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# Road user perspectives of 'safe' road surfaces

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# Road user perspectives

- **User categories**
  - Pedestrians
  - Cyclists
  - Motor cyclists
  - Motorists
  - LGV, PSV & HGV drivers
- **Pedestrians and motorists**
  - Elderly
  - Disabled
  - Others



# User mind sets / considered views

- **Good Surfaces**

- New & black, even, smooth but grippy, wide surfaces, clear road markings.....



- **Bad surfaces**

- Potholes, patches, uneven, bumpy, slippery, poor utility repairs, water build up, sunken drain covers, failed patching, speed bumps .....





# User requirements

- Ride comfort
- BUT**
- Pre-dominantly.....Safety

*A good/safe road surface  
you should not notice*



*Something “sudden”  
causes you to notice*



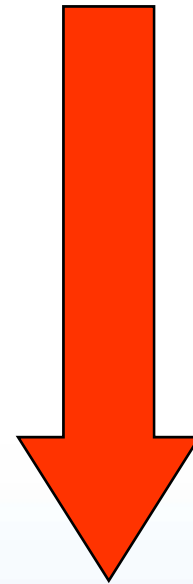
**Safe / Acceptable**

**Unsafe / Unacceptable**

# Impact of road surface

- **Elderly & Disabled**
- **Cyclists & Motorcyclists**
- **Pedestrians**
- **HGV / Bus drivers**
- **Car/LGV drivers & passengers**

**Most affected**



**Least affected**

Not a linear scale

# Elderly & Disabled

- Uneven surfaces
- Raised / lowered paving slabs and potholes

*"I have had shooting pain....so that's a bad road. Then I don't go that way, just to avoid it"*

*"Cracked pavements...I have to walk along looking at the floor to make sure I don't fall over them"*

*"The 'bobbles' on the slabs... it sends the wheels crazy when you go over the bumps"*



# Cyclists and motorcyclists

- **Stability**

- Grip
- Uneven surfaces
- Ruts / longitudinal cracks / thick white lines
- Location of defects, e.g. sunken/raised ironworks, potholes

"It only takes you just to move a little bit, and all of a sudden, wham....you are out"

"Sunken drains...would not want to ride over those; you are forced to suddenly swerve out to go round it- dangerous"





# Pedestrians

- **Trips & Falls**



“Definitely a trip! Dangerous if infirm, pushing a buggy or not looking where they are going”

Not very pretty but... flat enough: Acceptable



# HGV drivers

- **Grip**
- **Bumpy surfaces**
- **Edge deterioration**
- **Width**



*“Bridge joints cause sudden drops in the road surface and can be dangerous as vehicle can be difficult to control”*

*“Cars can avoid drains and bad bits of road. Try to avoid drains if possible but wide vehicle often makes this impossible”*

# Motorists

- Uneven surfaces - Bumpiness
- Ruts



"Not a fantastic surface, but at low speeds not of great significance"

*"The problem is not the condition; problem is the volume of traffic using the roads"*



# User perspective – user category

- **Motor cyclist**
  - “Very smooth, lack of grip – terrible”
- **Car drivers**
  - “Great road surface, no bumps, exceptional standard, nice piece of road to travel on”





**THANK YOU**