



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation
Governor's Advisory Committee on
Motorcycle Safety
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RE: GAC-MS Annual Report for 2018

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety (GAC-MS), I thank you for your continual support of programs, educational materials, and other efforts to assist in the safety of Oregonians who travel by two and three wheels. The proclamation you issued on May 2018 for Motorcycle Awareness Month continues to demonstrate to the riders of Oregon that their well-being is important and a priority in transportation safety both at the state and local levels. Our 2018 report to you, which follows below, summarizes the Committee's work conducted on your behalf.

The GAC-MS convened four times in 2018 as the Legislature was in session for its shortened season. During this past year, committee members made significant progress on the Strategic Plan, attended and provided input on ODOT's Transportation Safety Division's (TSD) annual Planning Workshop, and welcomed new members Ethan Lodwig (Eugene) and Don Hamon (Bend). The GAC-MS plan to interview several candidates to fill its remaining vacancy. The normally eight-member committee is currently functioning with seven members.

Motorcycle Safety and ODOT planning documents

GAC members Chair Russell (Bend), Vice Chair Chris Henry (Eugene), Graham Munsell (Gervais), C.J. Strauss (Portland) participated in the TSD annual Planning Workshop in Salem. They provided input into various subject areas, not just motorcycle safety. The workshop is used by TSD staff to prepare the annual Highway Safety Plan (HSP) and its performance measures. Members Henry, Munsell, Strauss, and Deb Walker (Albany) also participated in the fall TSD safety conference in Wilsonville.

The committee continued its work on the GAC-MS Strategic Plan, 2018-2024. The committee is incorporating various recommendations from the 2016 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) led Assessment Report of the Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program. In 2018 the GAS reviewed and approved four sections (Motorcycle Rider Education and Training; Communications Program; Program Evaluation; and Highway Engineering) of the 10-section document. A draft of the complete Plan was mailed to the committee in late December for review and comment at the January 2019 meeting.

Outreach

Members Walker and Strauss prepared and staffed a GAC booth at the North American Motor Officers Association (NAMOA) conference in Hillsboro on May 18, distributing the GAC's Motorcycle Map and

answering questions about the GAC and crash trends. The riding skills competition for police officers is well-attended and offered an excellent opportunity to interact with the riding community. Walker had a booth at a safety day at Linn-Benton Community College and again distributed the GAC Motorcycle Map and answered questions. Members Henry and Strauss also attended a seminar on Human Factors in Work Zones held at Oregon State University. The experience helped them understand how these variables affect riders as well as rider training. Chair Russell read the Motorcycle Safety Proclamation at the May 5 motorcycle rally at the State Capitol held by ABATE and BikePAC.

The GAC held a forum-like discussion with Doug Bish, manager of the Traffic Section in TSD, and Joseph Marek, Clackamas County Transportation Safety Program manager, regarding how state highways and county roads are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained with respect to motorcyclists. Committee members appreciated the exchange and provided riders' perspectives on those topics and the possible effects on riders' safety.

Members Henry, Ludwig, and Strauss participated in beta versions of Team Oregon short courses on slow-speed maneuvering and braking. Team Oregon incorporated several of their suggestions prior to offering Precision Maneuvering and Advanced Braking to the riding public.

Research

Given the persistence of the topic of lane splitting, both in public comments before the GAC and legislative bills introduced over multiple sessions, the GAC formed a subcommittee on the topic. Vice Chair Henry leads the subcommittee, which includes members from the riding community and law enforcement. The group has met several times and is currently preparing a final report based on an extensive literature review and received a presentation and discussion from several groups in California, where lane splitting is legal.

Vice Chair Henry attended the national State Motorcycle Safety Administrators conference in Sacramento, CA, where lane splitting was the topic of a panel discussion.

Goals for 2019

Adoption of the full GAC Strategic Plan and begin implementation. The Plan incorporates recommendations from the 2016 NHTSA Assessment, GAC-MS input, continuing issues facing motorcycle riders, past TSD reports on motorcycle fatalities and serious injury aka Injury A crashes, and the TSAP.

The subcommittee on lane splitting will finish its work and issue a report, summarizing the committee's findings. The report will focus specifically on the motorcycle safety aspects of lane splitting as other aspects such as congestion and livability are outside the purview of the GAC-MS.

The GAC will prepare a brochure explaining the committee's role and purpose; contact information; and potentially have a membership application on the reverse.

Given speed continues to be a factor in fatal and serious injury crashes for riders, the GAC will hear a presentation from ODOT staff on the effects of increased speed limits in Oregon and potential revisions to setting speed limits.

As speeding is associated with low levels of law enforcement, the GAC supports efforts to increase the numbers of troopers in the Oregon State Police (OSP).

The GAC will continue its efforts to hold a meeting outside of Salem. The GAC-MS and TSD staff are compiling a list of motorcycle and/or club rallies to determine which might offer the best cost benefit of attending,

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Russell, Chair
Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety

Cc:
Brendan Finn, Governor's Office, Transportation Policy Advisor
Troy Costales, Governor's Highway Safety Representative
Jeff Greiner, Motorcycle Safety Program Manager