

Submitter: David Visse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB422

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

Please accept my written testimony below;

Motorcycles sharing lanes with cars, commonly known as lane splitting or filtering, can offer several benefits in terms of improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, and enhanced overall safety. While practices and regulations may vary across different countries, the concept of lane sharing is accepted and proven to be safe in various parts of the world.

One of the key advantages of motorcycles sharing lanes with cars is the potential for better traffic flow. Motorcycles, being smaller and more maneuverable than cars, have the ability to navigate through congested traffic more efficiently. By moving between lanes, motorcycles can help alleviate congestion by utilizing the available space and reducing the overall traffic volume. This results in smoother traffic flow for all road users and can help reduce travel times, especially in densely populated urban areas.

Lane sharing can also contribute to a more equitable use of road space. Motorcycles take up less space on the road compared to cars, and by sharing lanes, they can help optimize the utilization of limited road infrastructure. This can be particularly beneficial in situations where road capacity is limited, such as during peak commuting hours or in areas with narrow roadways. By allowing motorcycles to share lanes, we can make better use of existing infrastructure without the need for costly road expansions.

Furthermore, lane sharing can enhance safety for motorcyclists. When motorcycles filter between lanes, they are less exposed to the risk of rear-end collisions, which are a common occurrence in slow-moving or stationary traffic. Motorcyclists are vulnerable road users, and by allowing them to move ahead, they can reduce their exposure to potential accidents caused by inattentive or distracted drivers. Research has shown that countries where lane splitting is permitted, such as California in the United States and several European countries, have lower rates of rear-end collisions involving motorcycles.

It is important to note that lane sharing, when properly regulated and executed, can be a safe practice. Countries that allow lane splitting often have specific guidelines and regulations in place to ensure its safe implementation. For example, speed

differentials between motorcycles and cars are regulated, and motorcyclists are required to exercise caution and maintain an appropriate speed while filtering through traffic. By educating both motorcyclists and drivers about lane sharing practices and promoting awareness on the road, the potential risks associated with this practice can be minimized.

Numerous countries around the world, including Australia, Japan, and many European nations, have recognized the benefits of lane sharing and have integrated it into their traffic regulations. The experiences of these countries indicate that when done correctly, lane sharing can be a safe and efficient way to manage traffic congestion and improve overall road safety.

In conclusion, motorcycles sharing lanes with cars can lead to several benefits, including improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, and enhanced safety for motorcyclists. By allowing motorcycles to navigate through traffic more efficiently, we can achieve better utilization of road space and decrease overall travel times. While implementing and regulating lane sharing practices is essential, the experiences of countries around the world demonstrate that when done correctly, lane sharing can be an accepted and safe practice, contributing to more efficient and harmonious traffic systems.