

Use Handy Road to Plaza Singapura

I REFER to Ms Prue Harrison's letter, "Scary left turn to Plaza Singapura" (ST, Oct 9).

Bus lanes provide public buses with the right of way during peak hours to improve travel time for bus commuters. This to encourage the use of the public-transport system, which is a more efficient use of road space during peak hours.

Unfortunately, bus lanes have become congested and thus lost their purpose due to inconsiderate motorists violating the rules. Hence, stricter enforcement is necessary to facilitate smooth traffic flow in bus lanes during their operating hours.

We recognise that at certain locations, private vehicles need to move onto the left-most lane in order to turn into side roads. Hence, dotted lines have been drawn along a stretch of the bus lane to allow motorists to filter into the bus lane.

However, the dotted lines provided have to be limited to a reasonable length in order for the bus lanes to remain effective, yet allowing vehicles to turn safely.

At the junction of Orchard Road and Oldham Lane, we have provided 70m of dotted bus lane for motorists to turn into Oldham Lane and access Handy Road before heading towards Plaza Singapura.

To extend this dotted lane any farther will prove counter-productive to the full-day bus-lane scheme at this location.

In fact, many motorists are using Handy Road as an alternative route to Plaza Singapura. We would like to encourage this as this route does not see any queues or delays, especially during peak hours.

We are considering putting up signs to advise motorists to use Handy Road for access to Plaza Singapura.

We seek motorists' patience and appeal to them to abide by the traffic rules. Ms Harrison may want to call us on 1800-CALL LTA (1800-2255 582) to provide us with her vehicle and contact numbers so that we could look into her case.

Naleeza Ebrahim (Ms)

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