

# **“If Flying was like Driving”**

## **Repairs and Improvements**

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### **Inspections**

- Before starting your car, you'd need to inspect tires, gasoline, engine and engine instruments to ensure all are functioning thoroughly.
- The DMV would randomly check your vehicle for any discrepancies.
- Annual auto inspections would entail removing all the seats to inspect the sheet metal, compression checks of the engine cylinders and inspection of the radio and its controls.
- All car interior compartments would have to be corrosion protected.
- After re-painting your car, it must be weighed.
- Tow trucks would have to have made at least 3 tows in the past 90 days before they could tow you from the highway, and if at night, those tows would have to be made to a full stop.

### **Lifetime**

- Cars would last virtually forever unless they were totaled in a crash and their value would increase once they were at least 10 years old.
- Your engine would only be good for a few years, max.
- Some fenders would have a life limit, and need to be replaced because of it.

## **Parts**

- You couldn't add a radar detector without a mechanic's signoff and filing a form.
- You couldn't use eBay, or your buddy's old Junker car for a parts source.
- The local junk yard would go out of business... except those selling parts labeled "Collectors only--- NOT FOR DRIVING".
- If you blow a hose on the road, you are not allowed to replace it.
- You'd need to file a form and have a licensed mechanic install that spiffy new "Chain" steering wheel that's all the rage, then sign the cars logbook that it had been changed.... (as if no one could tell) .
- A minor collision that damaged your radiator would require a tear down of the engine, if the fan was damaged.

## **Cost**

- You would pay \$80.00/hr for your mechanic and not \$100.00/hr like you do for current auto mechanics.
- After a crunch, the body shop would charge you \$7,375.37 for a fender repaint.

## **Recalls**

- If you buy a new car and something is recalled, it is your responsibility, not the car manufacturer.

## Learning & Licensing

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- Teenage kids would be the driving instructors.
- License Type: Private Driver - Sedan Single Engine Unleaded.
- License Type: Private Driver - Truck Single Engine Unleaded.
- Bus drivers cannot drive past age 65.
- You'd pay the drivers testing examiner \$400.00 (in advance) for giving you a driving test.
- Every 2 years, you'd have to show a driving instructor that you can still drive well enough to pass the driver's test.
- Alternatively, you can participate in the "Wheels" program by going to some safety seminars or getting additional training.
- You would need to get medically certified to drive at least every 3 years.
- 17 yr olds could rent a car and drive away.
- Making a single, small mistake could mean you lose your license for 30 days or longer.
- Making a slightly larger mistake could mean you'll never drive again.

## Passengers

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- Driver would instruct every passenger in the use of seatbelts, doors, and windows.
- Passengers would be encouraged to watch for merging traffic.
- No smoking anytime, anywhere.
- Driver would be required to carry batteries and fuses if there are passengers.
- You have to drive your car and “Parallel Park” at night three times before you can carry a passenger at night.
- You'd have to put the heavy people in the front seat whether or not they preferred it to balance the usable load.
- If you car-pooled you would only be allowed to charge your passengers fuel costs for the trip unless you had a "taxi-driver" license.
- If you give a ride to a friend who wants to do something other than what you want to do, they cannot pay for any fuel or incidental expenses.
- You may not advertise for a passenger to help share expenses on a trip.

## Cost

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- New cars, which cost about \$5-7K to make, would suddenly be sold for over \$100K, and no one would think it's wrong.

## Gasoline

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- You would most likely fill your gas tank before every drive.
- Filling up with the wrong fuel could kill you.
- Standard practice to crawl under the car and take a fuel sample from fuel tank.
- Many states would enact laws making it illegal to dump these samples on the road but the laws wouldn't be enforced except at gas stations and driver training facilities.
- Gas tanks would have to be "sealed".
- You can buy books listing all publicly available gas stations and their current prices are listed on the Internet.

## Weather

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- Most drivers could not drive when it was foggy or storming.
- You could drive when it was foggy or storming only after getting special training.
- Drivers not licensed to drive in fog can still get "Drive Shadowing" from traffic control to alert them of approaching traffic.
- Drivers licensed to drive in fog and storms have to file a "Drive plan" with traffic if venturing out into bad weather.
- Traffic control can change the driving plan at will during the drive for their convenience.
- Drivers have to keep a 2 mile separation between cars in fog.
- Cars must be specially equipped with special tires and wipers to drive into known icing conditions such as when near or below freezing or when humidity is high.

## Restrictions

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- You can't drive near certain neighborhoods.
- You can't drive through the park.
- You need special permission to drive into or through many cities.
- You need a special permission to drive cars with big engines.
- Driving near the nation's capital would require that you be fingerprinted and display a discrete code in your rear window.
- Black Suburbans would pull you over if you got too close to Washington, DC.
- Highways in big cities are for Truckers and Buses only, don't ask for permission to enter, you're not getting it.
- People paint an X on their driveway to keep you from parking there.
- People on bicycles would constantly fight to take away your right to drive.
- You could lose your driving privileges for loading the car with more weight in people and baggage than the MGW sticker allowed.
- You'd need to check the weather before leaving the driveway and then call for permission to enter the roadway.

## **Freedoms**

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- The speed limit would be faster than most cars can even go.
- Cruise control keeps you in your lane.
- You could drive most roadways in whatever direction you wanted, and with an approved GPS you could drive "off road".
- Racing would simply be called "formation".
- Tailgating would simply be called "formation".
- Open alcohol containers OK. No driving within 8 hours of drinking even one sip.
- Fiddling with the radio is encouraged.
- Nearly every car would have dual controls and non-licensed passengers could drive for a spell.
- Simply stopping in the middle of the road to enjoy the view wouldn't be a problem, but your car must be specially equipped for this task.
- Insurance would not be required, but would cost several thousand dollars and would be void if your license plates were expired or floor mats were missing.

## **Accidents**

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- Traffic fatalities would reduce to nearly zero.
- Drunk-driving incidents would reduce to nearly zero.
- Traffic accidents involving injury, death, or serious property damage would be investigated by the federal government and information posted on the Internet.
- The public and press would begin to fear riding in cars.

## Navigation

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- You would be required to carry current AAA maps for cross country trips.
- Approved GPS with database that is updated every 8 weeks.
- For many, the "I Follow Roads" method of navigation wouldn't change.

## Alternative Modes of Transportation

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- Motorcycles have weight limits, maximum speeds and still be generally looked upon as fun but dangerous. Many motorcycles would be illegally modified.
- But it wouldn't be cheap anymore.
- Many, many, many people would be walking.

## Organizations

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- Drivers, and owners, would be encouraged to join " A. O. D. A ", Automobile Owners and Drivers Assoc, and take safety lessons online such as:
  - Highway incursions and avoiding them
  - Driving in Ice, and snow
  - Map reading
  - Advanced map reading
  - Advanced map reading at night
  - Talking like a pro to RTC (Road Traffic Control)

## Responsibilities

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- The driver is responsible for every accident unless the accident has been caused by catastrophic, unexpected mechanical failure.
- Nevertheless, if the driver is a celebrity or wealthy, the widow will sue the manufacturer of the car and all its parts -- no matter how old the parts may be or how foolish the driver has been.
- Driver is expected by friends, relatives, and co-workers to be able to explain (or defend) in detail every auto crash or bone-headed driver activity that has recently occurred or has ever occurred to a celebrity.