

Trouble brewing at traffic lights

Shorter timing the cause of congestion at SMART tunnel exit

I AM a business consultant working in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's business district and would like to share my views on a brewing traffic mismanagement situation that affects motorists of the SMART tunnel.

Since the opening of SMART in 2007, I have found my travelling time from Jalan Sungai Besi to Jalan Sultan Ismail reduced considerably.

The upgrade of the traffic lights at Jalan Imbi and Jalan Sultan Ismail in front of Park Royal/BB Plaza into a crossroad has made it possible for me to head directly to Jalan Sultan Ismail after exiting the tunnel in a very convenient journey.

Once more motorists were aware of this route, congestion started to build during morning peak hour traffic and the relevant authorities were quick to ease the congestion by assigning traffic policemen to man the crossroads as well as to introduce one-way traffic at certain routes.

These have been very helpful solutions to easing the higher volume of users and I must commend their efforts.

However, since the start of the new school semester this month, the congestion has returned and I was caught in a 25-minute crawl from inside the tunnel right up to the traffic lights.

After experiencing the same scenario for a week, I want to bring to attention my views as to why this horrible congestion is occurring.

Firstly, I have been timing the frequency of the traffic flow that the traffic policemen allows for each direction and have discovered a shorter time is given to motorists who are coming from SMART tunnel/Kampung Pandan roundabout.

Instead of the usual three minutes for each direction, the direction from SMART Tunnel/Kampung Pandan roundabout has been reduced to just one minute with the additional time given to motorists coming from Jalan Padli.

The second issue I would like to highlight is the "illegal" use of the flyover from the Kampung Pandan roundabout that connects to the same link road after exiting the SMART tunnel, heading to Jalan Sultan Ismail/jalan Imbi.

I believe that since no announcement was made by the authorities on the status of the flyover, it is therefore not officially open to the public.

However, a large number of motorists have forced their way onto the flyover by moving aside the barriers.

I hope the relevant authorities will investigate the situation and once more take immediate action to solve this unnecessary congestion.

We have a first world infrastructure but, sadly, third world road traffic management.

CONCERNED MOTORIST
Cheras



Smooth flowing: A file picture of the SMART tunnel.