



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

February 2007

Happy Groundhog Day...

February 2 and, looking forward to Spring six weeks away (March 20). Well, six weeks and three days, but who's counting?

Happy Birthday STR...

The **Share-The-Road** sign we have become accustomed to seeing is just ten years old since becoming an officially approved sign by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in January of 1997. Once the FHWA ruling was published in the Federal Register, the STR was established for use throughout the United States. PennDOT has a policy regarding when and where STRs may be placed.

Among bicycle advocates and transportation planners though, there is a growing debate on the effectiveness of the STR sign. Is it effective? Does it reduce conflicts and crashes?? Does it affect motor vehicle driver behavior? Can it be interpreted differently by drivers and bicyclists—who is to share? Is there a better sign to accommodate bicyclists?

The Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC), a sub-committee of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, is debating this issue. Two possible outcomes are the Shared Lane Markers and the Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign. A recommendation from the BTC to adopt the Shared Lane Markers, sometimes referred to as "sharrows," was made to the full committee and was just approved, January 19, 2007. A final ruling by the FHWA is not expected to occur until 2009.

Bikes May Use Full Lane signage is still under consideration and must wait for approval to conduct field tests to evaluate its effectiveness.

Bill Plank Remembered...

Pennsylvania lost a dedicated bicycling and environmental advocate recently. Bill Plank was a resident of Bedford County and died following complications from a December accident. It was not bicycle related.

Bill worked tirelessly on many local environmental issues, but will be remembered here for his contribution to help develop the Pennsylvania Pike-2-Bike Trail that acquired nearly nine miles of abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike. Bill was a working volunteer who literally cleared trees and debris along the trail and oversaw this fledgling project take shape.

To learn more about this trail, visit: www.Pike-2-Bike.org

Peddling PedalPA...

At www.PedalPA.com for 2007 tour offerings. Bill McCoach at the Indian Valley Bikeworks, Harleysville, PA announced the new website is up for your viewing.

Pennsylvania Bicycle Club Conference...

The Bicycle Access Council will host its 5th annual Pennsylvania Bicycle Club Conference on Saturday, March 24, in York, PA. Bicycle Club representatives are invited to attend this meeting to learn about and share their experiences with other Pennsylvania bicycle clubs.

The conference is meant to showcase Best Practices. This is an opportunity for new club officers to gain confidence and insight about their duties and responsibilities and for established clubs to show leadership from experience. A full day agenda of topics will be covered. Details will be sent directly to clubs.

Individuals may also attend who may be interested in starting a bicycle club or learn more about bicycle advocacy. Contact BAC for information on how to register to attend.

Dates to remember:

- ⇒ **March 11 Daylight Saving Time** begins and ends November 4. 2007 marks a change from the former schedule April through October.
- ⇒ **March 14-16 National Bike Summit**, Washington, DC. Go to www.BikeLeague.org for details.
- ⇒ **March 20 Spring** season begins
- ⇒ **March 24 Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference**, York, PA. Go to www.BicycleAccess-PA.org for details. Click on NEWS for registration forms and information.
- ⇒ **April 5-7 LCI Seminar**. Become a certified League Cycling Instructor offered by the League of American Bicyclists. For information on the prerequisites and details of completing this course, contact Steve Schmitt, director@car-free.org

Mission Statement...

The Bicycle Access Council is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves as a forum for Pennsylvania bicyclists and as an ombudsman for bicycling issues.

It is the objective of the Bicycle Access Council to make bicycling on roads throughout the Commonwealth safe, respectable and a transportation choice by educating its members and the motoring public.

All funding for the Bicycle Access Council comes from memberships and donations. Annual membership is \$20 per year. BAC does not share membership information.



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