

# June '97 Wheels

## Almost half of all fatal motorcycle crashes involves speeding

Motorcyclists may have a rebel image, but operating one of these machines gives you the responsibility to play strictly by the books.

• When you're in the market for a motorcycle your best bet is a dependable and established retailer.

They'll have all the paperwork to ensure the motorcycle is certified. If you're buying the motorcycle second-hand from an individual, you must get it safety-checked first.

Ask the seller for past ownership and maintenance records too. Remember, if the price is too good to be true, it probably is.

• Take the vehicle out for a test drive, paying particular attention to the cornering, steering, brakes and tires.

You have to feel comfortable with the overall condition and the way it handles.

• Be aware of, and obey, all the rules of the road. In case of an accident, motorcyclists don't have the physical protection offered by an enclosed vehicle, placing an extra burden on the driver.

• Dress appropriately every time you ride, starting with a helmet that fits

and is secured with a chin strap.

While a helmet can save your life in a mishap, a jacket, full length pants, boots and gloves can save your skin from serious cuts and burns.

• Though you can't read the minds of other drivers, you can keep alert. In multi-vehicle accidents involving a motorcycle and car, the most common mistake is failing to yield the right of way.

• Learn from other motorcyclists' fatal mistakes.

Upwards of half of all motorcyclists involved in fatal accidents were speeding.

Drive the speed limit, adjusting your speed for the road, traffic and weather conditions and for night driving.

• At night, it is more difficult to see and be seen.

Increase your visibility, and your chances of survival, by wearing light-colored clothing with reflective material. You can also make your bike more visible by attaching reflectors or reflective tape.

• Keep your bike in top working order. A significant number of motorcycles involved in fatal accidents had obvious defects, the most common being insufficient tire tread.

## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

### HIGHWAY 404 WIDENING FROM HIGHWAY 401 NORTHERLY TO HWY 407 NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is completing a study to determine long term improvements to Highway 404, from Highway 401, City of North York, Regional Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, northerly to Highway 407, Town of Markham, Regional Municipality of York. The study addresses issues such as present operational deficiencies, future traffic capacity needs, safety requirements, and a proposal to increase the people carrying capacity of the highway by introduction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes along Highway 404. The design and construction of Highway 404 through Highway 404/407 interchange is being undertaken by others.

As a result of this study, MTO is proposing to widen Highway 404 to 10 basic lanes from highway 401 to Highway 407. The widening will include the provision for one HOV lane in each direction. Other improvements proposed include an improved ramp connection from Highway 401 eastbound to Highway 404 northbound and maintaining access to and from Sheppard Avenue on Highway 404. The proposed widening of Highway 404 will necessitate improvements to drainage and illumination.

This study also identifies a construction staging plan for the above improvements. Stage 1 construction involves reconstruction of the Highway 404 median from Highway 401 northerly 7.4 km to the CNR underpass which includes concrete median barriers, drainage and high mast illumination. Stage 2 construction is for improvements to the Highway 401/404 interchange and includes three (3) new bridges within the interchange. Stage 3 construction is for the final widening of Highway 404 to accommodate HOV lanes as well as completion of the Highway 401/404 interchange improvements. The detail design component of this study encompasses Stages 1 and 2, while the long term improvements will be designed closer to the implementation of Stage 3.

This study follows a Class Environmental Assessment process approved for highway projects of this type. An Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared to document both the interim Stage 1 and 2 improvements and the long term widening requirements. The ESR will be filed with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MOEE) and will be made available for public review. Further public notices will be published at the time of submission.

You are encouraged to contact MTO or the consultant project staff if you have any questions about this project. If you feel, after consulting with MTO staff, that serious concerns remain unresolved, it is your right to request that the project be subject to the formal Environmental Assessment review and approval process, possibly including a formal public hearing. The decision rests with the Minister of the Environment and Energy.

To allow residents and members of the public an opportunity to review and comment on the work to date, which includes the identification and evaluation of alternatives and the technically preferred design, a Public Information Centre has been scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 1997

**Place:** Sir Samuel B. Steele Jr. School  
131 Huntmill Boulevard  
Scarborough, Ontario

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We are interested in receiving any comments or concerns you or your group may have regarding the proposed improvements. If you wish to be involved in this study or receive further information, please contact us. Any further notification by MTO shall only be provided to those who have expressed an interest in being further involved.

Comments and information supplied by those attending this Public Information Centre are being collected to assist the Ministry of Transportation in meeting the requirements under the Environmental Assessment Act. All information will be kept on file for use during the study and may be included in study documentation which is made available for public review. Names and addresses will be kept confidential.

Please send any comments or requests to:

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Des renseignements sur ce programme sont disponibles en français en composant: (416) 235-3403



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