

I am 58, and have in excess of 100,000 miles of street bike experience over the last 42 years. I have had one accident in that time, which was my fault. Living in NorCal for 12 years, I also have significant experience in lane sharing, or "splitting" as it is often called. In my experience, lane sharing is an effective and usually safe way to improve traffic flow, reduce travel times and fuel usage, and actually improve safety for the rider. I have seen the less conservative rider lane share unsafely, and know some that have died doing so. Motorcycle riding, especially on the street, is inherently dangerous due to many factors, mostly related to simple physics. If you ignore the risks you may pay the price. Like they say, "there are old riders, and bold riders, but no old, bold riders".

I spent quite a few years commuting from East of Sacramento to San Jose, a 3 hour ride. Well, it was 3 hours with lane sharing. Without lane sharing, it could easily have been 5+ hours due to traffic volume and the inevitable accidents that occur. Not once in my dozens of trips did I ever have an incident while lane splitting. In fact, on 2 occasions it likely saved my life. Twice I have seen distracted drivers approaching stopped traffic at a high rate of speed. In both cases I was able to continue my forward progress while they slammed into the stopped traffic that they failed to see. If I would have been stopped between vehicles within a significant circumference around the impact, the results could have ranged from minor injury to death.

I would argue for passing this bill. Oregon has nowhere near the volume of traffic that California does, either 4 or 2 wheeled. Plus, the weather here does not allow for year-round riding. As a result, the added risk of implementing this bill is very very low.