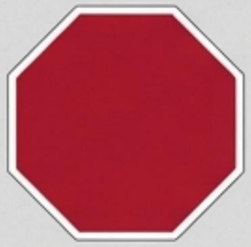
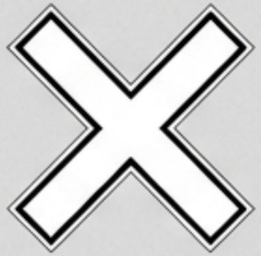


The Tennessee Driver’s Field Guide

Signs, Signals, and the Rules of the Road.

A visual study guide built from the official manual.

The 6 Shapes

Stop	Yield	Railroad Ahead	Railroad Here	Warning	Regulatory / Info
					

The 9 Colors

- Stop / Yield / Wrong Way
- Warning
- Construction Orange
- Regulatory
- Recreation
- Guidance
- Regulatory / Routes
- Services
- School Zones



The Tennessee Exception: No 5-sided Pentagon in the TN manual. School signage uses Fluorescent Yellow-Green warning signs.

Mnemonic Anchor: Eight sides stop, three sides yield, round and X are railroads, diamonds warn, rectangles regulate.

Regulatory Signs (The Law)







- Dictates lane use and absolute limits.
- Prohibitory symbols: White background + Red circle/slash = NO.
- Never enter a one-way street from the wrong direction.

Work Areas (Temporary Hazards)





- Flashing arrow panels mean a lane is closing—merge early.
- Obey flaggers at all times.



Used on tractors & machinery.

Mnemonic Anchor: Orange always means people are working.

Warning Signs: The Curve vs. Turn Diagnostic

Side-by-side core comparison

The Turn Sign



- Prepares you for a sharp turn.
- Advisory speed: ≤ 30 m.p.h.

The Curve Sign



- Prepares you for a gradual curve.
- Advisory speed: 30–55 m.p.h.



Reverse Turn: Two turns in opposite directions less than 600 feet apart.

Core Concept: Warning signs call for caution; the advisory plate tells you exactly how much to slow down.

Guide, Service, and Route Signs



Guide



Directional info, exits, and bike routes.

Service



Gas, food, motels. Handicap spaces are strictly prohibited without a legal placard.

Recreation



Cultural and recreational points of interest.



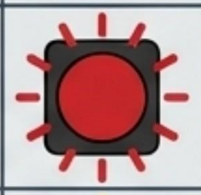
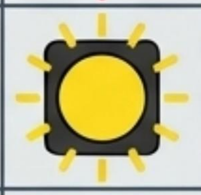
The "EXIT ONLY" Rule: If your lane is directly below this panel, you must exit.



Emergency Reference Markers: Mounted every 1,000 feet on urban interstates showing route, direction, and log mile.

Traffic Signals Demystified

Flashing Light Matrix

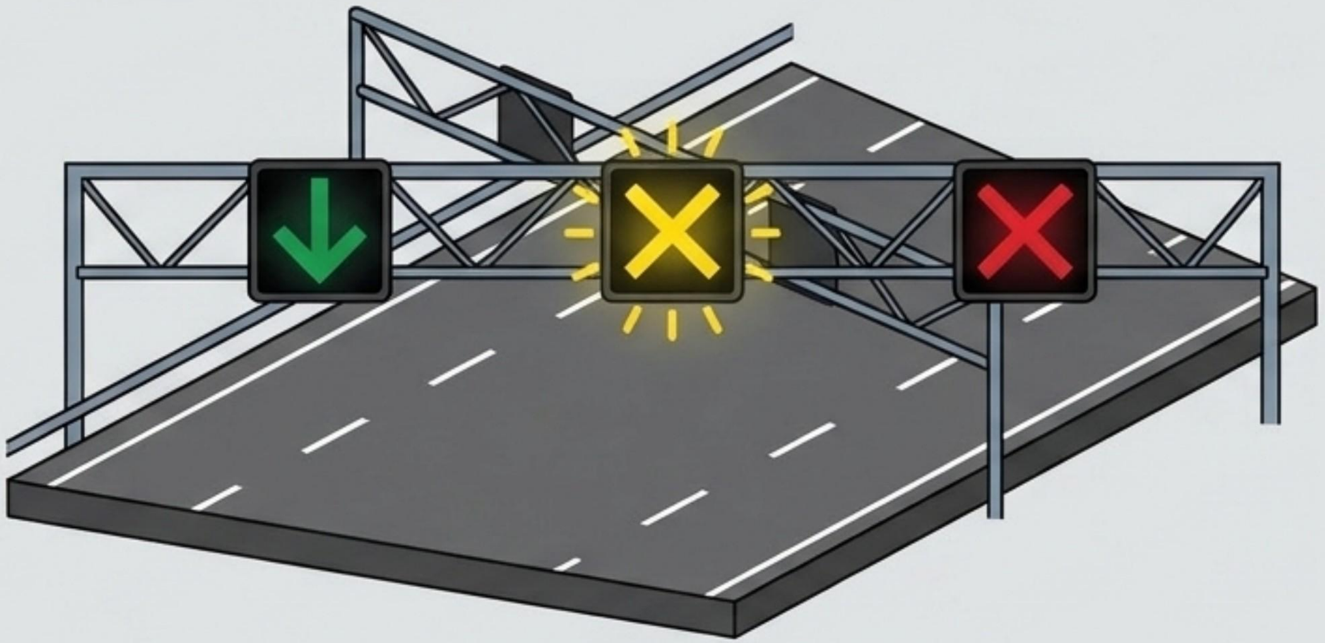
	Solid	Arrow	Flashing
Red	 Complete stop.	 Prohibits all turns.	 Treat as a Stop Sign.
Yellow	 Caution. Minimum 3-second duration before red.	 Prepare to yield.	 Slow down and proceed with caution. (Flashing Arrow = yield then turn).
Green	 Go if clear.	 Protected turn.	(N/A)



The Ultimate Fallback: A dead signal is legally treated as an all-way stop.

Note: **Left Turn on Red** is permitted ONLY from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

Lane Control & Pedestrian Signals



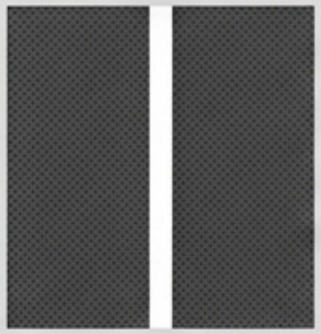
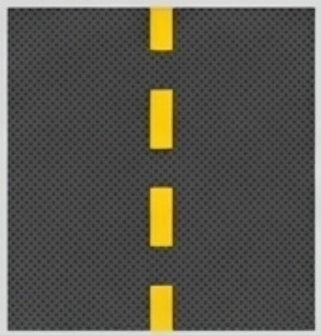
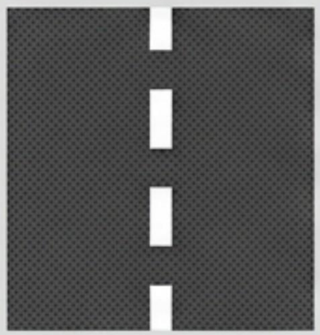
Driving permitted in this lane.	The lane is currently changing direction.	Driving is absolutely prohibited in this lane.

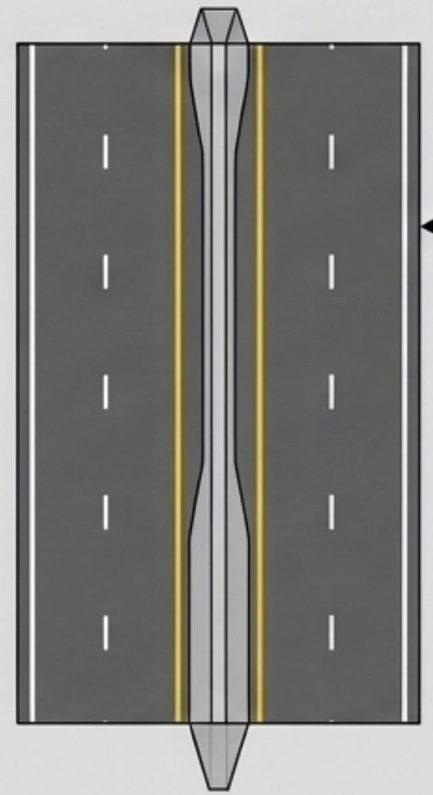


Pedestrian Signals:

‘WALK”: Safe to cross.
‘DON’T WALK’: Do not start.
Critical Rule: If the signal begins flashing mid-crossing, continue to the other side. Do not turn back.

Pavement Markings: The Decoding Matrix

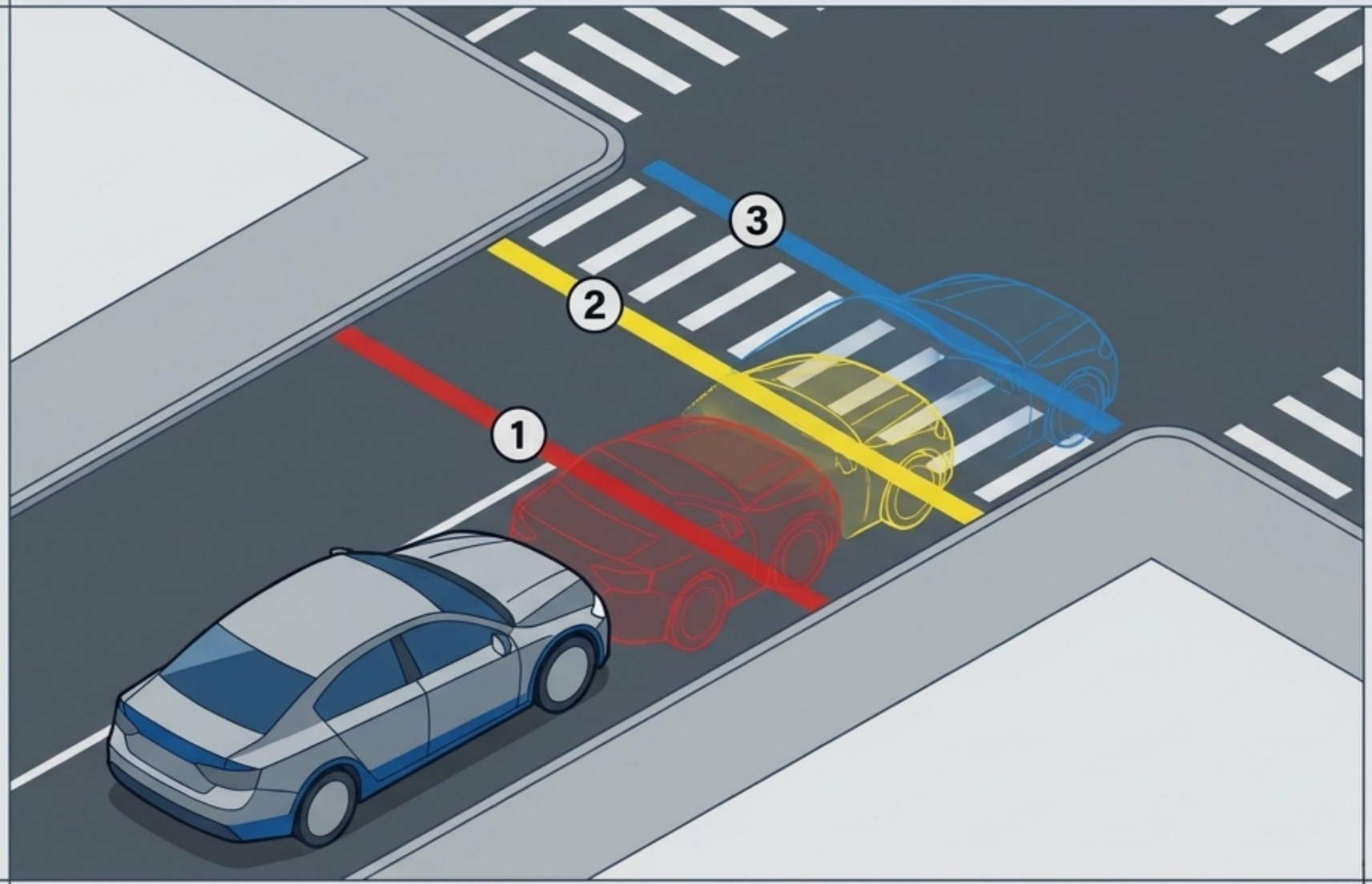
	Yellow Line	White Line
Solid Line	 Opposite directions. No cross / No passing.	 Same direction. Stay in lane.
Broken Line	 Opposite directions. Passing permitted if safe.	 Same direction. Lane changes permitted.



Edge Lines: Solid yellow marks the left edge; solid white marks the right edge.

Mnemonic Anchor: Yellow on your right means wrong way tonight.

The Intersection Hierarchy: Where to Stop



The Fallback Order

1. (A) Stop Line

If a solid white line is painted across the lane, stop directly behind it.

2. (B) Crosswalk

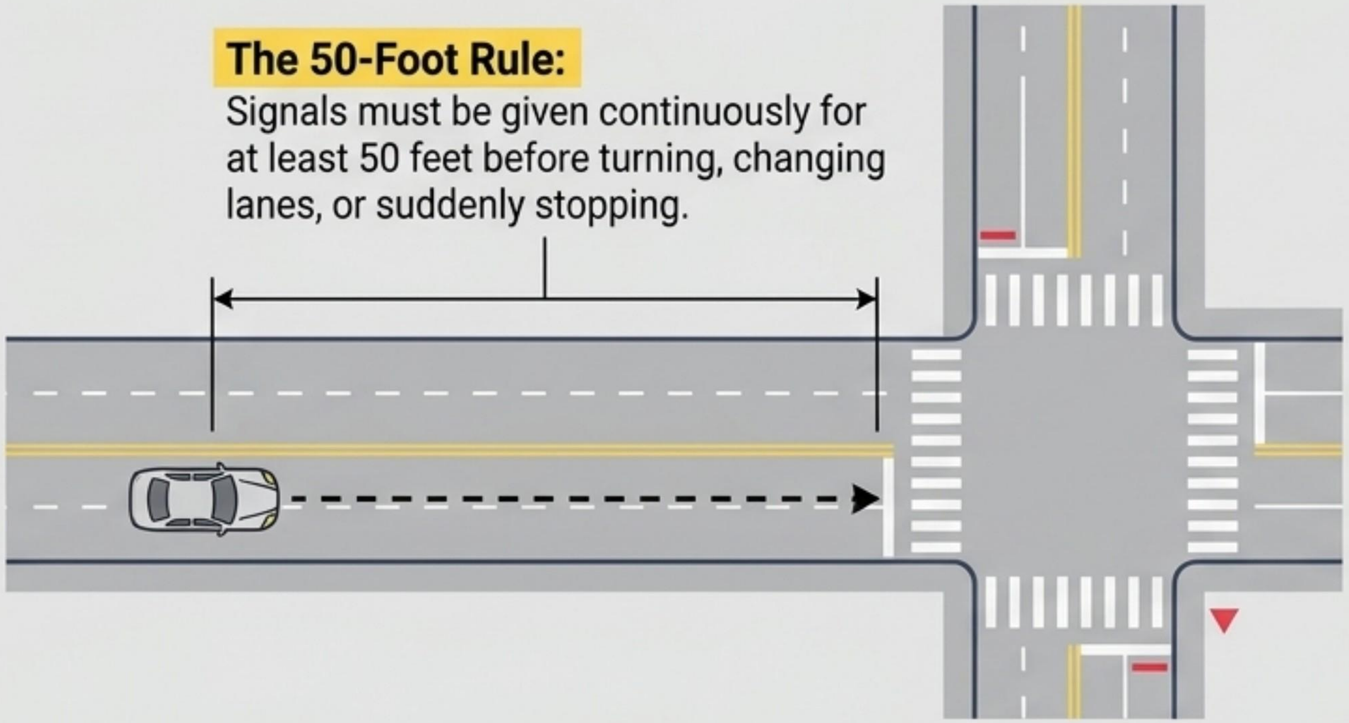
If there is no stop line, stop before the first line of the marked crosswalk.

3. (C) Edge Line

If there is neither, stop before your front bumper crosses the white edge line of the cross street. Do not protrude into cross traffic.

Turning & Communicating

The 50-Foot Rule:
Signals must be given continuously for at least 50 feet before turning, changing lanes, or suddenly stopping.



Turning Protocol: Turn from the closest lane in your direction to the closest legal lane in the new direction. Keep wheels straight while waiting to turn left.

Hand Signal Logic



Left Turn
(Left is level)



Right Turn
(Right is raised)



Slowing/Stopping
(Down means decelerate)

The Railroad Checkpoint

1,500 ft

Train sounds its horn.

Advance Warning.

The Checkpoint:
Marks the exact location of the tracks.

The Stop Zone:
Stop between 15 and 50 feet from the tracks. Never stop on the tracks. Rolling stops are illegal.

50 feet

Who Must Always Stop



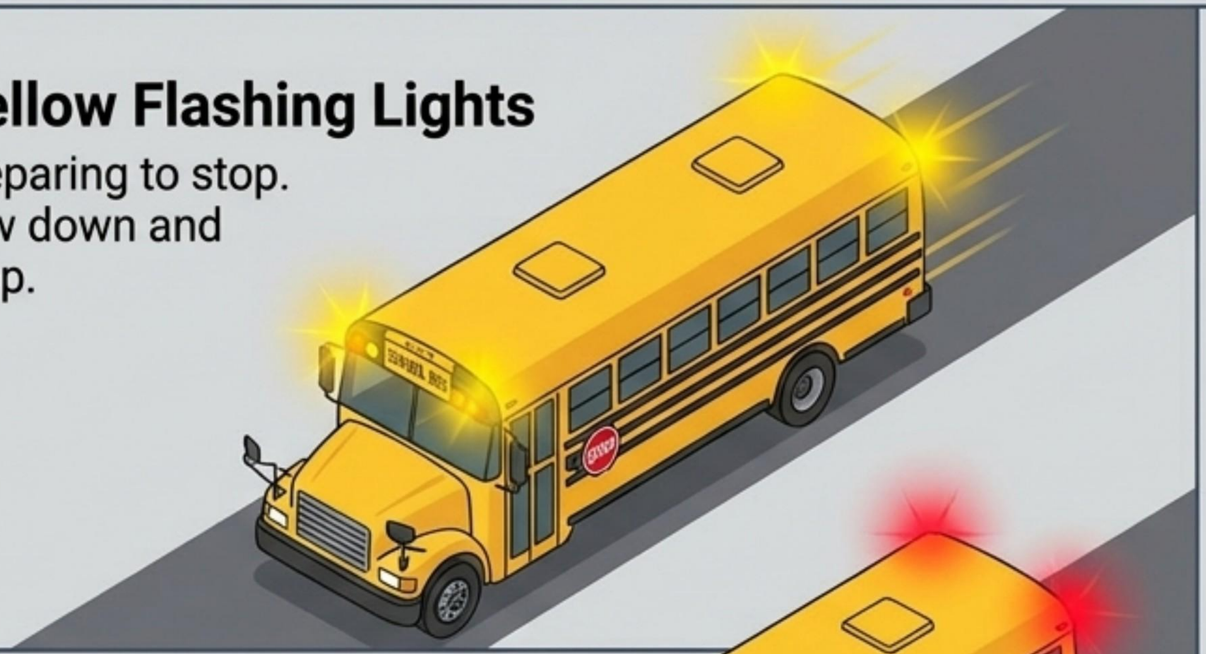
Buses, carriers for hire, and flammable transport vehicles must stop at all crossings and use emergency flashers.

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School Zones & Buses

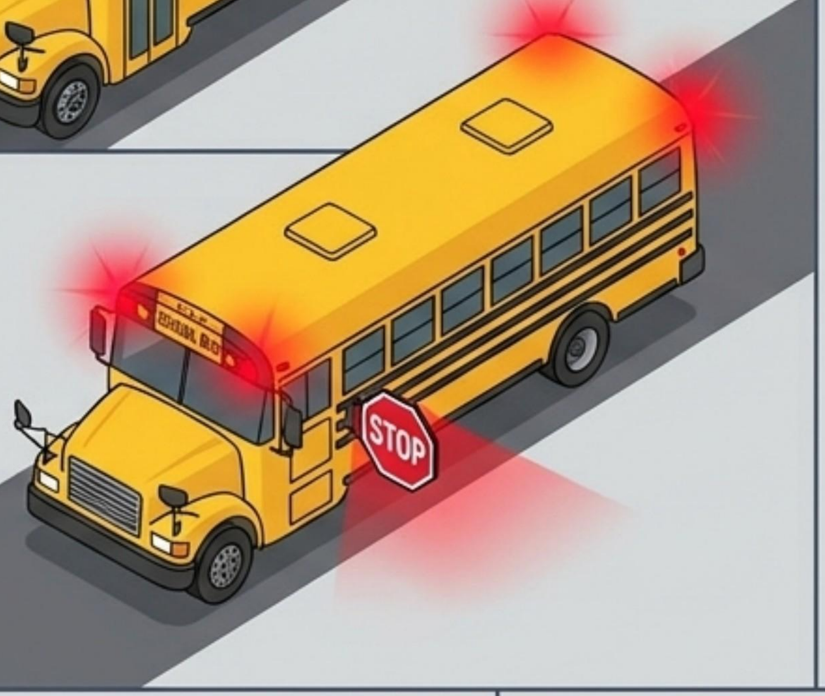
State 1: Yellow Flashing Lights

The bus is preparing to stop.
You must slow down and
prepare to stop.



State 2:
Red Flashing Lights
+ Extended Stop Arm

The bus HAS stopped to
load/unload children. You must
come to a complete stop.





School Zones Rule:
In marked zones with warning flashers operating, you must STOP to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk and remain stopped until they have cleared your side of the roadway.

Night Driving: Headlight Geometry

OPPOSING

200 feet

The 200-Foot Rule:
Headlights must allow you to see a person clearly at least 200 feet ahead.



LOWER

500 feet

The 500-Foot Dimming Zone:
You must dim to low beams when meeting or overtaking a vehicle within 500 feet.

The Physics of Stopping

"Never outrun your headlights."

Your stopping distance must always be less than your sight distance.

If you can only see 200 feet, you must be traveling at a speed that allows you to stop within 200 feet.

By The Numbers Dashboard

3
Seconds a yellow light must show minimum.

6
Shapes in the TN taxonomy.

9
Background colors.

15-50
Feet to stop from railroad tracks.

500
Feet to dim high beams for traffic.

200 Feet
Feet of visibility required for headlights.

50 Feet
Feet required for continuous turn signal.

600 Feet
Maximum distance between the two turns of a reverse turn.

1,000 Feet
Feet between urban interstate emergency reference markers.

1,500 Feet
Feet distance a train sounds its horn before a crossing.

Test Readiness

The Official Tennessee Knowledge Test (Ages 15-17)

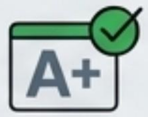
30
Questions



60
Minutes



80%
to Pass (24 correct)



- [x] 1. Review the **Visual Taxonomy** flashcards to lock in shapes, colors, and line codes.
- [x] 2. Take the **15-question topic quizzes** to identify weak spots.
- [x] 3. Take the full **30-question practice test** mirroring the published state format.

You know the system.
You are ready for the road.

Keep practicing — free, no sign-up

Tennessee Signs & Signals study guide, practice tests & flashcards:

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Sources verified November 15, 2026