



# *Bicycle Access Council* News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

January 2009

*Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.*

*It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!*

## **THE STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES...**

Are tied and directly affected by the economic downturn of the US economy. Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation is strapped for funding to "deliver" 411 bridge projects with a deficit budget. Bicycle and Pedestrian project funding will be even more scarce.

At the last Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting in December, PennDOT Deputy-Secretary, Rick Hogg, stated that "we are not growing government" in an attempt to say that the new position of Bike/Ped Coordinator will not have support staff to assist (see the November 2008 BAC News & Digest).

On the national level, the new US DOT Secretary is Representative LaHood from Illinois. Opinions by Bike-Ped professionals are the full range from disgust to high praise. BAC does not have an opinion on how the new Secretary will affect on-the-road bicycling issues in Pennsylvania. Rail Trail and off-road advocates may have concerns.

## **THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY...**

Will be changing committee assignments soon. Changes to the Transportation committees will be of the biggest interest for the Bicycle Access Council in its effort to urge the reintroduction of two bicycling related bills.

## **A BICYCLE SWAP MEET...**

Will be held February 8 in Westminster, Maryland. This 12th annual event is the mid-Atlantic's largest indoor bicycle swap and consumer expo series. Check out: [www.stopswapandsave.com](http://www.stopswapandsave.com)

**INSIDE THE BELTWAY THINKING...**

Must be what bicycle manufacturer TREK had in mind by introducing two "belt drive" models for 2009--the District (\$929.99) and the Soho (\$989.99). Replacing the traditional metal roller chain is a carbon fiber belt that supposedly won't rust, stretch or need lubrication over the three year life expectancy.

**THE 7th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BIKE CLUB CONFERENCE..**

Will be held again in the Spring. The date and details will be sent to bike clubs soon

**Dates to remember:**

March 8 Daylight Saving Time begins (ends November 1).  
March 10-12 National Bike Summit, Washington, DC. Go to [www.BikeLeague.org](http://www.BikeLeague.org) for details.  
March 5 PPAC, Harrisburg. 1-3 PM  
March 20 Spring season begins

**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 motor-ing 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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