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The Traffic Task, Traffic Challenges, and Task Processes

When participating in traffic, you primarily have control over your own behavior, not that of others. Safe driving means not worsening mistakes made by others and, where possible, compensating for them.

1. The Traffic Task

The traffic task refers to the required level of control and the ability to solve traffic challenges.

2. Traffic Challenges

As a driver, you make choices before, during, and after your journey:

• Before the journey: Consider vehicle choice, maintenance, and preparation, such as route planning and fitness to drive (e.g., medication effects).

• During the journey: You decide on speed, right of way, overtaking, road positioning, parking, etc.

• After the journey: Includes securing the vehicle, handling breakdowns, or dealing with accidents.

For each traffic challenge, you must consider:

 Yourself as the driver

 The vehicle

 Other road users

 The road and environmental conditions

3. The Five Task Processes

To safely and efficiently handle a traffic challenge, you follow five structured task processes:

1. Perceiving – Gathering relevant information using your senses.

2. Predicting – Assessing possible developments in traffic.

3. Evaluating – Weighing factors such as safety and traffic flow.

4. Deciding – Choosing the safest and most effective action.

5. Executing – Carrying out your decision smoothly and safely.

Mnemonic: Where People Eat Big Hamburgers

In uncertain situations, the process may need to be repeated. For novice drivers, these steps may feel slow and deliberate, but with experience, they become automatic.