



the Sunday Driver Conspiracy

Buried within another long weekend traffic report, and its lighthearted descriptions of reckless drivers and feeble excuses, is a favourite highway myth, the Sunday Driver. According to a police spokesman, this *left lane hog* is credited for a plague of drivers passing vehicles via the right lanes. He goes on to urge drivers to stop tying up the passing lane with speeds below the posted limit.

Huh? Have I missed something? Could this be the 70s again with airborne traffic control, and moms and pops cruising the asphalt for a place to enjoy a cone? No it's not that. It's just a case of denial. Highway traffic control, except for the now famous *weekend blitzes*, is as extinct as the Rambler Classic. Authorities need to set their time machines on 2005 and recognize that we're ratcheting up more than the 'speed of business'.

As a rule-of-thumb I exceed the expressway's posted speed by 10-15 km/hr (8-12 mph). This is not a hard and fast rule, visibility, road conditions and

rush hour will often dictate terms of their own. But generally, with conditions being ideal, 10 to 15 clicks over the max feels right.

Motorists traveling at the posted speed don't bother me, I assume they have a good excuse for obeying the law – maybe they're new drivers or their vehicles are in questionable working order. Whatever their reason, the disparity between our speeds is insignificant and we interact comfortably, and almost exclusively, in the centre and right lanes.

So who's forcing these speed freaks to leave the left lane and slalom their way to the front of the pack? ***In the absence of effective speed enforcement,*** today's left lane hog is traveling 20-25 km/hr **over** the legal speed limit, significantly slower than the moron that needed to pass him. So the myth of the *Sunday Driver* is exposed. No one is driving 80 km/hr (60 mph) in the left lane, it's just that there isn't enough traffic control and, apparently, enough 'left lane' to facilitate the *Human Race*.