

GROUP RIDING SUGGESTIONS

For those of you who are new to group riding (and those of us who forget), here are some suggestions to make your ride more enjoyable:

- Pre-Ride: The ride leader should discuss the route and planned stops. If you have suggestions, needs, or concerns, now is the time to voice them!
- Ride in a staggered formation. The leader rides in the left tire track; the next rider in the right tire track, etc. On curves, riders should pick their own track and then reform in staggered formation after the curve. The leader may ask the group to change to single file formation for twisty roads.
- Allow a 2-3 second interval between you and the bike directly ahead of you, 1-2 seconds between you and the bike in the other track. Ride smoothly with a minimum of jockeying back and forth. Be predictable.
- When stopping at a traffic light or stop sign, the formation tightens up, but should retain the staggered form so that the left bike (the first to start out) has a clear view both right and left.
- When in traffic conditions, keeping the group tighter together helps get through traffic lights, stop signs, and more. All of this depends on the individual rider and the conditions at the time, but be aware of what is happening for the sake of the entire group.
- Don't blindly follow the bike ahead of you. Be sure to check traffic before lane changes and other maneuvers. Ride your own ride and stay within the bounds of your skill level. This is not a race – Relax and enjoy the ride!
- When passing other vehicles on a two-lane highway, each bike should pass in turn. After passing, accelerate far enough ahead for the next bike to pass. The tail bike will inform the leader when the whole group has passed and the group is back in formation.
- When changing lanes on a multiple lane road, it is up to the leader and the tail bike to coordinate the lane change. This occurs by 1) the leader asking to the tail bike to secure another lane, 2) the tail bike indicating they have secured the lane and information about other cars that need to pass the leader before the lane is clear, and 3) the leader giving the signal for the remaining riders to change lanes, as conditions allow.
- If someone in the group pulls to the shoulder of the road and stops, do not follow. The tail bike will stop and give assistance.

All of us have been guilty of being lax at one time or other. Training and practice make for good habits, and good habits make for a safer journey. Ride Safe!