

I write this to every member of the Joint Transportation Committee: my name is Yanni and I often commute on my motorcycle to my workplace. My transportation route begins in Gresham, passes through the Portland metro area, and then continues on I-84 and I-205.

I strongly ask for your support with SB574 this year. Congestion is becoming (and has been for quite some time now) a major problem in the Portland metro area, and it costs us millions of dollars per year. This is especially true during rush hour. The city of Portland has decided that they do not want to expand highways, and I can understand their reasoning. During most commutes, many people are single passenger commuters. Even though motorcycles are physically smaller, more fuel efficient, and less harmful to the environment, they are legally and dimensionally treated as larger vehicles, which contributes to and amplifies traffic congestion.

I find myself in stopped traffic conditions often, and I truly realize just how much space large automobiles take up, and how little space motorcycles occupy. Very often I find sufficient room for a motorcyclist to safely pass between several stopped vehicles. Sharing lanes with motorcycles is practiced in most of the world, and even in our own nation's state of California. There have been multiple studies performed that strongly display a great decrease in traffic congestion, and show a significant increase in motorcyclist safety. I understand some people have concerns about this practice, but if done properly and legally as other laws that we follow, safety will increase, other motorists will adjust to the new law, and traffic conditions will change for the better. The conditions for lane sharing would be further defined, but if done cautiously and safely, it is proven to prevent many injuries that can end of lives of motorcyclists because of a rear end collision from a distracted driver. For those that prefer to drive cars, this law would not add any burdens for anyone, on the contrary, it would be more beneficial than the current system. Another benefit of lane sharing would be to give motorcyclists more escape routes in the event of an emergency or a road hazard which cars can drive through, yet motorcyclists must drive around. We stress this law because for some people and their monetary conditions, a motorcycle is the only financially possible transportation option as compared to a car. One more long term benefit of legal lane sharing would be that more people would begin riding motorcycles, which would even further help traffic flow to be more smooth. I really appreciate you taking the time to read this and I hope that all of you take this into serious consideration.

Thank you,
Yanni.