

EAST VALLEY OPINIONS

COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

Quick, easy answer to freeway troubles

I don't know about you, but I'm getting a little tired of this day-in, day-out freeway traffic congestion thing. No sooner do I jump out of one lane to get into what seems to be a faster-moving venue than that lane comes to a screeching halt.

I have considered several alternatives, most of which had to be discarded for obvious reasons. Let's review them:

■ No one gets to use the freeway without asking my permission. This option is very attractive from several perspectives: It appeals to the "power freak" center of my brain and would allow me to wield even greater corruptive influence than soon-to-be-ex-corporate commissioner Jim "The Public Believes In Me" Irvin.

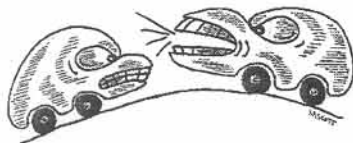
The prospect of getting thousands of e-mail or phone requests is a bit daunting, though, and my computer space is optimized for spam.

■ Require freeway drivers to buy a license to travel at peak hours. If I could figure out a way of wriggling out of having to pay for this myself, I might go for it. The chances of this are about the same as the Arizona "Glendale" Cardinals having a winning season.

■ Offer a premium for driving to underutilized destinations. See, instead of making people pay for using certain freeways, why not pay them for using unappreciated roads? Pretty cool, eh? I think there are some very lovely stretches of road near Winslow that could use your patronage.

OK, so now that we've got the silly and supercilious options, let's get to the solution: One-way traffic. I mean both sides of the median. Yep, it works downtown, why not on our newly minted paveways?

Here's how it works. Both



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the northbound and southbound sides of the eastern Loop 101 will now be one-way north until, say, 10 p.m. The newly unpronounceable road otherwise known as the 51 will be one-way south; again, we're talking both sides. The Black Canyon 17 will be one way going north. And the western Loop 101 will be one way south. Since no self-respecting Scottsdalian dares to venture farther west than Desert Ridge and westsiders are pretty content with that, the northern 101 route can be left to its own devices. All 202 lanes will go west and all Superstition lanes will go east.

I know, I know, it's hard to believe that such an elegant solution has not been thought of before.

I suppose there are a few loose ends to tidy up on this "road map." Now that I've done the heavy thinking part, I'm off to the auto supply store to fit out my little car with some wicked Ben Hur style custom wheel hubs — just in case the one-way thing doesn't work.

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