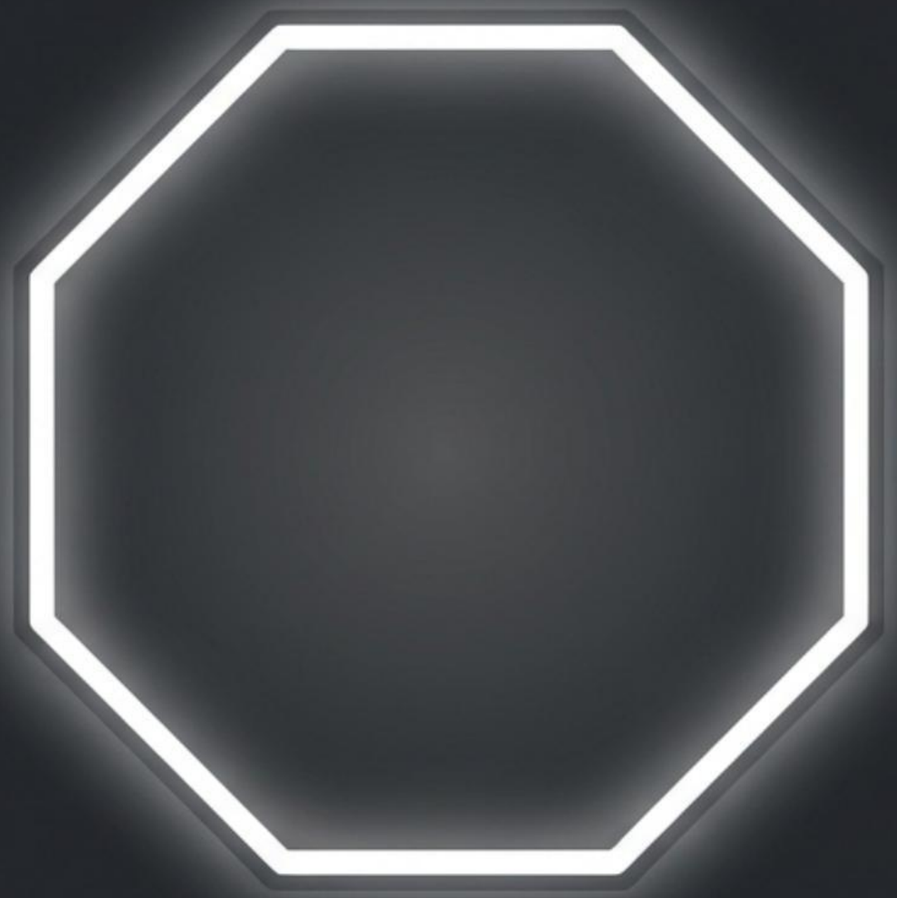
CRACKING THE NY DMV TEST: Signs, Signals & Markings



THE STAKES:
The NY permit test has 20 questions. You need 14 to pass. BUT you must get at least 2 of the 4 road-sign questions right. Miss them, and you fail the whole test.

THE STRATEGY:
Don't memorize hundreds of individual signs. Signs are built from a simple code of colors and shapes.

Learn the code, and you can read any sign at a glance.

The Color Code: What the sign is telling you



Red: Don't. Stop, yield, or prohibition.



Yellow: Caution. Warning of hazards ahead.



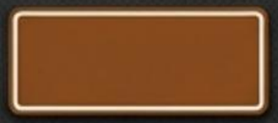
Green: Guidance and direction.



Blue: Services (help, gas, food).



Orange: Work zones and construction (workers ahead).



Brown: Recreation and points of interest.



White: Regulation (a law you must follow).

MEMORY AID: Red stops you. Yellow warns you.
Green guides you. Blue serves you. Orange means workers.

The Shape Code: The job of the sign

High-Alert Shapes



STOP.
(The only sign to use this shape—recognizable even in fog or snow).



YIELD.



WARNING.
(Hazards like curves or merges)

Informational/Specific Shapes



REGULATION / GUIDE.
(Speed limits, lane rules).



SCHOOL ZONE.



NO-PASSING ZONE.



RAILROAD ADVANCE WARNING.
(Yellow with a black X and R's).



RAILROAD CROSSING
(Placed right at the crossing, treat like a yield).

Regulatory Signs: The Law on a Stick (Red & White)

Ignoring these puts points on your record.



Stop Sign: Come to a complete stop—wheels fully still—before the line or crosswalk.

Yield Sign: Give right-of-way to traffic/pedestrians already there.

Do Not Enter: You're going the wrong way. Stop and turn around.

Slow-Moving Vehicle: On farm equipment. Slow down—you're catching up fast.

U-Turn Traps: U-turns are illegal if visibility is under 500 feet, in NYC business districts, on limited-access expressways, and in school zones.

TRAP ALERT: The Parking Matrix

New York separates these carefully, and the test loves the difference.

	Load/Unload Goods	Load/Unload Passengers	Driver Leaves Car
NO PARKING	✓	✓	✗
NO STANDING	✗	✓	✗
NO STOPPING	✗	✗	✗

(Unless ordered by officer/signal)

Warning Signs: Hazards Ahead (Yellow Diamonds)

They don’t give orders; they give you a heads-up to adjust early.



Curve: Slow down before the curve, not in it.



Slippery When Wet: Surface gets slick in rain. Avoid sudden moves.



Lane Ends: Merge early when safe; don’t race to the very end.

Two-Way Traffic: You are leaving a divided road.





Hill/Grade: Shift to a lower gear; go easy on brakes to prevent overheating.

TRAP ALERT: The Orange Rule

Work zone signs break the yellow rule. They are orange diamonds.

THE RULE:

Merge early and maintain a braking distance of two seconds or more.



THE TRAP:

Work-zone speeding fines are **DOUBLED**—even when no workers are present.

Signals & The Ultimate Authority



Flashing Red: Treat exactly like a Stop Sign (full stop).

Green Arrow + Red Light: Go only in arrow direction.

Steady Yellow: Light is turning red. Prepare to stop; don't speed up to beat it.

Flashing Yellow: Slow down, proceed with caution.

Dark Signal TRAP: If power is out, treat it as a Stop Sign. Stop, yield, proceed when safe.



THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY:
A traffic officer outranks everything (lights, signs, markings). If they wave you through a red light, **you go.**

TRAP ALERT: New York State vs. New York City

The test will trick you with location-specific defaults.



Default Speed Limit (if unposted): **55 mph**

Right-on-Red: Allowed (after full stop & yield, unless sign prohibits).

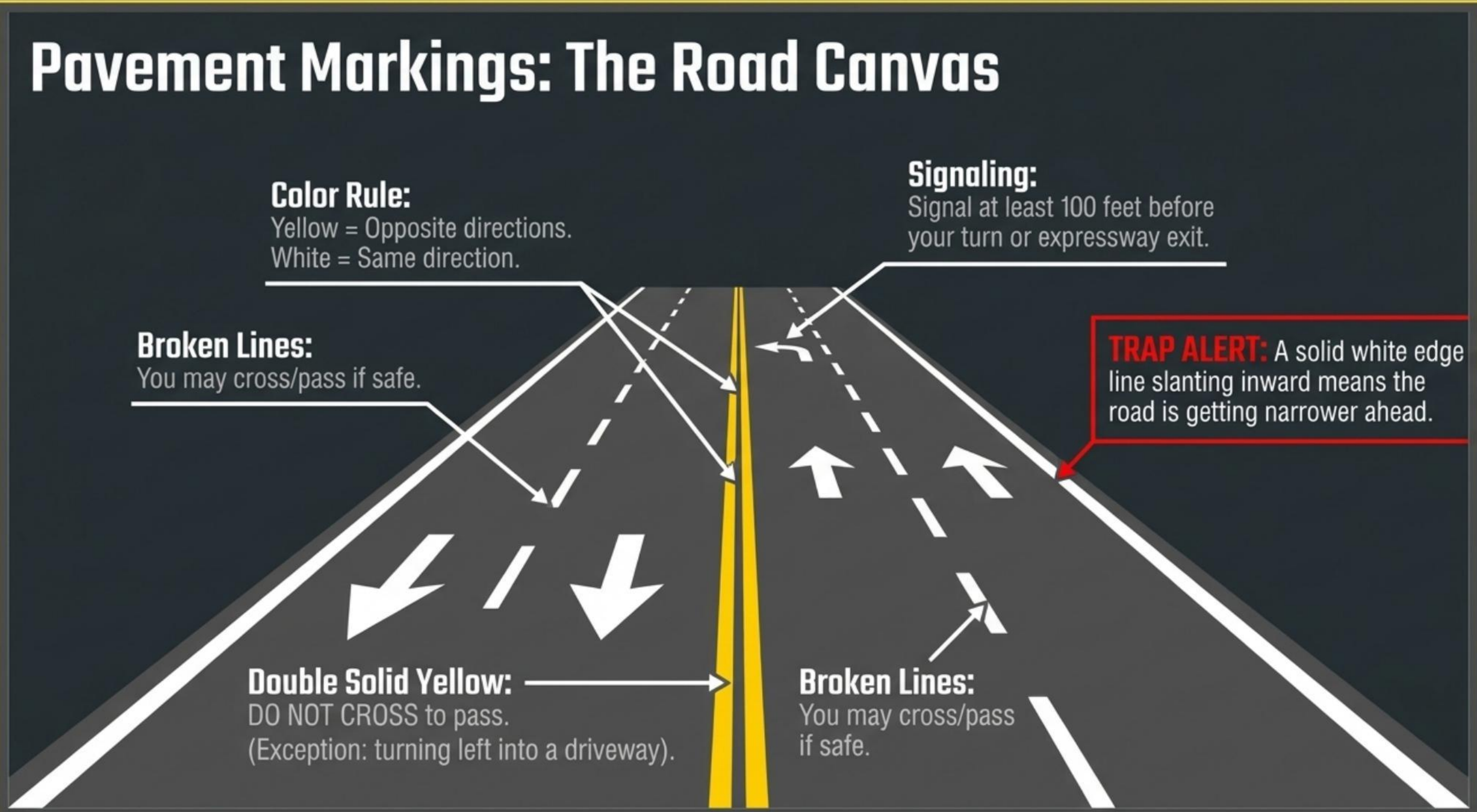


Default Speed Limit (if unposted): **25 mph**

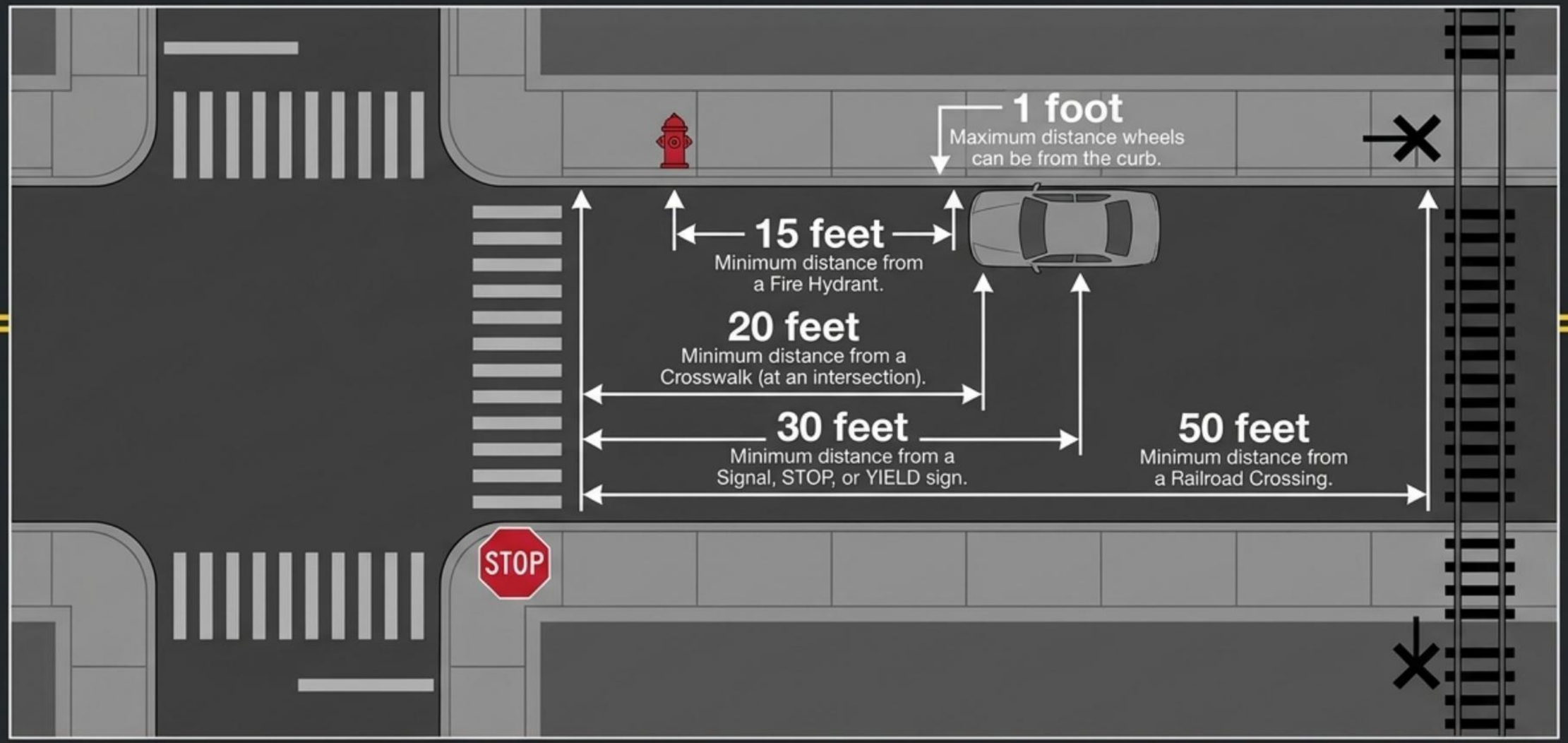
Right-on-Red: ILLEGAL (unless a sign specifically permits it).

UNIVERSAL RED TRAPS: Never turn on **a red arrow.**
A school bus carrying students can never turn right on red.

Pavement Markings: The Road Canvas



New York Numbers: The Distance Map



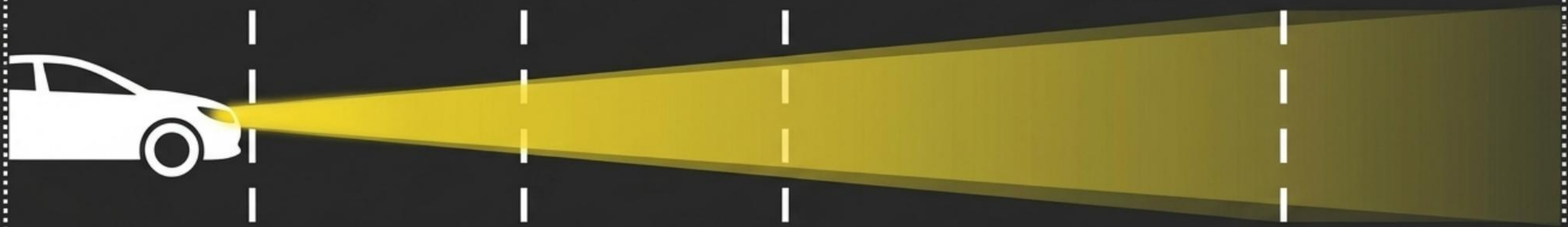
(Note: Keep 20 feet from a fire-station driveway, or 75 feet on the opposite side).

New York Numbers: Visibility

When MUST headlights be ON?

- ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.
- When visibility is less than 1,000 feet.

- **TRAP:** Whenever your wipers are in use (rain, snow, sleet). Daytime running lights do not count.



When MUST you dim high beams?

- Within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.
- Within 200 feet behind a vehicle ahead.

High-Stakes Stops: Railroads & School Buses



Railroad Crossings: Stop at least 15 feet from tracks when signals are active. Never go around lowered gates.

Emergency Trap: If stalled, get everyone out, call the blue ENS sign number, and run toward the approaching train at a **45-degree angle**.



School Buses:
- **Flashing Yellow:** Bus is about to stop.
- **Flashing Red:** Stop at least 20 feet away.

- **The Trap:** You must stop from either direction, **even across a divided highway**, until the bus moves or the driver/officer signals you to go.

Prove It: 3-Question Test Simulation

1. The traffic light at your intersection is completely dark after a power failure. What does New York law say to do?

2. You’re at a steady red light in New York City and want to turn right. No sign is posted, and the road is empty. May you turn?

3. It's lightly raining mid-afternoon and your wipers are on. Do New York rules require your headlights?

Answers & Master Number Log

Test Simulation Answers

1. Treat it as a stop sign (stop completely, yield, proceed when safe).
2. **NO**. In NYC, right-on-red is illegal unless a sign permits it.
3. **YES.** Headlights are required whenever wipers are in use (and daytime running lights do not count).

Master Data Log

Pass Criteria: 14/20 total, 2/4 sign questions	
Speed Limits: 55 mph default NY / 25 mph default NYC	
Turn Signal: At least 100 ft before turn	
Headlights On:	1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hr before sunrise (or < 1,000 ft visibility)
Dim High Beams: 500 ft (oncoming) / 200 ft (behind)	
Park from Curb: 1 foot max	
Park from Hydrant / Crosswalk: 15 ft / 20 ft	
Park from Signal/Sign / RR Crossing: 30 ft / 50 ft	

Driving License Test

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