Whenever you walk or ride on our nation’s streets and roadways, you become part of the highway transportation system. It is important to learn how to use the system safely and responsibly.

**Highway Transportation System**
- HTS (Highway Transportation System)
  - Includes cars, trucks, streets, highways, drivers, cyclist and pedestrians all make up the HTS.
- The Goal of HTS
  - Enable people and goods to move from place to place as safely and efficiently as possible

**HTS - Concepts and Design**
- In early days roads were designed to follow trails.
- Now an army of engineers is need to plan the route of a highway from the curves and hills to exits and road signs.

**HTS - Roadways**
- Over 4 million miles of roadways link the counties, cities, and towns across the United States.
- From superhighways to country roads.
- Some are well maintained and smooth while others are cracked and bumped
- You must be prepared to drive on any.

**HTS - People**
- The people who use the HTS include more than 176 million drivers, passengers, cyclist, and pedestrians.
- Most people act responsible when using the HTS but when used in an unsafe or irresponsible manner can pose serious dangers.

**HTS - Regulation**
- Federal, State, and Local governments work together to regulate the highway transportation system.
The federal government passed two important laws:
- The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act requires car makers to build certain safety features (seat belts, shatterproof windows) into their vehicles.
- The National Highway Safety Act established specific guidelines for state motor vehicle safety programs.
  - Vehicle registration and inspections.
  - Driver licensing.
  - Traffic laws, courts, and highway construction maintenance.

The first important step toward responsible driving is realized that this risk is REAL—probably much more than you realize.
- Keep your car in top condition.
- Anticipate the actions of others.
- Take steps to protect yourself and others.
- Drive only when you’re in sound physical and mental condition.
- Make a conscious effort to develop your driving skills.

Visibility refers to what you can see from behind the wheel and how well you see it and the ability of others to see you.

Time refers to the ability to judge your speed and the speed of other vehicles.

Space refers to distance. You must maintain a margin of space between your car and other vehicles.

Driving is a challenge because you need to do many tasks at once. You have to control the car, watch the roadway and off-road areas, read signs, and be alert for the sudden action of other drivers.

SIPDE is an easy to use system for dealing with the challenge of driving.
- Search
- Identify
- Predict
- Decide
- Execute
S-Search
- Search: the roadway and the off-road areas 20-30 seconds ahead for information that can help plan a path of travel

I- Identify
- Identify objects or conditions with in 12-15 seconds ahead that could interfere with your planned path of travel

P-Predict
- Predict: what actions or changes in conditions on or near the roadway could increase the level of risk.

D-Decide
- Decide: what action or actions to take at least 4-5 seconds ahead to control or reduce risk.

E-Execute
- Execute your decision.

SIPDE
- By using the SIPDE process to identify threatening objects or conditions as far in advance as possible.
- The sooner you realize that you may be faced with a threatening situation the sooner you can take evasive action to reduce the risk.

Smith System
- The Smith System consists of 5 driving guidelines. Understanding and using these guidelines is far more important than memorizing their exact wording.

1. Aim High and Look Ahead, Not Down
- Look well ahead of your car as you drive.
- Do not look down at the road directly in front of you….try to look 20-30 seconds ahead.
- Remember this rule is similar to the first step of SIPDE…search!
2. Keep Your Eyes Moving
- Roadways and off-road conditions are always changing.
- Search the scene.
- Stay Alert!

3. Get The Big Picture
- Search the whole scene NOT just part of it.

4. Make Sure Others see You
Communicate with drivers and pedestrians. Drive where others can see you, use your headlights, signals, and brake lights.

5. Leave Yourself a Way Out or a Margin of Safety
- Always leave yourself a path of escape...a way to avoid a collision.

Why Am I Taking Drivers Ed?
- A driver education course will help you become an alert and knowledgeable driver capable of dealing with a wide range of driving situations.

Why Am I Taking Drivers Ed?
- To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
  - An understanding in the ways in which your personality, emotions, and maturity affect your driving!
To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
- An understanding of how to maneuver and control your car so as to minimize risk in different driving environments and under various road conditions.

To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
- An insight into the ways in which alcohol and drugs impair driving, and knowledge of the penalties for their use.

To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
- A knowledge of traffic laws and administrative laws, rules of the road and signs and signals.

To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
- A foundation of consumer information, such laws guidelines for buying, insuring, and maintaining a car and tips for trip planning.

To Gain KNOWLEDGE!
- An understanding of the parts of a car and of how a car works.

The knowledge you gain through driver education and the experience you acquire behind the wheel will develop your driving skills and decision-making abilities. How you use these skills and abilities, however, is up to you. Only you can decide to be a responsible driver.