

Submitter: Jim Strong
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3542

I am in support of HB 3542, allowing motorcyclists to "split lanes" in heavy, congested traffic. I am a retired municipal police motorcycle officer from within the San Francisco Bay Area as well as an avid civilian motorcyclist with 48-yr of continuous street motorcycle operation. Over the course of many years commuting on my police issued motor and my personal civilian motor I would frequently split lanes on the congested freeways of Interstate 280, US 101, and Interstate 580, sometimes for a distance of 20-miles or more. While the novice observer might have the initial opinion that traveling between lanes of traffic is more hazardous than not, this is a myth that the California Highway Patrol has repeatedly debunked over the past 50-yr through collision data collection & traffic survey studies. In fact, traveling between lanes has proven to be far less hazardous to motorcyclists & motorists than having to remain within a single lane between vehicles on heavily congested roadways. Allowing motorcyclists this option also reduces the amount of exhaust, carbon emissions, & fuel consumption within metropolitan travel corridors. If it was up to me, I would make the benchmark speed at 20 or 25 mph, but 10 mph is better than nothing I guess. Again, I am in full support of this bill & encourage that it passed.