



Bicycle Access Council

News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

November—December 2009

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

A MOTORIST HAS BEEN CONVICTED...

Of assault and battery charges for using his vehicle to inflict injuries upon two California bicyclists in a road rage incident. The driver faces a maximum of ten years imprisonment for all the felony offenses committed. Injuries to the bicyclists were severe when the driver intentionally stopped his vehicle in front of the two cyclists descending a hill "to teach them a lesson" for not riding single file. Two bicyclists who had previously encountered this motorist in similar circumstances, without injuries, were able to testify during the trial.

PPAC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES...

Were considered at the December 10, 2009 meeting. When the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) was created in 1996, citizen positions were designated as representative members of named organizations. Since PPAC was actually created by statute by the General Assembly and made part of the Vehicle Code, Title 75, only the legislature could make changes. Over time, the commitments and attendance of designated "voting" members have waned and shifted resulting in an ineffective working group. Upcoming changes will now appoint individuals known for their knowledge, commitment and willingness to serve.

Because of the statutory structure, the Bicycle Access Council has not been represented on PPAC, even though Executive Director, Joe Stafford, has attended all but two quarterly meetings since 1996—an attendance record greater than any other originally designated member.

STILL NO LEGISLATIVE ACTION...

Is expected soon on the two bicycle safety bills introduced earlier this year. House Transportation members are making no commitments to Vehicle Code changes for fear of amendments added. The General Assembly is still preoccupied with "tolling I-80" for highway funding and redirecting some Red Light Camera revenues for Transportation Enhancements.

AND, STILL NO NEWS...

When it comes to filling the PennDOT central office position of Bike/ Ped Coordinator. Interviews for the position were concluded in October 2009. No announcement has been made for the position that was abruptly vacated in November 2008.

When filled, the B/P Coordinator will be under the deputy-secretary for Planning. Previously, the job was managed by the Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering (BHSTE) under the deputy secretary for Highway Administration. It will be a significant change whenever the position is filled. The impact for Pennsylvania bicyclists is yet to be determined.

USING YOUR HEAD...

When buying new helmets is summarized in the latest laboratory test results published December 3 by the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute. Submitting six helmets—three in the \$150+ range and three in the \$20 range—the results were virtually identical when it came to protection performance. Fit, air vent design and graphics may be the only distinguishable advantage to more expensive helmets. Of course, wearing a helmet properly to provide protection on impact is always important.

KEEP THE FAITH...

With the patron saint of cyclists at the recently blessed American shrine in Portland, Oregon. The Madonna del Ghisallo, the original shrine above Lake Como in Italy is recognized by the Catholic Church for its miraculous interventions on behalf of cyclists, has been re-created by a painting of the Madonna overlooking a ghost-like, riderless bike within the St. Stephen's Episcopal parish.

Ed note: As reported in the December 1, 2009 *Bicycle Retailer & Industry News*.

YEAR END DONATIONS ...

Are appreciated and tax deductible as allowed by law. BAC is recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization. A letter verifying donations is sent for amounts of \$250 or greater and for any amount upon request.

Dates to remember:

March 4 PPAC (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee),
1 PM, Harrisburg. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details

Spring '10 BAC 8th Annual Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference

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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