not a quick fix, please be patient.

