



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

September 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

PPAC IS REAUTHORIZED (FINALLY)...

By Act 98 of 2012 when signed into law on July 5 by the governor. The law took effect in 60 days — just in time for the next PPAC meeting scheduled for September 6. The Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was first created in 1995 as an amendment to the Vehicle Code, Title 75, §3571. The latest amendment increases the citizen appointed seats from nine to eleven and reflects changes to organization categories from named individuals. PPAC meets quarterly, is open to the public, and is administered by PennDOT. Next PPAC meeting is December 11, 2012.

Next steps include submitting letters of interest and qualifications to the governor for appointment. A tentative slate of members was agreed by consensus in December 2010; however, no action could be taken until Act 98 was passed. Rep Rick Geist agreed to hand-carry letters on file to the governor.

Tentative dates for 2013 are: March 14, May 16, September 12, December 12. Some meeting locations other than Harrisburg are under consideration.

PENNDOT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR POSITIONS...

Are due to be reorganized. According to Transportation Secretary, Barry Schoch, a complete study of all PennDOT functions will include a proposal for “regional B/P coordinators” (instead of District only), with the goal of more local input and action. It is unknown at this time if the new structure will include a Central Office position. There are no plans to fill the Central Office position vacated by the retirement of Brian Sanders as of August 31. A named contact, Brian Shunk, PE, will assume some of Mr. Sanders’ functions. BAC requested a meeting with the Secretary to discuss full time requirements under MAP-21 and possible funding sources. The meeting took place on August 22 to discuss this topic among others. PPAC Vice-Chair Bill Hoffman was also in attendance.

ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLE LEGISLATION...

Is still pending in the House Transportation Committee. HB 2330 adds an appropriate definition for “e-bikes” in the Vehicle Code to allow them on Pennsylvania roadways and to be considered as any other pedalcycles. Currently they are not street legal vehicles by PennDOT standards. The General Assembly is not in session at this time, but action is expected in the fall to vote this bill out of committee.

BICYCLING MAGAZINE AUGUST ISSUE LISTS BEST RIDES IN 50 STATES...

And the Pennsylvania winner is Lancaster Bicycle Club's "Ice Cream Lovers" ride.

LBC's home page displays the link for the ride cue sheet: www.lancasterbicycleclub.org

WHEN IS "CLEAR" NOT SO CLEAR?...

— **When calling out "clear" to fellow riders at intersections.** Bicycle clubs are adopting the practice to leave it up to each individual cyclist to determine if it's safe to enter an intersection. Traffic conditions can change too quickly to rely on a momentary glance and perspective for advancing riders. All cyclists should consider this when riding with others.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK GEIST IS LEAVING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY...

In December. At the September 6 PPAC meeting, Rick was recognized for his support of bicycling in Pennsylvania. Rick was instrumental in creating PPAC in 1995 and more memorably noted for his idea to promote a little known candidate for governor named Tom Ridge in 1994 by campaigning around the commonwealth by bicycle. Once elected, Governor Ridge continued that political style by creating the Keystone Rides. Annual rides grew in size as various areas of the state were toured. Thanks Rick.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DOPE...

May be the sequel to Lance Armstrong's © 2000 book, *It's Not About the Bike*. All bicyclists should brace themselves for the aftermath of controversy that strips most of Armstrong's race titles and fame, plus taints all other racing participants. On-the-road bicyclists could likely be harassed for the actions of Armstrong by a fickle public. The release of *The Secret Race*, a new book just out by Tyler Hamilton and reviewed by the media may remove any remaining supporters for Lance.

Dates to Remember

September 9 Shoo-Fly Classic, Berks County Bicycle Club. www.bcbc.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
BAC will be there.

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

