

Guidelines for Road Skills Test Routes

Third Party Testers must develop the road skills test routes they will use when administering the tests to students. Using the guidelines below, review the driving situations in the area and develop two (2) road skill routes that you believe will be suitable for testing the driving ability of a student. The objective is to develop a challenging but safe route.

General Guidelines

- The road skills test is comprised of two (2) mandatory components: basic skills and on-the-road testing. The basic skills test is always administered first.
- The road skills tests are scheduled in 45-minute increments and should not exceed 45 minutes to include pre-conferences, basic skills testing, on-the-road testing, and post-conferences. Two (2) complete road routes must be submitted: One (1) primary route and one (1) alternate route. The alternate route cannot be the reverse of the primary route.
- Avoid including construction areas, intersections known to be dangerous, uncontrolled intersections with high traffic volume or poorly marked streets.
- Be aware of visual obstacles at intersections and stop signs, such as overgrown vegetation blocking the driver's view.
- Variances in routes may be approved by designated DDS Regulatory Compliance staff based on the local driving environment and availability of controlled and non-controlled intersections. A designated DDS Regulatory Compliance staff member will review the proposed routes to ensure the routes are safe and adhere to DDS testing standards. Changes to the proposed routes may be required prior to approval.
- Only routes approved by the DDS may be used for Third Party Testing.

Guidelines for Basic Skills Test Development

- The basic skills test consists of three (3) maneuvers:
 - Parallel Parking
 - Turn About
 - Straight Line Backing
- The location of the basic skills test should be at the school or in close proximity to the school. Location should be paved and level. This portion of the test should be conducted in an area away from traffic, pedestrians, or other distractions. The test layout must accommodate all three (3) maneuvers; cones (or delineator posts) will be used to outline the space for each maneuver. Only one basic skills location and test layout is required.
(NOTE: Written authorization on letterhead signed by the property owner allowing use of the location may also be required.)

Guidelines for Road Route Test Development

- The road test route begins immediately after the basic skills component.
- The road test must consist of the following:
 - Four (4) right turns,
 - Four (4) left turns,
 - Typical traffic situations for the immediate area such as expressway driving, divided highways and two-lane roads; and
 - Controlled and non-controlled intersections such as traffic lights, stop signs, yields and situations that required a lane change.

Format for Route Submission

A typed document of the route in a turn-by-turn format, including route mileage and total time estimate.

Example:

- Start at Oak Shopping Plaza, 123 Oak Ave (Basic Skills Test location)
- Right turn out of plaza onto Oak Ave
- Straight on Oak Ave for 1.2 miles
- Left turn from Oak Ave onto Pine Street at traffic light intersection
- After .5 miles, merge left and enter the left turning lane before traffic light intersection
- Turn left onto Maple Street

A printed map from an internet mapping source, with route highlighted and information on turns and intersection types may also be submitted with the above. Additional written details on intersections and driving environment may be required.

The above guidelines assist with developing a road skills test route and do not incorporate every situation. Please be advised that upon review of the documentation submitted and location additional items or changes may be required.