

From the Glove Box



There were two new questions in the Glove Box from the monthly meeting.

The first new one was from Sallie Comstock regarding is it legal to use HOV lanes while pulling a trailer- (car, travel or boat?)

Per the WSDOT website, can I travel in HOV lanes with a large motor home, or towing a boat? Yes, but only if you meet the occupant criteria posted on HOV road signs; which is 2 or more people for most HOV lanes.

Who can use HOV lanes? buses, vanpools, carpools, motorcycles, emergency vehicles. Who cannot use HOV lanes? trucks with three or more axels, regardless of the number of passengers, people driving alone, except on segments where new hours of operation have been implemented, single drivers passing vehicles in adjacent lanes , HOV lanes are provided to move more people! How do you define a carpool?

The minimum number of persons required for a carpool is two people. Generally Washington State HOV lanes require two-person carpools. The number of persons required to qualify as a carpool are clearly posted along HOV lanes. Per the WA State Patrol website, all trucks exceeding 10,000 lb. G.V.W. are prohibited from using HOV lanes at any time, except for tow trucks en route to an emergency on a specific roadway or roadside. Now, Washington State Patrol spokeswoman Willie Boxhoorn says that it wouldn't matter if there were 16 passengers in the SUV. Any vehicle --excluding transit buses -- that weighs over 10,000 pounds or is towing a trailer is barred from the freeway's left lane -- or the left two lanes if there's an HOV lane -- no matter how many passengers it has. Semitrailer trucks are included in that ban, which might explain why semis sometimes seem to be breathing down your neck when you're in the middle lane on a freeway: They can't legally pass you on your left. The reason for banning trailer-pulling, heavier vehicles from the leftmost lanes, says Boxhoorn, is that "they're not supposed to go very fast." WAC 468-510-020 Left lane restrictions. (1) RCW 46.61.100(3) mandates that no vehicle towing a trailer or no vehicle or combination over 10,000 lb. may use the left lane of limited access roadways having three or more lanes in one direction, and that a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane is not considered the left hand lane of a roadway.

Within this section, 10,000 lb. means 10,000 lb. gross vehicle weight (G.V.W.). The left lane prohibition described in this section does not apply to:

- (i) Motorcycles towing trailers. (ii) Class B motor homes without a motor vehicle or trailer in tow. (iii) Tow trucks weighing over 10,000 lb. G.V.W. when en route to an emergency on a specific roadway or roadside. (iv) Fire trucks or emergency care vehicles weighing over 10,000 lb. G.V.W. when en route to an emergency. (v) Any vehicle towing a trailer or vehicle or combination weighing over 10,000 lb. G.V.W. when one or more of the lanes are blocked because of an accident, other incident, or highway maintenance or construction activities. (vi) Any vehicle authorized to use a HOV lane that would otherwise be prohibited from the left lane.*

The second question is from Wally Martin seeking what is the flow rate in gallons per minute (GPM) for a 1992 350 CI water pump? Who can help Wally with his question? Keep the questions coming. You can e-mail your questions or solutions to Jim Farris at farrismej@aol.com.