

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee members,

As an avid motorcyclist, I write to urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 694, which would legalize lane sharing (aka lane-splitting) for motorcycles and mopeds during times of congestion. It is better for riders, better for drivers and safer than sitting in traffic.

Lane-sharing has long been accepted as a common sense practice the world over, and the reasons are many:

1. It may seem counter-intuitive, but it is safer for motorcyclists to travel between the lanes of traffic. The most dangerous place for a motorcyclist to be in stop-and-go traffic is sitting in a lane, waiting to be rear-ended by the distracted driver behind them. There is mounting research showing that not only are there fewer MC-involved accidents in areas that allow lane-sharing (which is, essentially, everywhere but here) and that those that do occur are much less severe (since glancing of the side of a car is far better than being run over). It may not seem like it if you've only driven a car or truck, but there is actually lots of room between the lanes of your average highway, and this bill gives riders a much-needed tool to help manage the risk that comes with riding in traffic.

2. Less traffic. By removing motorcyclists from the normal flow of traffic, congestion is reduced for everyone, with obvious benefits: quicker commutes, less fuel wasted and reduced pollution by not sitting idle. Yes, riders get there faster, but lane-sharing has positive effects on traffic flow for all drivers. At a red light, riders filter to the front. Then as the light turns green, riders accelerate away much quicker than the cars around them until, at the next stoppage, they disappear between the lanes and no one is held up. Motorcycles are removed from the equation, to the benefit of all.

3. Air-cooled engines require air flow to stay cool (as do riders). I can attest that sitting on the freeway on a 90+ degree day between two semi trucks, wearing head-to-toe protective gear with a 300+ degree air-cooled V-twin between your legs, is uncomfortable at best. Unless they keep moving, riders face heat-exhaustion and overheated/stalled equipment.

It must be noted that this bill is, in my humble opinion, not without flaws - namely that it requires that traffic has slowed to the excessively-low, 10 mph, and that there is no provision regarding drivers who intentionally try to block or hit riders - but it is an excellent start.

Sincerely,



Andy Hudock  
Lafayette, OR