Transurban Motorcycle Technology Evaluation Challenge (MotoTEC)





Motivation

- Are there market-ready or near-market-ready technologies that could improve, or even save the lives of motorcyclists?
- What if the benefits of these technologies aren't realized because of lack of supporting tests and evaluations?

Pains & Barriers

- Motorcycle riders have a minority role on the road and in discussions around advanced technology
 - Often overlooked by roadway planners, technology developers and other drivers
 - Example: Are work zones designed with motorcycle riders in mind?
 - Are V2V V2I solutions being applied for motorcycles?
- Motorcycle technology startups/vendors rarely have the funding available for a robust design of rider-centric technologies
 - Difficult to develop due to rider constraints (vigilance requirements, vehicle design)
 - Low funding available for successful marketing efforts
 - Hard to get attention of motorcycle manufacturers and suppliers



Transurban MotoTEC

- Transurban Motorcycle Technology Evaluation Challenge (MotoTEC)
- Through a gracious donation by Transurban, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) will deploy MotoTEC in 2018
 - This program will fund real-world evaluations of promising rider-centric safety and usability solutions
 - VTTI will manage these evaluations as an independent evaluator
- MotoTEC Goal: Leading program in the testing and evaluation of promising motorcycle technologies towards faster implementation on roadways and potential benefits realized.



Candidate A Finalist A | Finalist B **Pitch Competition** WINNFR

Approach

- Steering Committee formed from motorcycle industry stakeholders
 - Motorcycle Manufacturers
 - Tier 1 Suppliers
 - Rider Representatives
 - Startup Incubators/Accelerators
 - Researchers
 - Roadway Builders
- Request for Proposals solicitation directed at vendors to have their technology evaluated
 - Brief three-page proposal
 - Steering committee down-selects to group of finalists invited to in-person pitch (if necessary)
 - Technology selected



Approach cont..

- VTTI customizes an evaluation plan
 - Leveraging one or more of the following:
 - Real world riding
 - Transurban express lane(s)
 - Virginia Connected Corridor
 - Virginia Automated Corridor
 - Virginia Smart Roads
 - Highway
 - Surface Street
 - Rural Road
- Pending the maturity and complexity of the technology selected, it is anticipated that each evaluation may take 12-15 months to complete



Value Propositions

- Steering Committee
 - Insight into novel motorcycle technologies available to the industry
 - Transdisciplinary discussions about incorporating motorcycle riders into the future of transportation
- Vendors
 - No-cost independent evaluation of their technology
 - Free press and brand awareness leveraging steering committee network
- Riders
 - Participation in technology selections
 - Experience with advanced technology
 - Involvement in shaping rider safety and experience discussion



Questions?

Andy Schaudt, M.S., M.B.A. *Project Director*, Center for Automated Vehicle Systems, Motorcycle Research Group Virginia Tech Transportation Institute 3500 Transportation Research Plaza (0536), Blacksburg, VA 24061 O: 540.231.6198 aschaudt@vtti.vt.edu | schaudt@vt.edu | www.vtti.vt.edu

Shane McLaughlin, Ph.D. Director, Center for Automated Vehicle Systems, Motorcycle Research Group Virginia Tech Transportation Institute 3500 Transportation Research Plaza (0536), Blacksburg, VA 24061 O: 540.231.1077

smclaughlin@vtti.vt.edu | www.vtti.vt.edu





