

I am a motorcyclist since 2001, and currently practicing physician in OR who cares a great deal about safety, especially my own. I am "that guy," that always has the fluorescent yellow abrasion-resistant riding suit with white helmet... even when it's 100 degrees out. I take a lot of crap from the riders in jeans and T-shirts. I've taken four motorcycle safety courses over the years, including one last summer from Team Oregon. I lead with this to let you know rider safety is very important to me.

I had initially ridden in Alaska for 6 years before moving to California for 5 years for further medical training in Sacramento. When I got to CA where lane sharing/ filtering is legal, I initially thought it was probably a bad idea from a safety standpoint. However, after paying attention to others lane sharing, noticing where potential risks come from in traffic (for myself), and seeing a motorcycle get rear-ended while stopped behind other cars at a traffic light, I really started paying attention to whether I thought it would be safer to lane share. I came to the conclusion it probably was safer, and decided to start trying it if I could split when traffic was at a standstill, either in California's famous traffic jams or when stopped at red lights. After a few tentative experiences, I came to the conclusion that, for myself (and I think this is backed up by some recent data), I'm often safer lane sharing. I also paid attention to the flow of traffic and I am certain that the flow of traffic as a whole (average commute time) is probably helped by allowing sharing, in that the motorcycles that filter to the front of the line accelerate more quickly than the average car, and do not subsequently hold up traffic, almost certainly reducing the average commute time, since that motorcycle is no longer taking up a "space" in the queue of vehicles.

I think it is unlikely that I would lane share where I currently reside (Medford area), due to low traffic volumes and reasonable commute times. However, I think in more populated areas with more traffic, lane sharing would benefit motorcyclists from a safety perspective, as well as the commuting population as a whole, due to lowered vehicle congestion (any lane sharing motorcycle being one less car that would otherwise be in the line of traffic).

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter.