

## Self-Driving Cars: Predictions of Failure

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Self-driving cars are an interesting concept. They've been in science fiction books and movies for about 60 years but only recently have they been seen on the road. They will fail. Wait. That's wrong. Let me rephrase. In America, they will fail. In Europe, they may be a huge success.

Why?

In self-driving cars, the owner can't speed. The GPS, integrated with a real-time mapping system, will know the speed limit and obey it. There won't be any zipping in and out of lanes to get ahead of other people. No speeding through the on ramp to get as far ahead as possible before merging. No more merging into off ramps at the last second because the driver is too important to get in line. The car knows better. There won't be any yellow light accelerations. In fact, the computer driving the car will begin to slow before the light turns yellow because the car and the lights will be on the same network. The car will know when the light will turn yellow, won't be able to speed up to avoid a red light, so will slow down to save gas and reduce green house emissions. There will be no more turning right on red from the left turn lane even though many argue that doing so is a perfectly legal maneuver. No more driving through the parking spots to get ahead of traffic at a stop light so you can turn right. No more cutting through four lanes of through traffic to make a left turn during rush hour. The self-driving car will drive around the block. And, best of all, there will be no tailgating. A proper distance of one car length per 10 MPH will be maintained at all times. All of this will make driving - er, riding - boring. People will stop going to work and going out at night because it's boring. Some people have already declared that self-driving cars are a conspiracy to do exactly that: reduce emissions and save the planet.

There are other effects. This one may be intended. Unruly passengers will actually be dropped at the side of the road. In days past, the driver had to threaten passengers: "I'll stop right here in the middle of the freeway if you don't stop tormenting your sister!" Passengers will be neat and should any trash drop to the floor, the car will slow to allow the passenger to bend down and pick it up without being subjected to unnecessary G-forces.

Some people will hack the computer so that they can continue these bad behaviours and the government will make it a felony, putting more people in jail.

“Dude, what’re you in for?”

“Reprogramming my Mazda.”

All the above safety features will be codified into law leading to an unusual partnership in the countermovement. The formerly unruly, irresponsible, speeding, jackwagon you see on the highway every day today will join forces with the ultra-conservative who, in this case accurately, predicts that the government is out to take control over every aspect of our daily lives.

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