

CROSSROADS HOG

SAFETY MINUTE

AUGUST 2009

Here's a scenario we've all encountered or will.

You are riding on an East/West road approaching a Traffic signal and it is red for you. Even though the road you travel has only one lane in each direction, traffic engineers/designers have expanded the road surface at the intersection such that there is an additional lane to your right for those who intend to go straight or turn right. However, the lanes are not marked with arrows indicating their purpose. Therefore, vehicles in the left lane may not be turning left but, rather, going straight when the light turns green.

As you approach you can see that there are two vehicles in the left lane – a sedan and an SUV – ahead of you. You cannot see the turn signals of the one most forward but the one nearest you does not have turn signals flashing. There are no vehicles in the right lane.

You can also see that there are several (you are not sure how many) on the other side of the intersection (approaching) and all of them are lined up in their left lane. The first one has its turn signal on so you are fairly sure it will turn left.

You intend to go straight so you drift toward the right lane.

As you approach the light turns green.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Obviously there are several possibilities. Here are a few questions you should be asking as you approach the intersection and plan your move.

- Did the approaching vehicles see you behind the sedan and SUV?
- Did you do anything to make yourself more visible to them?
- Even if you did, do you have some indication they really did see you?
- Are you moving at such a speed that you can take evasive action if necessary?
- Are you really in such a hurry that you cannot just lay back and let the two in front of you move on ?

What questions can you add? **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

That's it for this month – think about it – stay safe out there.

Mike "the safety guy"