

I respectfully request your support of SB574. Please vote "YES" on SB574.

As a relatively new motorcyclist, safety is foremost on my mind as I gain more experience on Oregon roads. I feel most vulnerable on my motorcycle during heavy traffic on highways, when drivers are more likely to be distracted, frustrated by sitting and being delayed in traffic, increasing the likelihood of rash decisions or harmful distractions. Being forced to navigate stop and go traffic between two larger vehicles and constantly worrying the driver behind me is paying enough attention to ensure I don't end up a hood ornament is extremely stressful. This stress is validated by data that shows increased dangers to motorcycles under these driving conditions (Rice et al. 2015). Discussions on lane-splitting need to be informed by vetted studies that start from a holistic perspective with a focus on motorcycle safety and that adequately captures the benefits to all vehicles. Engaging in conversations around traffic safety should include perspectives from every type of driver's safety, in fair and proportional ways – too often laws like lane-splitting are not supported despite data suggesting it's one way to introduce motorcycle safety measures (Rice et al. 2015).

Beyond the safety benefits to motorcyclists, which ought to be enough, these laws also offer benefits to vehicles and to the environment (Leuven Study). For example, lane-splitting results in fewer vehicles queuing and thus reduced vehicle wait times and less idling contributing to toxic emissions.

Oregon roads have one of the worst driver safety records in the nation (Johnson, A. 2020). Legalizing lane-splitting provides an opportunity for Oregon legislators to show: 1) a commitment to improving that record and 2) a responsiveness to vetted data and studies by supporting laws that increase safety and other benefits to all Oregon drivers.

#### References

Rice, T., PhD; Troszak, L., MA; and Erhardt, T. "Motorcycle Lane-splitting and Safety in California". Safe Transportation Research & Education Center University of California Berkeley. May 2015.

Leuven Study. [http://ridetowork.org/files/docs/MCs\\_reduce\\_congestion\\_Travel\\_Times\\_-\\_Conference\\_Leuven\\_study.pdf](http://ridetowork.org/files/docs/MCs_reduce_congestion_Travel_Times_-_Conference_Leuven_study.pdf). Leuven Conference, Brussels. January 2012.

Johnson, A. The Best and Worst Drivers by State. <https://quotewizard.com/news/posts/the-best-and-worst-drivers-by-state>. October 2020.