

FLEET SAFE

THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2012

FLEET SHOP MOVE

The Fleet Services Maintenance Shop has temporarily moved to the Fremont neighborhood. This will be the shop location for the next nine months, while repairs are made to the existing shop.

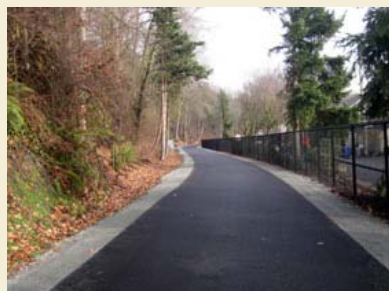
During this time, we're asking customers to call the shop first at to schedule an appointment. Once shop staff have your details they'll help organize the most convenient time and drop off location for you, which will be either the Fleet Services Rental Office (which isn't moving) or the Fremont Shop location. Please note that the drop off location will largely depend on the extent of the repair.

Contact Fleet Maintenance Services Shop at or fssshop@u.washington.edu if you have any questions.



TRIVIA WINNER

The Fleet Safe winner for Spring Quarter is Syd Fredrickson, who takes home an emergency road kit. Be sure to enter at the end of winter for another chance to win.



BURKE-GILMAN TRAIL UPDATE

In June 2011, King County [closed a section of the Burke-Gilman Trail](#) through Lake Forest Park. Since then, crews have been rebuilding the trail from the ground up: widening it, pouring fresh asphalt, and adding new lighting - among other improvements. The first section of completed trail, from Log Boom Park to Ballinger Way, opened in late December, with the remaining gap slated to reopen later this month.

A reconstructed and reconnected Burke-Gilman Trail farther north will mean more bicyclists coming to and passing through campus, many of whom may be unfamiliar with the locations where the trail intersects UW and University District roads. So in the months ahead, keep an eye out at busy intersections like 25th, Pend Oreille, 15th, University Way, and Brooklyn. New bicyclists might not know to be extra cautious through those intersections and will appreciate the extra courtesies.

Have a question or tip about pedestrian, transit, or bicycle issues on campus? Let us know at bikehelp@uw.edu.



Lane Squeeze Etiquette and Safety

Picture this: You're in the left lane of a four-lane superhighway, and see a sign that up ahead the lane ends or is temporarily closed. Traffic in the right lane has slowed because vehicles in the left lane have merged. Now your lane is clear for the next eighth of a mile. Do you:

- Carefully merge right as soon as possible;
- Execute a "late merge" by staying in the left lane, passing all the cars in the right lane, and merging at the last possible moment; or
- Merge right soon, but if right-lane traffic is too slow, drive on the shoulder.

If you've been driving long enough, undoubtedly you've seen people choosing each alternative. But only one is the polite and, more to the point, safe choice: "A". As one driver website puts it:

Polite drivers will [move] into the next lane as soon as they can. Jerks will stay in the closing lane all the way to the end, then force their way in. (truthaboutcars.com)

Forced lane merges on superhighways can occur for several reasons: construction work, accidents, clean-up crews, or simply the fact that the highway sheds a few lanes. Traffic engineers are well aware of the downside: traffic jams, travel time delays, greater fuel consumption and more aggressive driving behavior that results in more accidents.

Statistics are hard to come by, but one study found that 47 percent of the nearly 7,000 collisions in highway work zones in Michigan one year occurred where lanes were closed and traffic was forced to merge. The most common were rear-end and side-swipe collisions, resulting from aggressive jockeying for position. The study went on to say:

The "late lane merge phenomenon"... is an extremely dangerous ... maneuver for the driver, other motorists, and... workers in the construction zone. This type of late lane merge may cause hostility and "road rage" among the other patiently waiting drivers. It also increases the delay to motorists by creating a sudden interruption of traffic flow, and increases... safety hazards to those drivers ... who are following traffic regulations.

So when you see the next advisory to "Merge Ahead," be kind to your fellow motorists and safety smart at the same time. Your haste could wind up costing you more time, headaches and expense.

Source: Datta, Tapan K., Kerrie L. Schattler and Colleen Hill, Driver Behavior and Safety at Construction Zone Lane Merge Situations, Association for European Transport, 2002.

BASIC DRIVER TRAINING

Fleet Services requires all customers to have completed [Basic Driver Training](#), before driving a Fleet vehicle.



Fleet Services: 4659 25th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98105-4104

You've received this monthly safety bulletin as part of Fleet Services commitment to driver safety education and because you've had contact with Fleet Services in the past.

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