

Chair McKeown,

Riding motorcycles is dangerous and nothing will ever change that fact, but that being said, if we can do something to make it more safe then why not capitalize on that opportunity? One of my greatest fears while commuting on my motorcycle is the fear of being rear ended because the driver behind me neglected to pay attention and provide a safe distance behind me. Lane splitting (in a safe manor) does provide a faster and more importantly, a more safe way for motorcyclists to commute.

I live in North East Portland and commute to and from Lake Oswego on a daily basis, needless to say, the majority of this commute lies on I-5 and I-84. This is an 18 mile commute that takes over an hour due to the heavy bumper to bumper traffic. Every time that traffic comes to a stop there is a risk of getting rear ended. Anyone reading this knows that drivers are distracted more now than ever, cell phones, music, food and much more are all very common distractions. These distractions commonly cause "fender bender" accidents, but in the case of a motorcyclist, a "fender bender" can result in broken bones, head injuries, paralysis, or even a loss of a life. It has been proven that lane sharing drastically reduces the risk of these injuries because the motorcyclist is outside of the common vehicle path.

There are quite a few people that believe lane sharing is more dangerous for cars and motorcycles alike because it makes them less visible. The statement, "what if I switch lanes and I hit a lane splitting motorcyclist?" is a very common for people who oppose lane sharing. This belief only exists due to lack of education, If you look in your mirror before you switch lanes you will see the motorcyclist because lane sharing actually makes you far more visible than traveling through the center of a lane.

Both sides can be argued all day long, but the fact of the matter is there is no reason not to pass SB 694 A. SB 694 A will improve the commute for everyone who chooses to use the freeway and will guarantee a safer and more efficient commute for anyone on a motorcycle.

Sincerely,

Lucas Bigeh