

I have ridden motorcycles for close to 30 years in several states including California, which allows lane splitting. With increasing traffic, encouraging motorists to take the most efficient form of transportation possible is a must. For many, since most vehicles have single occupancy, this would be a motorcycle or other small vehicle. However, there are NO incentives to travel by motorcycle if motorcycles have to sit in traffic jams created by four wheeled and greater vehicles clogging the roadways. Since many cities do not have the funds nor the space to add HOV lanes, alternative arrangements must be considered. Furthermore, a motorcyclist is more likely to be injured or killed sitting in a traffic jam than if allowed to split lanes at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph faster than the traffic they are passing. Please read the 2015 UC Berkeley SafeTrec Study on lane splitting. Amongst other findings, this study states:

“Also compared with other motorcyclists involved in a collision, lane-splitting riders were less likely to suffer head injury (9 percent versus 17 percent), torso injury (19 percent versus 29 percent) and fatal injury (1.2 percent versus 3 percent).”

So, we have safety data, environmental incentives, and traffic incentives. How can one possibly oppose this proposition unless they are completely out of touch with those they are sworn to represent?