

TO: C Foltz-Ahlrichs, L Sale  
FROM: Road Wizard

July 17, 2003

FINAL Column for July 20, 2003  
(597 words)

TOPICS

Turn signals exiting parking lots  
Street names: Park and ParkCenter Boulevards  
Signal: Mitchell and Ustick streets

**Dear Road Wizard: After last week's letter about exiting from parking lots onto Fairview Avenue, here's my pet peeve about such people... I don't mind helping them, but sometimes they make it awfully hard to help! T.@**

T. continues: Why don't they use their turn signals? If only they would do that, the drivers already on the arterials would know which way they would go. It helps to know what kind of gaps to create. Knowing which way someone wants to go could inspire more courtesy. If last week's writer has been trying to turn *left* from the parking lot (or Hampton Road), a left turn signal would help Fairview drivers offer appropriate help.

**Dear Road Wizard: Just east of Broadway Avenue near the river, we have two streets named "Park" something: Park and ParkCenter boulevards. From a guy-from-outta-town point of view, this is vexing. The names are functionally identical and pop up together on a Broadway sign. Can we rename them so they sound different? Don't we have some prominent citizens who rate a street named in their honor? Anon@**

Park Boulevard was there first. Then came ParkCenter Boulevard. Until the West ParkCenter Bridge was built, the twain never met. One was north of the river; the other, south. After the bridge, however, the twain do meet, and the potential for confusion has grown exponentially.

The Boise City Council has the authority to change Boise street names. Petitioners go there to make up for a lack of sensitivity on the part of a developer who, after creating a thousand streets, is scraping the bottom of the name barrel. If you live on Sludge Street, now you know why.

The Council (and other elected officials) are served by the Ada County Street Name Committee composed of public agency reps from ACHD, the County Engineer, etc. They review proposed names for new subdivision streets. Business is brisk: they meet every week. The committee's agenda-setter promised to put your problem on its agenda and let us see what happens.

I will report back! Although I was tempted, I decided not to pursue your idea to re-name Front and Myrtle streets as "North Park" and "South Park," thus bracketing Rhodes Skateboard Park and "bouncing us into the forefront of the municipal idiosyncrasy scene."

**Dear Road Wizard: Something must be wrong with the signal at Mitchell and Ustick streets. Heading south on Mitchell, it is possible to sit through three cycles before getting a green light. Please check into this. J.M., Boise**

I sat under the shade of a willow tree and watched the cars go by. ACHD's trouble-shooter checked at a different time. This will annoy you, but neither of us saw a repeat of your story.

The signal "rests in green" for Ustick, meaning that Mitchell drivers expect to arrive at a red light most of the time and wait for recognition. If Ustick traffic is heavy, the wait can be longish.

I hate to come to you empty handed. Are you possibly entering Mitchell from the street named "3210-3270"? I suppose it's possible -- by using extremely,

uh, casual reference to the lane lines -- to enter the Mitchell intersection from there and somehow not cross over the detection wire in the street. If so, that could explain not being "seen" by the controller. After this summer's overlay work at the intersection is completed, loops will be reinstalled closer to the stop bar and it won't be possible for the controller to miss anyone.