

I am an Oregon driver, bicyclist, and motorcyclist and I support SB574 to allow motorcycles in Oregon to travel between lanes of traffic when it's safe to do so. There are two main reasons why I support this bill and the concept of lane sharing in general:

- Safety: allowing motorcyclists to lane share and not remain stuck between vehicles in stopped traffic reduces the chances that a motorcyclist will be rear-ended by an automobile while stopped. This is an extremely dangerous scenario for motorcyclists, and I have personally had some very close calls with cars nearly rear-ending me while I was stopped or coming to a stop on a bike. Those who have experienced being rear-ended in a car can just imagine if they were instead sitting on a bike and how much worse the outcome would have been for them. Several studies support the conclusion that lane sharing reduces the chance of these accidents which can lead to serious injury or death for the motorcyclist.

- Congestion: taking motorcycles out of stopped traffic lines makes roads more efficient for everyone and incentivizes a mode of transport that doesn't contribute to road congestion nearly as much as passenger vehicles. While less populated areas of Oregon do not experience significant road congestion, the state's population continues to increase and will be an issue in more and more Oregon cities as time goes on. The vast majority of Europe and Asia allow lane sharing for this very reason, as does California, which is home to the most motorcyclists of any US state by a large margin. I have personally ridden two-wheeled vehicles in California, France, Italy, and Vietnam and can attest that the system can work very well.

On behalf of all Oregon motorists, I respectfully request your support of SB 574.

Regards,  
Tristan Lewis