



State Police: Don't drive too slowly in the left lane

By [Steve Schuster \(/web/20160317204031/http://wbay.com/author/wbaysschuster/\)](/web/20160317204031/http://wbay.com/author/wbaysschuster/)

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Michigan State Police are reminding drivers to stop using the left lane on interstates and multiple lane highways for general travel, [reports our sister station WOOD-TV.](/web/20160317204031/http://woodtv.com/2016/03/02/msp-stop-driving-in-left-lane-on-highway/)

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State police officials said the left lane is reserved for drivers who are actively passing, and is not to be used as a travel lane.

In the coming months, troopers will be cracking down on drivers using the left lane as a travel lane.

Michigan law enforcement officials say traveling too slowly in the left lane is dangerous because drivers behind them get frustrated and attempt risky maneuvers to get around those who refuse to get out of the left lane, reports WILX.

“So rule of thumb, stay in the right lane, unless you need to pass. Once you pass, get out of the left lane,” WILX says.

Meanwhile in Wisconsin, there is no law currently in place that prohibits drivers from using the left lane of an interstate as a travel lane, according to Sgt. Mike Galvan with the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Rep. Andre Jacque (R-De Pere) tells Action 2 News that in the last few years he's been a state legislator, he's not aware of any bills to address this issue in Wisconsin.

When asked if he would support such a measure, Rep. Jacque said he believes there are certainly times when it's appropriate to give prosecutors additional tools, but he would need more information before making a decision in this case.

Sgt. Galvan says while technically motorists could be cited for impeding the flow of traffic, that rarely happens, especially if there is another lane to get around the slow driver in the left lane.

“We do have signs that say slower traffic keep right, but those signs are few are far between,” he said.

Using the left lane as a travel lane, “is a source for irritation,” here in Wisconsin too, he added.

Of course, law enforcement is not encouraging speeding, and says zoned and posted speed limits must be obeyed at all times. School speed limits, construction zones, and inclement weather also call for traveling at reduced speeds, far less than the actual posted speed limit.

WOOD-TV and WILX-TV contributed to this report.

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