



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

April 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

ACT 3 OF 2012, BICYCLE SAFETY LEGISLATION,...

Is now in effect and part of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code providing an improved margin of safety for bicyclists on roadways. Feedback from bicyclists has been very positive with noticeable courtesy by passing motor vehicles.

Here are the material elements of Act 3 in each sub-chapter section context:

§ 3301 (c)

States [bicycles] shall keep to the right, except:

when using any portion of the roadway due to unsafe surface conditions, and
when there is only one lane of traffic in one direction (*ed: control the lane allowed*)

§ 3303 (a) (3)

States motor vehicles overtaking on the left of a bicycle shall pass not less than 4 feet
at a careful prudent reduced speed.

§ 3307 (b.1)

States it is permissible to pass a [bicycle] in a no-passing zone, and
shall pass in accordance with the four foot minimum distance
shall be done in accordance with other overtaking requirements (§ 3305).

§ 3331 (e)

Interference with [bicycles] — Right Hook prohibition when proceeding straight.

§ 3364 (b)(2)

Minimum speed regulation. Slow moving vehicle to drive off roadway,
[bicycles] may be operated at a safe and reasonable “appropriate” speed,
[bicycle] operator shall use reasonable effort not to impede normal traffic

PENNDOT GOOFS IN A PRESS RELEASE...

To the media about Act 3. Television stations and newspapers promoting the new Bicycle Safety Law in advance of the April 2 effective date, posted the error unknowingly. Current coverage still carries the error. The PR said “left turning motorists must yield to bikes.” That’s not new and has always been a requirement for all vehicles found in the Rules of the Road (§ 3322). Act 3 added a prohibition on “right hook” turns and was added as §3331(e) — No turn by a driver of a motor vehicle shall interfere with a [bicycle] proceeding straight... So far, no response from PennDOT to correct the error.

PENNSYLVANIA DRIVER MANUALS...

Will be updated and released soon to include the new Bicycle Safety Law. BAC was invited by PennDOT Driver Services to recommend changes to Chapter 3 –Learning to Drive safety tips. Future revisions will include more illustrations with new signage just adopted by PennDOT as authorized by the Federal Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). BAC requested that Shared Lane Markings and Bikes-May-Use-Full Lane be included.

1-800-FIX-ROAD is the number to call...

For road maintenance items, like potholes, loose gravel shoulder sweeping, etc. Try it! Let BAC know if it is effective or not responsive. You must call within the county where the problem is to report.

TEEN DRIVER IN BETHLEM, PA IS FIRST TO BE CITED...

Under Act 3. In an April 2 incident, a teen driver struck a bicyclist on a bridge and attempted to flee the scene. An alert transit bus driver and another motorist blocked the teen driver. Police arrived shortly. The bicyclist was okay. It's all caught on tape. View it at:
<http://tinyurl.com/d9x2wyy>

THE 10th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE CLUB CONFERENCE...

Was held April 7 in York, PA. This year's featured speaker was **Keri Caffery**. She co-developed the innovative **CycleSavvy®** curriculum empowering bicyclists to travel anywhere easily with confidence. Currently, CycleSavvy has instructors in seven states and fourteen cities. Keri's presentation covered the challenges of USA adult bicycling education. You may view some course content at:
www.CyclingSavvy.org Check out the Origins and Principles tab.

Dates to Remember

- May 6 **Bike Harrisburg.** See: www.BikeHarrisburg.org The event is FREE
BAC is a organizing sponsor with the Harrisburg Bicycle Club.
- May 4-6 BCP Spring-n2-Cycling weekend, Danville, PA. <http://phillybikeclub.org>
- May 12 SCU Quad County Metric, Green Lane, PA www.SuburbanCyclists.org
- May 14-19 Bike Week. See: www.bikeleague.org for info and resources to participate.

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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