

I am a long time motorcyclist and an Emergency Physician in Oregon. My dedication to motorcycle safety has been a large part of my interest in continuing to ride throughout my career in medicine. I fully support lane sharing if it is designed with low speed differential between vehicles and practiced with care. I have extensive first hand experience of practicing this technique safely while traveling in California and argue that this has become a more relevant issue for commuting in Oregon as our traffic has increased. Lane sharing avoids concentration fatigue and physical fatigue (i.e. from repeated operating the clutch) that can contribute to crashes. Additionally, there are significant risks for motorcyclists getting stuck in traffic on a hot summer day- heat exhaustion and dehydration. Wearing appropriate safety equipment (full face helmet, full length jacket and above the ankle leather boots) is extremely hot when stopped for even short periods on a freeway. I typically make the choice to wear full safety gear on hot days but it comes at a cost of overheating while traveling. I see many other riders wear minimal protective gear on hot days to avoid this situation, and believe more riders would wear the appropriate safety gear if given the option to keep moving for evaporative cooling.