

CROSSROADS HOG
SAFETY THOUGHT
MAY 2007

This month I want to visit an old topic and add some more detail. That topic is passing on a multi-lane roadway. We review this subject thoroughly in our Group Riding Rules review and we remind ourselves of our method at every pre-ride meeting. So, I am sure you will remember, the steps are:

- Lead rider decides it is necessary to pass and notifies the Sweep.
- Sweep moves to the left lane when traffic permits and notifies the Lead when the lane is “secured”
- Lead rider turns on the left turn signal, signals left with his left arm, does a “head-check” and changes lane.
- Next rider takes the passing position, turns on the left signal, signals left with his left arm, does a “head-check” and changes lane.
- Each rider in sequence repeats until the entire group has moved into the left lane.
- When the group has safely passed the target vehicle, the Sweep rider notifies the Lead rider of such.
- The Lead rider asks the Sweep to secure the right lane.
- The Sweep returns to the right lane with appropriate signals and head-check and notifies the Lead of such.
- The Lead signals, does a head-check and returns to the right lane.
- The group does so in turn .

Here’s something to add – something that has been “assumed” in our reviews up to now – and should be pointed out.

As you pass the target vehicle – car, truck, or bus – **you are wise** to move to the left segment of the lane. **You are unwise** to stay in the right segment – close to the target vehicle.

By riding in a stagger formation, we have allowed sufficient space to do so safely. It will result in a very temporary single-file formation but that is less risk than riding close to the target vehicle.

As soon as you have cleared the vehicle, return to your stagger position and await the group’s return to the right lane.

Even if you are riding solo, it is never a good idea to ride any closer to the vehicle you are passing than you have to. Always establish as much of a “space cushion” as you are able.

mike