

Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety

Mission Statement

To protect the safety and welfare of the motorcycle riding public of the State of Oregon.

Goal

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety consists of members appointed by the Governor from throughout the state. The committee is charged with the responsibility to advise the Governor and the Transportation Safety Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding motorcycle safety. The committee reviews, proposes, and makes recommendations concerning motorcycle-related legislation as well as serving as a public forum for motorcyclists. It serves to promote motorcycle safety and inform the public about motorcycling. Other activities include the evaluation of the TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program, giving guidance to the Transportation Safety Division Public Information and Education effort in motorcycle safety, and to promote motorcycle safety education to the public.

Objectives

1. To review current and proposed legislation and make recommendations regarding such motorcycle safety to the Transportation Safety Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation.
2. To evaluate the TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program and forward the evaluation to the Transportation Safety Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation.
3. Promote and improve motorcycle and public safety.
4. Provide an open public forum for motorcyclists.
5. To conduct hearings, when necessary, on issues involving motorcycle safety.
6. It is the responsibility of every committee member to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

Committee Activities

1. Random surveys of the public regarding motorcycle safety issues
2. Promotion of May Motorcycle Awareness Month through acquiring annual proclamations from the Governor and promotion of safe motorcycling and motorist awareness activities.

3. Distribution of road maintenance reference cards to motorcycle dealerships, organizations, clubs and groups.
4. Hold public forum meetings throughout the state.
5. Active motorcycle legislation participation
 - a. Tracking Legislative Bills that deal with motorcycles and motorcycling
 - b. Propose Legislation effecting motorcycle safety
 - c. Provide testimony and or information for legislation effecting motorcycling
6. Provide guidance to Transportation Safety Division to promote reduction of motorcycle crashes, injuries, and fatal crashes through their media public service campaigns and announcements.

Committee Sponsored Legislation and Recommendation

Legislation:

- 1981 - Original rider education legislation. Bill passed including and Oregon Department of Education housed rider training program.
- 1983 – Updated legislation moved program to Oregon Traffic Safety Commission (now Transportation Safety Division – ODOT). OTSC created the statewide TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program and training began in 1984.
- 1989 – Endorsement applicant under 19 years of age required to pass a TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program beginning rider education course prior to endorsement. Also increased endorsement fee program funding from \$4 to \$7.
- 1997 – Increased required training for endorsement applicants from under 19 to under 21 and also increased endorsement fee funding from \$7 to \$14 was sponsored by Bike Pac at the request of the GAC MS.

Surveys:

In 1995, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety authorized a random sample survey of registered motorcyclists in Oregon. Pages ___ and ___ contain the survey questions and the responses for each question. Of particular interest to the committee was the overwhelming support among motorcyclists for continued motorcycle rider education. This support is reflected in the survey questions concerning advanced as well as beginning classes. Results like this verify the TEAM OREGON approach of offering both beginning (MRC) and experienced (ERC) courses and the motorcyclist's willingness to pay for their rider education programs. This survey led to new legislation that was passed in 1997 that increased the fee on the endorsement to support rider education and to increase the age limit of those required to take training prior to endorsement to From under 19 years of age to under 21 years of age.

May Awareness Activities

Proclamations: Governor's proclamations have been requested and received by the committee for the past fourteen years. Governor's Atiyeh, Goldschmidt, Roberts, Kitzhaber, and Brown have all supported motorcycle safety by proclaiming the month of May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. The awareness campaign has varied over the years, including news releases; posters, bus side advertisements, and most recently, a huge motorcycle rally on the Capitol steps. The campaign activities have been funded by Transportation Safety and TEAM OREGON, while the Capitol Rally has been sponsored by the American Motorcyclist Association District 28 Oregon, Bike PAC of Oregon, and ABATE of Oregon. Hundreds annually attend the Capitol Rally the first Saturday in May to promote motorcycle safety awareness and specifically motorist awareness of motorcycles. The Chair of the Governor's committee has been a featured speaker at these rallies along with others speaking to promote rider education and motorist awareness programs.

Road Maintenance Information Card

The road maintenance information card, designed by former committee member W. Frank Grace of Portland, is a wallet sized quick reference to phone numbers for motorcyclists to report unsafe road conditions to state, county, and local road authorities. The card is printed by Transportation Safety and distributed to riding organizations and also distributed to all Oregon motorcycle dealerships by the gracious help of Tucker Rocky Distributing of Portland, a motorcycle parts distributor.