

Road Watchers Comment Responses

Week 9

1. On M-53, around the GM Tech Center (North Kennedy Circle), there is no reason to have a 30-second right of way for traffic coming out of GM, it is holding up traffic after GM closes, and especially this week, since the entrance has been closed due to the fact they are letting the concrete cure, it should be returned to pre-construction where it was a sensor that was determining traffic coming out of GM. Also the timing of the light between Old 13 Mile and Chicago could be done better to relieve some traffic. Also M-59 Construction could be started maybe 1 hour later there is still a lot of traffic. On a side note, the 12 Mile - Van Dyke turnaround lights are not synchronized with the main lights.

7/12/2014 9:24 AM

We have been working with the Macomb County Department of Roads about this intersection. It seemed especially bad that week because the entrance to GM was closed, therefore, there wasn't the typical amount of traffic leaving the facility. The signal could not be turned off because of traffic still coming out of Kennedy Circle, and the cycle could not be shortened because of the amount of time pedestrians need to cross M-53. The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramps were curing and the electrical staff will be on site this next week to install pushbutton signal foundations. Once completed, the signal will be actuated which will allow for a longer green time for M-53 traffic which will improve flow at the intersection. Crews will continue to monitor travel times on a weekly basis.

2. This comment actually goes back to two weeks ago. Patching crews were working mid-day on I-275 southbound between 8 and 7 mile roads. There was not nearly enough warning about closing the left two lanes. It occurred around a curve and surprised motorists. I had to brake quite hard as did everyone around me when we came around the corner and saw two trucks with arrows blocking the two left lanes. I did not see and prior warning and judging by the reactions of drivers around me, no one else did either. Now a compliment, that goes back a few weeks. Paving a through lane for M14 east traffic where it merges into I-275 - Brilliant! Traffic has been flowing MUCH better since that time. Thank You! Most days traffic only backs up to just before the exit lane to I-275 south. Prior to this change, it was backing up nearly to Sheldon road. Give whomever came up with this idea a big bonus!

7/11/2014 9:10 PM

We have followed up with our maintenance agency and review their future plans and requirements to ensure safety and compliance of maintenance activities.

Week 10

1 The biggest problem I see is merge lane scofflaws who try to take cuts. In other states the barrels are setup to merge the two lanes into one and then direct that lane into the open lane. Very simple and very effective. MDOT seems to go out of its way to make things worse than they should be. No thought is given to keeping traffic moving. It is almost as though MDOT was purposely trying to create traffic jams. When I travel through the Western states, they handle construction far better.

7/20/2014 7:55 AM

You are referring to the zipper method of handling lane closures. Two lanes go up to the point of the lane closure and then take turns proceeding into the open lane. The system of settling traffic into one lane prior to the work zone has the potential to move more effectively with early merging not needing to come to a complete stop. You're correct it requires compliance from all drivers. We will continue to monitor our work zones with our operations unit.

2 It's needed...keep up the great work!!

7/18/2014 8:38 AM

Thank you.

3 Dust at rock crusher is totally out of control and now it runs all night. I saw a sweeper on the service drive one day but the problem is the exit ramp that is never cleaned. They just add water to make mud for the trucks to drag up to the service drive where it dries and traffic creates and endless choking dust storm. Other areas seem to stay much cleaner, The crusher area is a total mess.

7/17/2014 10:20 PM

We have shared this with the I-96Fix Team and have asked them to direct the contractor to monitor the areas mentioned more closely.