

# Readers respond, but not one wrote in support of Manitoba drivers

*Speeding, red light running and drivers who push to the head of the line top the list of readers' pet driving peeves*

Do you remember a couple of columns back when I asked for your feedback on what was wrong with some Winnipeg drivers? When I asked for your pet peeves?

To be honest, I wasn't sure what kind of response I was going to receive. After all, I, a transplanted West Coaster, had criticized the driving habits of my new neighbours. Perhaps I would find support, or perhaps my inbox would be full of strongly-worded "suggestions" encouraging me to head back west at the first opportunity.

Well, many of you took the time to respond, and I thank you for the thought and detail you put into your comments.

And what were your comments? Well, survey says... every response was a resounding endorsement of the column. I fully expected at least one email defending local drivers, but nothing even came close. Let's just say that if my column was a shot



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across the bow (hood?) of poor drivers, your comments were a full-out assault.

## Readers' comments

Here are some of your thoughts (dear writers: please forgive my edits. I was unable to include your comments in their entirety).

"I agree with your column where you mentioned lane closures and rude drivers not letting other drivers merge. However, I get upset with those drivers not trying to merge but taking advantage of polite drivers and racing down the "empty" lane to "butt" into line ahead of others at the last moment,

causing decent drivers to brake and slow the flow."

"I am in total agreement with you. Don't Winnipeggers get it?? They live in Winnipeg; it takes on average no more than 25 minutes to get from one end of the city to the other but it's as if there is a prize waiting at their destination if they can prevent anyone from getting in front of them!!"

"The one that amazes me is the red light thing. People just drive right through, and I am pretty sure these are the same people that, when forced to stop at a red light, start rolling into the intersection long before the opposite light has even turned yellow. They stop when they finally realize they're in the middle of the intersection, which is about the same time the light turns green for them. It's truly an amazing event to watch."

"As a transplanted Easterner, the first thing I noticed in this city was the number of people running those

"dark orange" lights! Whenever I have people from out-of-province visiting, I warn them not to jump a green light. It's good advice anywhere, especially here."

## "Get off my bumper, please"

"I am relatively new to Manitoba having moved to Winnipeg from Ottawa in 1999. While each city or area of Canada has its driving predilections, I was immediately struck by three persistent practices of a number of Winnipeg drivers: tailgating, failing to signal and not allowing drivers to merge. I hope more can be done to educate drivers about the danger of these practices. Common courtesy costs nothing but reaps huge benefits."

"Most people who drive cars aren't stupid; they'll learn to obey the rules pretty quickly if the rules are enforced. Put red light cameras at every intersection, and don't worry about people who say it's just a money grab. Put radar or laser behind wherever the cops can hide

and hand out tickets to those breaking the law."

This was just the beginning. As I said earlier, I don't have space in this column to print the full responses, but I think the point is clear. People have had it. And not just people like myself who are "in the business" of road safety.

It's bittersweet, in a way. I'm pleased that the overwhelming response was from people concerned about road safety and doing the right thing behind the wheel.

But I do wish there was less to be concerned about. I'm hoping we can change that.

Until next week, be **RoadWise**.

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