



Bicycle Access Council

News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

September—October 2008

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY...

Is not likely to pass either of the two House Bills related to Bicyclists' safety in this legislative session. Watch for HB 2688 and HB 2689 to be re-introduced at the beginning of the next session. New bill numbers will be assigned for expected action in the Spring of 2009.

The text of HB 2688 and HB 2689 can be found on the House of Representatives website. There is no companion Senate bill at this time. The Senate has already adjourned for this year. The Bicycle Access Council will be seeking Senate sponsors in the 2009 session.

HB 2688 introduces a change to Title 18, the Crimes Code statute, defining harassment to include bicyclists and pedestrians. HB 2689 makes comprehensive changes to Title 75, the Vehicle Code, to include a four foot overtaking (passing) provision and several "technical corrections" related to defining impeding traffic

A "Capitol Rally Day" will be scheduled in the Spring to lobby for passage of these two bills or celebrate the legislation if it passes. Watch for upcoming details.

DOYLESTOWN RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION...

From the League of American Bicyclists after reviewing this year's applications for the Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) program. This is the third Pennsylvania community given an Honorable Mention after Pittsburgh in 2003 and Philadelphia in 2006 according to LAB records. Phil Ehlinger, Planning Director and Assistant Borough Manager, Doylestown submitted the very detailed and complex application.

STATIC OVER ELECTRIC BIKES...

May emerge as PennDOT considers regulating them as "motorized vehicles." At a House of Representative's Transportation Committee hearing on August 19, PennDOT's legal opinion was to require any bicycle assisted by a "motor" of any kind or size to meet the standards for all motorized vehicles, including, Title, Tags, License and Insurance standards, as well as safety equipment, which includes lights and turn signals. House Transportation Committee members were less than pleased with the PennDOT position and openly questioned the impact on constituents as fuel costs rise and citizens are looking for alternate transportation choices. BAC will monitor this issue closely.

What are your views on electric bikes? Contact BAC with your questions and comments. BAC is compiling a list of the issues to be prepared for future testimony or to respond to "unfriendly" regulations.

PAUL NEWMAN'S WHIMSICAL BIKE RIDE...

Was a classic. See it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H39CxyNfNOM>

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 2...

Which is a change from years prior to 2007 when a new law extended the months from March through November instead of April to October. In 2009, daylight time begins on March 8 and ends on November 1. Remember to adjust your club rides and commutes accordingly to include proper lighting equipment to be safe in low light conditions

HEY, WHEN IT COMES TO POLITICS AND LOBBYING...

BAC is "bike-partisan"

Dates to remember:

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

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

BAC plans to be there.

November 2..Return to Eastern Standard Time

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.



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