

2-1 Placement of Rumble Strips

The most appropriate places for installation are given here.

- Where head-on collisions and run-off-the road accidents tend to occur
- On long, flat, straight sections of roads in rural areas
- On sections where there is a history of fatal or other serious accidents
- Where a serious accident might occur if a vehicle were to run off the road, such as on a bridge (especially a bridge over a rail line, or a narrow bridge) or just before a structure like a tunnel

It is necessary to pay attention to the possible effects besides accident prevention that might arise from installation, such as hazards to the operation of light vehicles such as motorcycles (less than 50 cc) and bicycles.

Explanation

Rumble strips are effective at preventing accidents by inattentive drivers who stray from their lane. Such accidents occur most often on two-lane roads in suburban areas with relatively heavy traffic volume. Such roads are monotonous to drive on (Photo 2-1). Rumble strips are also effective at locations where fatal head-on collisions, fatal run-off-the-road accidents and other serious accidents have tended to occur and an immediate countermeasure is needed. They are expected to be effective at road shoulders where a serious accident would occur if a vehicle were to run off the road, such as on a bridge (especially over a JR rail line, or a narrow bridge) or at the approach to a tunnel, in addition to places with a history of run-off-the-road accidents.

At sections where there is a need to physically prevent head-on collisions, for example at a sharp curve, however, it is necessary to install a median divider. At such sections, rumble strips can be installed as a temporary measure, but it is desirable to implement the permanent measure that is most appropriate in terms of the road environment (Photo 2-2).



Photo 2-1: A road environment where rumble strips are particularly effective



Photo 2-2: Rumble strips installed temporarily at a sharp curve