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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3542

I thoroughly support allowing motorcycles to utilize the space between lanes whenever the rider feels it is safe to do with the current road conditions and rider skill. Doing so not only allows riders to be even safer on the road by allowing more options to them to avoid or escape potentially dangerous situations, it also benefits auto drivers by improving the through put of our roads, by extension alleviating traffic, and therefore producing a better driving experience as well.

I would also be remiss if I didn't include the lower fuel consumption (and by extension, lower CO2 and particulate emissions) per mile than even the most efficient car; any motion which makes riding motorcycles more favorable will have positive externalities towards our local and global climates which should not be ignored. Likewise for positive externalities which come from the added mobility which may be given to able-bodied individuals who may not have, or simply wish to save, the considerable fiscal resources required to legally operate a car.

It's also worth pointing out that getting a motorcycle operating permit is already a much higher bar with regards to training and licensing evaluations than are required by our state to operate a car. This makes sense given the added personal risk carried by riders over drivers- and also serves to illustrate that the licensed drivers in our state are already evaluated and trusted with this burden. Given that something as small as a motorcycle poses, frankly, no real risk to even the tiniest car, I see no reason not to allow these tested and licensed riders to determine for themselves the safety of filtering or splitting lanes at any given time.

Really, as far as I can tell, this is a proposal with little if any downside, but definite and distinct upside. Hard not to be in favor!