

Traffic light modifications that could save lives!

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I began driving in Riyadh 4 years ago. Initially I was very apprehensive after hearing about the carelessness of drivers on Riyadh roads, and the shocking accidents happening every day. Now, driving is almost an effortless task for me. I still remain wary of car accidents, and drivers that have no concern for their own lives, nor for others'.

Stopping at a traffic light gives me a moment of peace and quiet. I have witnessed and experienced the chaos that ensues on any traffic light, with cars almost smashing into each other and they slam their brakes to not cross the red light, and impatient drivers honking at the drivers in front to intimidate them into moving as the light turns green. This has encouraged me to think of possible solutions for this chaos.

I hereby propose two modifications to the traffic lights pattern that could potentially have a massive impact on Riyadh traffic and road traffic accidents. First idea is to standardize the duration of the "**blinking green light**" right before it turns red. Second idea is to implement the **yellow color traffic light** right before the signal turns green, alerting drivers to get ready to move.

Standardizing the blinking green light

The usual traffic signal goes from green to blinking green to amber and finally red. The blinking green light triggers a sort of a "do or die" reaction in drivers. It's either they rush through now, or they have to stop at the signal.

A very serious problem I noticed with the blinking green light on Riyadh roads is that, the duration of the blinking stage varies before it turns to amber and then red. On some roads, it may blink twice, one some thrice and on some roads, it blinks 5 times!

This can cause a catastrophic miscalculation, as drivers might see the light blinking and may try to speed through the signal thinking it is going to blink 5 times, But the signal may blink only twice and then quickly change to amber and then red. This will result in the stunned driver slamming his brakes, possibly causing cars behind him to collide into him.

If all the traffic lights can have a uniform and standard "blinking green light", I strongly believe it can have a huge impact on traffic flow and reduce number of accidents happening right at the traffic signal, that we see so very often.

A yellow light right before it turns green

As drivers wait at a red light, some with their engines turned off, the signal going green causing a panic attack amongst the drivers. The front ones feel like they really need to move as quickly as possible, and the back ones fearing they'll never make it past the signal. A yellow light few seconds before the green light could give drivers a few valuable seconds to prepare for the green light, and could help avoid unnecessary delays and confusion in the traffic.

