

From: [Thomas Ifversen](#)
To: [JCT Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please vote YES on HB2314
Date: Sunday, February 17, 2019 3:18:17 PM

As a commuter who lives in Portland, I hope that we can take this one step to reduce traffic for everyone who is stuck on Oregon's freeways. A Belgian study has determined that if 10% of the traffic was to ride a motorcycle or scooter and lane split, EVERYONE would get where they were going 40% faster!

I wanted to address the concerns that ODOT has put forward in the past. I am referring to the March 20, 2017 document submitted to the Senate under the subject: SB 385 - Motorcycle Lane Splitting. The safety concerns are that motorcycles would be vulnerable to "vehicles suddenly changing lanes, or vehicles entering from the side." Please remember that the legislation in front of you allows for motorcycles to lane split when traffic is moving at 10 MPH or slower, on highways with 50 MPH speed limits, and the motorcycles can only go up to 20 MPH. It forbids traveling on the shoulders, so merging traffic from the side isn't a concern, and in stop-and-go traffic, there isn't room for a motorist to suddenly switch lanes without signaling. Neither issue should be a concern.

Two paragraphs down, ODOT claims "California experienced 17 percent more crashes involving motorcyclists due to lane splitting. Several studies from Europe indicate the added risk for riding between lanes of traffic may be as high as 394 percent riskier". These numbers are irrelevant to the conversation in front of this committee, because they are referring to ALL lane splitting accidents. No one is trying to convince you that it is safe to travel at 75 MPH on a motorcycle between cars traveling at 55 MPH. It is obvious that it is riskier, and it will increase crash numbers. What ALL the studies have found, is that if traffic is moving at 50 MPH or less, and the motorcycle is going no more than 15 MPH faster than traffic, it is a "relatively safe strategy" (Motorcycle Lane-splitting and Safety in California. May 29, 2015). No study has ever found differently.

The legislation in front of you is safe for both automobile drivers and motorcyclists (perhaps even safer for motorcyclists). It will save time for motorists and motorcycles alike. Treating two wheeled motorcycles differently from cars makes sense, even if most car drivers don't realize it yet. It makes sense on today's overly crowded freeways. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Tom Ifversen