

Motorcycling in Virginia: HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE RIDE

You have a motorcycle classification on your driver's license, you have checked your motorcycle and it is working properly, you have all the right safety gear and your travel buddies are all lined up, so what else should you know before hitting the open road?

Before you enjoy the ride, familiarize yourself with highway signs designed to alert you to potentially challenging driving conditions. Slow down, be alert and adjust your position when approaching the following signs:



Open Joints on Bridge

This sign is displayed prior to open 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 1½ inches wide.



Bridge Expansion Joints

This sign is 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 and Uneven Lanes

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



Motorcyclist Safety Tips

- Check your bike before each ride
- Wear safety equipment
- Ride with others
- Know the road
- Slow down

HERE IS SOME OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR SAFE MOTORCYCLE RIDING:

Traffic Signals

Traffic signals can present a challenge for motorcyclists. If a light does not turn green within a reasonable time and there are no vehicles behind you, you should roll your throttle on and off a few times, revving your motorcycle's engine. The added power may be enough to disrupt the electrical field prompting a light change. If this does not work, turn your motorcycle off and restart it. The electrical field created by the starter should disrupt the sensor field and trigger the light change.

Contact Us

To report a road hazard or traffic signal problem, call the Virginia Department of Transportation's Highway Helpline at (800) 367-ROAD (7623). TTY/TDD users should call 711 or complete a Highway Helpline request at <http://www.viriniadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>

For more information, contact the following organizations (TTY/TDD users, call 711):

Virginia Rider Training Program

For information on a course near you, contact the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles at (866) DMV-LINE, (800) 435-5173 or www.dmvNOW.com

Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists

www.vcomonline.org or (800) 437-9434

Motorcycle Safety League of Virginia, Inc.

www.learn2ride.com or (888) 826-7584

To learn more about great motorcycling in Virginia, visit www.motorcycleva.com



HIGHWAY SAFETY CHALLENGE

Take Virginia's Highway Safety Challenge.

Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug and alcohol free. Obey speed limits. To learn more, visit www.safeVAhighways.org