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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

\[ \text{A good/safe road surface you should not notice} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Something “sudden” causes you to notice} \]

Safe / Acceptable \quad \rightarrow \quad Unsafe / Unacceptable
Impact of road surface

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

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

“The problem is not the condition; problem is the volume of traffic using the roads”

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