

Unit Seven: Driving Off Into the Sunset



Highways, Expressways, & Interstates

Objectives For Unit Seven



- Students will be able to describe the skills

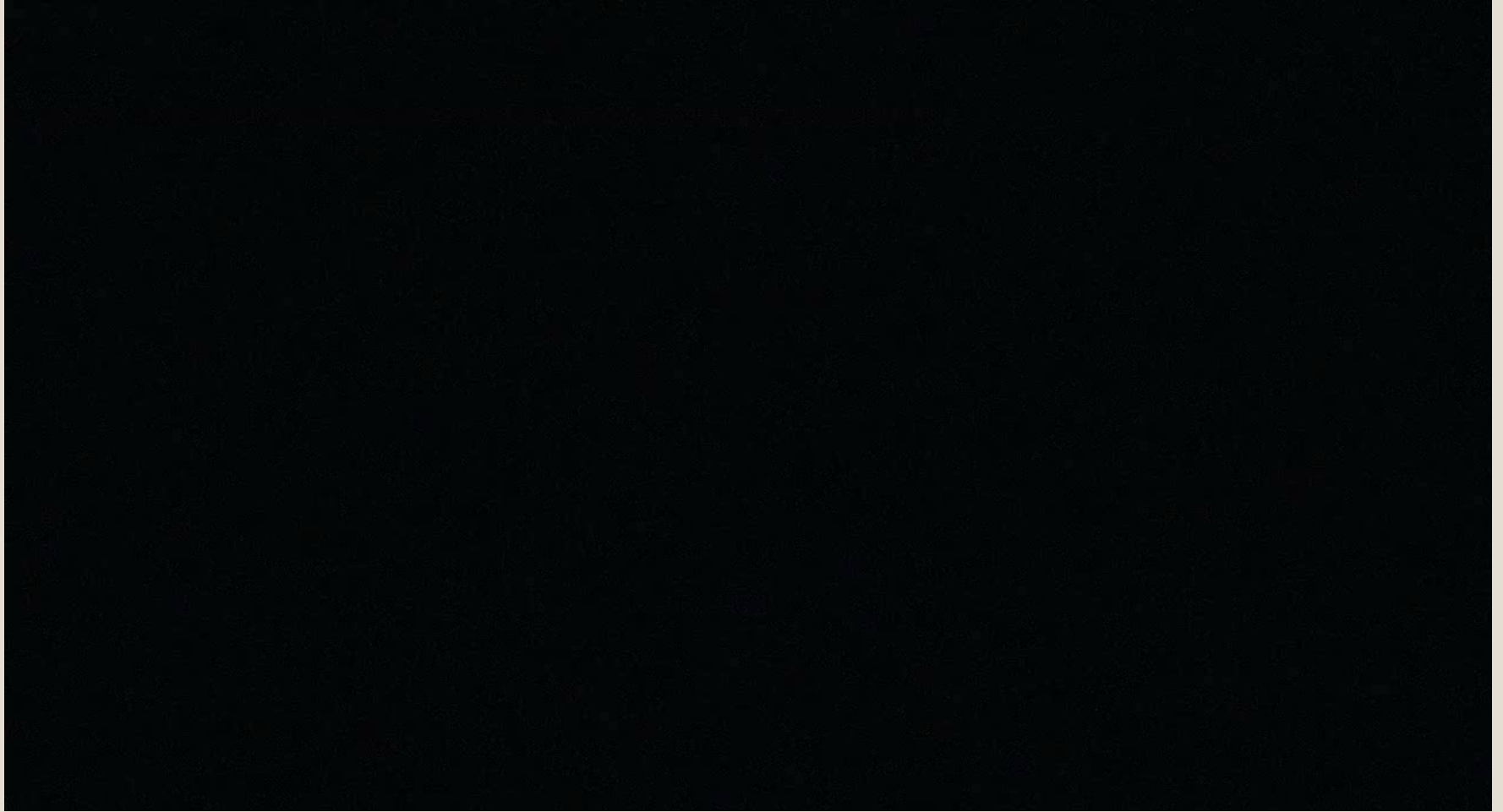
What do I do around large trucks?
expressways.

What is a weave lane?

- Students will be able to describe the types of vehicles and road conditions typically found on

**How I do enter and exit
an expressway?**

Reaching For The Stars: Texting At High Speed



What Is An Expressway?



- **Limited points to enter and exit (controlled access)**
- **Usually have a minimum and a maximum speed limit**
- **Divided by medians or barricades**



- **Multiple lanes heading in both directions**
- **Only motorized vehicles**
- **May have bridges, tunnels, and toll plazas**



Getting On An Expressway



**WHAT YOU
MAY FEEL LIKE**



BUT

**If you S.E.E. carefully & focus on the task &
follow some simple steps....
YOU WILL BE FINE !**

Be sure to S.E.E.



S.E.E.: Entrance Ramp And Acceleration Lane



- **Be sure to consistently search for what is front of you, what is behind you, and what is next to you.**
 - **Use all of your mirrors.**
 - **Complete head check.**
- **Be prepared to adjust speed to merge smoothly.**
- **Be prepared to use shoulder to stop if no gaps are available.**
- **Remember that traffic on the road has right-of-way.**

S.E.E.: Entrance Ramp and Acceleration Lane



- **Be sure to consistently search for what is front of you, what is behind you, and what is next to you.**
 - **Remember to use all of your mirrors.**
 - **Complete head check to make sure no one is in your blind spot.**
- **Be prepared to adjust speed to merge smoothly.**
- **Be prepared to use shoulder if no gaps are available.**
- **Remember that traffic on the road has right-of-way.**

Driving On An Expressway: Safe And Legal Driving



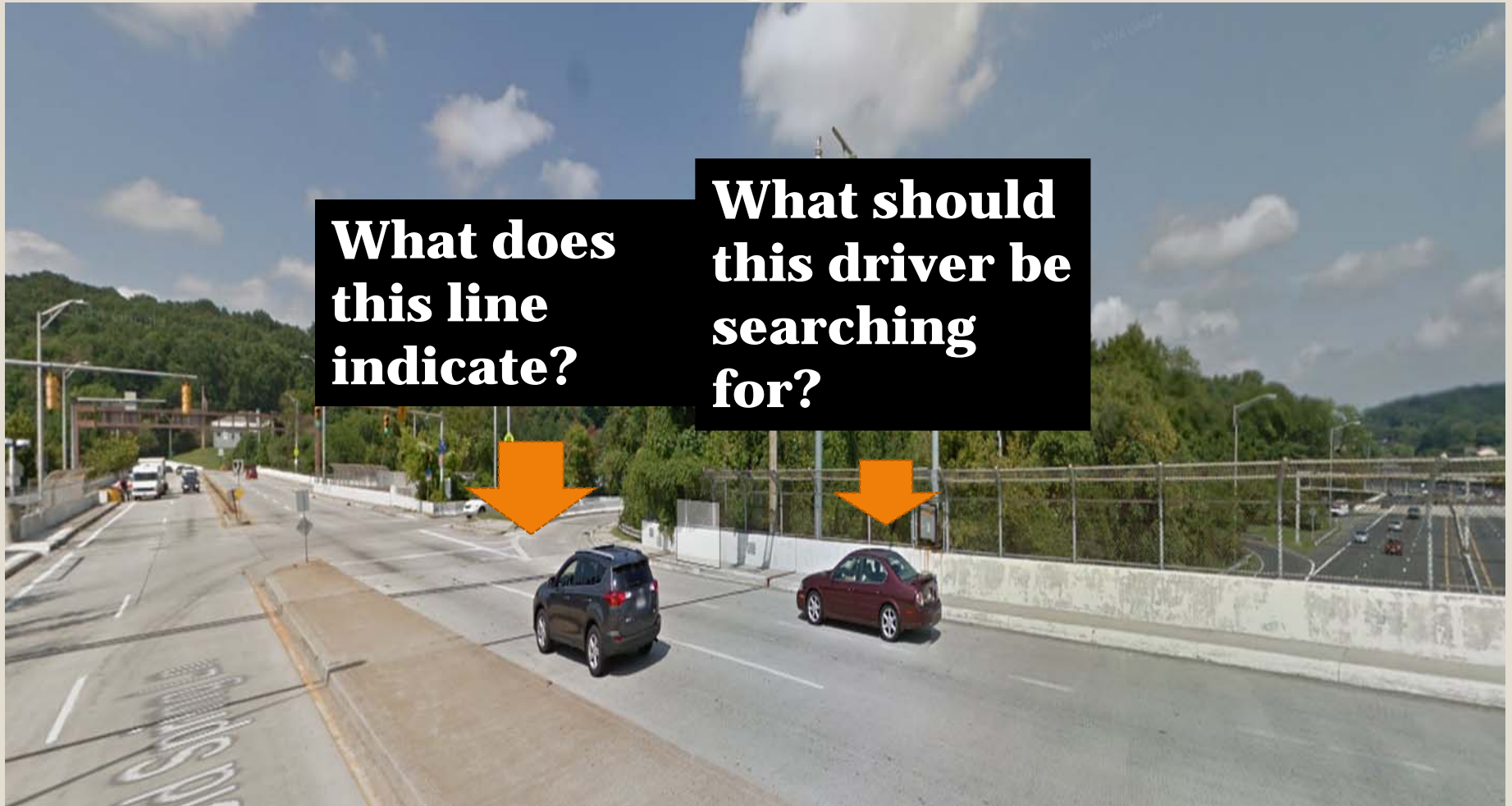
- **Maintain 3-4 second following distance.**
- **Increase following distance behind large trucks, in bad weather, and when driving a heavy vehicle/pulling trailer.**
- **If you are being tailgated by another driver, reduce speed and move to the right to encourage the driver to pass you.**

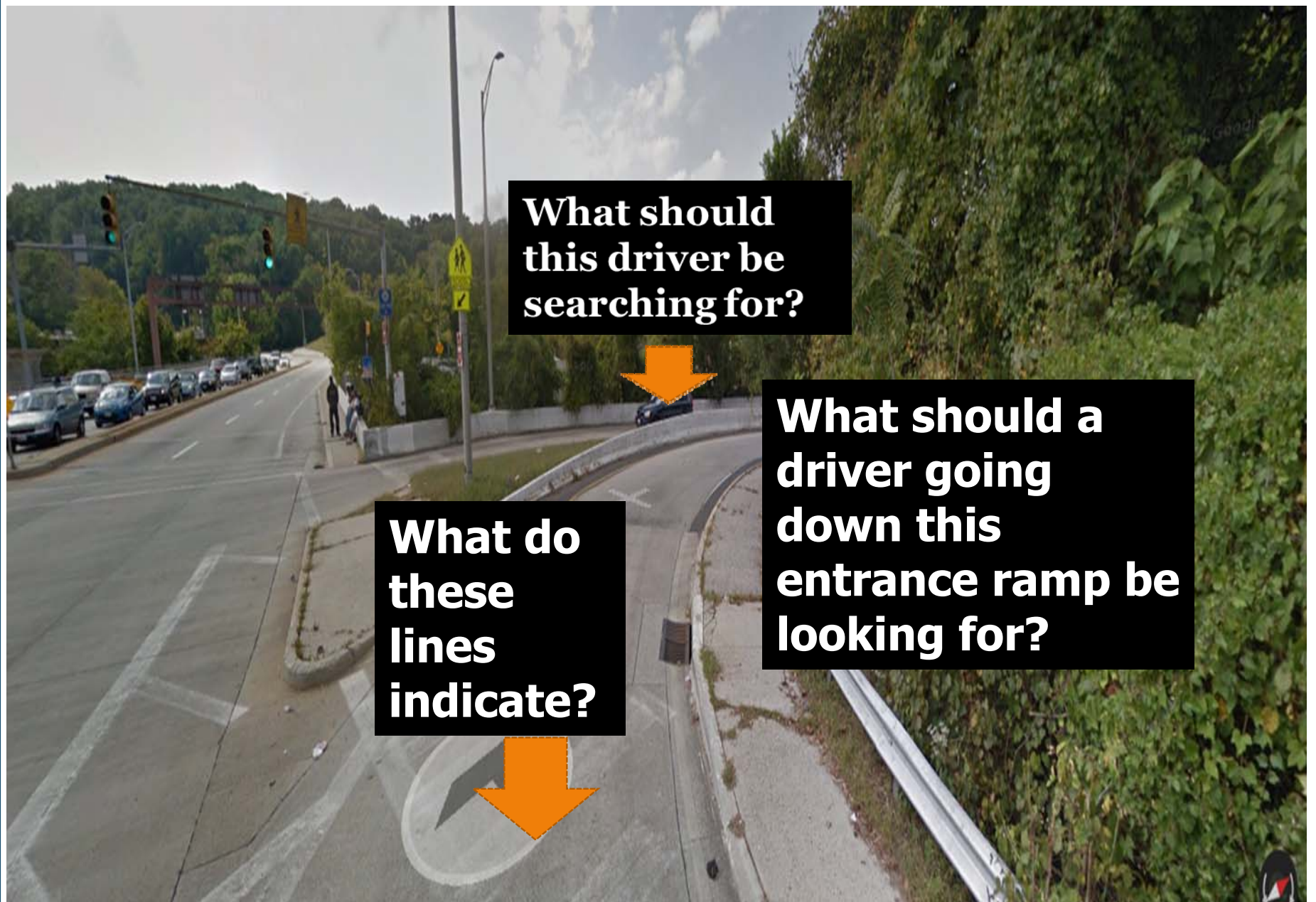
S.E.E.: Entering An Expressway



**What does
this line
indicate?**

**What should
this driver be
searching
for?**





**What should
this driver be
searching for?**

**What should a
driver going
down this
entrance ramp be
looking for?**

**What do
these
lines
indicate?**



Limited visibility

**What are the
hazards of
this ramp?**

**Limited
shoulder space**

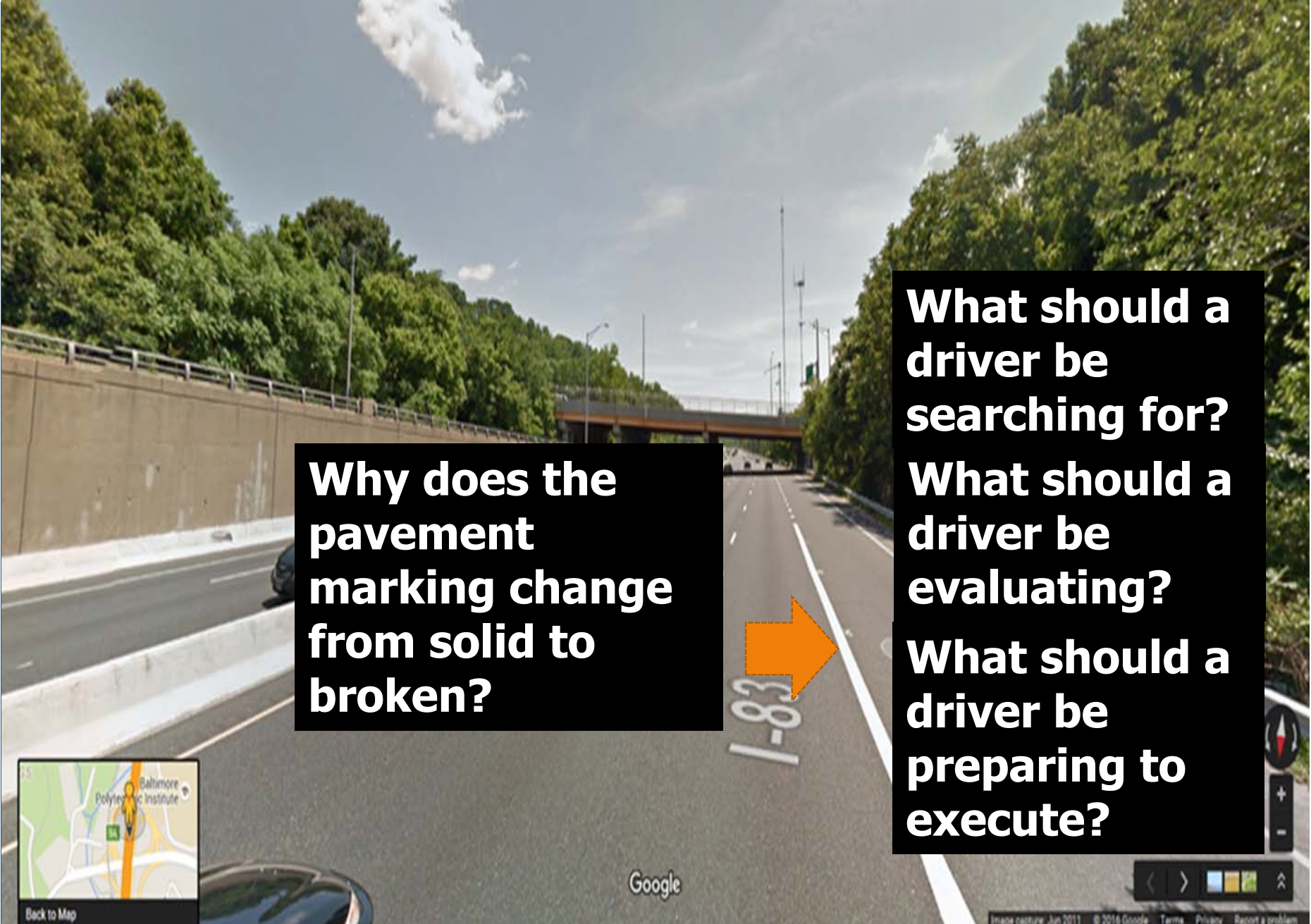
A photograph of a highway entrance ramp. The ramp curves to the right and merges into a multi-lane highway. There are trees on both sides of the road. A concrete barrier separates the ramp from the main highway. Two orange arrows are overlaid on the image: one points left towards the highway, and another points right towards the ramp. Three black text boxes with white text are overlaid on the image.

**Any drivers
already on the
expressway .**

**Any vehicle at
the end of the
entrance ramp.**

**The end of the ramp
and beginning of
acceleration lane**

**What should a driver be
searching for and what
should he/she be
planning to do?**

A Google Street View image of a multi-lane highway. On the left is a concrete barrier and a dense line of green trees. On the right is a grassy shoulder and more trees. In the distance, a bridge crosses the highway. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the road, containing white text. An orange arrow points from this box towards the right side of the road, where another black box with white text is located. The road surface is asphalt with white lane markings. A small inset map in the bottom left shows the current location. The Google logo is visible in the bottom center.

**Why does the
pavement
marking change
from solid to
broken?**

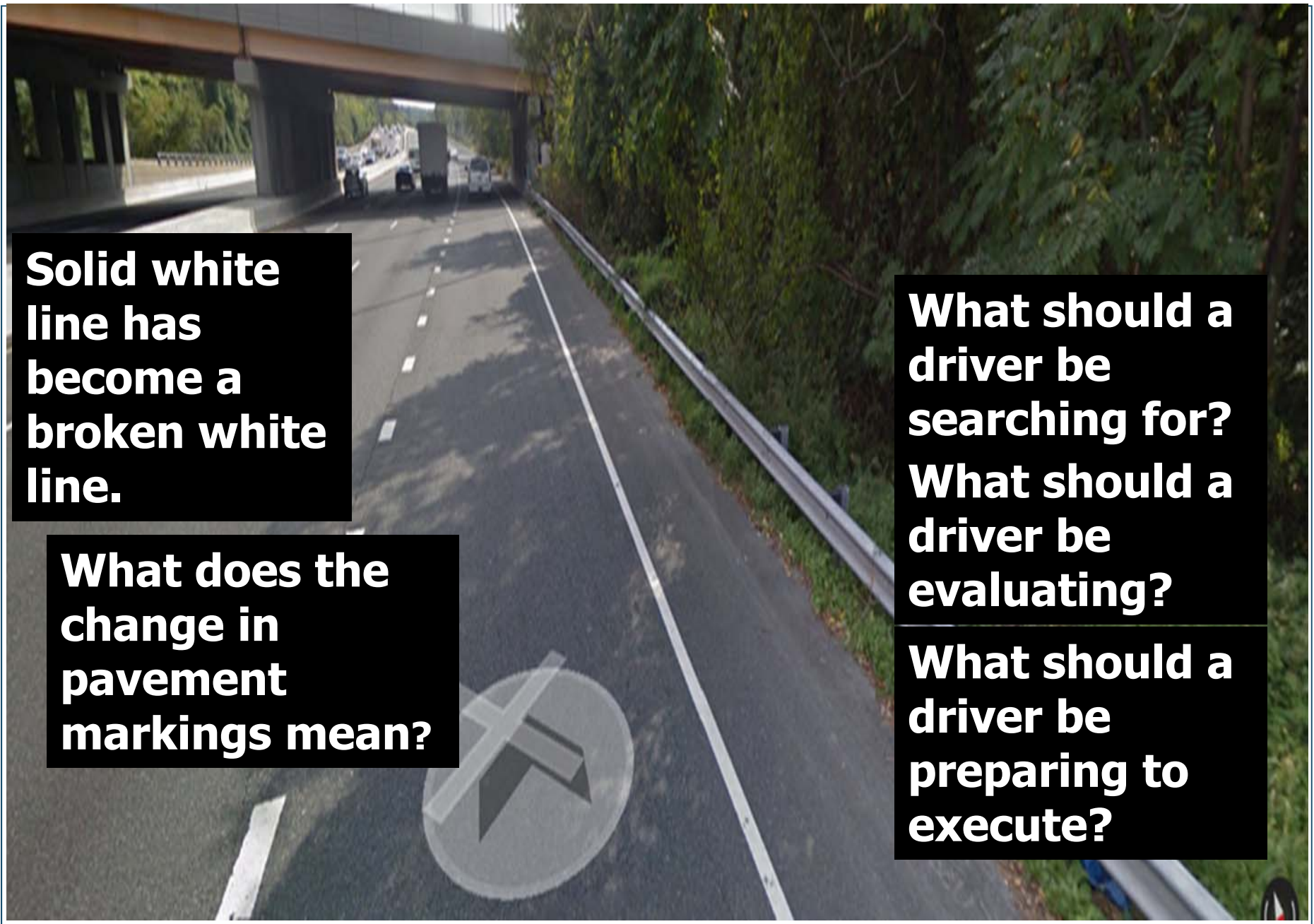
**What should a
driver be
searching for?
What should a
driver be
evaluating?
What should a
driver be
preparing to
execute?**



[Back to Map](#)

Google

Image capture: Jun 2011 © 2016 Google Terms Privacy Report a problem



Solid white line has become a broken white line.

What does the change in pavement markings mean?

**What should a driver be searching for?
What should a driver be evaluating?**

What should a driver be preparing to execute?



What should a driver be searching for?

What should a driver be evaluating?

What are these, and what are they designed to do?

What should a driver be preparing to execute?

What is happening to the right lane? What should a driver be doing in response?

Driving On An Interstate: It's Still Driving



Interstate

- **Search continuously to look for changing conditions**
- **Follow all posted signs and watch for warning signs**
- **Signal when you want to change lanes**
- **Stay focused**
- **Keep your electronics put away and your seatbelts on**

Non-interstate

- **Search continuously to look for changing conditions**
- **Follow all posted signs and watch for warning signs**
- **Signal when you want to change lanes**
- **Stay focused**
- **Keep your electronics put away and your seatbelts on**

What Might A Driver Encounter On An Expressway?



- Other cars and trucks
- Motorcycles
- Law enforcement and other types of emergency vehicles
- Large commercial trucks and buses
- Tunnels
- Bridges
- Toll plazas
- Construction zones
- TRAFFIC



Motorcycles: The Risks



- **Smaller than vehicles and may get lost in a vehicle's blind spot.**
- **Brake lights on a motorcycle may not always light to indicate slowing or stopping.**



- **May have to swerve to avoid potholes, debris in the road, or uneven road conditions.**
- **More vulnerable to significant injury or death in a crash.**

Motorcycles: The Laws For Drivers



- **Look twice before changing lanes.**
- **Do not share a lane.**
- **Do not tailgate or drive too closely.**
- **Allow plenty of space between your vehicle and a motorcycle when passing.**
- **Be careful around groups of motorcycles.**



Emergency Vehicles: The Risks



Every year, first responders are seriously injured or killed on the side of the road while doing their job.



Emergency Vehicles: Move-Over Law



When traffic is moving and the emergency vehicle is on the shoulder with lights flashing:

- **A driver MUST move over one lane, if safe and possible.**
- **If a driver cannot change lanes safely, then he/she MUST SLOW DOWN at least 10 mph.**





Risks: Construction Zones

- **Workers very close to fast moving traffic**
- **Unexpected road changes**
- **Shoulder areas smaller or nonexistent**
- **Speed limit is usually reduced**
- **Speed frequently monitored by cameras**



Construction Zones: Safe And Legal Driving



- **Always obey posted speed limit**
- **Maintain focus as the road or traffic conditions may change unexpectedly**
- **Watch for motorcycles that may have to adjust to avoid rough or uneven roads.**



Commercial Vehicles: Large & Heavy



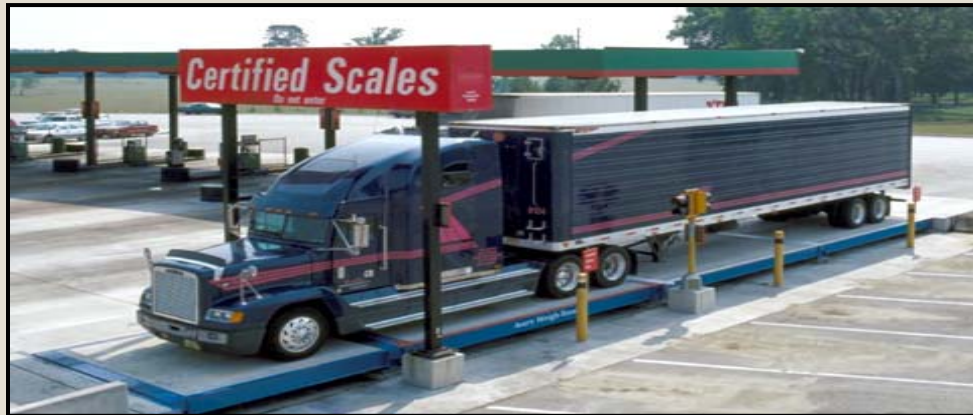
- **How large? Usually weigh at least 26,001 pounds and can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds**
- **Can transport 16 or more passengers**
- **Can be used to transport all types of materials, including hazardous ones.**



Commercial Vehicles: Risks



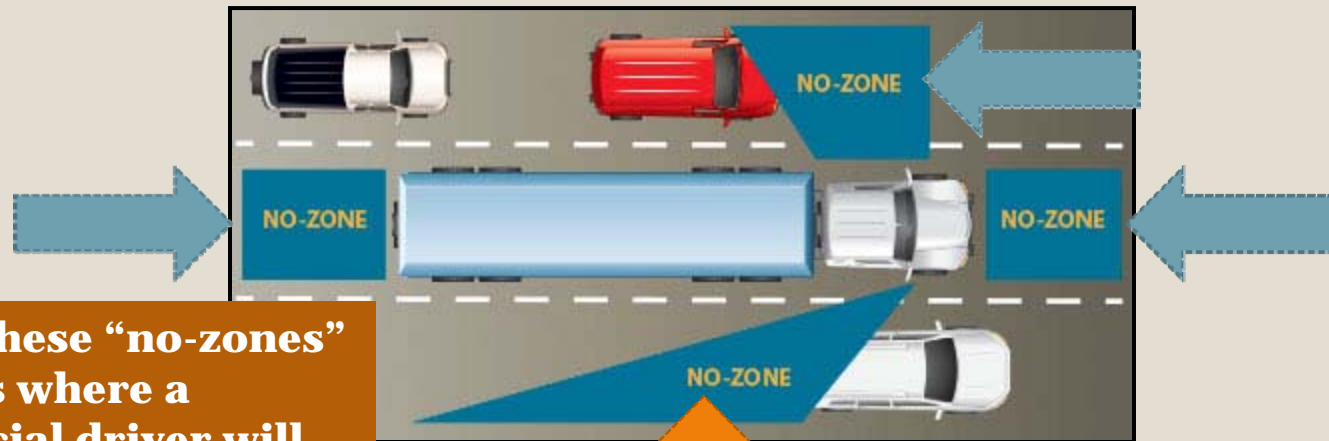
- **Additional weight**
 - **Commercial vehicles can weigh more than 80,000 pounds**
 - **Additional weight increases stopping distance**



- **Additional height**
 - **Creates “blind zones” where drivers cannot see other vehicles around them and where the truck drivers cannot see you**
 - **Makes maneuvering to avoid crashes much more difficult**

Commercial Vehicles: Safe and Legal Driving

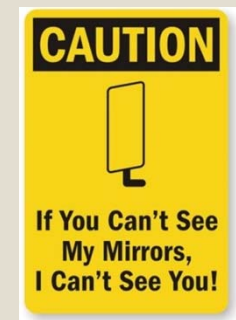
- Be aware of blind-zones and do not drive in them for a long time.



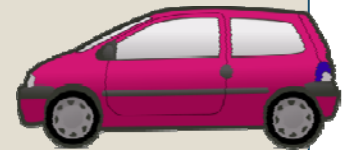
Each of these “no-zones” are areas where a commercial driver will not be able to see an approaching vehicle.



You may see signs like these on the back of large commercial vehicles.

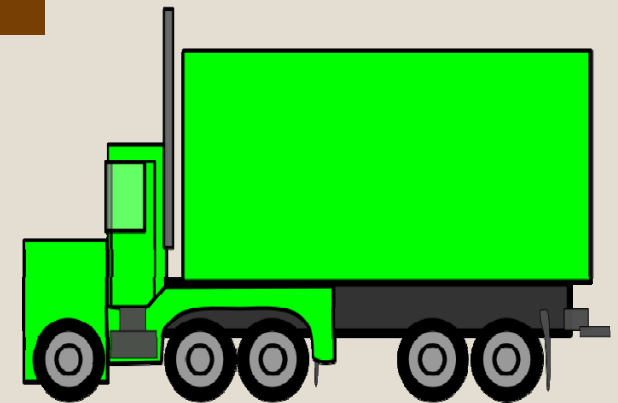


Commercial Vehicles : Safe & Legal Driving



At 55 mph, the average car/truck will take 193 feet to stop

At 55 mph and under the best possible conditions, a truck will take at least 325 feet to stop.



Tunnels: Risks



- **Crowded**
- **Narrow**
- **Dark**
- **No shoulders**



Tunnels: Safe And Legal Driving



- **Maintain lane position while driving in the tunnel.**
 - **Lanes may appear smaller, but they are the same size.**
- **Turn on lights and take off sunglasses.**
 - **Because of limited light, it is important to see and be seen.**
- **Make sure your vehicle has gas and is in working order.**
 - **A vehicle malfunction may cause the entire tunnel to come to a stop and create major back-ups.**
- **Make sure your electronics are off and seat belts are on.**
 - **Focusing on the task and staying is critical no matter where you are driving.**

Toll Plazas: Safe and Legal Driving



- **Traffic must slow and divide into multiple lanes.**
- **EZ Pass lanes allow a driver to prepay; in other lanes, driver must stop and pay in cash.**
- **Lanes into toll plazas are usually marked with single white lines which do not prohibit changing lanes, but discourage it.**
- **After toll plaza, drivers then have to go back to two or three lanes from the numerous toll booth lanes.**
- **Drivers may change lanes without warning.**

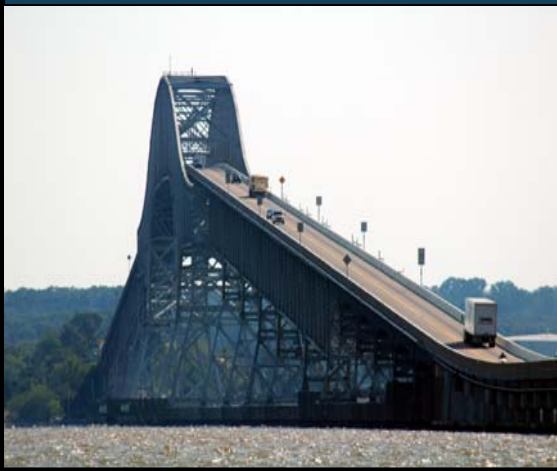


Bridges: Risks



- **Crowded**
- **Limited visibility**
- **No shoulder (or even land) if your vehicle crashes or has mechanical issues**

Harry Nice Bridge



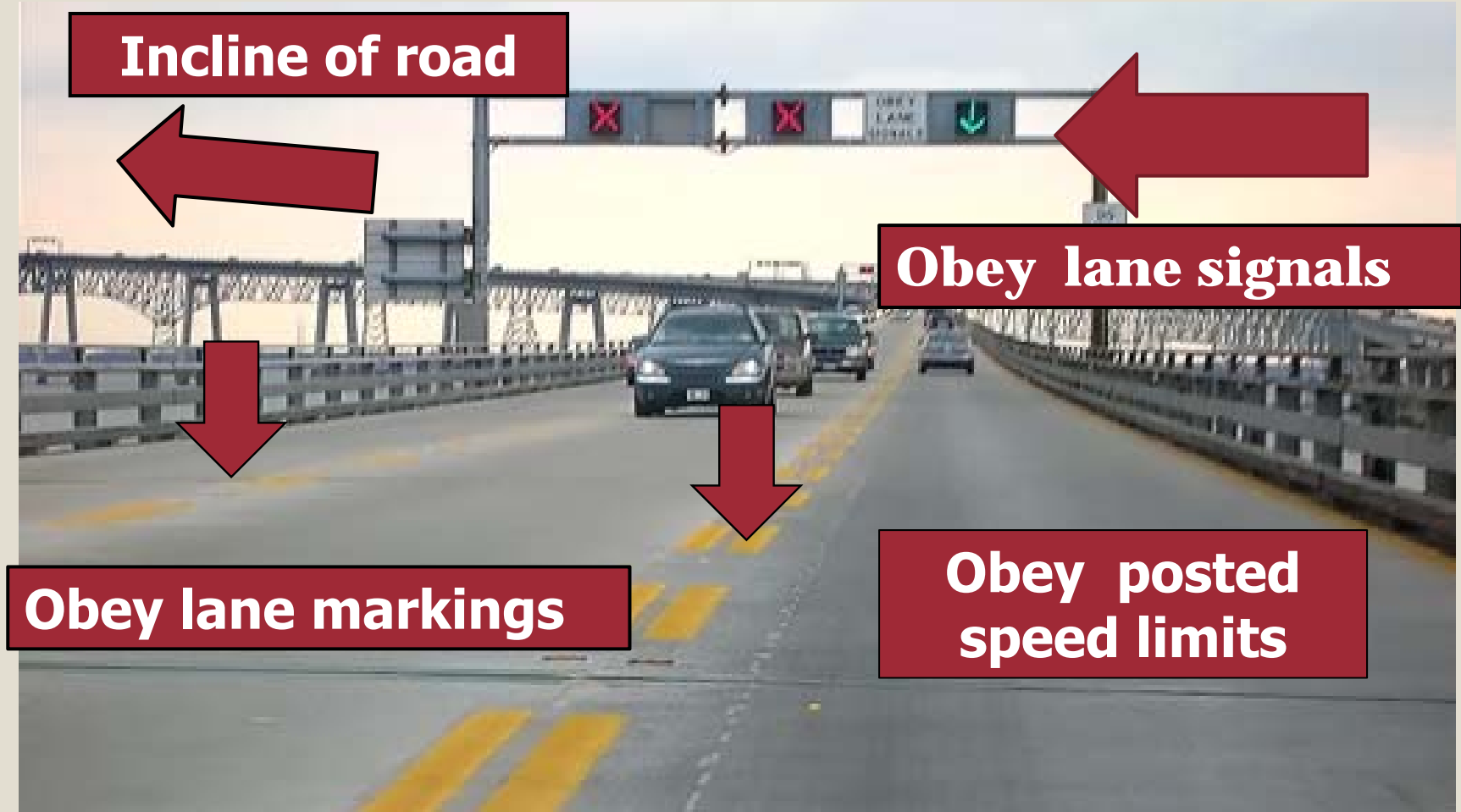
Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel



Bay Bridge



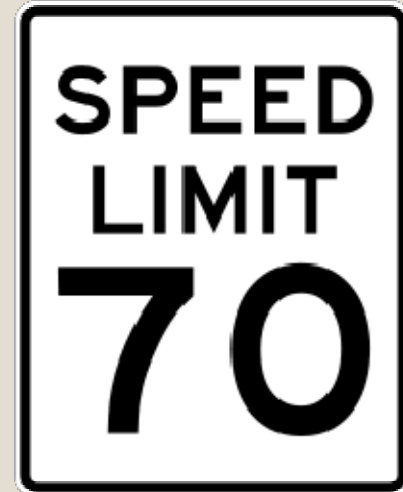
Bridges: Safe and Legal Driving



Speed: What Is The Legal Speed?



Whatever the posted speed limit, NEVER drive faster than road conditions allow.



No matter how fast or how, you need your seatbelt on and your electronics off.

Speed: Fact Or Fiction



Law enforcement does not stop a driver until he/she is going more than 10 mph over the speed limit.

Every interstate has a speed lane where you can go as fast as faster than the posted speed limit.

Speed limits are limits you obey regardless of weather or road conditions.

Higher speed contribute higher rates of crashes.

Higher speeds contribute to more deaths and more severe injuries.

Speeding



Does speeding look like this?

Changing Lanes on the Expressway: Why?

- **Entering or exiting**
- **Allowing another driver to enter**
- **Following large vehicles**
- **Lane ahead becomes blocked**
- **Passing**



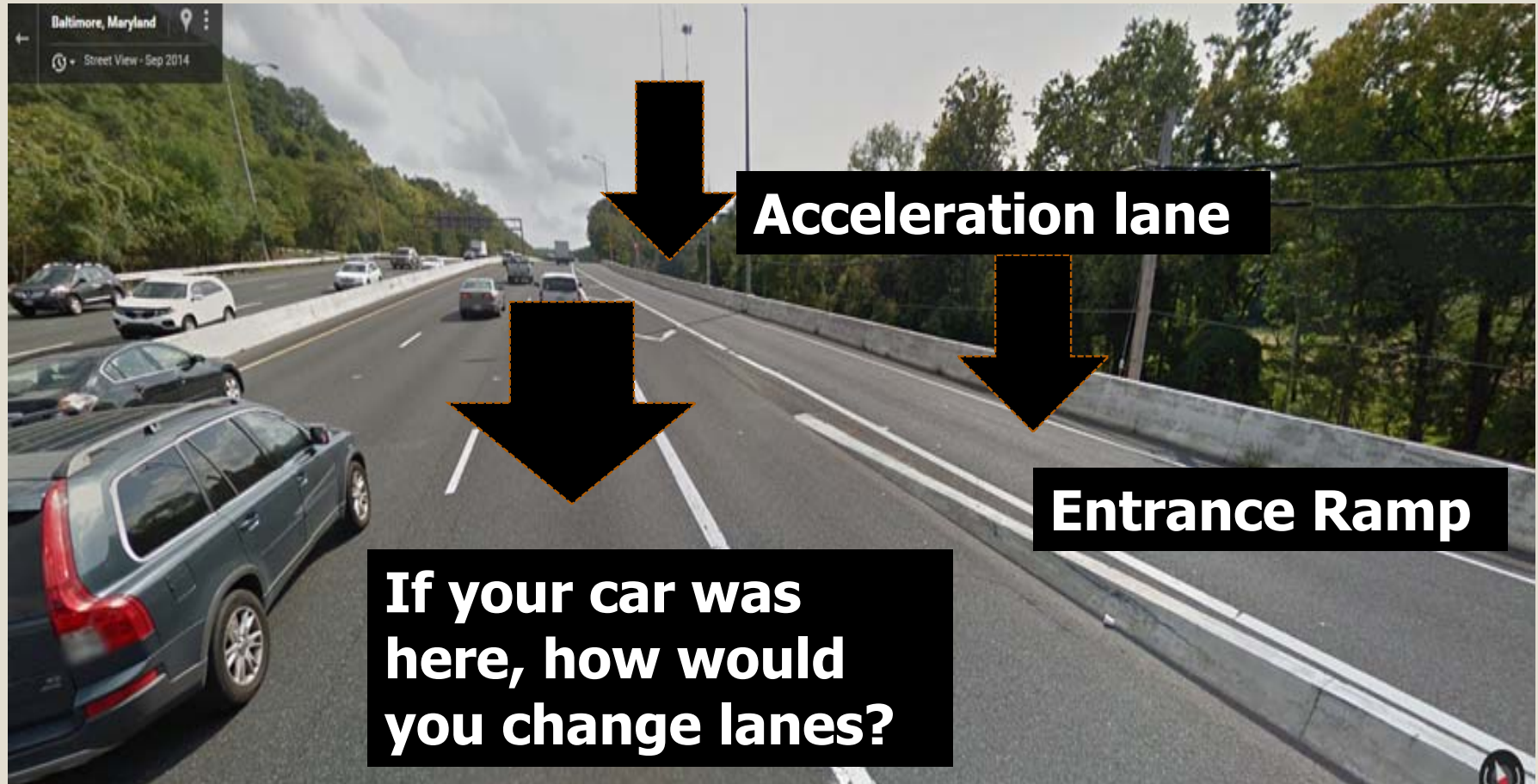
Changing Lanes On The Expressway: How?



- **Remember to S.E.E.**
- **Find a gap in traffic in the lane where you want to go.**
- **Activate your turn signal.**
- **Check traffic one lane over to make sure no other car is trying to move into the same spot.**
- **Use your mirrors to ensure that your blind spot is clear.**
- **Quickly move into the new lane.**
- **Turn off your turn signal.**



Changing Lanes: S.E.E.

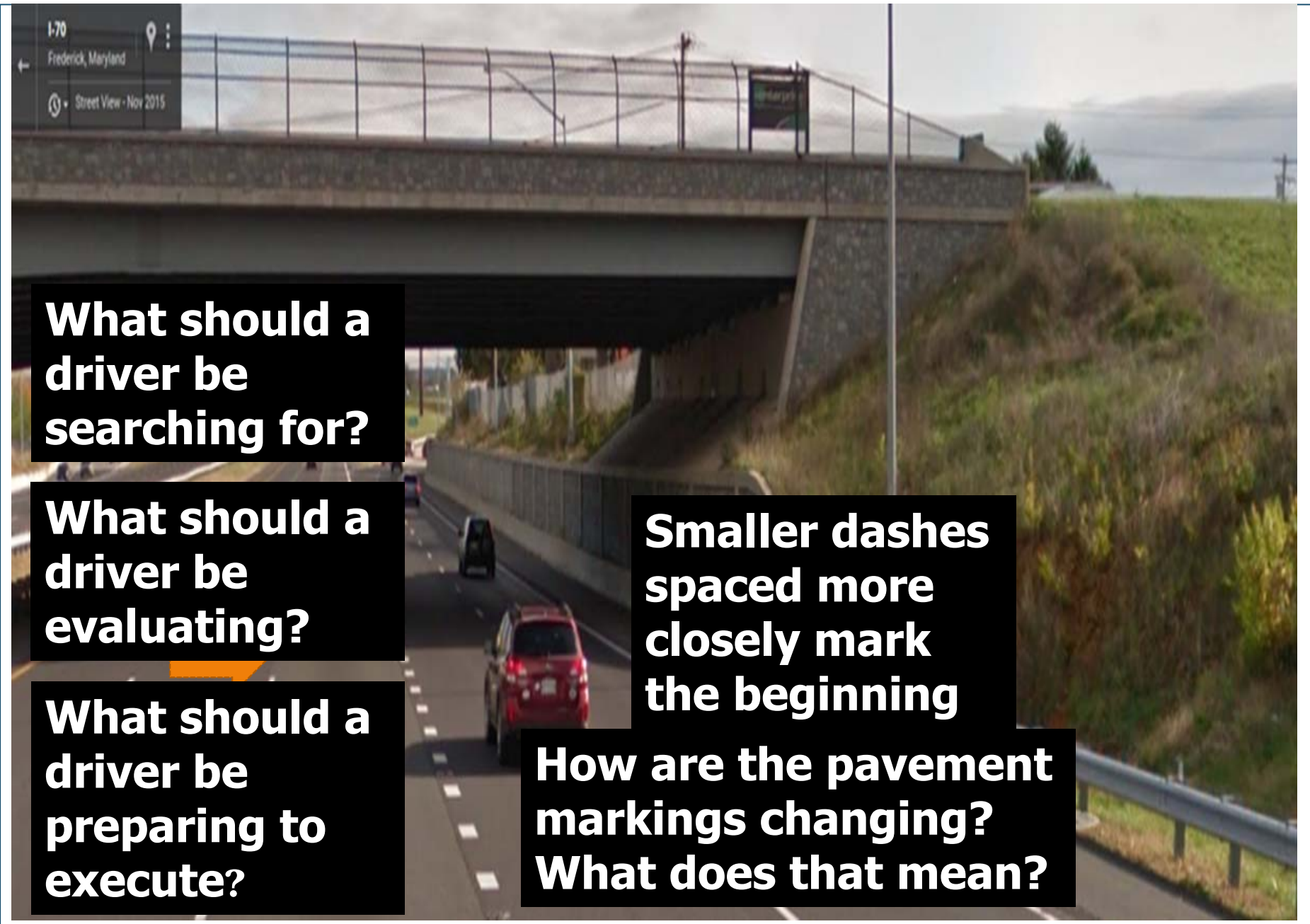


Passing on the Expressway: S.E.E.



Expressways: Exiting





What should a driver be searching for?

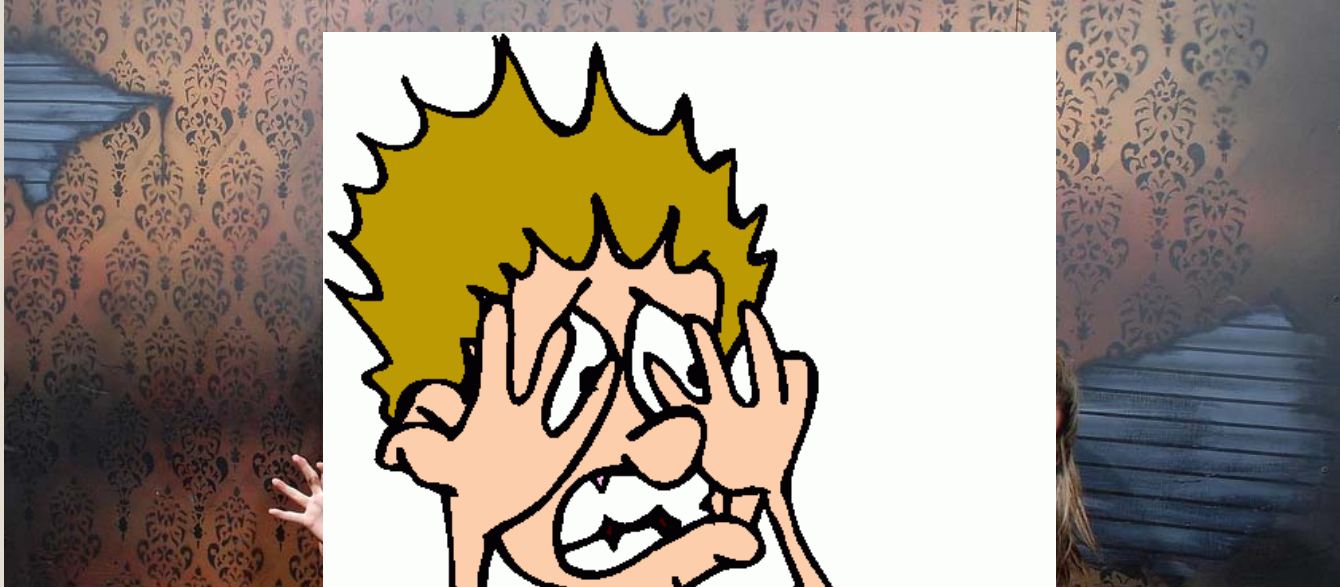
What should a driver be evaluating?

What should a driver be preparing to execute?

Smaller dashes spaced more closely mark the beginning

**How are the pavement markings changing?
What does that mean?**

What If I Miss My Exit?

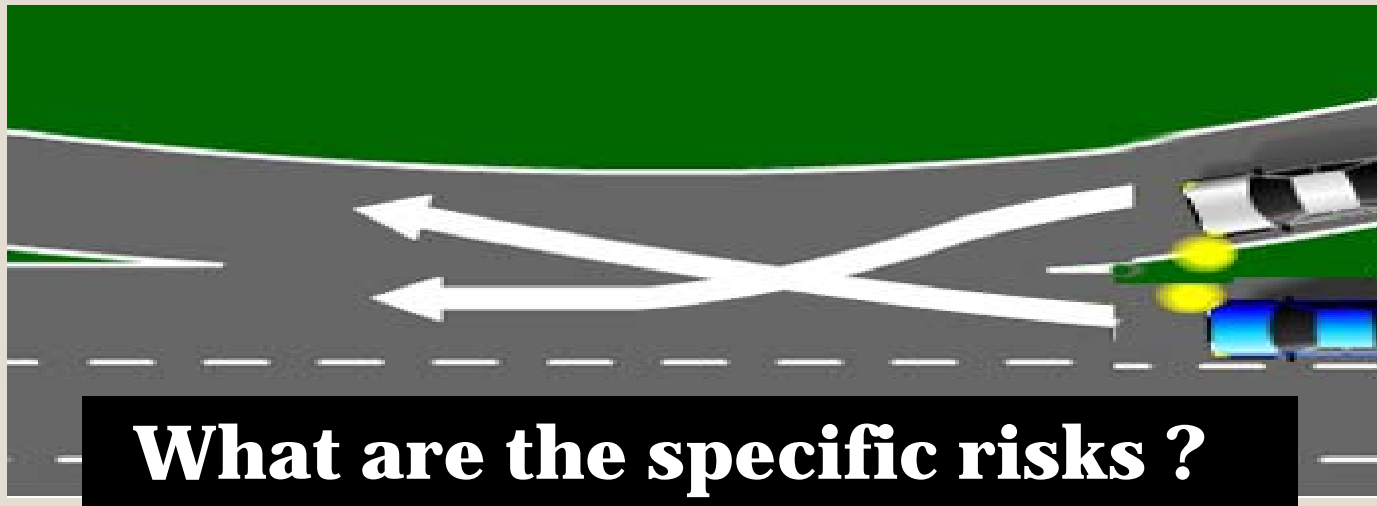


**Your BTW instructor's face when
you start to back up on an
expressway.**

Expressways: Weave Lane



- **One lane used for both exiting and entering the expressway**
- **Vehicles entering the expressway must yield to vehicles on the expressway or exiting vehicles**



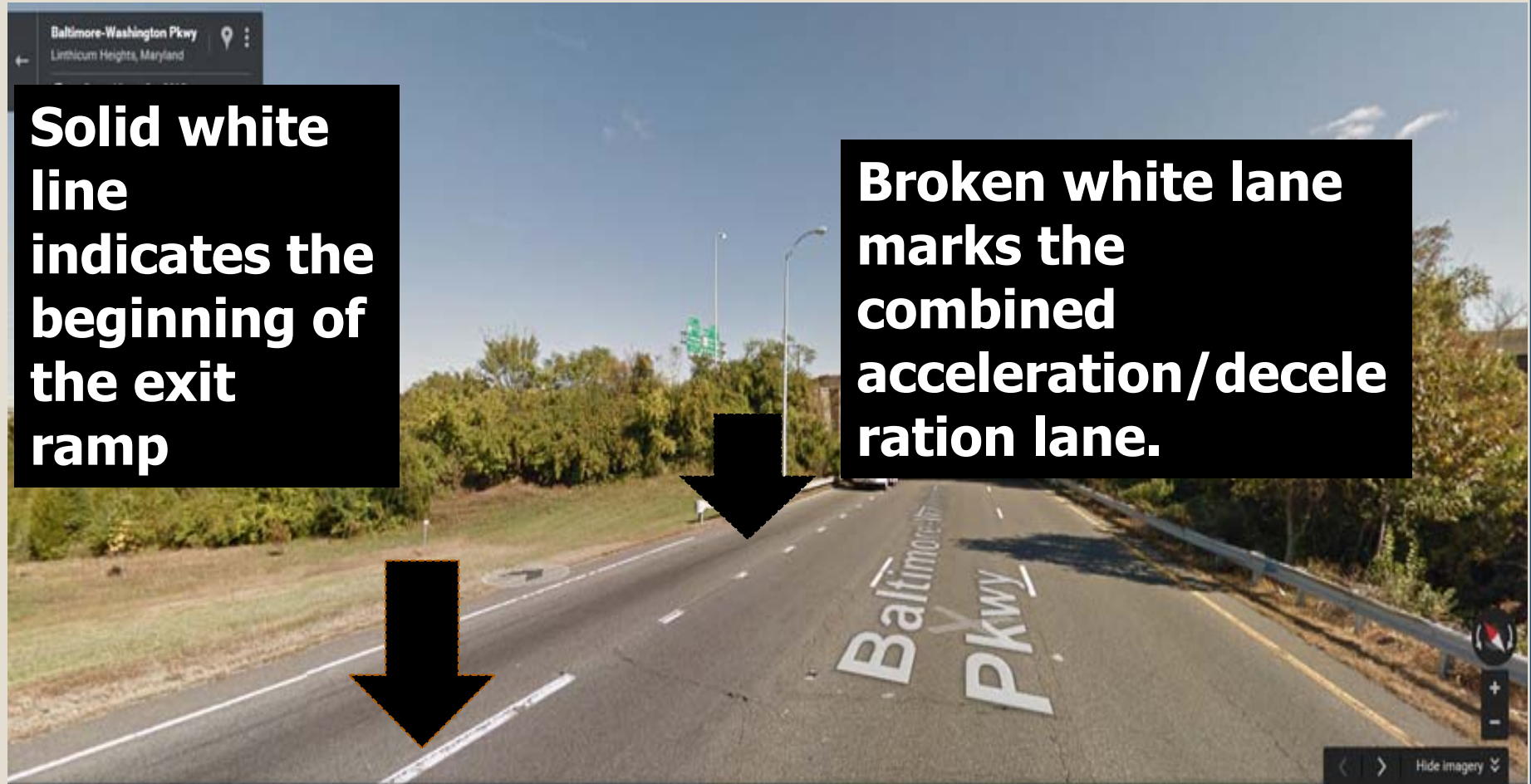
What are the specific risks ?

Weave Lanes: S.E.E.



Solid white line indicates the beginning of the exit ramp

Broken white lane marks the combined acceleration/deceleration lane.



Review of Unit Seven



- 1) What is an expressway?
- 2) How is an expressway different from other types of roads?
- 3) What are some of the other types of vehicles a driver might encounter on an expressway?
- 4) Why are motorcycles risky?
- 5) Why are commercial vehicles risky to drivers?
- 6) What is the move-over law?
- 7) What are some of the risks of work zones?
- 8) How are work zone speed limits enforced?
- 9) What is a blind zone?
- 10) What are some of the risks of toll plazas?

Review of Unit Seven



- 11) What are some of the risks of bridges?
- 12) What are some tools used to control traffic on bridges?
- 13) How do you merge onto a highway?
- 14) Who has right- of-way when merging onto a highway?
- 15) What is one of the most important differences between driving on an urban road and on an expressway?
- 16) What is fatigued driving and why are highway drivers prone to drive fatigued?
- 17) What is the best way to avoid fatigued driving?
- 18) What is a weave lane?
- 19) What is an Exit Only lane?

What are we doing tomorrow?



- **How do I avoid a crash?**
- **What happens if I get a flat tire when driving?**
- **How do I drive on ice?**
- **Can I avoid a crash?**