

Dear Road Wizard: How many traffic signals are in Ada County, and what is the busiest intersection in Ada County? L.C.@

Ada County has 347 signalized intersections, not counting pedestrian and fire station signals. This is the season of generosity, so I'm giving you the TOP TEN busiest intersections.

The counts are fresh, having been made in 2003 or 2002. These add up the traffic for each lane in all approaches. They measure the hour of the day with the highest counts, the "peak" hour. In every case, the Top Ten peak hours are during the evening commute home.

Ninth/Front	6070
Eagle/Fairview	5770
Chinden/Curtis	5730
Cole/Overland	5630
Franklin/Milwaukee	5520
Gary-Glenwood/State	5440
36th-Vets/State	5440
13th/Front	5430
Chinden/Glenwood	5420
Curtis/Fairview	5060

I rounded the numbers because things aren't precisely the same from day to day. A "rule of thumb" among traffic engineers is that peak-hour volumes are likely to be around 10 percent of the total volume in a 24-hour period. The list would be fairly similar if you had asked which intersections had the busiest daily traffic, although intersections with more commercial traffic have more steady traffic all day long and a somewhat smaller percent of their traffic in the peak hour.

Dear Road Wizard: Just wondering if anyone else had noticed that the street number signs at Locust Grove and Overland roads are pointing in the wrong direction. They need to be flip-flopped. Thanks. L.@

You might be the first to notice! All four signs are wrong. The contractor who erected these signs for ACHD may have overlooked that the numbers are in the Meridian system of street numbers, not Boise's.

The contractor will flip-flop the signs. I don't know exactly when, because the job requires a worker in a (heavily scheduled) bucket truck to reach the mastarms. The inspector asked me to thank you. He told of another situation where an erroneous sign went for years without being noticed. This could explain why certain pizzas never got delivered.

Dear Road Wizard: Here's another question regarding left turns on red lights. I exit DeMeyer Street (from west of Cloverdale Road) and turn left onto Cloverdale. Sometimes no traffic is coming toward me or from either direction on Cloverdale. I sit there like a big lonely blob waiting on the light to turn green. Can I legally turn left on red? S.C.@

No! Both of the streets run two ways. The only time you can even think about turning left on a red light is when the street you turn onto is one-way. Cloverdale doesn't qualify. Lonely blobism is just part of life.

And, dear readers, speaking of turning left on red...

The driver who got a ticket from an Idaho State Police officer when he turned left on red from Vista Avenue onto the (one-way) ramp eastbound onto I-84 decided to appeal his ticket and wrote me about his excellent adventure.

His court hearing was last week. The judge dismissed the charge because he felt the statute was vague. In the face of ambiguity, he ruled for the

defendant. The judge, says our driver, also "made a point of stating that this was only his opinion. Another judge could interpret the statute differently."

I thank the driver for this valuable information. My plan is to avoid courtroom opportunities and encourage my neighborhood legislator to repair the ambiguity.