

Distracted Driving PSA & Billboard Contest Is Underway

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) is partnering with Huddle, a high school event tickets provider, to launch a distracted driving PSA and billboard contest for high school students.



Winners will receive \$4,000 in each category, with \$15,000 awarded in total. The cash prizes are provided courtesy of Huddle.

“We look forward to seeing what students come up with to encourage their peers to not drive distracted,” OTS Director Rhonda Craft said.

“We hope the opportunities to reward students for their creativity sparks great ideas and messages that will resonate with their friends and classmates.”

Distractions, including the use of cell phones, account for six out of 10 crashes among teens. According to a public opinion survey conducted by the OTS last year, nearly half of all respondents listed distracted driving because of talking or texting as their biggest safety concern on California roadways.

The contest started last month and runs through May 17. All California high school students between the ages of 14 and 20 are eligible to participate.

For contest rules and guidelines, as well as to submit entries, visit gosafelyca.org.

Report Looks at Safety of Motorcycle Lane-Splitting

A report from University of California, Berkeley’s Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) found that lane-splitting is safest when motorcycles are traveling within 10 mph of slow-moving traffic and between the far left lanes. The danger increases the higher the speed differential between a rider and surrounding traffic.

Researchers analyzed hundreds of motorcycle crash reports involving lane-splitting. Among the crashes, vehicles making a lane change in front of a motorcycle lane-splitting was the most common cause. Other crash factors included rider error and using a shoulder, turn lane, high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and opposing traffic for lane-splitting.

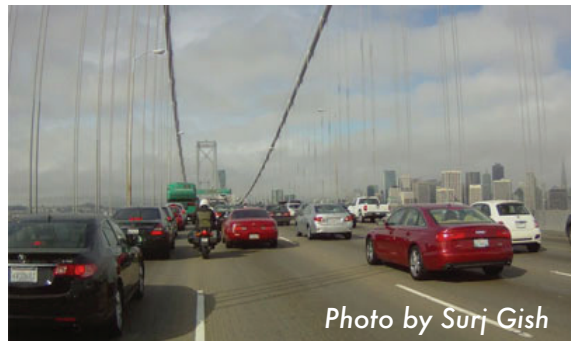


Photo by Surj Gish

While lane splitting is legal, riders should exercise caution when passing vehicles between lanes. May is also Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the OTS will be working with our traffic safety partners to educate the public on the importance of sharing the road and looking out for one another, whether on two wheels or four.

LOOKING AHEAD



- May 8:** Bike to School Day
- May 12-18:** National Police Week
- May 17:** National Bike to Work Day
- May 20-June 2:** National Seat Belt Enforcement