



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

June 2010

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

Pedaling through Pennsylvania...

Is the cover story of the June **PennLines** magazine, a Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Cooperative publication for members. The Bicycle Access Council was contacted for information contributing to the article. You may find it in pdf format at: <http://tinyurl.com/25g4lt7> or go to PREA.com and search for **PennLines**. The article appears on pages 6-9.

L.A.B. GETS LOW MARKS FOR RANKING...

Our Commonwealth **42nd** in its annual review on how Bike Friendly each state is. See: <http://tinyurl.com/2553hvl> The League of American Bicyclists has yet to respond to BAC's request on what criteria is used and how it's relevant. More importantly, it's still not known who receives qualifying questions to submit to the L.A.B. In a recent Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) meeting, neither the current nor former state Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator could recall receiving or responding to the latest League questionnaire on which rankings were based. Data the LAB did release contained errors and misinterpretations. This raised concerns on how states are fairly evaluated.

Pennsylvania may not have the bike-culture of Portland, Oregon or other west coast states, but Pennsylvania certainly doesn't deserve to be ranked in the bottom half of other states. Consider what Pennsylvania advocate John Schubert included in his submitted testimony on June 3 at one of the many Transportation Committee Hearings held around the Commonwealth as part of the governor's Special Session to fund transportation. In part, John listed:

- > Pennsylvania was the first state to adopt the Street Smarts book as its Bicycle Driving Manual, which is still in use.
 - > In 2003, Pennsylvania was a leading state to adopt a Bicycle and Pedestrian Checklist for all new road projects. [*ed note: a better approach to a Complete Streets concept*]
- And to that BAC would add,
- > PPAC, through the Transportation Enhancement program of TEA-21, created BicyclePA in 1999—an entire state bicycle touring network that now will be the standard of the Adventure Cycling Association US Numbered Bike Route System. It's done and available now!
 - > Pennsylvania eliminated the far-right-rule and mandatory side-path law in a 1995 amendment to the state Vehicle Code [bicycle] chapter.
 - > Pennsylvania has a Velodrome, and is home to Bicycling magazine, and home of RoadBikeRider.com editor, Ed Pavelka.

It's also not understood why states are ranked 1-50 anyway. Some state is always going to be #1 and there will always be a bottom #50 regardless of efforts to accommodate bicycling. So, until L.A.B. responds to BAC and justifies its BFS program, it would appear that rankings are just a matter of "purgamentum init, exit purgamentum" --garbage in, garbage out?

THE STUFF CARBON FIBER BIKES IS MADE OF...

May be found in this unique video link: <http://tinyurl.com/377nnto> Do people actually ride on this?

ALL WIRED UP AND NOWHERE TO RIDE...

For this York County man, who constructed an electric-assist bicycle. He has now concluded that he may not legally ride it on any public roadway. See: <http://tinyurl.com/2ed6wqn> Does this sound at all familiar? Check the May 2010 BAC News & Digest.

Of course, creating legislation to include a new definition of electric-assist bicycles would be the answer for this person and many more around Pennsylvania who would consider these. BAC plans to initiate action on this. Meanwhile, more legal research will be ongoing by BAC to clarify PennDOT's position.

SAY IT AIN'T SO, CASINO CITY SAYS NO...

To bicycles on streets. The Black Hawk, Colorado city council passed a local ordinance banning bicycle riding on most of the city owned streets effective June 5. Bicyclists must dismount and walk their bikes through town or be cited with a \$68 fine. Black Hawk is located on cross-country bicycle routes and bike club events. This is going to draw attention nationally to rally for the ordinance to be overturned. Could it happen here in Pennsylvania? That's why the Bicycle Access Council exists to be vigilant for any similar anti-bicycling attempts.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY (BFC) AWARDS...

Were announced by the League of American Bicyclists adding two Pennsylvania locations at the Bronze level. Pittsburgh and Franklin (County Seat of Venango County) are included in the latest 2010 listings. Philadelphia received the Bronze level award in 2009. Okay, but that BFS thing still hurts.

Dates to remember:

Aug 15 Lancaster Covered Bridge Metric Century Rider limit is 3,000 this year. Deadline is July 1st.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED--NO REGISTRATION ALLOWED ON DAY OF EVENT.

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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