



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

August 2008

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

August 2008 marks the seventh anniversary of the Bicycle Access Council, so it is fitting to remind members and the public how past support has helped the mission and activities of the Bicycle Access Council. The first official announcement and membership launch was 2001 at Altoona in conjunction with the League of American Bicyclists annual rally.

The Bicycle Access Council (BAC) is Pennsylvania's only statewide advocacy organization. BAC is dedicated to the one aspect of bicycling that was not being met by a non-government organization prior to being created in 2001—on-the-road bicycling. Its mission statement is simple and direct, which is stated below.

BAC represents all Pennsylvania bicyclists, but not all Pennsylvania bicyclists know about BAC and the advocacy assistance available to them. Over the years, BAC has been a clearinghouse of information for individuals, other bicycling organizations and bike clubs. Sharing that information is accomplished in several ways:

- BAC maintains a website as a resource of information and links. Check it out at: www.BicycleAccess-PA.org
- BAC distributes a monthly newsletter (electronic and printed) to its members with current topics..
- BAC hosts an annual Bike Club Conference in the spring, which invites leaders of Pennsylvania bike clubs to attend for discussions and presentations of important issues. The sixth annual conference was held this year.
- BAC attends many of the important meetings and events around Pennsylvania to represent the interests of bicyclists. These include the quarterly Pennsylvania Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC), the Southeast Bicycle Issues Task Force, and many functions of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) related to transportation topics.
- BAC maintains a close working relationship with PennDOT and the PennDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator.
- BAC also works with elected officials, law enforcement organization and members of the General Assembly as necessary to address specific issues and vigilantly keep the rights of bicyclists highlighted during discussions of transportation planning.

And, last, but not least, BAC responds to phone calls and e-mails about many bicycling issues—lots of phone calls and e-mails. These range from informing BAC about problems with roads to problems with motor vehicle drivers. Some questions are related to crashes and hazards. BAC does not offer legal advice, but the responses can generally sort through the legal issues of a situation to help define whether it is criminal or civil. Many citizens can't discern the difference without some explanation. From that it is possible to suggest what statutes may apply and the consequences.

It may be helpful here to add what BAC *does not do*. Information and involvement with sanctioned racing, mountain biking, Rail-to-Trails, and other off-road activities are not within the scope of what BAC can offer. There are many organizations within Pennsylvania who do provide support and advocacy for those activities. Often, inquiries are directed to the proper organization when BAC cannot help. BAC maintains a good working relationship with and awareness of those other organizations just for that goal of cooperation among related advocates.

It is in the best interests of Pennsylvania bicyclists to support BAC to be sure there is an advocate that can respond as needed in critical issues. Please help ensure BAC continues its mission with your individual memberships and donations. The Bicycle Access Council is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization and is funded solely by memberships and donations. Memberships and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

BAC TESTIFIES AT HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE..

On August 19. Executive Director, Joe Stafford was invited to give formal testimony in support of House Bill 2689, which amends Title 75, the Vehicle Code, to improve safety and further legitimize bicycling on Commonwealth roadways. See the July BAC News & Digest for details on this Bill and a companion Bill, HB 2688, amending Title 18, the Crimes Code.

Dates to remember:

September 13 **Scenic Schuylkill Century** www.phillybikeclub.org

September 14 **BIKE PHILLY** www.bikephilly2008.com

September 18 Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (**PPAC**), Harrisburg, PA 1-3 PM.

October 19 **Central Bucks Bicycle Club Covered Bridge Ride** www.cbbikeclub.org

To register: <http://tinyurl.com/575opk>

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 motor-ing 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.



Joe Stafford, Executive Director
Bicycle Access Council
Dallastown, PA
www.BicycleAccess-PA.org
(717) 417-1299