

From: earl brown
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 12:25 PM
To: energymasterplan
Subject: Draft EMP Comments

I would like to propose a little explored aspect for Energy Conservation. I have been riding Motorcycles for Commuting & recreation for 34 years. It is time for a little special consideration to be given to our community and here's why. I ride any one of 3 Harley-Davidsons. Even with their size and weight the oldest one (a 1982) still gets 45 MPG. My 2004 with fuel injection gets 50 MPG and my 1987 gets 55 MPG and a daily basis. Emissions are minimal, wear and tear on asphalt road surfaces are non-existent and parking is never a problem.

However, even with ALL these plusses, I still pay the same toll fee for roads & bridges as a Hummer H2 which weights about 6000 lbs and gets 9 MPG. The toll formula says each has 2 axles, therefore the same toll fee applies.

What I propose is for the state to take an active role in promoting energy conservation through Motorcycling and other forms of motorized two wheel transportation (scooters, Vespas, Mopeds etc.). I realize that eliminating registration fees or tolls for motorized 2 wheel vehicles will not happen, but a reduction in these fees will help to encourage greater use, and therefore reduced gas consumption, wear and tear on the roadbeds and help to ease the parking crunch in some venues. Creation of dedicated 2 wheel parking area in up front preferred areas should be adopted. Most riders don't want to park our Motorcycles amidst Hummers, Suburbans and other cars or trucks for fear of damage. To have a close, easily accessible, safe area to park is a great benefit and incentive to ride. This would not require the seizing of a large car parking areas as you can easily fit 3 bikes into the space that one car would occupy. 10 spaces could accommodate 20-30 bikes or scooters, 15 spaces= 30-45, etc.

As I stated earlier, I have been commuting via Motorcycle 9-10 months a year for over 30 years, even when gas was .60 a gallon. In the last 6 months I have seen a large increase in the number of riders commuting daily. People who were obviously weekend or recreational riders are now strapping on backpacks or tying briefcases or lunchboxes onto the back of their machines to commute. Obviously, the price of gas will never go back down to where it was, so the time is now to adopt these small measures and encourage greater motorized 2 wheel usage. These ARE small measures that will NOT affect state revenues, but will encourage and reward riders of all types for their energy conservation.