



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

May 2017

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

MAY IS BIKE MONTH...

Typically celebrating good weather, longer daylight and goals set for a season of recreational, fitness training and bike commuting opportunities. In the Harrisburg area, a **Spoke-n-Gear Expo** will be held **May 10** across from the rear of the Capitol Building in Soldiers Field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Alternate weather location will be the Keystone Building, 400 North Third St). Many government agencies and non-profits will provide information and resources of interest to bicyclists. BAC will be there.

BIKE BOXES...

Used to be the things you shipped or traveled with on a train or airplane. Now, a new use will appear as a "traffic control device" with interim approval in October 2016 by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is now included in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Bike Boxes have been in use on an experimental basis in several locations around the country. The final approval is part of a lengthy Rulemaking process.

So, what's a bike box? It's a designated area in front of a traffic lane 'stop bar' at a signalized intersection that allows bicyclists to filter forward from a curbside bike lane to gather in front of stopped traffic. It can be extended across to a designated left turn lane, but not for use in a right-turn-only lane. Right-Turn-On-Red is prohibited when a bike box is installed. Find the text and illustrations at: https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ia18/index.htm There's much ongoing debate among professional planners and advocates regarding benefits and proper use. For an extreme example, check out: [youtube v=c7ii4XXwlg4&sns=em](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7ii4XXwlg4&sns=em)
Ed note: What's your opinion on Bike Boxes? Would you use one — why or why not?

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Of this issue is a full page flyer to promote the Pennsylvania Share-the-Road license plate. You may print it out and distribute copies to your local bike shop, athletic store, gym, or any place bicyclists might go.

As of April 30, 2017,
00461
plates have been issued
by PennDOT



HERE'S A POP QUIZ FOR BICYCLISTS...

YOU are bicycling on a Pennsylvania roadway while listening to your favorite music or news from a device through the use of headphones (or "ear buds"). Are you allowed to do this? Answer given next issue. The answer will be given in the next News & Digest.

Answer to April's Pop Quiz:

YOU are bicycling along a two-lane, two way roadway. An emergency vehicle is approaching towards you with lights and sirens activated. Are you required to move to the right and STOP? Does it matter if you are riding solo or on a group ride or pace-line? Is the answer different if you are driving a motor vehicle?

Answer: YES, you must move to the right and stop. PA Vehicle Code: **75 Pa.C.S. § 3325(a)**.

CYCLING-SAVVY™ ...

Is a bicycle education organization with on-site training classes and on-line resources. Check out: online.cyclingsavvy.org for videos and tips. CyclingSavvy offers an e-newsletter at no charge with updates and helpful information. The graphics and illustrations are precise and clear for all levels of experience. Their mission: Empowerment for unlimited travel.

AAA ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE FOR BICYCLES...

Is available in only some parts of Pennsylvania. Eight member clubs of the AAA Federation of Pennsylvania decide independently on whether to offer this member benefit. AAA Federation will be completing a list of participating clubs soon. Additional club membership cost and terms may vary. Would you use this service? Would you be willing to pay for this service?

Dates to Remember

May 10 Spoke-n-Gear Expo, Harrisburg. See details above in this issue.
May 20 Quad Metric Century Ride. Contact Suburban Cyclists Unlimited for details

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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SHARE THE ROAD

PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE



To obtain a plate from PennDOT, web search Pennsylvania Share the Road plate. You will find a link to form MV-917. It's a two-page form and all information is clearly explained. Cost is \$40 one time for a new plate and registration card. Annual renewal date and fees do not change.

HELP PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLISTS BY EDUCATING MOTORISTS ONE PLATE AT A TIME!

Created and made possible by the Bicycle Access Council
www.bicycleaccess-pa.org