

Get Your Motor Running *Motorcycle Safety*



Even the best motorcyclist can have problems traveling across certain bridge joints, milled pavement, loose gravel or open trenches. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and utility provider employees are trained to recognize that these conditions can cause hazardous situations for motorcyclists.

As a result, VDOT and utility employees are working hard to provide riding surfaces that are appropriate for two-wheeled vehicles in work zones and under normal conditions. Also, motorcyclists will see more signs alerting them to potentially difficult conditions so they can adjust the way they operate their motorcycle to cross those areas safely. In general, motorcyclists should slow down, be alert and adjust their positions when approaching these signs:



OPEN JOINTS ON BRIDGE

Used in advance of open longitudinal joints large enough that a motorcyclist could lose control, typically when the joint is parallel or no more than 30 degrees from parallel to the traffic lane and the joint is at least 1¹/₂ inches wide.



EXPANSION JOINTS

Used when a joint across lanes creates a significant bump or is wide enough to cause a traction loss in wet weather so that a motorcyclist could lose control.



ROUGH ROAD, BUMP, or UNEVEN LANES

Used when certain road conditions, such as gravel or milled pavement, affect the roadway surface and create potentially difficult conditions for motorists, especially motorcyclists.

HELPFUL INFORMATION:

Traffic lights that sometimes do not detect smaller vehicles can present another challenge for motorcyclists.

If a traffic light does not turn green within a reasonable time period, and there is no approaching traffic coming from behind, the motorcyclist should roll the throttle on and off a few times, revving the engine. The added power may be sufficient to disrupt the electrical field. If not, turn the motorcycle off and restart it. The electrical field created by the starter should disrupt the sensor field and trigger the sensor.

If there seems to be a frequent problem at a specific light, the motorcyclist may ask that a detector be examined.

To report a traffic light problem or a road hazard, call the Highway Helpline at 1-800-367-ROAD (7623) (TTY users, call 1-800-432-1843), or complete a Highway Helpline request at www.virginiadot.org/comtravel/eoc/citizen.asp.

This information is provided in a cooperative effort of the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists, Motorcycle Safety League of Virginia, American Motorcyclist Association, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia local governments and others that support motorcyclists' safety.

For more information, go to these web sites or call these organizations (TTY users, call 711):

Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists
www.vcomonline.org 1-800-437-9434

Virginia Rider Training Program
www.dmvnow.com/webdoc/citizen/drivers/m_course.asp
For information about a course near you, contact the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227 or the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles at 1-866-DMV-LINE, 1-800-435-5173, or online at www.dmvNOW.com.

Motorcycle Safety League of Virginia, Inc.
www.learn2ride.com 1-888-826-7584