

It's Just a Matter of Courtesy

It's just a matter of courtesy, especially if you in a group. You plan to make a left turn at a left/right, two lane T-intersections. A situation arises when you see traffic coming from both directions. You have already made your left turn hand signals, then note there is traffic behind signaling to make a right turn. A courteous maneuver is for all to stop on the right curb then wave right turning traffic by. Sometimes you get smiles or a thank you. If there are multiple vehicles behind you and the next wants to turn left it can also be waved by if it's obvious your group can't because of traffic. When you are finally able to make left turn, it's very important that the group make obvious left turn hand signals to prevent careless drivers, taking advantage of your situation, from passing you thereby preventing your left turn.

Here's another situation where you can display courtesy. You plan to make a right turn and you see oncoming vehicle(s) signaling to turn left in front of you. If the timing is right slow down and signal them to turn ahead of you. You become a nice guy in their eyes but for your peace of mind you have eliminated the car back situation.

Hand signals: Many times I've observed sloppy/casual turn signals, especially in traffic. Signals should be specific, distinct, made early and held long enough rather than out and gone in a flash. Arms should be held horizontally and straight. If using your left arm for a right turn the upper arm held horizontal and fore arm vertical. And that signal made with hand closed rather than finger pointed because some drivers might perceive it as an insult.

More next month,
John McKee