

I've lived in Victoria for the past three years, and this whole time I've had this strange feeling about living here that I couldn't quite explain. Recently, I finally feel like I've been able to put it into words.

My wife and I originally come from a driving city, namely Edmonton. Ironically enough, that characteristic is what *drove* us to move away from it. And I only say that because nowhere in the submission guidelines did I see that puns weren't allowed.

As a city, Edmonton is far from perfect, but it gets what makes for good driving. If you drive long enough, you come to realize that the one trait that all good drivers have in common is coincidentally the exact same trait that all good driving cities do: predictability. I believe that the worst drivers are those whose actions are the most difficult to predict.

Edmonton has put measures in place to allow maximum predictability of its roadways for drivers, demonstrably making that its top priority. You can tell that's the case every time a road sign warns you about something you'll need to be aware of 5 seconds from now, and I'm always grateful for the help.

Among lots that the city of Victoria gets right, I have also found a pattern of unpredictability in our city's roadways, mainly in the form of not enough warning for imminent decisions. Two lanes sometimes blend together in confusing ways, or a lane becomes an obligate turning lane with a second's warning, just a general lack of clarity of communication between the city and drivers, or two different countdown timers on two adjacent streets work opposite from one another. These are all avoidable scenarios, and have a measurable impact on driver anxiety. I know from lived experience! And that's exactly what I have an issue with, the resulting unintended negative consequences for the human beings using our roadways.

I am less interested in addressing each issue I just laid out as I am about addressing the problem at its core. I am prepared to show that certain policy decisions being made at the planning level cause needless and avoidable harm, all of it starting with a way of thinking that has led us to this point.

And I believe that ways of thinking can be changed.

Thank you,

Michael Wright