



# Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium

## Bus News

Winter 2014

Welcome to the fifth year of the RCJTC “Bus Stop News”. This newsletter is intended to be a publication that will be distributed to all stakeholders to keep them informed of all ongoing or upcoming operational items.

### **This Year’s Operational Review**

Overall, I believe this year is proceeding very well. We have had 4 system wide inclement weather days so far this year.

Don’t forget to check our web page ([www.rcjtc.on.ca](http://www.rcjtc.on.ca)) frequently for the most up to date information with respect to cancellations or delay. You can also find all our forms under publications to help serve you better. We have changed the format of our home page so all you have to do is click on the appropriate form; we hope this makes it easier for all.

We are starting to prepare for next school year inputting the new JK registrations by pulling all the pre-registered students on Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 into our system and promoting all the students (grades, i.e. 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.) accordingly. At the same time, we will be planning our new routes so those that need to register at the school should be doing that sooner than later. As a reminder we are pulling regular admits/demits on the first school day of the month out of each of the Boards student data files.



*...the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*



Antilock brakes are standard on most vehicles now but not everyone knows what they are really for or how to use them. This newsletter will provide an overview of this important safety feature of your vehicle.

## Q: What is the purpose of antilock brakes?

- To stop easier in slippery conditions.
- To keep the vehicle from skidding.
- To make the brakes last longer.
- Others?



Correct answer is:

- Antilock brakes keep the wheels rotating even under severe braking in slippery conditions. This continuing rotation or "Antilock" allows the tire to maintain traction with the road surface and allows the driver to steer.

## Q: Have you ever felt your antilock brakes activate? When? Why?



*When?/Where?*

- \* Emergency stops
- \* Regular braking in winter conditions
- \* Wet roads
- \* Gravel or rough roads
- \* Downhill in slippery conditions

*Why?*

- \* Because the demand for traction has exceeded the tire's ability to grip the road either because of rough braking, excess speed for conditions or sudden changes in the traction available to the vehicle.
- \* You are overdriving for the conditions.



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**Q: What does your vehicle behave like or feel like when the antilock brakes are engaged?**

- Brake pedal feels different and/or vibrates.
- The antilock warning light on the dash may illuminate.
- The vehicle may make unusual sounds that can alarm some drivers if they are not prepared for it.



**Q: What is the correct driver action when the antilock brakes engage?**



If you are in an emergency situation, hold the pedal down hard and don't let up until danger is passed.

Remember to look and steer where you want to go, not at any hazards that you are avoiding because we tend to steer where we look.

If your antilock brakes come on regularly, under non-emergency conditions, you are overdriving for the conditions and should reduce speed and initiate your stops sooner to provide greater braking distance. This will allow you to brake more gently and not activate the antilock brakes.

**Safety Reminder**

Always check your blind spots. Almost all side collisions can be prevented by checking your blinds spots around you.

The only way to accurately check your blind spot is by pivoting forward and back while checking the blind spot in order to ensure that there are no obstructions in your path or headed towards you.

Under the best conditions, when in doubt give the right of way to the other vehicle as it always better to arrive a few minutes late as opposed to not arriving at all!



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