



“Zipper Merge” In A Construction Zone

What is a Zipper Merge?

Zipper merge is a traffic flow technique that can greatly improve safety and efficiency in construction zones. When zipper merging, vehicles in two lanes merge into one in an alternating fashion, similar to the teeth of a zipper closing. This technique maximizes road capacity and reduces congestion in construction zones.

Why Zipper Merge?

Efficient Traffic Flow:

- Zipper merge allows for the full utilization of all available lanes leading up to a merge point. By using both lanes until the merge point, traffic congestion is minimized, and delays are reduced.
- Efficient traffic flow benefits everyone on the road by reducing travel time and improving overall traffic conditions.

Fairness and Courtesy:

- Zipper merge promotes fairness and courtesy among drivers. Each vehicle takes turns merging into the open lane, eliminating the need for aggressive driving behaviors or disputes over right-of-way.
- By cooperating and following the zipper merge process, drivers can create a safer and more harmonious driving environment in construction zones.

Safety Considerations:

- Zipper merge enhances safety for both drivers and construction workers. It reduces the risk of rear-end collisions and improves visibility and predictability in construction zones.
- Following the zipper merge process allows for a smoother transition through lane closures and minimizes the potential for accidents and traffic backups.

Execution Tips:

- When approaching a merge point, continue using both lanes until reaching the merge point. Alternate merging with vehicles from the other lane in a courteous and predictable manner.
- Maintain a safe following distance from other vehicles and be prepared to adjust your speed as necessary to facilitate the merge process.
- [Watch this video on how to properly zipper merge.](#)

Conclusion: By understanding the importance of zipper merge and practicing it effectively, drivers can contribute to safer and more efficient traffic flow in construction zones. Remember to cooperate with other drivers, follow signage and instructions, and prioritize safety at all times. Zipper merge benefits everyone on the road and helps ensure a smoother and more enjoyable driving experience for all.