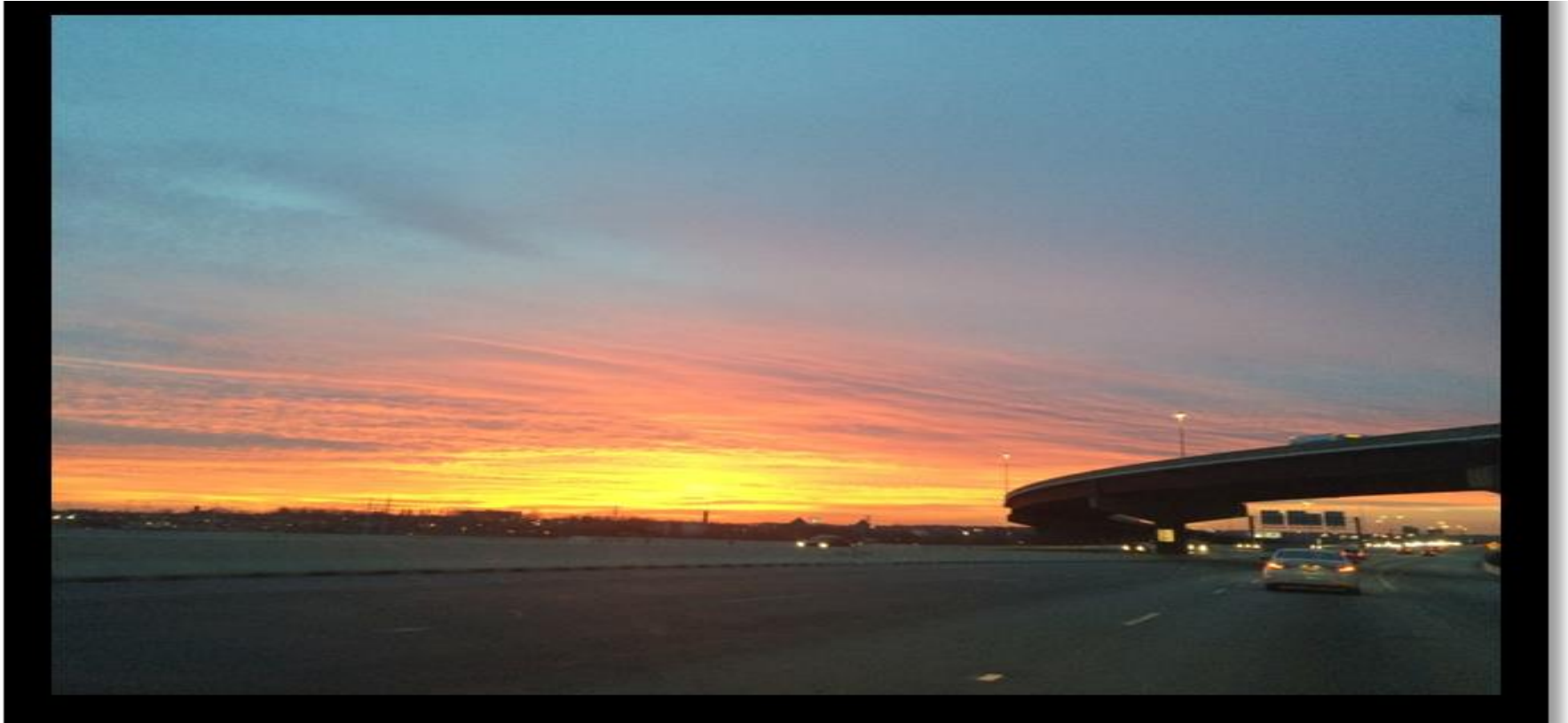


Unit Seven: Driving Off Into the Sunset



Highways, Expressways, & Interstates

Objectives For Unit Seven

2

- 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

3



What Is An Expressway?

4

- **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

5



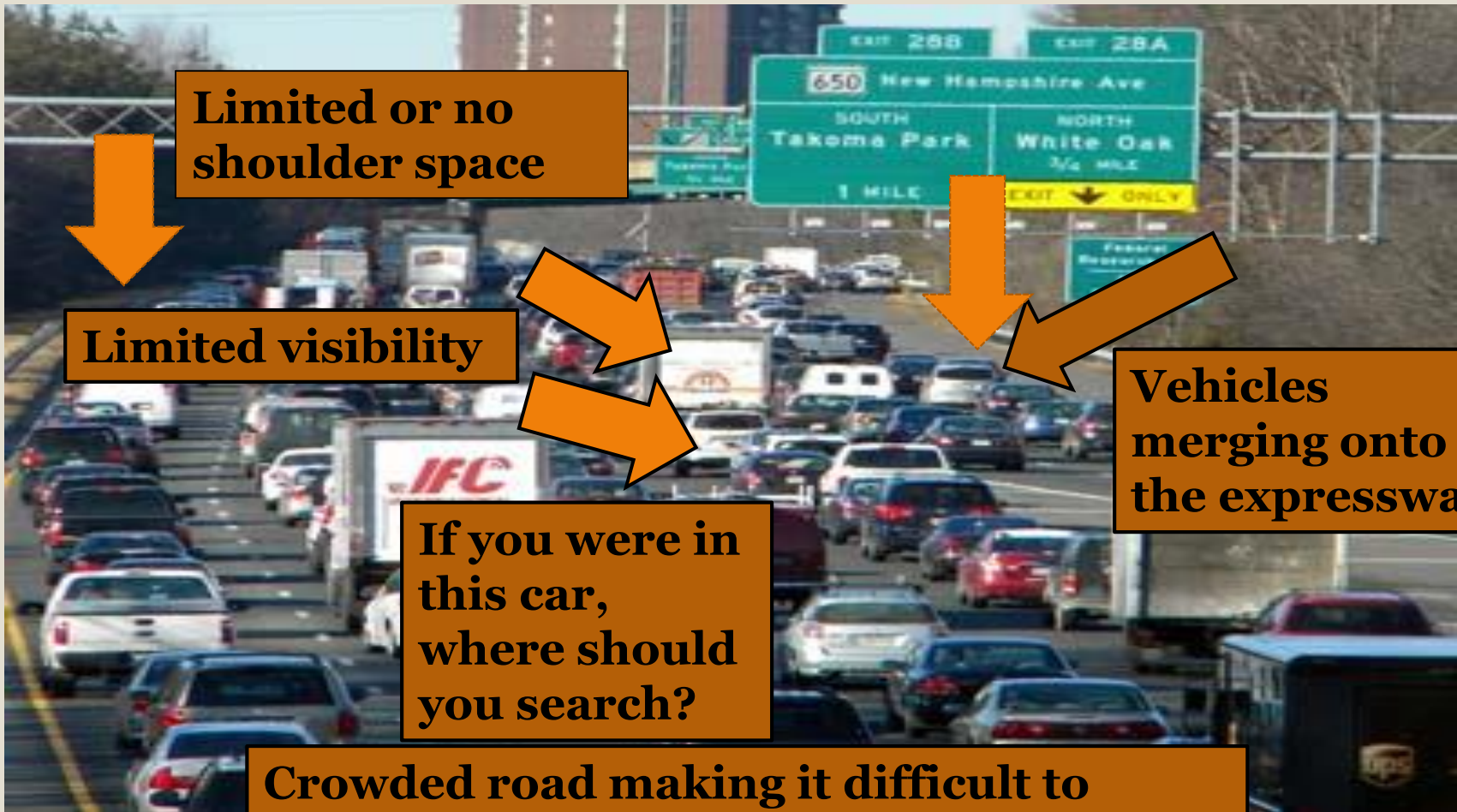
**WHAT YOU
MAY FEEL LIKE**

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.

6



Limited or no shoulder space



Limited visibility



If you were in this car, where should you search?



Vehicles merging onto the expressway

Crowded road making it difficult to maintain proper following distance

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

7

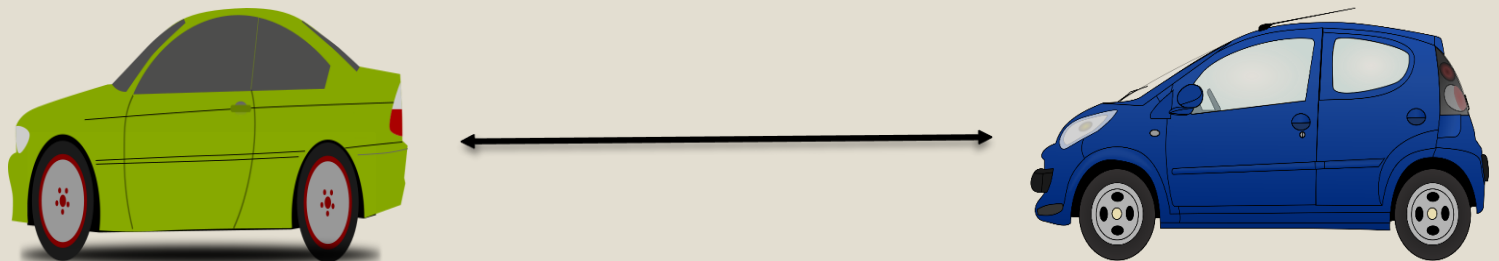
- **Be sure to consistently search for what is front of you, what is behind you, and what is next to you.**
 - **Remember to use all of your mirrors.**
 - **Complete head check to make sure no one is in your blind spot.**
- **Be prepared to adjust speed to merge smoothly.**
- **Remember that traffic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



Driving On An Expressway: Safe And Legal Driving

8

- **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, move to the right to encourage the driver to pass you.**

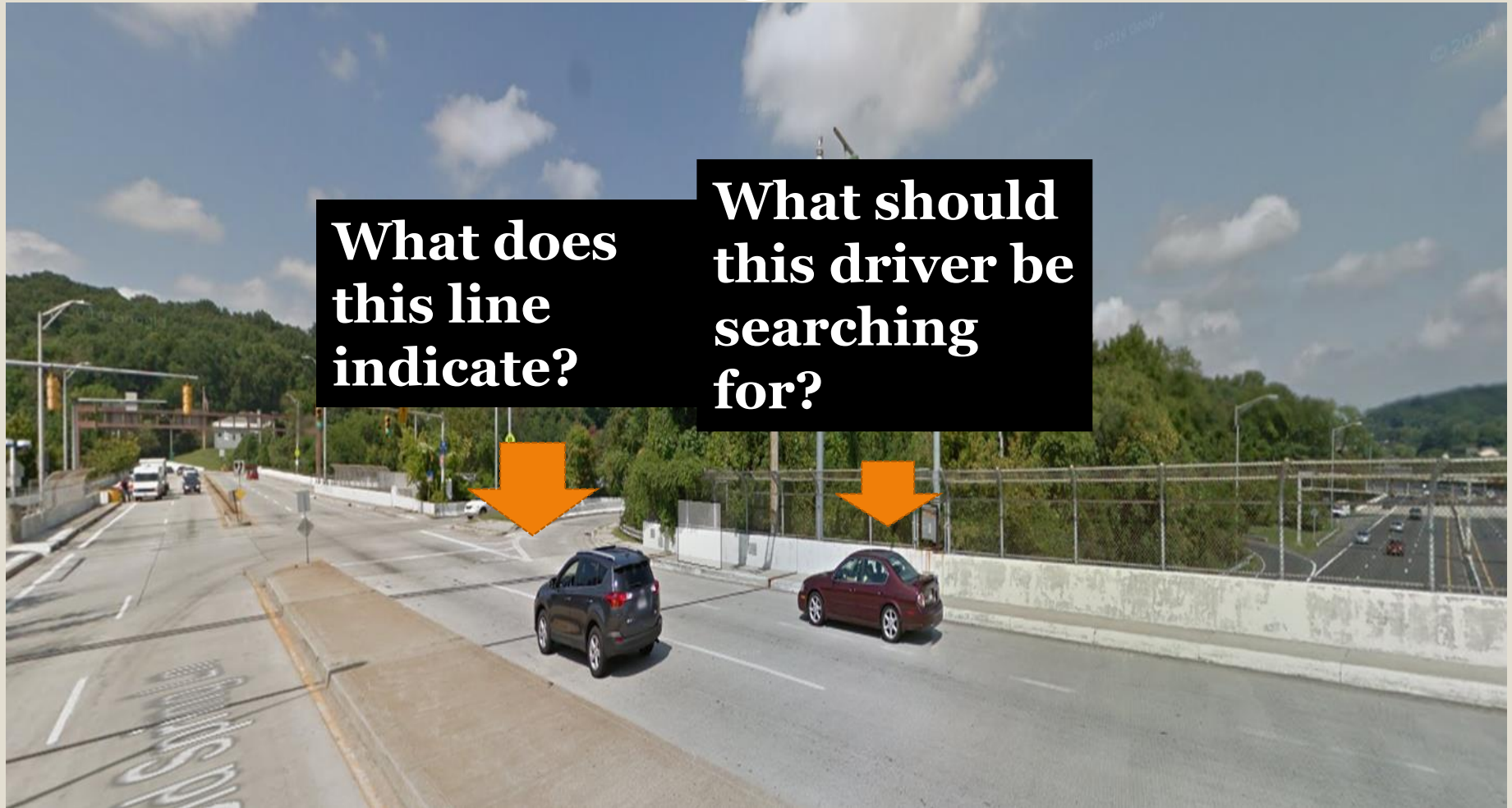


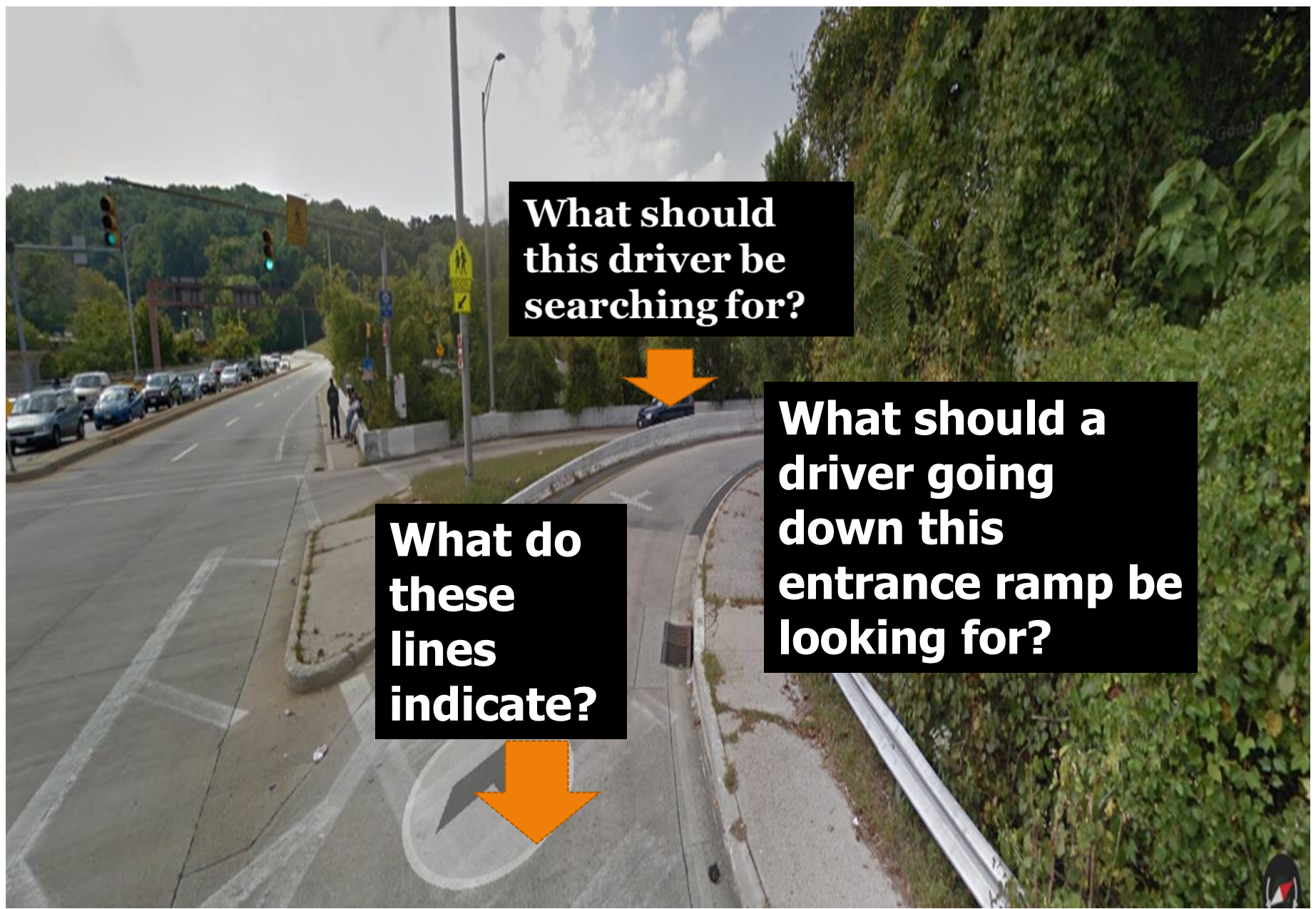
S.E.E.: Entering An Expressway

9

**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





**Any drivers
already on the
expressway .**

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

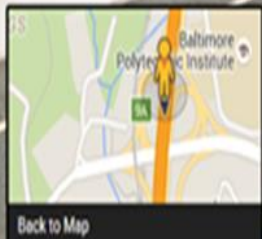
**The end of the ramp
and beginning of
acceleration lane**

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

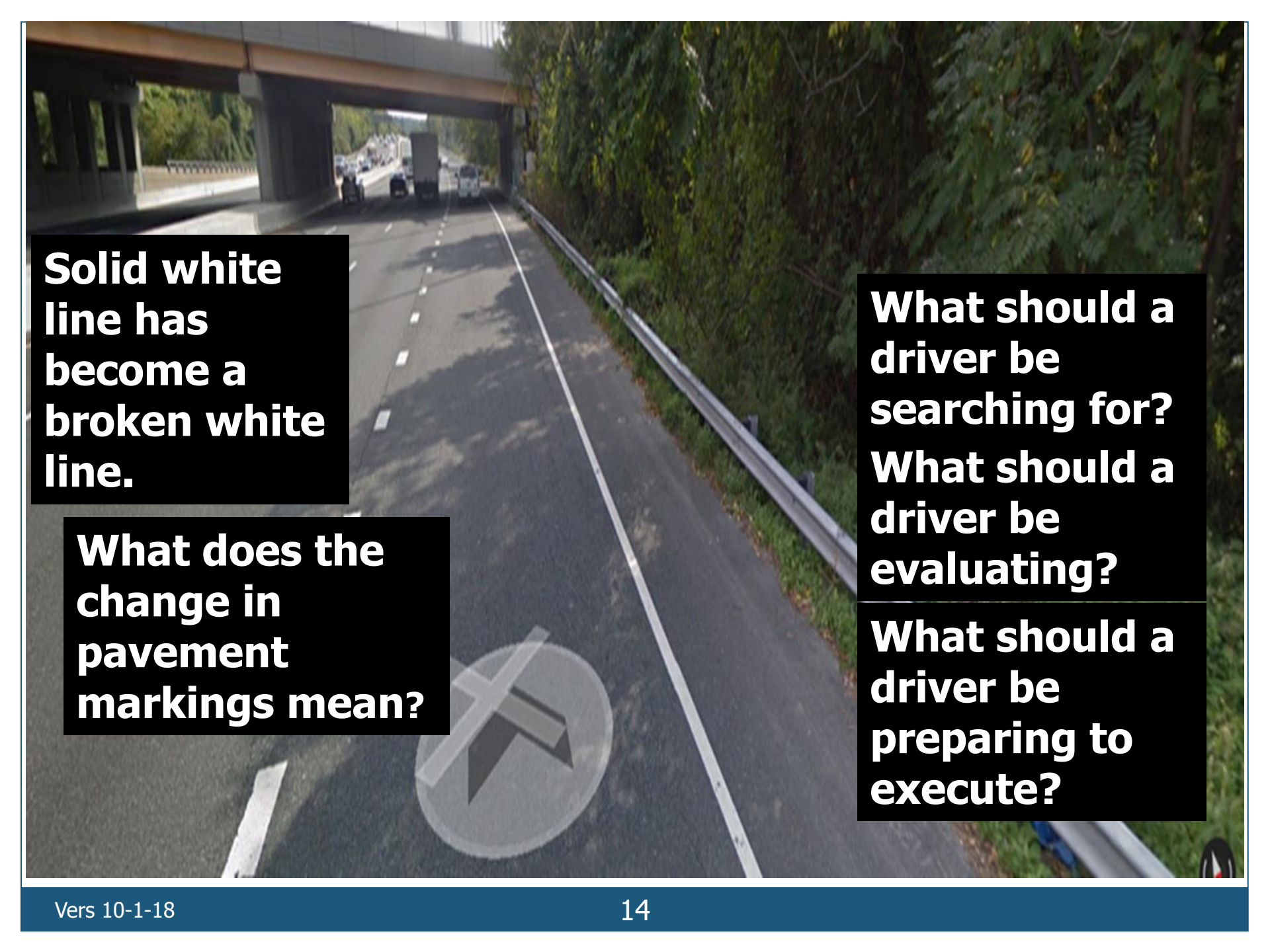
Why does the pavement marking change from solid to broken?



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



Google



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

Driving On An Interstate: It's Still Driving

16

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?

17

- 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

18

- **Smaller than many other 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

19

- **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

20

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



Emergency and Service Vehicles: Move-Over Law

21

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

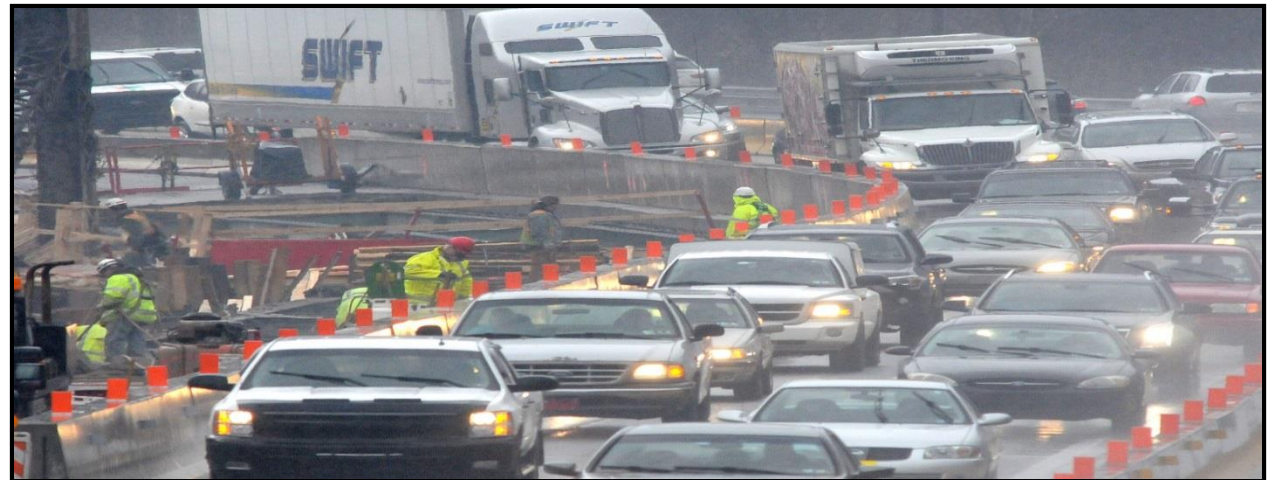
- **A driver MUST move over one lane, if safe and possible.**
- **If a driver cannot change lanes safely, then he/she MUST SLOW DOWN at least 10 mph.**





- **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**

Risks: Construction Zones



Construction Zones: Safe And Legal Driving

23

- 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

24

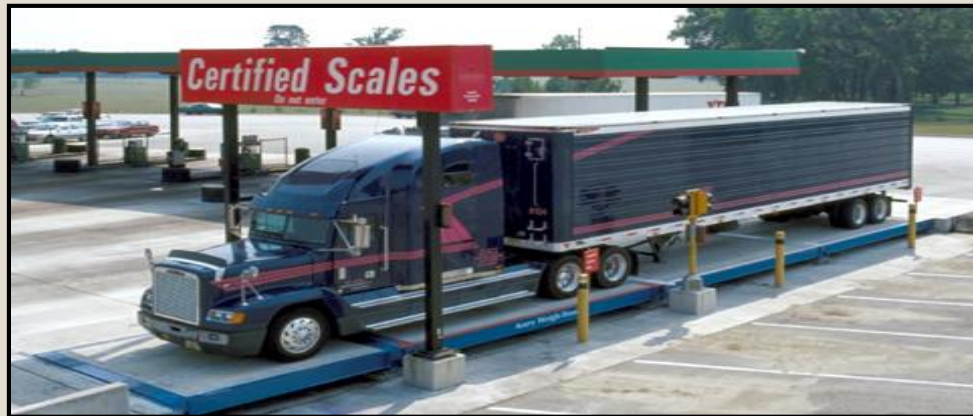
- **How large? Usually weigh at least 26,001 pounds and can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds**
- **Can transport 16 or more passengers**
- **Can be used to transport all types of materials, including hazardous ones.**



Commercial Vehicles: Risks

25

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

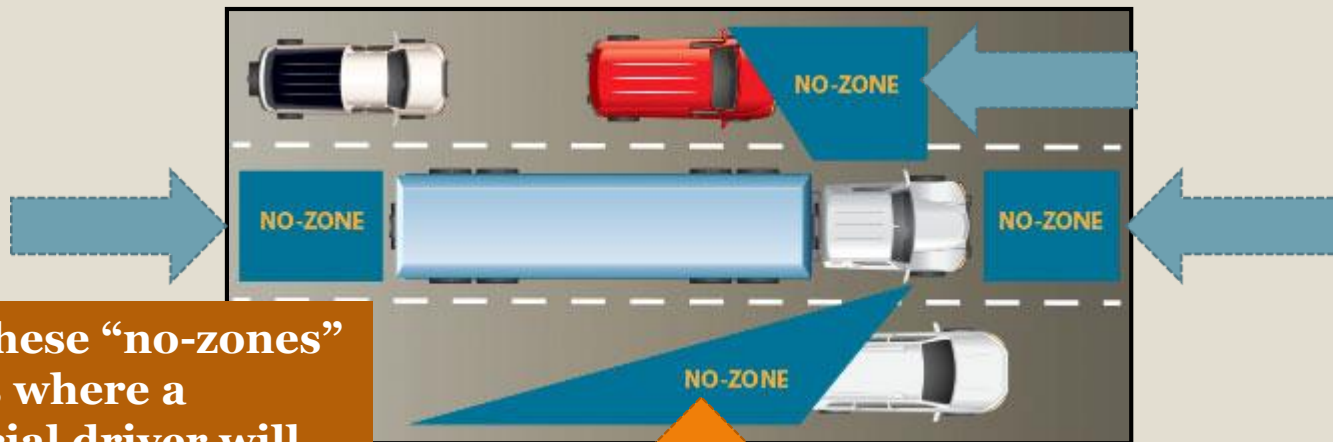


- **Additional height**
 - Creates blind spots for truck drivers who may not see you and other vehicles around them.
 - Makes maneuvering to avoid crashes much more difficult

Commercial Vehicles: Safe and Legal Driving

26

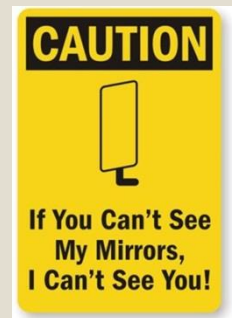
- Be aware of “no-zones”, and do not drive in them for a long time.



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.



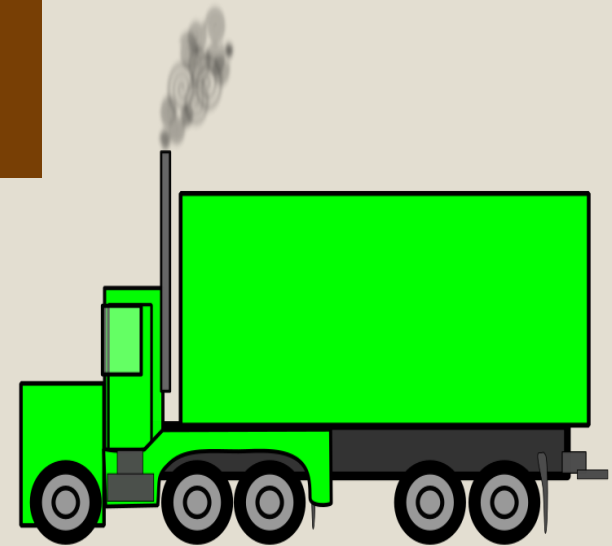
Commercial Vehicles : Safe & Legal Driving

27



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

28

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



Tunnels: Safe And Legal Driving

29

- **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 is critical no matter where you are driving.**

Toll Plazas: Safe and Legal Driving

30

- **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

31

- **Crowded**
- **Limited visibility**
- **No shoulder if your vehicle crashes or has mechanical issues**

Harry Nice Bridge



Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel

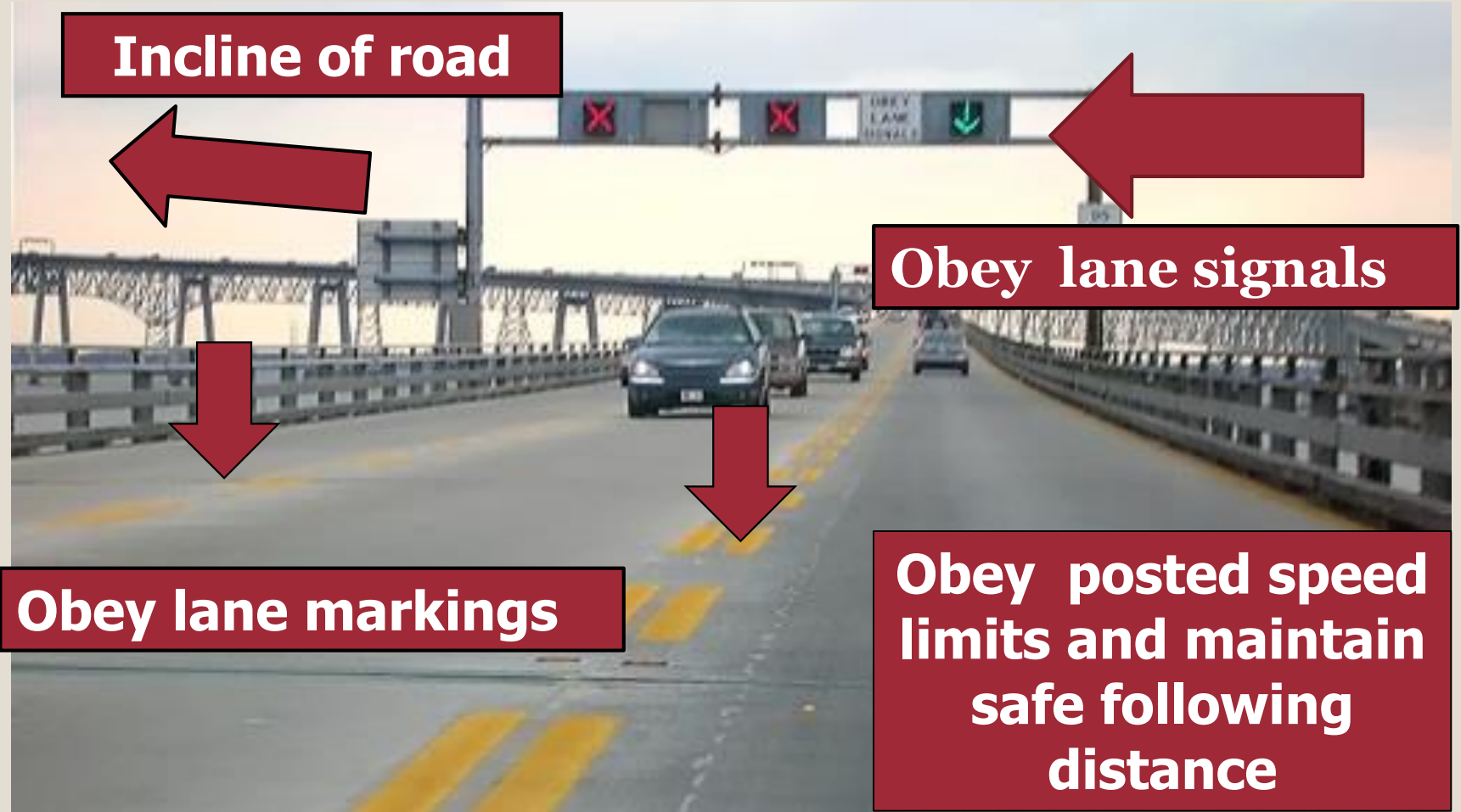


Bay Bridge



Bridges: Safe and Legal Driving

32



Speed: What Is The Legal Speed?

33

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



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

Speed: Fact Or Fiction

34

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 give a driver less time to make adjustments to other drivers and road conditions. 

Higher speeds contribute to more severe crashes and more severe injuries. 

Speeding

35



Does speeding look like this?

Changing Lanes on the Expressway: Why?

36

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



Changing Lanes On The Expressway: How?

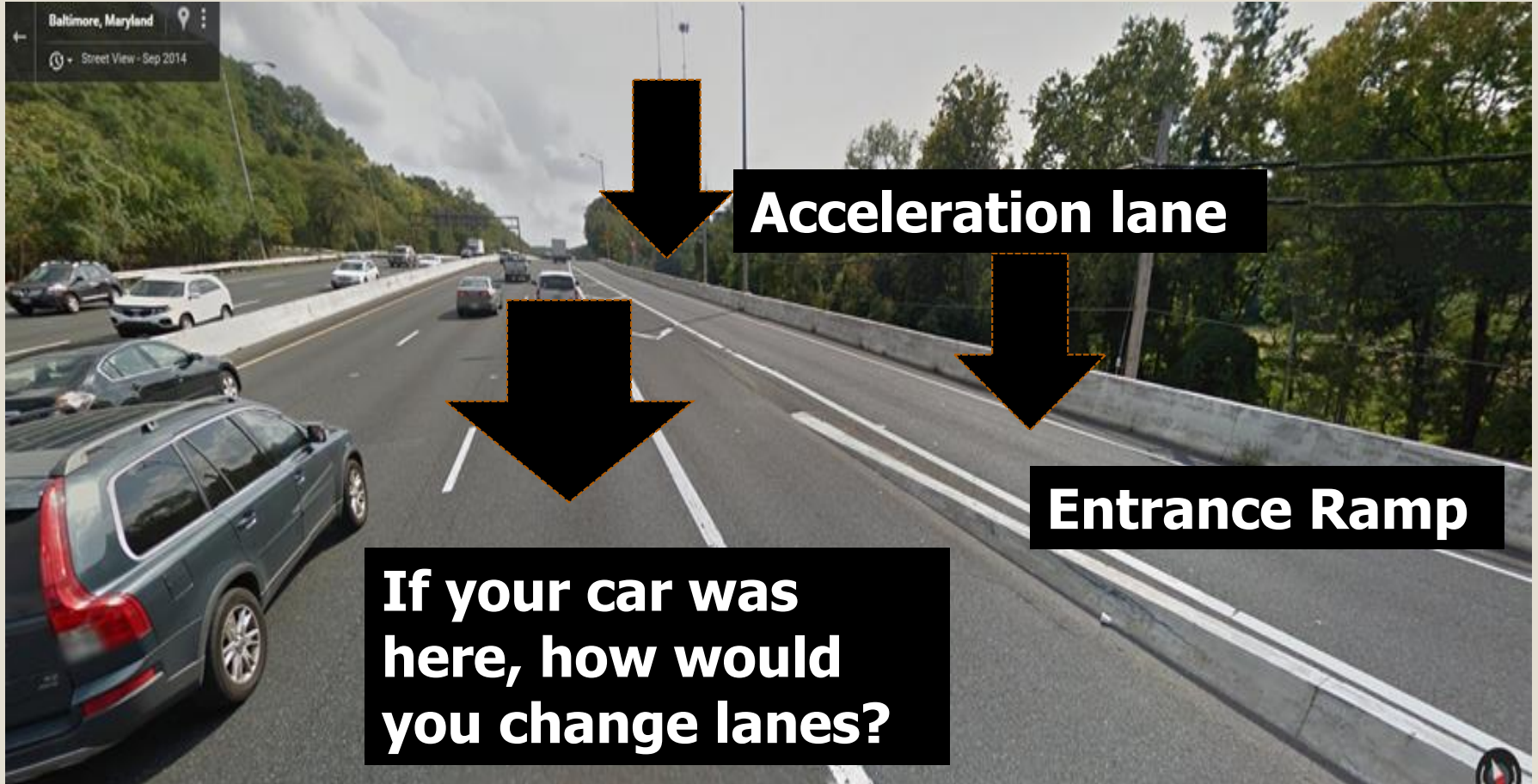
37

- **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.**
- **Carefully move into the new lane.**
- **Turn off your turn signal.**



Changing Lanes: S.E.E.

38



Passing on the Expressway: S.E.E.

39



Which drivers can safely pass?

Expressways: Exiting



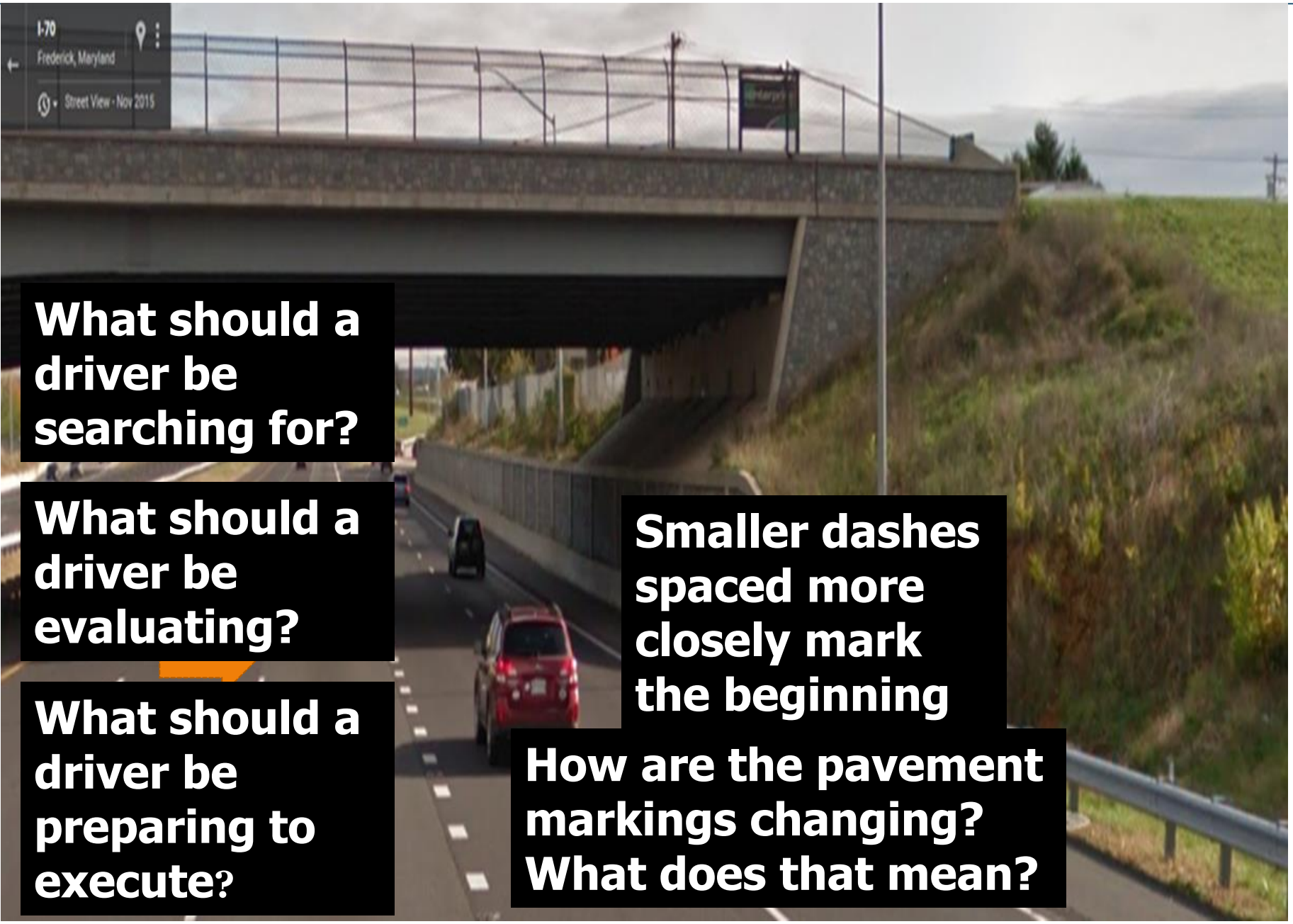
Yellow band on the bottom

What does Exit Only mean to a driver?

When the exit, the lane will no longer exist.

What are the guide signs telling motorists?

Green guide signs let you know that your exit is approaching.



What should a driver be searching for?

What should a driver be evaluating?

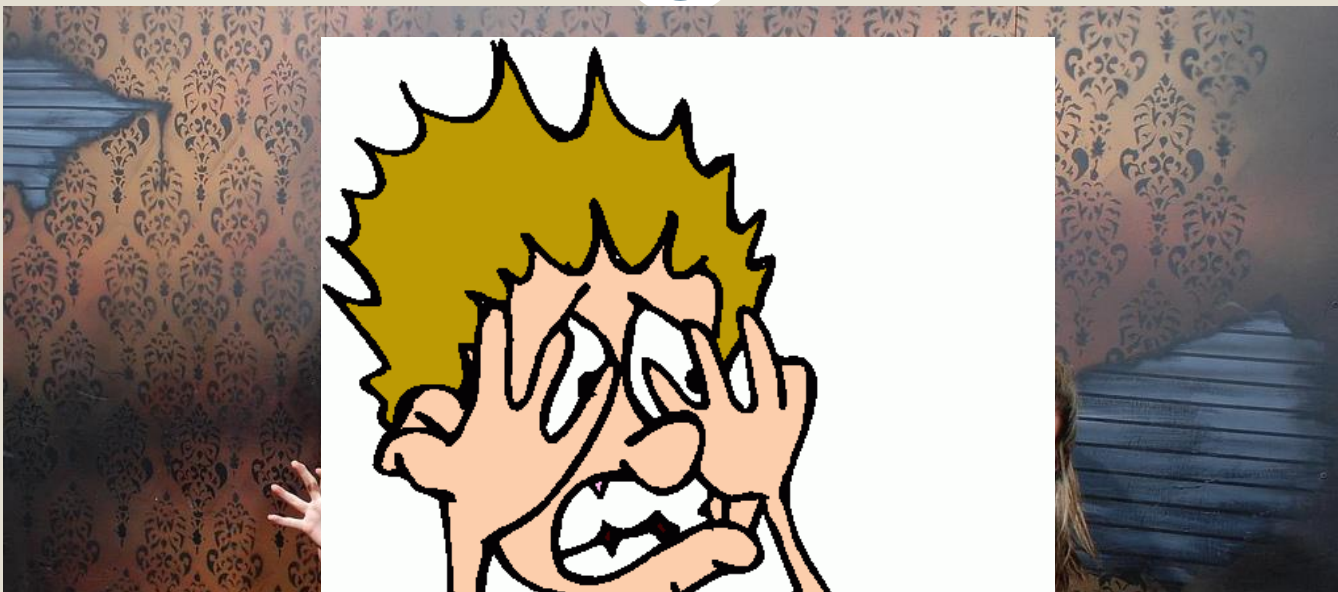
What should a driver be preparing to execute?

Smaller dashes spaced more closely mark the beginning

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

What If I Miss My Exit?

42

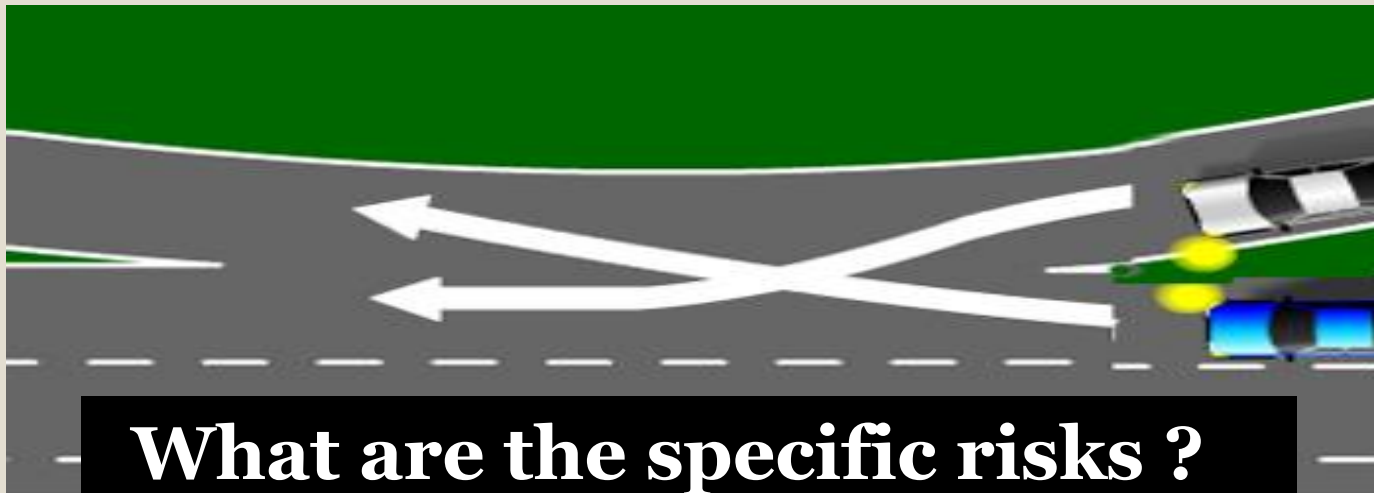


Your BTW instructor's face when you start to back up on an expressway.

Expressways: Weave Lane

43

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



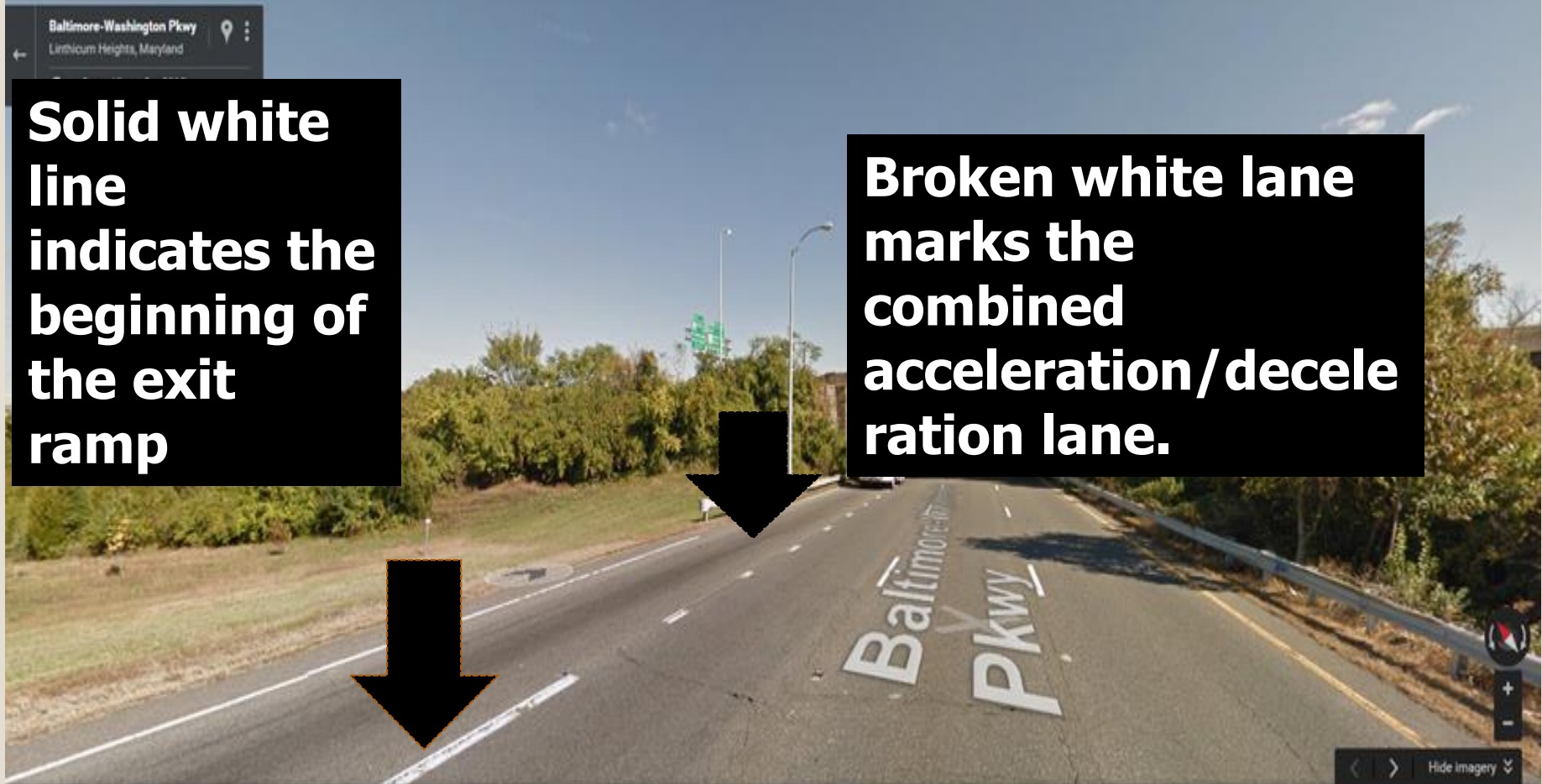
What are the specific risks ?

Weave Lanes: S.E.E.

44

Solid white line indicates the beginning of the exit ramp

Broken white lane marks the combined acceleration/deceleration lane.



Review of Unit Seven

45

- 1) What is an expressway and how is it different from other types of roads?
- 2) What are some of the other types of vehicles a driver might encounter on an expressway? What types of risks do those vehicles pose?
- 3) What are some of the risks of work zones?
- 4) How are work zone speed limits enforced?
- 5) What are some of the risks of toll plazas?
- 6) How do you merge onto an expressway? What are some of the risks?
- 7) What is an Exit Only lane?
- 8) What is a weave lane and what should a driver do there?

What are we doing tomorrow?

46

- **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?**