



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

July 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

CONGRESS PASSES A TRANSPORTATION BILL...

With mixed reactions from various bicycle organizations. On June 29, Congress extended the current SAFETEA-LU spending levels until September 30. A new two year Transportation Bill — “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” (**MAP-21**) — begins October 1.

MAP-21 eliminates dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Safe-Routes-To-School (SRTS), plus Recreational Trails as it currently exists. Bicycle funding is now managed under a new **Transportation Alternatives (TA)** category, with less funding (~ 33% less) and “opt out” provisions for states to take up to 50% of TA funds away for anything else without explanation to Federal Highways (FHWA). TA funds will amount to 2% of the total Highway Trust Fund determined by the Federal Secretary of Transportation in each fiscal year, 2013, 2014. And, while TA does not say which projects will get funding (that will be done at the state and local level), state funding will be distributed based on area populations within the commonwealth and managed by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Project delivery may be less complicated, which is good news. Sound confusing?

The full impact of TA is yet to be determined. Since all this takes effect on October 1, there's time to sort through the issues. For example, state Bike-Ped Coordinators are still required, but SRTS Coordinators are not. Some of the old TE categories have been eliminated, and some of those kept have been reworded. As Ricky Ricardo use to say to Lucy, “you got some ‘splanin to do.” BAC will do its best to work through it all.

YOU GO, GIRLFRIEND...

On a quest to make 50 century rides in 50 states in 50 days. A personal friend is nearing the goal to do just that. Cindi Rauch, age 60, from Washington state, began her 100 miles per day journey on May 22 and is on target to finish July 10.

Read all about it: <http://50centuriesin50statesin50days.blogspot.com/>

Not only is this a truly remarkable athletic feat, Cindi's daily blog posts are just a real pleasure to read. Cindi made a solo self-supported trip across the US in 2005.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) MAY BAN BIKES...

On park roadways with posted speeds of 30 mph or higher when a parallel path is available within 100 yards. YIKES! None of the national advocacy organizations saw this one coming in time to make a serious case opposing this mandatory sidepath rule. All but seven states have dropped the mandatory sidepath rule on highways (Pennsylvania did so in 1995). Now this throwback rule will redirect bicyclists onto paths used by typical pedestrian users and without regard to the condition of each path (surface condition, width, hazards, intended use, etc). Who knew what, when and why this happened is a topic now circulating among the national advocacy group leaders with some red faces and a little finger-pointing going on. The bike ban is in effect for all federal lands. In related news, NPS announced plans to open more non-motorized roads and trails for mountain biking.

LANCE ARMSTRONG GETS A “DOPE SLAP”...

From the US Anti-Doping Agency. USADA is alleging banned substance use during 1999-2005. The seven-time Tour de France winner could be stripped of his wins if the charges are proven. The Pennsylvania connection is Floyd Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 TdF win for doping and alleged Armstrong doped too.

HOW A RALEIGH BICYCLE IS MADE...

In 1945. The British factory tour lasts 17 minutes: <http://vimeo.com/39401575>

Dates to Remember

August 19	LBC Covered Bridge Metric Century	lancasterbikeclub.org
September 2	Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, Brandywine Tour.	www.dvbc.org
October 7	Central Bucks Bicycle Club Covered Bridges Ride	cbbikeclub.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.

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