

## Tailgating survey

### Methodology:

Ipsos online panel survey conducted March 21 to 25, 2025. 800 respondents completed the survey, meeting the criteria of having a valid B.C. driver's licence and self reporting having driven since receiving their licence. Survey data is weighted using B.C. Census data to reflect the overall population of B.C. residents.

### Key findings:

#### Large majority of drivers in British Columbia admit to tailgating:

- Over three quarters of drivers surveyed (77%) admit to following the vehicle in front too closely with 52% doing so 'rarely', 17% 'sometimes', 6% 'frequently', and 2% 'always.'
- About one-quarter (23%) say they 'never' follow too closely behind the vehicle in front of them.
- The most common reasons for tailgating are the driver in front is traveling below the speed limit (50%), followed by the driver in the fast lane not driving fast enough (30%), not wanting other drivers to cut in (17%) and being in a hurry to get to the destination (16%).

#### Tailgating takes place everywhere but most common on city streets:

- Majority of B.C. drivers experience tailgating at least sometimes on city streets (84%) or highways in any lane (82%).
- This is slightly less prevalent when driving in a fast highway lane or HOV lane (75%), in a construction zone (73%) or in a playground or school zone (69%).



## Tailgating sparks a range of emotions from B.C. drivers:

- 31% of B.C. drivers say it 'frustrates' them, 23% say it scares them, 21% feel angered, and 11% feel intimidated. On the other hand, 12% of drivers say they are not bothered by another vehicle tailgating them.

## B.C. drivers manage being tailgated in different ways:

- When being tailgated, 41% of B.C. drivers say they move to another lane if available and when safe to do so.
- 11% pull over to let the vehicle pass, 9% slow down to make a point, 7% speed up to create distance, 2% speed up even if it means following too closely, and 1% say they tap the brakes or break check to deal with the tailgating.
- Notably, 28% say they try to ignore the behaviour while staying in their lane and travelling at the posted speed limit.

## Although majority of B.C. drivers surveyed admit to tailgating, most are likely to maintain a safe following distance on our roads:

- Almost all drivers (95%) say they are likely to maintain a following distance of at least two seconds on city streets when driving in good weather conditions, with 63% saying they are 'very likely' and 32% saying they are 'likely' to do so.
- Similarly, 92% of drivers say they are likely to maintain a following distance of at least three seconds on highways at speeds of 80 km/h or more, with 62% 'very likely' and 29% 'likely' to do so.
- In poor weather conditions, 86% of drivers indicate they are likely to increase their following distance on city streets, with 64% 'very likely' and 23% 'likely' to do so. Similarly, 87% of drivers indicate they are likely to increase their following distance on highways, with 69% 'very likely' and 18% 'likely' to do so.