



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

March 2010

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

DAVE BACHMAN IS HONORED AT PPAC...

For his past service as PennDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager. The Bicycle Access Council presented a surprise recognition at the March 4 Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting. Dave was presented with a small desk clock made of recycled bike parts and card in appreciation for his service from 1992-2008 on behalf of BAC. Dave also received recognition from the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

GRAB YOUR BIKE AND GO WITH GOOGLE MAPS...

Now that there is a Bicycling option in route planning. As of March 10, users can now choose biking when deciding how to get to their destination. Mapping a daily commute and planning recreational or trail rides just became easier. According to Google this has been the most requested addition to Google Maps. This new feature includes a new "Bicycling" layer that indicates bike trails, bike lanes, and bike-friendly roads. The directions feature provides step-by-step, bike-specific routing suggestions similar to the directions provided by driving, walking, or public transit modes. Simply enter a start point and destination and select "Bicycling" from the drop-down menu. You receive a route that is optimized for cycling, taking advantage of bike trails, bike lanes, and bike-friendly streets and avoiding hilly terrain whenever possible.

Visit <http://maps.google.com/biking> to try out this new feature.

THE 10th ANNUAL NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT...

Is now in the history books. A record attendance of advocates, retailers and transportation planners met in DC for three days of meetings with Congress, workshops and networking. The Transportation Secretary energized an enthusiastic crowd by declaring, "You have a full partner in Ray LaHood" and declared his support for bicycling. The following week, Secretary LaHood issued the following on his blog: "Today, I want to announce a sea change. People across America who value bicycling should have a voice when it comes to transportation planning. This is the end of favoring motorized transportation at the expense of non-motorized." For a full text of his Blog, see: <http://tinyurl.com/yzo35q6>

NEW IRS RULES AFFECTS NON-PROFITS...

By requiring those organizations with annual revenues less than \$25,000 to file **Form 990**. Previously, no return was required. Any organization that does not file Form 990 over a three year compliance period will lose the tax exempt status. This may affect many Pennsylvania bicycle clubs who have not filed recently. For more information, go to: www.irs.gov and select Exempt Organization (EO).

JUST SAY NO TO BIGGER TRUCKS...

Is the intent of a Congressional bill to keep weight and length limits as is. Another bill favored raising the weight limits from the current 80,000 pounds to 97,000. H.R. 1618 was introduced to defeat that effort. The Bicycle Access Council was asked to "sign on" in support of the H.R. 1618 and lobby for co-sponsors and support among the Pennsylvania House Members and Senators. BAC is now listed among the many organizations willing to do that.

CATCH A TIGER BY THE TRAIL...

Could be said for the recent announcement that \$17 Million will be released for completion of several gaps on the Schuylkill River Trail. This is part of the nearly \$23M allocation for south east Pennsylvania and the Camden New Jersey area (\$6 M). Kudos to the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia for successfully applying for very limited funds through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program. This program allows local and state governments to apply for \$1.5 billion in discretionary funding.

Dates to remember:

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| March 20 | BAC 8th Annual Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference, York, PA. |
| March 20 | Celebrating Spring at 1:32 PM !!! |
| April 17 | Annual Taxing Metric, Brandywine Bicycle Club. |
| April 24 | 6th Annual PA State Police Benefit Ride. Go to: www.pspbeneffitride.com |
| April 30 | BCP's Spring-n2-Cycling Weekend in Danville, PA. www.phillybikeclub.org . |
| May 4 | Pennsylvania Bike Summit, Harrisburg Capitol Rally Day. Details TBA soon. |
| Aug 28 | Round the [Lebanon] Valley ride. 100, 62, 25 mile www.bikelebanon.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.

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

