

## **Operating Rules on Shoulder**

1. Driving on the shoulder is only allowed in areas where signs are placed in the field. Drivers may use the shoulder shortly before the BEGIN sign if it would be advantageous to merge from an auxiliary lane. Drivers should start merging back into traffic in the area of the END sign. Warning arrow signs are placed at locations where the shoulder is less than 10 feet and merging back into traffic is required.
2. Bus-only shoulders are continuous through right-turn lanes, intersections and entrance and exit ramps. However, bus drivers are required by law to use caution and yield to other vehicles in these areas. Bus drivers must yield to any vehicle merging or exiting at an interchange ramp or intersection.
3. Whenever shoulders are used, bus drivers must exercise their best judgement in considering the safety of other motorists, as well as that of bus passengers. During the winter months, shoulders may be blocked temporarily by snow, especially on bridges and in areas adjacent to guardrail. In such cases where the bus will not fit on the shoulder, that shoulder should not be used. Buses should not use the bus only shoulder to pass a snow plow.
4. Always yield to cars entering the bus-only shoulder. Bus drivers are in the best position to avoid an accident.
5. If the shoulder is obstructed in any way, the bus driver must merge back into regular traffic to avoid the obstruction.
6. When driving on the shoulder, bus drivers shall turn on your four-way flashers so that other motorists will see you more easily. The bus driver shall use their horn to alert motorists if necessary.
7. The maximum speed of buses driving on the shoulder is 35 mph. While using the designated shoulders, the bus shall not exceed the speed of regular traffic by more than 15 mph. Bus speed on shoulders, and especially on bridge decks, should be reduced if water, snow or ice is present.
8. Buses may use the shoulder while “dead-heading” or when returning with an empty bus to the beginning of a new route.

### **Penalties for Violating the Rules**

Law Enforcement may give bus drivers a ticket for careless or reckless driving if they are observed violating these operating rules or driving on a non-designated shoulder. The law that governs bus only shoulder use is as follows:

Sec. 10. [169.306] [USE OF SHOULDERS BY BUSES.] If the commissioner of transportation permits the use by transit buses of a shoulder of a freeway or expressway, as defined in section 160.02, in the seven-county metropolitan area,

the commissioner shall permit the use on that shoulder of a bus with a seating capacity of 40 passengers or more operated by a motor carrier of passengers, as defined in section 221.011, subdivision 48, while operating in intrastate commerce. Buses authorized to use the shoulder under this section may be operated on the shoulder only when main line traffic speeds are less than 35 miles per hour. Drivers of buses being operated on the shoulder, may not exceed the speed of main line traffic by more than 15 miles per hour and may never exceed 35 miles per hour. Drivers of buses being operated on the shoulder must yield to merging, entering, and exiting traffic and must yield to other vehicles on the shoulder. Buses operated on the shoulder must be registered with the Department of Transportation.