

INDOT's Research & Development Facility Aids In Motorcycle Safety

INDOT Research & Development (R&D) Accountant Janice Johns loves riding motorcycles when the weather is nice. Johns is also an advocate for motorcycle safety as an active member of [ABATE](#) of Indiana.

When ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Towards Education) needed a new home last spring for its classroom trailer in West Lafayette, Johns looked no further than the R&D parking lot.

"I started the process for the new ABATE location in West Lafayette with a conversation with (R&D Director) Barry Partridge," said Johns, a former member of ABATE's board of directors. "If we could not accommodate the group, there may not have been any motorcycle classroom training available in the city. Barry liked the idea, so he took it to various INDOT personnel for input and eventual approval."

ABATE of Indiana Executive Director Jay Jackson is thrilled about the R&D location.

"I cannot thank INDOT enough," said Jackson. "As motorcycle commuters, we appreciate the great highways we have in Indiana. As educators of motorcycle safety, we are thankful for the use of the R&D parking lot for our trailer that is used for our 'Rider Education Training' classroom instruction."



ABATE's trailer is used for motorcycle safety classroom instruction at the Research & Development facility in West Lafayette.

ABATE uses the trailer for five hours of classroom training for participants on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays from spring to fall. The R&D parking lot does not allow enough space for motorcycle skills training, so 10 hours of this activity is conducted across the street from the R&D facility at a technology park parking lot.

Motorcycle skills practice takes place conveniently across the street from INDOT's Research & Development facility.



ABATE began offering a new benefit for participants this year — motorcycle licensing.

“You can obtain your learner’s permit and the ability to perform your motorcycle skills test,” said Jackson. “Students who successfully pass the written and skills test will receive an endorsement to their operator’s license to take to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, as there is special licensing to legally operate a motorcycle in Indiana.”

Johns and Jackson remind vehicular motorists that warmer weather equates to more motorcycle riders on our roadways.

“To quote the bumper sticker,” said Jackson, “Check Twice, Be Aware, Motorcycles Are Everywhere.”