



## **A Review of Key 2: Get the Big Picture**

To make the right driving decisions, you have to have all the right information. Aiming high in steering and looking 15 seconds ahead is important to obtaining information. However, looking ahead 15 seconds will not give you all the information you will need.

Not only do we need to know what is ahead of us, we need to know what is happening on each side and behind us. We need those 360 degrees of information obtained by constantly moving our eyes. Look at your mirrors every 5 to 8 seconds and continue to scan the road ahead. Obtaining information on what is happening around you is just as important as to what is happening ahead of you. Maintain a safe following distance by maintaining a minimum 4 second following distance. It is understood that increasing your following distance will allow other drivers to cut into that space, however, what is there prevents them from cutting into a much smaller space causing you to slam on your brakes. The 4 second space allows you to brake more smoothly and reduces the likelihood of others ramming into you from behind. Also the 4 second following rule prevents you from having vision barriers in front you, allowing you to see better.

So in quick summary, use your eyes to create a 360 degree circle of constant awareness, scan at least one or more of your mirrors every 5 to 8 seconds, use a 4 second following distance and eliminate the vision barriers in front of you, in other words, get the big picture.

***Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."***