



Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

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TO: Joint Committee on Transportation

FROM: Victor Hoffer, Chair
Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

SUBJECT: House Bill 2314

The Oregon Transportation Safety Committee is a Governor-appointed five member committee that has the responsibility of coordinating and leading Transportation Safety in Oregon (ORS 802.300). Our vision is zero. Zero fatalities or serious injuries from traffic crashes by 2035. We want to get all moms and dads, boys and girls, friends and family home safe today and every day.

Our statewide efforts are captured in the state's strategic highway safety plan that was approved and adopted in late 2016. Motorcycle drivers and passengers are vulnerable due to their exposure. For this reason when a motorcycle crash occurs it tends to be more severe for the riders. Motorcycle-related fatal and serious injury crashes typically occur in rural areas with lane departures representing the largest share. Our hope is that no crash occurs at all and all riders get to and from their destination without mishap.

House Bill 2314 proposes law changes that would allow motorcyclists to ride in blind spots of other road users including on the left and right side of traffic. As we combat the dangers of distracted, impaired and careless driving, taking away the safety from a full lane of cushion around the motorcyclist doesn't improve the safety environment in Oregon for motorcyclists.

The Oregon Transportation Safety Committee voted unanimously to oppose House Bill 2314 at our February 13, 2019 meeting.