



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

May 2007

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

This issue of the **Bicycle Access Council News & Digest** is a monthly communication with members and supporters. You may view past issues that started in January 2005 by going to the **BAC** website.

MAY IS BIKE MONTH...

And, **May 14-18 is Bike Week**. With gasoline prices approaching \$3 per gallon and predicted to go to \$4, now is the time to make plans to commute by bike—every week! Contact the Bicycle Access Council if you have questions on how to do this. And don't forget to check out transit agencies that offer bike racks on buses.

A BICYCLE COMMUTER ACT...

Was introduced by the 110th Congress in March 2007. Since 2001, this is the fourth attempt by Oregon congressman Earl Blumenauer to submit a Bill that allows employers to pay this fringe benefit of up to \$110 per month that is excluded from taxable income to the employee. So far there are 44 co-sponsors. A similar Bill has been introduced in the Senate with 14 co-sponsors to date.

If passed, H.R. 1498 and S-858 would give bicycle commuters parity with individuals who participate in van-pooling and public transit programs, meaning that bike commuters would be eligible to collect amounts determined by their individual employers for the purpose of covering expenses such as bike lockers, property insurance, repairs and tune-ups, etc.

To become law, each Bill must make it through the respective congressional committees-- the "Ways and Means Committee" for the House of Representatives and the "Finance Committee" in the Senate.

The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the bill could cost \$9.8-million per year. By comparison, the mass transit benefit is estimated to cost \$380-million and the employee parking benefit nearly \$5.6-billion per year.

You are urged to contact your Member of Congress and US Senators to ask them to co-sponsor these Bills. So far, only Allyson Schwartz (D 13th) is listed as a co-sponsor.

For a link to the actual Bill, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/33yjif>

A ONE WORD DIFFERENCE...

In a Strike-Off-Letter on April 4th from the PENNDOT Chief Engineer re-emphasized the need to evaluate all new projects to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians when using the *Bicycle and Pedestrian Checklist*. Previously, the Checklist stated bicyclists *should be* accommodated. Now the policy has been changed to, *shall be* accommodated. The new policy takes effect May 15, 2007, but even projects started earlier are affected if not past a certain design level of approval. The policy also applies to all projects placed on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and all Highway Occupancy Permit requests for access to state owned highways.

The revised policy also clarifies that bicycle users are vehicles and pedestrians are classified as traffic in accordance with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

THIS BICYCLE IS REALLY ROAD VISIBLE...

Since it's nearly five feet tall. Check out this link to view an unusual bike custom made for a fundraising tour around Ireland.

<http://tinyurl.com/236x2v> or go to www.cyclemagic.org.uk

"CM" BICYCLISTS PUT THEIR FOOT DOWN...

On **Critical Manners** Ride. <http://tinyurl.com/34ox85> A positive example of group rides and bicyclist behavior.

Ed note: BAC does not endorse or promote traditional Critical Mass events.

PA BIKE CLUB SPECIAL EVENTS RIDES...

May be listed on the BAC website. Submit your club ride with dates, location, fees etc. to the BAC webmaster at: < info@BicycleAccess-PA.org > Charity rides requiring pledges and other fundraising rides not sponsored by a Pennsylvania bike club are not listed.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES...

The Bicycle Access Council is accepting letters of interest for future director positions. Send a narrative letter indicating your desire to become involved in bicycling advocacy in Pennsylvania. Include your education, any experience serving on a board of directors, fund raising experience, and a summary of your bicycling experience. All letters received will be kept confidential.

Send all letters to:

Bicycle Access Council, P.O. Box 92, Dallastown, PA 17313, or

E-mail to: ED@BicycleAccess-PA.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.



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