

I support SB574 because motorcycle lane sharing saved me from an accident -- but it cost me a ticket. I was riding on a four-lane divided road one day when the light I was just about to breeze through turned yellow. The driver ahead of me stomped on the brakes, and even as I followed suit, his trunk zoomed up faster than I could stop. Instead of crunching into him, I piloted my bike between him and another car in the lane beside us, which gave me just enough runway to stop before the intersection.

As luck would have it, a motorcycle officer behind me missed the evasive move, but saw me sitting between two cars at a red light and pulled me over as soon as it turned green. He didn't buy my story, and gave me a stern lecture about lane splitting and a ticket. My heart was still pounding from nearly crashing, and I gladly accepted a slap on my wrist over a cast on my wrist.

I'm not a perfect rider. I admit I was following the car ahead of me too closely, or I would have had enough space to brake to begin with. But that day taught me the value of the space between cars as a potential "safe spot" for motorcycle riders, and using it quite literally prevented me from crashing. Motorcyclists shouldn't have to break the law to perform evasive maneuvers that could save their lives, which is why I enthusiastically support SB574.