

3/31/25

Katie Schiavo

Oak Grove, OR

Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation

Oregon State Legislature

To the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I am an Oregon resident, wife of a motorcyclist with 20 years of experience, and mother to a new motorcyclist. I support Oregon HB 3542, which would enhance motorcyclist safety by allowing lane-splitting in specific situations.

Motorcyclists are most vulnerable when traveling at slow speeds or when stopped in traffic. Without momentum, they have limited control and can't maneuver easily in case of a potential crash. While lane-splitting has risks, studies show minimal added risk to other drivers if motorcyclists are allowed to make decisions in high-traffic situations.

Research, including a UC Berkeley study, shows lane-splitting reduces the likelihood of head, torso, and fatal injuries. The American Motorcyclist Association also endorses lane-splitting, highlighting its benefits in providing escape routes for motorcyclists and reducing crash frequency.

Several states, including California and Utah, have successfully implemented lane-splitting laws. HB 3542 would permit lane-splitting on roads with speed limits of 50 mph or higher when traffic is moving at less than 10 mph, minimizing the risk of severe injury in case of a collision. Similar measures have been successful in other countries, like France.

Enforcing lane-splitting can be challenging, but strategies such as motorcycle-riding officers or pilot drone trials could make it feasible. Public awareness, including clear signage marking lane-splitting zones (see example), would further enhance safety.

Thank you for considering this important safety measure.

Sincerely,

Katie Schiavo



Citations:

"American Motorcyclist Association's Position on Lane Splitting." *American Motorcyclist Association*, www.americanmotorcyclist.com/lane-splitting.

Rice, Thomas, et al. "Motorcycle Lane-Splitting and Safety: Final Report." *Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, UC Berkeley*, 29 May 2015, www.news.berkeley.edu/2015/05/29/motorcycle-lanesplitting-report.

"Motorcycle Lane-Filtering Reintroduced in 21 French Departments." *The Connexion*, 2021, www.connexionfrance.com/article/French-news/Motorbike-lane-filtering-reintroduced-in-21-French-departments.