



Driving Safely in Rush Hour Traffic on Your Motorcycle



Road construction is in full effect, the craziness of COVID is calming down, and people are starting to go back to school and work. All of this means more stop and go traffic on the roads. Navigating through rush hour traffic can be a danger—and a headache—while in a car. When on a motorcycle, though, driving through rush hour traffic can be an especially risky endeavor.

Here are some tips for safely driving in rush hour traffic while on your motorcycle.

Pay Attention to Road Surface Hazards

Roadwork is doubly annoying and dangerous for motorcyclists driving in rush hour traffic. Keep track of roadwork hazards by watching the road and if you have a smartphone, there are multiple traffic apps that alert you to construction before you even hit the area and offer alternative routes. What's more, pay attention to traffic signs, and follow any reduction in speed requirements.



Resist the Urge to Lane Split

Lane splitting, or driving up alongside another vehicle and sharing the lane when traffic is moving slowly or is stopped, is currently illegal in Washington State. Lane splitting can also be dangerous, especially when levels of traffic congestion are high and cars don't expect you to be doing it.

Washington's Senate recently approved a measure that would allow lane splitting in the leftmost lane only, the bill is not yet a law. Until it is, lane splitting should be avoided.

Make Sure Other Vehicles Can See You

People aren't always paying attention during rush hour traffic. And if you're riding when lighting is poor, it's critical that you take precautions to make yourself visible. Always double check to make sure your motorcycle's lights are working before heading out, and wear bright colors or reflective clothing. I always do my best to avoid riding in a car's blind spot.

Choose a Safer Route

While riding on the highway to get to your destination is sometimes a must, if possible, choose a less congested route to get you where you need to go. Going 'the back way' or choosing to drive through rural areas can help to keep you safe and reduce your risk of being involved in an accident.

Ride Sober

Alcohol plays a role in hundreds of fatal motorcycle accidents every year in the U.S. To reduce your chance of being in an accident that causes permanent or fatal injuries, always ride sober. In addition to never drinking prior to riding, also make sure that you travel while awake and alert; fatigued driving can be nearly as dangerous—if not more so—than intoxicated riding.

Wear Your Helmet

When navigating through rush hour traffic on your motorcycle, wearing a helmet is an essential safety component. Read our blog for tips on how to choose a safe motorcycle helmet, as well as tips for riding when it's dark outside.



Call an Attorney if You're in an Accident

If you are in an accident in Washington, make sure you seek legal representation. At MaxPower Law, you can receive a free case consultation by calling us at **425-970-9300**.

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How Should I Prepare a Motorcycle for Winter Storage?

Putting your motorcycle away for the Winter to protect it from the elements and doing the right maintenance can ensure it is ready to hit the road in the Spring. Block off a few days to follow these steps and extend the life of your bike:

- Change the oil
- Hook up battery tender while your bike is in storage
- Check your tires
- Lube the cables and chains
- Wash your motorcycle
- Cover your motorcycle for Winter
- Store your bike somewhere safe
- Prevent rodents and small animals from nesting in your muffler for Winter
- Verify your insurance coverage



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