As a resident of Portland, OR for several years, I have noticed (as have many others) traffic getting worse and worse. I do not personally even ride a motorcycle, but I understand the need for better traffic flow and reducing traffic in any way possible. I also understand that many motorcyclists ride a motorcycle for the convenience and speed of traveling between lanes.

Additionally, I work as a physical therapist, and if motorcycle rider safety is the concern, I would have to say that not allowing motorcycles to travel between lanes can be the more dangerous scenario. Accidents involving rear-ending of vehicles is very common in Portland, and I have had patients who are rear-ended while on their motorcycle or moped because they are sitting in stop and go traffic between cars. This is far more dangerous for a motorcycle to be sit in traffic and be hit from behind by a car than to travel between lanes to skip the line of cars and get ahead of them.

My family lives in Japan, and often times, Japan has such rules that are so overly focused on safety (in my opinion) that things are often less convenient and frustrating compared to the U.S. However, even Japan (and many other countries and states in the U.S.) allow motorcycles to travel between lanes. It is safe, has been deemed safe in many other places, and as previously stated, can be argued to be safer than not allowing travel between lanes.

Please vote YES on SB574