



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

August 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

August 2012 marks the **11th** anniversary of the **Bicycle Access Council (BAC)**, so it is fitting to remind members and the public how past support has helped the mission and activities of the Bicycle Access Council. The official announcement and membership launch was 2001 at Altoona held in conjunction with the League of American Bicyclists annual rally.

BAC is Pennsylvania's only statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the one aspect of bicycling that was not being met by a non-government organization prior to being created in 2001 — on-the-road bicycling. Its mission statement is simple and direct. See below.

BAC advocates for all Pennsylvania bicyclists, but not all bicyclists know about BAC and the advocacy resources available to them. Over the years, BAC has been a clearinghouse of information for bicyclists, bike clubs and other bicycling organizations. Sharing that information is accomplished in several ways:

- ◆ BAC maintains a website as a resource of information and links: www.BicycleAccess-PA.org
- ◆ BAC distributes a monthly newsletter (electronic and printed) to its members with current topics.
- ◆ BAC hosts an annual Bike Club Conference in the spring, which invites leaders of Pennsylvania bicycle clubs to attend for discussions and presentations of important issues. The 10th annual conference was held this year.
- ◆ BAC attends many of the important meetings and events around Pennsylvania to represent the interests of bicyclists. These include the quarterly Pennsylvania Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) and Southwestern Planning Commission (Pittsburgh) as well as, many functions of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) related to transportation topics.
- ◆ BAC maintains a close working relationship with PennDOT and the PennDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator.
- ◆ BAC also works with elected officials, law enforcement organizations and members of the General Assembly as necessary to address specific issues and vigilantly keep the rights of bicyclists highlighted during discussions of transportation planning.

And, last, but not least, BAC responds to phone calls and e-mails about many bicycling issues — lots of phone calls and e-mails. These range from informing BAC about problems with roads to problems with motor vehicle drivers. Some questions are related to crashes and hazards. BAC does not offer legal advice, but the responses will generally sort through the legal issues of a situation to help define whether it is criminal or civil. Then it's possible to suggest where to go from there and what statutes may apply and the consequences.

It is in the best interests of Pennsylvania bicyclists to support BAC to be sure there is an advocate that can respond as needed in critical issues. Please help ensure BAC continues its mission with your individual memberships and donations. The Bicycle Access Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is funded solely by memberships and donations. Memberships and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

THE IMPACT OF MAP-21 IS...

Still being debated and interpreted. *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* is considered the ultimate oxymoron since it drastically cuts bicycle program funding back to decades-old levels. National bicycle organizations and coalitions are trying to make the most of it — “the water bottle is half-full” spin. Opportunities do still exist for maintaining obligated funding and including bicycle facility planning in all new projects using PennDOT’s Bike/Ped Checklist requirements (a “Complete Streets” policy). See the July BAC *News & Digest* for a summary of MAP-21.

BEST WISHES TO BRIAN SANDERS...

Who officially retires as Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator from PennDOT, effective August 31. See the June BAC *News & Digest* for a description of Brian’s service. No named replacement yet.

THE QUEST TO MAKE 50 CENTURY RIDES IN 50 STATES IN 50 [CONSECUTIVE] DAYS...

By Cindi Rauch, age 60 is completed. Not only is this a truly remarkable athletic feat, Cindi’s daily blog posts were just a real pleasure to read. Read all about it:

<http://50centuriesin50statesin50days.blogspot.com/>

PENNSYLVANIA LOSES A BICYCLE FRIEND...

With the untimely death of Dave Bachman on July 7. After a morning bike ride, Dave settled into his favorite chair to watch the Tour and passed away peacefully. Cause of death was an apparent heart attack while sleeping. Dave was PennDOT’s first Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator hired in 1992 and served until November 2008. He was 51. R.I.P.

Read more about Dave Bachman at <http://tinyurl.com/9be3rtc>

Dates to Remember

August 19	LBC Covered Bridge Metric Century. Registration CLOSED BAC will be there.
August 25	SCU, Lake Nockamixon Century, Doylestown. www.suburbancyclists.org
September 2	Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, Brandywine Tour. www.dvbc.org
September 9	Shoo-Fly Classic, Berks County Bicycle Club. www.bcabc.org
September 16	HBC Three Creek Century, LeTort Park, Carlisle www.threecreekcentury.com
October 7	Central Bucks Bicycle Club Covered Bridges Ride. www.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.

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

