

**Dear Road Wizard: I thank ACHD for the Five Mile Road connection to Chinden Boulevard. The only bad thing about it is that for five days of the week between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., about 3-5 drivers westbound on Chinden run the red light and turn onto Five Mile. Which police department is in charge of patrolling this area?** J.B., Garden City

Boise City annexed the north edge of Chinden Boulevard's right-of-way in this vicinity, so Boise City patrols. When the Five Mile/Chinden connection opened last August, certain truckers mistook it for the elusive Northwest Passage. They overlooked the signs that prohibit trucks weighing 10,001 pounds or more from traveling on Five Mile.

Complaints about THIS are what Boise Police have been dealing with. I placed your complaint on their call line (321-2852). You may do the same! The issue is now on their radar (so to speak), so expect some early-morning patrols.

While the police are doing that, here's some useful information for you. That signal begins its "morning commute" program at 7:15 am. A complete cycle lasts 140 seconds. The westbound left turn gets a green arrow only, and it lasts 20 seconds. That's it.

The biggest wave of morning traffic is eastbound, heading down the hill toward Boise. The cycle gives them 110 seconds of green. The signal engineer's goal is to prevent that wave from backing up all the way to Cloverdale Road, which it does when the cycle length is shorter. He knows that because he tried that.

(The hill is a big factor when the big wave is going up the hill as well: trucks that stop on a hill often are slow to get going again. It's best to minimize this inconvenience for everyone.)

Advice for eastbound drivers comes from the Defense Department: take notice if a considerable gap lies between you and the car in front of you. If so, watch out for desperate left-turners so late for work that red lights lose their ancient meaning.

**Dear Road Wizard: At the West ParkCenter Bridge, drivers heading east on Beacon Street who wish to turn right onto ParkCenter Boulevard are told "No right turn on red." This is despite the fact that any cars coming from the bridge area are clearly visible from far away.** C.R.@ and N.W.@"

Traffic engineers believe that the curve in the bridge and the angle at which you see the traffic coming over it make it harder for us to JUDGE THE SPEED at which it's coming. That's the reason for the "No right turn on red" sign, not because they think you can't see the cars at all.

Last fall, ACHD changed the lane striping on the bridge and hoped this might relieve these safety concerns. But bridge traffic continues to dart quick-like into the right lane. Another obvious complication is Beacon's two right-turn lanes. Cars in the middle lane can hide the full truth from the curbside driver.

I observed lots of drivers ignoring the sign. Most of them won't appreciate the following unsolicited challenge, but here it is: If we all were to select the rules and signs we obeyed, we'd all live in chaos. Will you obey or flout this one? Will your example nudge society more towards chaos or more towards order? It's a philosophical thing.

**To "G., one who avoids in Caldwell:" I will need to send your question to ITD, who will supply you with a personal answer. Your email lost its address when it was forwarded to me. Please email again!**