

I am an avid motorcyclist with more than 30 years and 200,000 miles of experience with on-road riding, including all 50 states of the US and in 8 other countries around the world. Having lived in California for 20 of those years, I can attest that the practice of motorcycle lane sharing (a.k.a. "lane splitting" or "filtering") can be conducted in a safe and efficient manner that benefits everyone who operates vehicles on public roads. This is particularly beneficial during times of peak traffic, because when motorcyclists are able to move between the lanes past the rest of the traffic, that only gives more space for other vehicles to make forward progress more quickly in their lanes, because those motorcycles are no longer taking up space inside each lane, which helps to alleviate congestion overall. In California where this is common practice, car drivers have learned and understood this benefit, and they willingly give space to motorcyclists who engage in lane sharing, which reduces everyone's travel time on the road. For motorcyclists though, the greatest benefit is not in reaching their destination faster, but in the extra measure of safety that it provides to the rider. Despite the false notion many people hold onto that lane sharing is an inherently unsafe activity, it in fact provides a vital safety benefit to riders - the danger of being rear ended in stop and go traffic is extremely high while riding a motorcycle, when motorcyclists are required to remain within a lane when there is high traffic congestion. As someone who has been rear ended while riding a bike, I cannot recommend highly enough that the Oregon legislature create a legal accommodation for motorcycles riders to be able to engage in lane sharing on all Oregon roads. It is a practice that has been commonplace around the world for decades, which our neighbors to the south have proven to be viable and safe, and which offers many valid, legitimate reasons for why it should be permitted. This legislation would be a win-win for all drivers on Oregon roads, and I strongly encourage all legislators to vote in favor of enshrining lane sharing into law for the State of Oregon.