

Submitter: Wes Mahler
On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB422

I'm a motorcyclist and pilot. Safety is a priority. Having the ability to legally move between cars gives motorcycle riders more options for ways out of situations, and reduces possible rear end collisions. I don't believe adding this ability makes drivers in car any more unsafe. Drivers of course will need to be educated over time with ability to have motorcycles filter through traffic overtime, and they would learn like they have in California. From my own experience, when I moved out of Oregon to California at one point, I can get around quicker in congested California traffic using a motorcycle. I live back in Oregon now and with all of the traffic congestion in Portland, it appears to be a lot of wasted productive and/or leisure time for the public for motorcycle traffic to sit in it, and add to everyones' wasted times. We motorcycle riders all know the risks to riding a motorcycle. We riders are putting our own lives at risk out there. There are all kinds of dumb things motorcycles can do if they want to harm themselves. If there is concern that this will make it more dangerous for our riders, it certainly could if they are irresponsible (which if someone is irresponsible driver or rider in the first place, it's bad regardless of the laws), however, allowing riders to actually practice safer riding techniques too. If needed, make them take a motorcycle training class in order to get an additional waiver to split lanes in the first place. We learn in California rider's school how to effectively use lane splitting, and how to enhance safety. We would appreciate the option to lane split legally, providing responsible riders a safer option to ride occasionally, and reducing congestion on the streets. Bicycles are supported whole heartily in portland for a myriad of reasons, one of which is to reduce traffic, however they're not good for long distance. The reality is, over-time, there will be little to no human drivers on the road. Roads will be shared between a variety of different sized vehicles. It's a complete waste to have 4 seater cars for people who are only one person. Eventually we need to use the roads we have to possibly support 2 autonomous single passenger carrying vehicles in one lane. It'll be a waste to have 1 person taking up a whole lane when it's not effective. We don't have any more land in the dense cities to simply expand roads, we must strive to make our existing hard infrastructure as effective and efficient as possible. Adding lane splitting is a step towards the future in providing more optionally, faster traffic flow and some safety enhancements for drivers.