

Dangerous U-turn

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Litrak says safety measures in place, urges drivers to adhere to rules

MOTORISTS using the Damansara-Puchong Highway (LDP) are concerned about their safety whenever they make a U-turn at the Puchong Jaya interchange, from IOI Mall back to Pusat Bandar Puchong.

Road users say the U-turn was introduced two years ago after the traffic lights there were removed.

Although the U-turn has made it more convenient for those who wish to head to Pusat Bandar Puchong, many say the stretch is dangerous and accident-prone.

Security guard HASIM AHMAD, 24, who works at a clubhouse, says despite being there only for a month, he has witnessed at least four minor collisions.

He says motorists coming from the Jalan Kelang Lama traffic lights intersection usually drive fast and vehicles making a U-turn find it difficult to enter the main road.

"Accidents usually happen during peak hours from 8am to 10am and 5pm to 9pm," says HASIM.

Financial adviser P. PRAGARASH says he has been involved in two accidents while trying to make a U-turn.



PRAGARASH: Involved in two accidents while making U-turn

"Both cases happened within a span of a year and in both cases, my car was damaged," he says.

Technician TEOH PING HENG says he has witnessed six accidents in the area and heard about four other cases from his colleagues.

TEOH says the stretch is prone to accidents and he is concerned about his safety whenever he makes a U-turn.

"There have not been any deaths but the authorities should do something to prevent more accidents from happening," he says.

Lingkar Trans Kota Sdn Bhd (Litrak) head of communications Shah Rizal Mohamed Fawzi says engineers visited the area on Monday following an alert from Hotline.

"Compared to other U-turns that can be found on the LDP, this U-turn is a dedicated one which is able to cater to small and heavy vehicles. It also has a 100m deceleration lane or D-lane," he says.

"This means drivers have ample space to make a U-turn before merging into the main lane of the slip road."

Shah Rizal says traffic coming from Puchong Jaya and Jalan Kelang Lama is also regulated by traffic lights.

"During our observation, we found drivers jumping queue instead of first waiting on the D-lane before merging into the main lane," he says.

"The U-turn is only meant to be a single lane but impatient drivers tend to create an additional lane."

He says Litrak had also installed flexi poles to guide drivers to keep safe on the D-lane.

"We will continue to monitor the area but we also hope motorists will adhere to road regulations," he says.



DANGER ZONE: A heavy vehicle tries to enter the main lane



BACK TO BACK: Vehicles enter the main lane to head towards Pusat Bandar Puchong