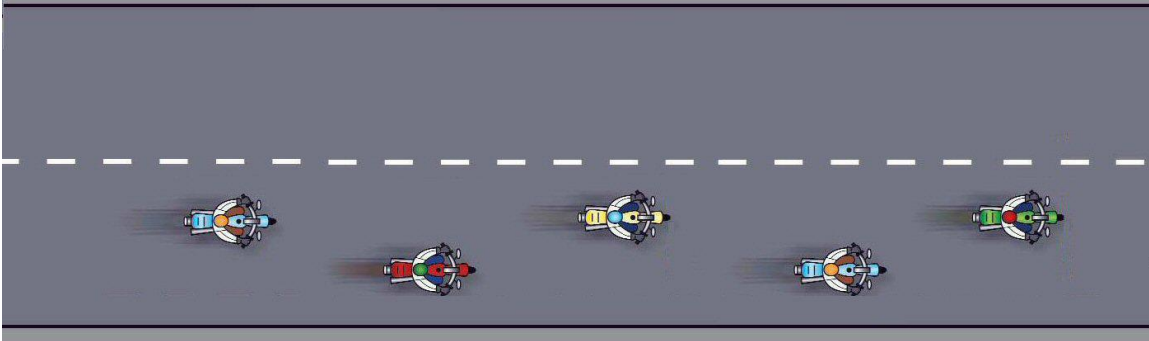


## Lane Changes – Part 1

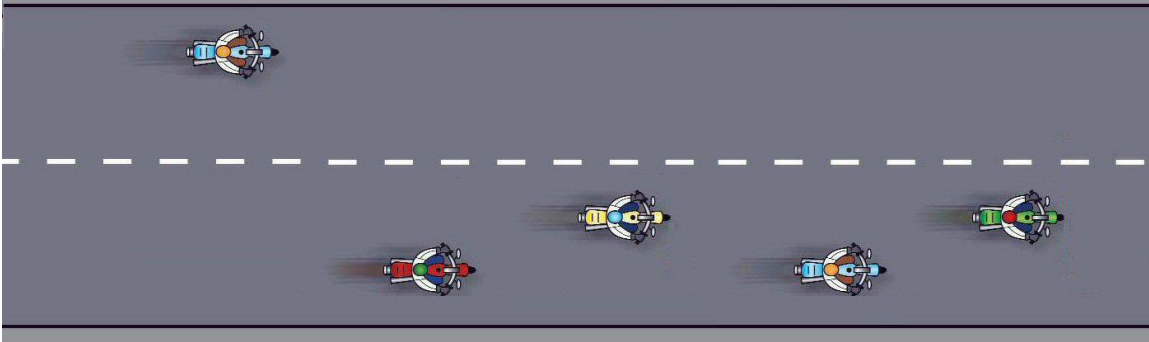
Last month we talked about lane position while riding in a group and the importance of a safe following distance behind the bike immediately in front of you (2 seconds) and the bike in the other side of the lane in front of you (1 second). Keeping this safe following distance, or cushion, is the basis for all lane changes done by the group, whether the lane change is done by all bikes at once, or from the front of the group or from the rear.

To change as a complete group, there are only three steps:

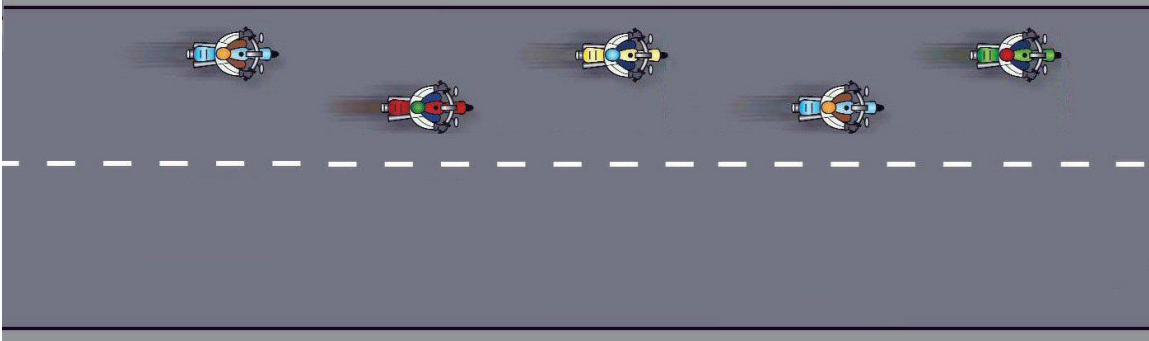
Step 1: The lead bike asks the drag bike to secure the lane.



Step 2: The drag bike moves into the desired lane and notifies the lead bike when it is safe to make the lane change.



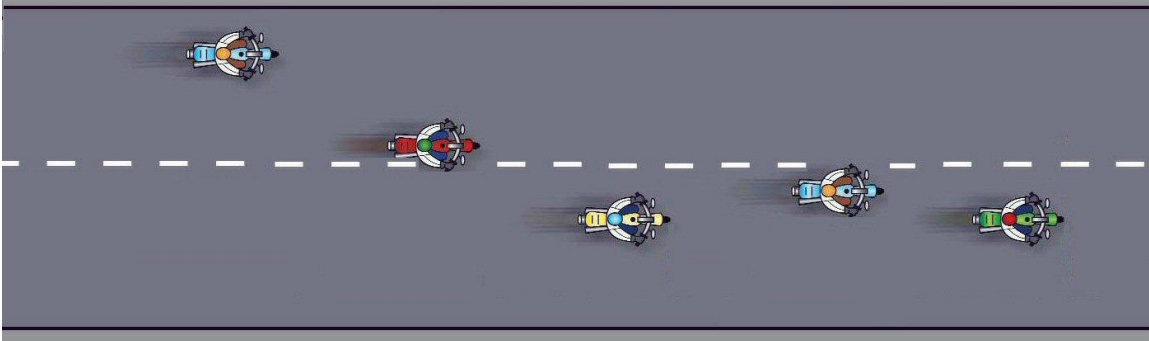
Step 3: When the lane is clear for ALL BIKES to move simultaneously, the lead bike orders the lane change and ALL BIKES move over at the same time.



This does two things: by moving in unison, the spacing between the bikes remains unchanged and there are no violations of the 1 second rule. Secondly, a well executed lane change is a joy to watch. It shows others how practiced the group is with their drill team precision.

However, even if the lead bike announces the lane change, it is still your responsibility to look out for your own safety. This means looking to the side to make sure the lane is clear.

Bad example: Bikes 2 and 4 have started to move over before the call, coming too close to the bikes in front of them. This usually happens right after the tail gunner lets the lead bike know when it is clear.



*Next month: Changing lanes from the rear.*



And remember: Drive on the right except to pass...