

MELT Class 1 Driver Training



Trip Planning

Lesson overview

- Trip planning steps
- Road and weather conditions and restrictions
- Estimating travel time
- Estimating fuel requirements and stops
- Estimating trip expenses

Importance of trip planning

- Essential for safe and responsible operation of a commercial vehicle.
- Essential for time management.
- Help to reduce driver stress and costs.
- Ensures that equipment can be operated legally on specific roads and in accordance with all requirements.

What to consider

- Travel distance
- Hours of service needed/available
- Departure and arrival times
- Pickup or drop off appointment times
- Breaks — where you can rest and eat
- Scale locations
- Traffic delays — rush hour and construction zones
- Vehicle dimensions
- Loading zones
- Ferry schedules
- Fuel costs and other expenses
- Terrain — mountain vs. prairie, urban vs. rural
- Restricted routes
- Type of load
- Low or narrow clearances
- Weather conditions
- Border crossings
- Required documents — permits
- Emergency information and equipment

Trip planning steps

1. Ensure that documentation is current and correct.
2. Plan the route considering restrictions, traffic and weather.
3. Estimate travel time and plan for food and rest stops, considering hours of service requirements and where you may need to reset your hours.
4. Estimate need for fuel and plan fuel stops on route.
5. Estimate travel expenses.
6. Confirm pick-up and delivery times.

Trip planning tips

Video: Tips for a 26 hour trip – Red Viking Trucker – USA (5:27)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g39vn8FNHDI>



Confirm pick up and delivery times

- Driver's responsibility to confirm pickup and delivery times with shippers and receivers.
- Especially important to make sure you have the correct time for your receiving appointments.
- Find out if there are any delivery restrictions, such as non-acceptance on weekends that could cause costly stops or layovers.
- Keep in touch with your dispatcher throughout the trip. They must be informed whenever a change to the route or a delay.

Road restrictions

<https://www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/loadrestrictions/loadrestrictions.htm>



Ports of entry – crossing to the USA

Personnel

- Must be eligible to legally enter the United States
- Must be minimum 21 years of age
- Carry proof of citizenship – passport, FAST card and VISA if required
- Participate in a controlled substance testing program
- B.C. driver's licence must NOT have a "W" on it as a result of medical condition

Ports of entry – crossing to the USA continued

Vehicle

- Vehicle registration.
- US DOT number and operating authority.
- US Border Crossing Permit or submit border crossing fee.

Cargo

- Pre-arrival Notification under Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).
- Depending on the cargo type, other government department approval or pre-notification may be required, e.g. FAA for agriculture shipments.

Trip scenario assignments



Travel information

- Check the highway cameras several times to look for weather trends, incidents and construction.
- This is especially important in winter before heading into the mountains.
- Overhead electronic signage is not always up-to-date.
- Get the DriveBC app for your phone or call *511 hands-free in B.C.



DriveBC: 1-800-550-4997 (free)

Website:
<https://www.drivebc.ca/>

Weather information

Environment Canada provides weather information by phone and online.

For Vancouver, Howe Sound, Whistler and the Lower Fraser Valley:

- From Greater Vancouver: 604-664-9010
- For more information, talk directly to a forecaster: 1-900-565-5555 (charges apply)

For local, national and international weather information:

- weather.gc.ca

Ferry schedules and travel information

Ferry schedules and other travel information - BC Ferries:

- <https://www.bcferries.com/schedules/>

Location of fuel and rest stops

Use an app on your phone to locate commercial vehicle fuel stops and rest stops.



Ways to estimate travel time

Formula	Example
Distance = Speed multiplied by time	80 km x 9 hours = 720 km
Average Speed = Distance divided by time	720 km / 9 hours = 80 km
Trip Time = Distance divided by average speed	720 km / 80 km = 9 hours

Estimating fuel expenses

Fuel consumption estimates are needed to plan fuel stops and to make sure you have enough cash or credit to cover the fuel.

Fuel usage is based on highway driving time, in town driving time, and unexpected slowdowns.

What factors can increase fuel usage?

Estimating fuel expenses continued

Distance Traveled km mile

Then record the amount of fuel used

Amount of Fuel Litres
 US gallons
 Imperial gallons

And the total cost of the fuel

Fuel Cost \$

Estimating personal expenses

Drivers should consider:

- Meals
- Layover/Lodging
- Fuel
- En route repairs
- Towing
- Tolls
- Permits
- Special fees
- Fines
- Truck washes