

Submitter: ian wagner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: SB422

Introduction:

As a seasoned motorcyclist, I'd like to share my perspective on the practice of motorcycle lane filtering. Although controversial in some regions, the benefits of lane filtering, including enhanced safety, improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, lower emissions, and economic advantages, far outweigh any perceived drawbacks.

Safety:

First and foremost, motorcycle lane filtering enhances safety for motorcyclists. When done correctly, it allows riders to navigate through congested traffic, thus reducing their exposure to rear-end collisions. According to a 2015 study by the University of California, Berkeley, motorcyclists who engage in lane filtering are 38% less likely to be involved in a rear-end crash than those who do not. By allowing motorcyclists to occupy the space between slow-moving or stopped vehicles, lane filtering helps riders avoid being sandwiched between cars during sudden stops or traffic jams.

Traffic Flow and Congestion:

Another significant advantage of motorcycle lane filtering is its ability to ease traffic congestion. Motorcycles are much smaller than cars, and by occupying the unused space between lanes, they effectively reduce the overall traffic density. As a result, traffic flow is improved, and other road users benefit from reduced travel times.

A study conducted by Belgian consultancy Transport & Mobility Leuven in 2012 found that if just 10% of car drivers switched to motorcycles and used lane filtering, congestion could be reduced by 40%. This means that not only motorcyclists benefit from the practice, but all road users can experience a more streamlined and efficient traffic system.

Environmental Impact:

Motorcycle lane filtering contributes to a greener environment by reducing idling time, leading to lower fuel consumption and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The Belgian study found that widespread adoption of lane filtering could lead to a 6% reduction in CO2 emissions from traffic.

Economic Benefits:

Lane filtering improves traffic flow, leading to shorter travel times, lower fuel consumption, and increased productivity. Motorcycles are generally more affordable than cars, in terms of initial investment and ongoing costs. Governments can also save on infrastructure costs, as motorcycles require less road space and parking facilities.

Education and Training:

To ensure the safe and effective implementation of motorcycle lane filtering, it is crucial to invest in education and training. Motorcyclists must be taught how to filter safely and responsibly, while drivers of larger vehicles should be educated on the benefits of the practice and how to share the road with motorcyclists. Proper education and training will foster a sense of mutual respect and understanding between all road users, leading to a safer and more harmonious traffic environment.

Conclusion:

Motorcycle lane filtering offers numerous benefits, including enhanced safety, improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, lower emissions, and economic advantages. By promoting education and training, we can ensure responsible practice, creating a safer and more efficient transportation system for all. The widespread adoption of motorcycle lane filtering can lead to a better future for our roads and our planet.