



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

February 2009

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY...

Is overwhelmed with critical issues this session. The state budget is always a hot-button issue with the usual political wrangling made more complicated in the current economic downturn. Getting attention for bicycling issues will be even more challenging. The only priority for the Bicycle Access Council is to seek re-introduction of two bills not passed last session (see the July 2008 BAC News & Digest on the website for full details). Bill sponsors are needed in the House and Senate to move these bills along.

THE 7th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BIKE CLUB CONFERENCE..

Will be held March 14 at PSU-York. The date and details were sent to bike clubs in January. Although meant to involve club officer participation, individuals may also attend who want to learn more about bike club issues and the latest information regarding bicycling topics. Contact you local bike club to become involved. Interested in starting a new bike club? This is where you come to learn how.

This year's conference will also focus on how bike clubs can participate in grassroots support of pending legislation to benefit Pennsylvania bicyclists. BAC will rely on clubs and individuals to contact their legislators to gain support for two very important bills introduced last year, but not passed. To get these bills reintroduced and find as many co-sponsors as possible, clubs can spread the word through their members to emphasize how important these bills are.

Bike club input will be sought for interest in supporting a Bike Summit in Harrisburg. Plans for a full rally day while the General Assembly is in session is tentatively planned in early May, which coincidentally is Bike Month. Is there interest in a Keystone Bike Summit?

USING YOUR HEAD...

Requires a good helmet rated for bicycle use. Check out the latest review by the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute at <http://tinyurl.com/a37hzp>

THE PENNDOT BIKE-PED COORDINATOR...

Position is still open. No announcement by PennDOT has been made as to what the new job requirements will be or how a selection will be made. PennDOT Deputy Secretary Rick Hogg did state at the last PPAC meeting in December that the position might be filled "by Spring" by a single person with no additional support positions on the Department organizational chart.

AN ELECTRIC BIKE WITH A SHOCKING PRICE TAG...

Was introduced by Giant for 2009. It uses Shimano's Di2 electric Dura-Ace group (whatever that is) to shift gears. Giant's list price is \$13,900 which includes a custom bike bag for travel. It weighs 13.4 pounds. A limited production run will have 50 bikes available by the end of February. Cannondale and Specialized are expected to include the Di2 system soon too in limited production runs. More bike manufacturers may follow by the fall this year. Source: VeloNews 2009 Buyer's Guide.

Ed note: Here's my question. Does this bike need jumper cables if the battery is dead? And, how are traditional bicyclists going to respond? Here's an opinion from the New York Times to put it all in perspective; <http://tinyurl.com/c6emvn>

Dates to remember:

March 5 PPAC, Harrisburg. 1-3 PM
March 8 Daylight Saving Time begins (ends November 1)
March 14 Bike Club Conference, PSU-York
March 10-13 National Bike Summit, Washington, DC.
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 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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