

# GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES

## PASSING ON A TWO-LANE ROAD

On a busy two-lane road, oncoming traffic typically prevents a group from passing a slow-moving vehicle while in formation. Each member of the group must accomplish two lane changes in order to pass, and this usually is done on an individual basis.

**Regardless of what a rider is told by others in the group about oncoming vehicles, each rider must personally check to see that the oncoming lane is clear of traffic before entering it.**

- If oncoming traffic requires the group to pass individually, the Lead Bike will signal the group to move into a single-file formation to pass the vehicle one at a time.
- The forward members of the group will gradually position themselves in single file in the left track to prepare to pull into the oncoming lane.
- The Lead Bike will usually wait for a gap in oncoming traffic that is big enough for more than one bike to pass, but this is not always possible.
- When a safe interval is observed, the Lead Bike will put its left turn signal on and pull into the oncoming lane.
- After passing the vehicle(s), looking in the rear view mirror for clearance, and actually turning the head to be sure the lane is clear, the Lead Bike then signals that it is moving into the right lane and does so, taking its normal position in front of the slower vehicle(s) in the left track. The Lead Bike must then maintain or even slightly increase its speed.
- Each following bike will pass in the same manner, when assured it is safe to do so, then moving back into it's previous position in the formation.
- As with a lane change to the right, each bike should be aware of the need to create a gap into which the next bike in succession can fit after overtaking an obstacle. For this reason, each bike should maintain speed after passing, until the Sweep Bike has passed and the group has re-formed.
- Special care should be taken when passing not to focus on distant oncoming traffic to the point of establishing "target fixation". The rider should continue to scan the environment for hazards and should plan escape routes in case of the unexpected; for example, the vehicle may come to life again when he sees motorcycles passing him and may accelerate while the rider is still in the oncoming lane, exposed to additional risk.
- If passing a semi or large truck, do so single file in the farthest portion of the passing lane. This will lessen the effect of the wind turbulence or being "sucked into" the truck. This applies to any size road.