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PRESS RELEASE

ABATE of New York Position on Roadway Rumble Strips

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In an attempt to make our roads safer, the question of whether to grind into the road surface, roadway rumble strips has arisen. ABATE of New York would like to thank the NY-Dot for its concerns in trying to decrease the accidents, injuries and fatalities on the roads of New York State. While more primary roads and state roads are equipped with this effect, the question of whether to install this type of warning device on county roads is questionable. Most of the people that drive have accidentally or intentionally made contact with these warning devices, some just to see the result. Motorcyclists also have had this similar situation. In a car the warning is effective. On a motorcycle the warning effect can be alarming. The recovery can be stunning to a less than seasoned rider. Hopefully the riders' corrective reaction to the roadway rumble strip has not caused an accident.

The concerns of the motorcyclist community is that the roadway rumble strips are being proposed for county roads in our state on a county by county basis. Most motorcyclists are unaware of the situation as they travel from county to county and learning by accident is not the way to find out. While the shoulder roadway rumble strip marking are clearly visible in day light they are not in the dark. Most motorcycles are able to withstand the pounding that the roadway rumble strips would give under normal conditions. Under adverse condition these rumble strips are another obstacle to clear before the safety of the shoulder is reached.

ABATE of New York concern is also for our other two wheeled road users. Bicyclists do not consider these road warning devices in a favorable light, in fact they are called "death traps" by most bicyclist that have ridden over the roadway rumble strips. The front and rear suspension of bicycle consist only of the tires. Inadequate for repeated pounding of a seven inch long, half inch deep holes every foot.

There is currently legislation pending by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin to stop the construction of these roadway rumble strips on secondary roads and a court of claims case in Westchester County holding the NYSDOT as responsible for creating an unsafe condition.

Driving is the responsibility of the driver. Road use is for everyone, be it wheeled or on foot. Horses, bicyclist and pedestrians are prohibited from use of the limited access roads, not county roadways. The distractions to drivers is constantly increasing. Our state legislature keeps generating new laws to deal with the distractions. A driver main responsibility is safe driving.

ABATE of New York request that the Traffic and Safety Board of Any County refrain from creating a situation that might cause harm to an entire class of road users for the safety of another class of inattentive road users. We all must learn to share the road and use the road safely.

Sincerely,

George Gorman
Legislative Coordinator
ABATE of New York State