

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

2021 Legislative Priorities

At the 2020 Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) 36th annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF's Legislative Committee. The purpose of the session was to establish and prioritize the MRF's Federal Legislative Agenda for 2021. These priorities are categorized below. Note that at any time, an item may move to a different category depending on the likelihood of activity. This list should remain fluid and can be adaptable depending on the issue and political environment.

2021 HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Profiling:

Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of resolutions or legislation that promotes awareness and prohibition of motorcyclists profiling. Seek opportunities including, but not limited to H. Res 255, with language that:

- Promotes increased public awareness on the issue of profiling of motorcyclists.
- Encourages collaboration and communication with the motorcycling community and law enforcement to engage in efforts to end profiling of motorcyclists.
- Urges state law enforcement officials to include statements condemning profiling of motorcyclists in written policies and training materials.
- Outlaws the practice of profiling of motorcyclists.

Renewable Fuels:

Advocate for targeted changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) including the following actions:

- Support the universal availability of approved fuel blends, containing no more than 10 percent ethanol by volume.
- Promote additional research and independent studies concerning the effects of higher blends of renewable fuels on motorcycles.
- Ensure the availability of separate pumps (i.e., no multi-dispensing) to minimize the risk of damage to motorcycle engines where higher blend of renewable fuel blends is available.
- Sustain lobbying efforts for the passage of the Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act of 2019 (H.R. 1024) or similar legislation which requires information to be provided to the public about the risks associated with the improper use of E15 fuel in certain vehicles, engines, and equipment. This legislation:
 - Revises current EPA rule to include warning labeling requirements for fuel pumps that dispense E15.
 - Requires the EPA to create a public education campaign about the risks of unauthorized use of E 15 as well as the vehicles, engines and equipment prohibited from using E15.
 - Defines multi-dispensing nozzle and requires an additional warning label on multi-dispensing nozzles to warn consumers of the residual fuel left in gasoline pump hoses from the previous individual dispensing.

Autonomous Vehicles:

Advocate and monitor any legislation or regulations related to motorcycles concerning connected and autonomous vehicles (AV):

- Endorse rulemaking to set new standards specific to seeing, detecting and properly reacting to motorcycles.
- Ensure motorcycles are part of all testing and development procedures.
- Promote that any AV public user advisory committees should include a representative from the motorcycle community and a motorcycle manufacturer.
- Require a public, easily accessible and searchable database where consumers can look up important safety information such as the limitations and capabilities of different products offered by AV manufacturers or service providers.
- Require that all AV manufacturers must submit safety evaluation reports to detail and make public how their vehicles identify motorcycles among other road users. Manufacturers must also include human error analysis in safety reports.
- Require that all AV manufacturers must report crash data reporting incidents between AVs and motorcycles just as they would incidents between AVs and other road users.
- Protect the safety of motorcyclists with any rules or standards as it relates to electronic and cybersecurity systems including the clarification of rights of data ownership of any recorded data in the context of connected and autonomous vehicles.
- Inclusion of motorcyclists' perspectives in discussions regarding the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).
- Work to ensure motorcycles are a separate classification of vehicle and road user for purposes of regulation and testing of AVs.
- Protect the set aside radio spectrums necessary for DSRC vehicle to vehicle communications.

Emission Regulations:

Engage the EPA & Congress on any activity related to motorcycle emission regulations including the RPM ACT, H. 5434, S. 2602, or similar legislation.

Definition of a Motorcycle:

Educate policymakers and advocate for change to current definition that better reflects the current two and three-wheel motorcycle landscape. Collaborate with appropriate stakeholders concerning the federal definition of a motorcycle, ensuring that crash and fatality statistics continue to be separate from other classes of vehicles including autocycles, non-motorcycle powered vehicles such as mopeds, scooters, and various cabin-based steering wheel type vehicles.

Crash Avoidance:

Continue to promote the theme of crash avoidance versus safer crashing urging NHTSA and the DOT to focus on crash prevention and rider education.

Helmet Laws:

Oppose any mandatory federal helmet, apparel or conspicuity standards. Advocate for limiting funding of any federal government entity with increasing involvement in advocating for a universal helmet law or similar initiatives.

Black Box:

Pursue legislative language that any collected or available vehicle data is the property of the consumer and in which the consumer has the choice to opt-out of having their personal data communicated to interested parties.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization (Highway Bill):

Advocate and pursue legislative efforts related to the next highway bill reauthorization (expiring in 2021). Ensure the following provisions are included:

- Preserve the Motorcycle Education & Awareness Program Grant Funding.
- Preserve the ban on federal funding for Motorcycle Only Checkpoints.
- Preserve the NHTSA Lobbying Ban and expand to other federal agencies.
- Preserve the Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA.
- Preserve motorcycles are not considered single-occupancy vehicles for HOV lane access.
- Oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions.
- Monitor for any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists.
- Advocate the integration of an updated federal definition of a motorcycle.
- Advocate a mandate that autonomous vehicles must detect and respond to motorcycles.
- Advocate for expanding opportunities to address motorcyclist profiling.
- Ensure motorcycles are not banned from federally funded roads.

2021 MEDIUM PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Roadway Design:

Pursue safer roadway design strategies in federal infrastructure legislation or discussions (i.e., MAC).

Discriminatory Legislation:

Oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the U.S. Congress or by any governmental agency.

Vulnerable Roadway User Terminology:

Monitor and ensure that motorcycles and motorcyclists are a specific and unique category or classification

Gang, Club and Other Language:

Monitor and respond to federal legislative or regulatory activity concerning the usage of the terms gang, club, known associate, and associate when referring to motorcyclists.

2021 MONITOR ITEMS

Distracted Driving:

Work to discourage all forms of distracted driving.

Sound Testing:

Monitor any SAE Motorcycle Roadside Sound Testing (addressed by individual states).

International Partnerships:

Continue participation in motorcycle-related activity in the European Union, United Nations, and Canada informing the membership of key developments.

National Studies:

Continue monitoring any national studies concerning motorcycles (i.e., Federal Crash Causation Study or MSF Naturalistic Study).

Exhaust Systems:

Monitor and vigorously oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems.

Opponents:

Monitor private and public organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF.

Tolling:

- Monitor fair tolling concepts on federally funded roadways and projects supported by federal bonds.
- Monitor any congestion tolling concerning motorcyclists by federal, state or local governmental agencies.

Lane Splitting:

Monitor and support federal efforts to study and review the benefits and concerns of lane splitting and lane filtering.

Emissions:

Monitor and report on any litigation related to motorcycle emissions violations.

Tariffs:

Monitor any tariffs on imported motorcycles, parts or apparel.