



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

[www.BicycleAccess-PA.org](http://www.BicycleAccess-PA.org)

December 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

## **VEHICLE CODE LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP...**

**For 2011-12.** Only one law that passed, Act 3, had a direct positive affect for bicyclists' safety, but several other laws that passed are noteworthy. Here's a selected summary:

**Act 3 of 2012** is the landmark law that brought many accommodations for bicyclists interacting with motor vehicles and legitimizing rights to the roadway. Changes can be found in Title 75, Vehicle Code: statutes §3301; §3303; §3307; §3331; §3364 and cross-referenced in §3505.

**Act 84 of 2012** reauthorizes and expands the use of Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) cameras. Also allows some ARLE funds collected for Transportation Enhancements, Vehicle Code: §3116, §3117. Another change prohibits obscuring license plates to defeat ARLE, re §1332.

**Act 93 of 2012** increases the penalties if a victim of a crash dies, re §3742(b)3(ii)

**Act 98 of 2012** reauthorized the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC). Now eleven (was nine) public seats are appointed by the governor to represent bicycling and pedestrian constituencies. Vehicle Code, re §3571.

**Act 114 of 2012** adds a stiff penalty for non-obedience to a traffic control device warning of a hazardous condition (e.g., Road Closed). Summary offense fine is \$250. The fine increases to \$500 if a vehicle driver needs to be rescued by first responder services, re §3111.1

**Act 98 of 2011** created the Texting ban while driving (vehicle in motion). This new law did not ban hand-held cell phones or GPS devices. Now a Summary Offense with \$50 fine, re §3316.

## **WHAT LAWS DIDN'T PASS...**

**In 2012?** House Bill 2330 that amends the Vehicle Code to allow Electric-Assist bicycles on roadways did not move out of committee since April — must be reintroduced next session.

## **NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT...**

**Changes dates to March 4-7, 2013.** Previously scheduled as March 5-8. Workshops now will be held on Tuesday and Capitol Hill lobby day is Wednesday. Congressional Bike Caucus Ride to be held Thursday.

**YEAR END DONATIONS** are appreciated and tax deductible as allowed by law. BAC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. A letter verifying donations is sent for amounts of \$250 or greater, or for any lesser amount upon request.

### **BicyclePA™ INTRODUCES A NEW ROUTE...**

**And modifies two existing routes.** **BicyclePA Route J-S** has been developed to connect Routes J and S in York and Adams Counties. The route will connect the historic train station at Hanover Junction and the downtown square of Gettysburg. Signage funding has not yet been secured. Route J-S will not be available on the PennDOT website until signs are in the ground. Route J-S will not only help bicycle touring of local historic Civil War points of interest, but will become part of plans now being discussed for a Grand History Loop bike route.

**BicyclePA Route E** is the Pennsylvania portion of the East Coast Greenway that has mostly on-road segments. A realignment better suited for the ECG is being reviewed by a group of volunteers and consultants. A change to **BicyclePA Route L** avoids a climb over Blue Mountain. Signs will be installed as soon as ground conditions are suitable.

### **PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESSMAN 'BILL' SHUSTER (R-9)...**

**Is appointed as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.**

He's served on the committee for eleven years. His father, Bud Shuster, served as chairman from 1995-2001 and was legendary for bringing "pork" projects back home. Since Congress has ended earmarks, the chairman now must balance the country's needs, while trying to find ways to fund it all at \$500+ billion. As chairman, Bill Shuster will still be in the best position to help this Commonwealth with its backlog of deficient bridges and roads.

At 52, Bill Shuster is beginning his seventh term. He recently said he would press to help states streamline regulations to deliver projects faster and save money by doing so. What this means for all bicyclists is yet to be determined. Rep Shuster is on record for supporting cuts to many bicycle related funding programs.

### **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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