

## Three Traffic Tales of Pennsylvania

### Lunchtime on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in Lancaster:

Through much of Lancaster, US-30 is a limited access freeway, however all good things must come to an end. Where the freeway ends on the eastern side of town and joins with another road, four lanes of traffic must become two. The road emerging from Lancaster is busy enough without a freeway's load of people joining the party. Not only is the area one of a heavy merge, its traffic lights do not appear to be synched. If they are, Lancaster and PennDOT should get their money back from that contractor because it's not working. To get through the merge point took almost a half hour, with many people driving on shoulders and illegally cutting through a strip mall just so they could MOVE. I thought that if this is what traffic looks like on a Sunday, I would hate to commute through here on a weekday. This situation reflects poor consideration of future growth as this was not a particularly new interchange.

### Late morning on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Pittsburgh:

Spring mornings are particularly nice when they're the right amount of warm and have the sweet scent of flowers in bloom, even in the city. The traffic signal at Penn Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was not working. This is a potentially scary situation when you consider that both of these roads are major routes in and out of the downtown and central neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. Yet everyone was taking their turns. It took less time to clear the intersection than it would have if the signal had been functioning. So way to go Pittsburgh, you have mastered the 4-way stop, even when two major roads with heavy traffic meet.

### Evening on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Benner Township:

Driving on I-99 north of State College is interesting because a few miles of it goes through the property at the State Correctional Institute at Rockview, a medium security prison. The boundaries of the prison's property are well marked as is the stern statement to only pull over for emergencies and the kind suggestion to not pick up hitchhikers. It's getting dark but I see something walking along shoulder of the highway. In this part of the world, one always assumes it is a deer. Nope. Rather it was a young man walking along the shoulder of the highway hitchhiking. Of all places to hitchhike, one would anticipate this would not be the best. Likewise, an escaped convict may wish to find somewhere, anywhere else to be hitchhiking.