



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

December 2015

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

THE PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET IMPASSE...

Continues with little hope for a resolution soon. It's been difficult to predict when the Governor and the General Assembly will come to their senses over this. The stalemate has now affected BAC — travel expense reimbursement and a nominal lunch provided by PennDOT for the PPAC (Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee) January meeting in Harrisburg won't be available, even if the budget is passed by then. A 30-day post budget signing moratorium is in effect before expenses are eligible to be claimed again. Most of the governor-appointed citizen members of PPAC are unpaid volunteers, so their time and travel expense (some with significant mileage by car or train fare, plus parking) should be reimbursed. The announced non-reimbursement policy, which just came through on December 11, suggested the option to conduct the meeting by phone conference. BAC is considering how to respond to PennDOT since receiving this.

HOUSE BILL 150 IS MOVING CLOSER...

For passage, but it's anyone's guess when that might be. If there's been any 'upside' to the budget impasse, it's due to the fact that the Senate has been meeting beyond its scheduled last day of December 9. HB 150 cleared the "second consideration" — waiting for the third to pass before going to the governor. There's still an unknown question about whether it must go back to the House for concurrence. BAC requests for clarification have gone unanswered.

So, call, write, email, or better yet, ride your bike to your state Senator's district office asking for his or her support and action to move HB 150. Let BAC know the response to help with the appropriate action as needed.

HB 150 authorizes PennDOT to issue a Share-The-Road license plate for motor vehicles at an added cost of \$40 designating all funds to be used for the central office Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator position and/or bicycle signage projects. The final design for the plate is yet to be determined by PennDOT and PPAC once passed into law. Anyone may submit ideas to BAC for the plate, which created the working draft shown here.



THE FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST) ACT...

has passed both houses of Congress, and been signed into law by the President. The FAST Act is a five-year bill that will slightly increase funding and slightly change some policy. The biggest change is that it will create long-term certainty for states, transportation stakeholders, and local governments. Overall, the active transportation community did really well. The new bill includes an increase in funding for bicycling and walking and makes nonprofits eligible for that funding. The bill also creates a new safety education program and first time Complete Streets language. (source: League of American Bicyclists)

ed note: The "however" factor is the ability to pay for the bill in the future and the shortfall of what's actually needed. So while Congress may wish to claim success, it fails to meet the needs of the states and has yet to pass a complete six year transportation bill as required since 1997.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING, so, please help the Bicycle Access Council have a cheerful holiday. Memberships and donations are needed now more than ever to continue the **BAC** mission. Support what we do in the spirit of holiday giving.

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.

INSANE IN SPAIN IS MAINLY DANNY AGAIN...

When you watch this Danny Macaskill video. As always, don't try this at home, or anywhere!
<http://m.wimp.com/bike-rooftopping-spain-danny-macaskill/>

Dates to remember...

Jan ? PPAC, Harrisburg—changed from **December**. Date conflicts not yet resolved.

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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