

**Dear Road Wizard: About the intersection of Benjamin Lane and Franklin Road, would it be possible to provide green arrows for north- and south-bound traffic? Benjamin and the parking lot exit have left-only lanes, but no protected left turn. Backups into the parking lot are substantial, particularly during the holidays. I'm surprised there aren't more accidents here. B.G.©**

We'll soon find out how many accidents do happen here. ACHD is willing to research accidents, update its traffic counts, and compile other data to consider your suggestion.

This is called "doing a study." Conditions will have to meet certain criteria to justify the green arrows. A tangled-up, gridlocked parking lot during the pre-Christmas shopping festival might not be enough, but we shall see.

Costco, one of the stores served by that parking lot, is moving to its new Cole Road location on Friday. This will subtract a big bunch of traffic (and add it elsewhere). Not everyone will get the word right away, so some shoppers will arrive at the old place in their quest for poppy seed muffins and be disappointed.

ACHD plans to do the traffic counts after Costco has been gone a few weeks. The work order specifies the last week of March. If someone moves in soon to take up all that commercial square footage, I suppose the schedule for the study could be postponed. I'll return to this in April!

**Dear Road Wizard: E.H. was right! (See column for February 2.) Boise DOES have the most unsynchronized traffic light system, thirty years behind other Western states. Here's my morning commute experience to downtown on Fairview Avenue and Main Street: If I barely make the green at 27th Street, just before it turns yellow, I will surely be stopped at 23rd Street. If I barely make that, I surely don't make 15th Street. Same story at 8th and 6th streets. This out-of-sync system contributes to wasting fuel and polluting the air. D.T.©**

Your TELLUS letter (ACHD's e-mail feedback address, [tellus@achd.ada.id.us](mailto:tellus@achd.ada.id.us)) got you a personal reply, but I'm echoing for the benefit of other Fairview-to-Main commuters.

One of the potential nightmares for Main and Fairview travelers is "What if the cross-traffic on 27th and 23rd streets got so clogged up that it blocked the flow of cars on Fairview?" Saving you from that nastiness has been a priority of the signal system. That would be worse than less-than-perfect sync. However, the Signal Sync Man (SSM) says he will try to make adjustments that improve your chances for not being stopped at 23rd.

A reminder: the signals in downtown Boise -- from 18th Street eastward -- are all set with a timing clock. They have no detection wires, so lights turn green even when no one cares. This is simply the nature of the beast. We don't have to like it, just understand it.

The personal nightmare of SSM himself concerns the Urban Bizarreness at 8th and Main streets. That hole in the ground, now nearing two years old, severed the automated communications to the controller box on the northwest corner. To reset its clock when it drifts out of sync, our Man does it by hand while hanging his you-know-what over a lot of thin air. Conditions invite visits only when drivers yell for help.

SSM, with no aides, manages the timing plans for all 338 signals in Ada County. Clearly, he needs allies and other sets of eyes to notice problems and raise alarms. We who use certain routes habitually are the designated allies. Welcome to the team.