

342 Uniform Traffic Enforcement

342.9 UNIFORM TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CHART

The following charts cannot cover each situation or violation; this is only a guide for commonly used citation titles. [Officers shall issue citations authorized under the Texas Transportation Code unless stated otherwise in the chart below. If an officer wants to give a warning when a citation is required in the chart below, the officer must contact a supervisor for approval. Nothing in this chapter is meant to supersede General Order 346, Crash Investigation and Reporting.](#)

Hazardous Violations

Violation Type	Citation Title	Guide
Speed Tolerances	Speeding TRC 545.351	Over Limit -- Posted Speed Zone (Radar) – may allow at least Warn up to nine (9) mph in excess of the specified speed. May Cite at ten (10) mph to fourteen (14) mph or greater over the limit. Shall cite at fifteen (15) mph or greater over the speed limit. When citing, lower to at least 1 mile per hour less than the speed (e.g., 51 in 35 zone – lower to at least 50)
	Speeding - School Zone TRC 545.351	School Zones – should allow four (4) mph in excess of the specified speed. May Cite at five (5) mph to nine (9) mph over the limit. Shall cite at ten (10) or greater over the speed limit. When citing, lower to at least 1 mile per hour less than the speed (e.g., 31 in a 20 zone – lower to at least 30).
	Unsafe Speeding TRC 545.351	Officers may cite at any speed if the facts, circumstances or conditions would justify enforcement at a lower speed. Examples can be, but are not limited to: Wet, icy, or slick road conditions, residential area, construction zones, and special events involving pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic. Officers must be able to articulate why the speed was not reasonable or prudent for the circumstances.
Speed over limit – “posted area” (radar & non-radar)	Speeding	Lower to at least 1 mile per hour less than speed (i.e. 49 in 35 zone – lower to at least 48)
Speed over limit – “school zone”	Speeding “SCHOOL ZONE”	Same as above (i.e. 27 in 20 – lower to at least 26)
Speed over limit – “Construction Area” (radar & non-radar)	Speeding “Construction Zone, Workers Present”	Same as speed “posted area” Construction workers must be present w/signage indicating “Const. Zone, Fines Double when Workers Present.”
Speed over limit – “construction area” (radar & non-radar)	Speeding “Construction Zone”	Same as speed “posted area” Construction workers not present but signage indicates “Const. Zone”
Imprudent s Speed (collision Crash)	Imprudent Speed TRC 545.351	Any vehicle at any speed when existing conditions are such as to make the speed unreasonable or imprudent. Officer must be able to articulate why the speed was not reasonable or prudent for the circumstances.
Impeding t Traffic/ Unsafe Speeds	Impeding Traffic TRC 545.363	May cite when A n operator drives at a speed that impedes the normal and reasonable movement of traffic for a distance of 3 blocks or more.
Right-of-way	Fail to Yield ROW (Left turn, right turn, no left turn, no right on Red, etc.) Various sections of TRC 545	Shall cite If involved in collision crash or causes serious interference to another vehicle, pedestrian or bicyclist. On Serious Injury Crashes only, the officer issuing the citation will follow-up with notification email to prosecutor@austintexas.gov.

Signs, s Signals & m Markings (see below)	(see below – Red Light , Stop Sign , Wrong Way , etc.)	Warning citations will be issued for a 3-day period after installation of new signs, signals & devices. Exceptions would be where an accident occurs or in aggravated situations.
Impeding traffic	Speed Under Minimum, Unsafe	If conditions above are not met – Vehicle traveling for a period of 3 or more blocks, will be removed from roadway.
Stop Sign	Ran Stop Sign TRC 544.010	Shall cite when involved in crash. May cite when vehicle did not stop (more than walking speed) behind designated stop line before proceeding.
Red L ight	Ran Red Light TRC 544.007	Shall cite W when involved in collision-crash or May cite when vehicle had not reached nearest stop line or crosswalk when light changed red.
Flashing r Red L ight	Ran Flashing Red Light TRC 544.008	Same as Stop Sign
Ran warning sign/disregard of flashing amber light	Disregard Posted Sign	When involved in collision or apparently deliberate and hazardous
Unsafe e Change of L anes	Unsafe Lane Change of Lane (from Marked Lane) TRC 545.060	Shall cite W when involved in collision-crash or apparently deliberate and hazardous.
Unsafe Movement	Unsafe Movement Left/Right TRC 545.402	Shall cite when involved in crash or apparently deliberate and hazardous.
Passing School Bus	Passing a School Bus TRC 545.063	Shall cite for violation of Transportation Code when approaching, from either direction, a school bus stopped to receive or discharge a student.
Crossing Physical Barrier	Crossing Physical Barrier TRC 545.063	May cite W when crossed crossing concrete, grass or other physical object and is apparently deliberate and hazardous. Does not apply to crossing solid lines.
Drove Left of Double Yellow Line, or Passing in a No Passing Zone, or Driving on Wrong Side of Road	Drove Left of Double Yellow Line, or Passing in a No Passing Zone, or Wrong side of Road TRC 545.055	Do not cite if operator crossed double yellow line or passed in a no passing zone in a safe manner for the sole purpose of passing a vulnerable road user.
Turned from wrong lane	Improper Right/Left Turn, Exit or Approach TRC 545.101	Turned from wrong lane, or wide right turn interfering with other traffic (if no interference--warn)
Illegal U-turn	Illegal U-turn, Crest/Bottom of Hill TRC 545.101	Shall cite if I involved in collision-crash or interfered with another vehicle (if no interference—warn)
Wrong side of road/Wrong way	Wrong Side of Road – Passing Or Drove Wrong Way on One-Way TRC 545-059	Shall cite if I involved in collision-crash or near collision-crash, or where traffic is heavy (if no interference-warn)
Following t Too C losely	Fail to Maintain an Assured Clear Distance. TRC 545.062	Shall cite if W willful or sustained, or involved in collision-crash (Use common sense regarding enforcement during peak traffic periods when congestion exists).
Cut through p Private d rive	Cut Through Private Drive to Avoid Light/Sign TRC 545.423	Shall Cite if cut through in deliberate attempt to avoid traffic control device.
Fail to yield right-of-way to p Pedestrian	FTYROW to Pedestrian in Marked Crosswalk TRC 552.003	Shall Cite if pedestrian in marked crosswalk has to move/run to avoid being hit.
Seat b Belt violations	No Seat Belt – Driver/Passenger TRC 545.413	Shall Cite for violation of per Transportation Code if driver self admits and or officer witnesses.

Hands Free Violations	Electronic Device Use While Driving CO 20140828-041	May cite for violation of City Ordinance.
Hands Free Violations	Electronic Messaging While Driving TRC 545.4251	May city for violation of Transportation Code.

Non-Hazardous Violations

Violation Type	Citation Title	Guide
Expired MV inspection or r Registration	Expired MV or LP Registration TRC 502.407	Allow six (6) day grace period from expiration date. May cite on 7th day from expiration.
Defective brakes	Defective Equipment – Brakes TRC 547.408	May cite for any of the following: N o emergency or weak foot brakes. V ehicle will not stop within 30 feet @ 20 mph. O r, brake on only one wheel.
Defective headlights, tail-lights or other light violation	Defective Equipment – headlight, tail-light, etc. TRC 547.333	Evidence of willful neglect or multiple warning violations
Open door to traffic	Open Vehicle Door into Traffic TRC 545.418	May cite if i nvolvement in collision-crash or interferes with movement of another vehicle.
Commercial vehicle equipment violations	Do Not Cite	All suspected commercial vehicle equipment violations will be responsibility of HE/L&W Unit
Soiled or damaged license plate or no front plate	Obscured LP; No Front LP TRC 504.945	May cite if E evidence of willful neglect or multiple warning violations.
License plate bracket or mounting violations	Obscured LP	Warn on first offense of partially obscured plate.
Other lighting violations	White Light to Rear; Neon Lights TRC 547.303	May cite if E evidence of willful neglect or multiple warning violations
Buyer, & dealer in-transit tag violations	Misuse of Dealer In-transit/Demo Tag; Buyer's Tag Expired	Evidence of willful neglect or multiple warning violations
Altered or Fictitious MV		Fact Specific
Defective exhaust, mufflers, smoke, etc.	Defective Exhaust – Noise/Smoke TRC 547.605	May cite if E evidence of willful neglect or multiple warning violations
Altered or fictitious vehicle registration		Fact Specific
No Driver's License	No Driver's License TRC 521.025	Shall cite for violation of Transportation Code
Driver's I icense Violation (expired)	Expired DL TRC 521.026	Citations may be issued upon expiration
Driver's license Violation (fail to change address)	Fail to Change Name/Address on Driver's License TRC 521.054	May C ite per for violation of Transportation Code
No insurance, 1st and 2nd offenses	Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility TRC 601.191	Shall C ite per for violation of Transportation Code
Window tint violation – rear window	Unlawful Window Tint	Cite if light transmission is 20% or less; and vehicle does not have an exterior rear view mirror on each side.

Window tint violation – front door windows- both sides	Unlawful Window Tint Window Obstruction TRC 547.613	Warn if light transmission is 21% to 24%. Shall C ite if light transmission is 20% or less.
Window tint violation – windshield	Unlawful Window Tint Window Obstruction TRC 547.613	May C ite if light transmission more than 5” from top of windshield is 65% or less indicated by a light transmission reader (tint meter) .