



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

April 2011

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

BICYCLE SAFETY LEGISLATION...

Is finally scheduled to be voted on by the House Transportation Committee. **HB 170** is one of several bills considered in a "safe driving package" of bills expected to be up for a floor vote in the first two weeks of May. Long awaited since first authored by BAC in 2008, HB 170 includes revisions to Title 75, the Vehicle Code, to exempt bicycles from impeding traffic requirements; establishes a minimum safe passing distance (four feet); prohibits motor vehicles from interfering with bicyclists when traveling straight through at intersections and access points, and allows crossing a double yellow line to safely overtake a bicyclist. BAC will report progress as it becomes available.

To review the language of this bill, check out: <http://tinyurl.com/3wc87rh> or, go to the PA General Assembly webpage to enter the House bill # in the search box.

PPAC IS STILL IN LIMBO...

Without timely legislation authorizing its continued operation. New committee member appointments, including BAC Executive Director, Joe Stafford for one of the public member seats, are held up until passed. House bill, HB 864, would amend the Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) statute to allow proposed reorganization changes to take effect. HB 864 is expected to be included among those "safe driving package bills" mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

9th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE CLUB CONFERENCE ...

Held March 26 was a success! Attendees gained in-depth knowledge of club ride waiver issues, how rail trail development is managed and an opportunity to hear from state representative Ron Miller (93-York) on matters of the General Assembly. Thanks to all participants who gave up a Saturday to represent their clubs.

PENNSYLVANIA BIKE SUMMIT IS MAY 4...

At the state Capitol. Join bicyclists and advocates in support of bicycling issues. Meet with members of the General Assembly to seek support for improved bicycle safety legislation. Contact **PA Walks & Bikes** to register for the event and a schedule of events. Rally is free and open to the public (there is a charge for a reserved lunch). BAC will be there.

ARE YOU READY FOR BIKE TO WORK WEEK...

Which is **May 16-20**? York County, PA, is hosting its first **Bike-To-York Week** program with a kick-off event on Sunday, **May 15**. A short organized ride from the York Expo Center to the downtown minor league baseball stadium will allow bicyclists to enjoy a 1 PM baseball game for a \$5 admission and provide valet bicycle parking. To register and for more information, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/3qtwa8> Contact BAC for more details.

Ideas and resource information for Bike-To-Work Week may be found at the PBIC (Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center) website. See: www.pedbikeinfo.org

ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLE LEGISLATION...

Is back on the table for consideration. BAC has been invited to meet in late April with legislative staff, PennDOT, and bicycle industry reps to work on drafting a new bill. Until introduced and passed, any bicycle with an electric motor assist is not legally permitted on Pennsylvania roadways. The ultimate goal of new legislation is to amend the Vehicle Code to include a definition of what an electric-assisted bicycle is to be considered legal, as are solely human powered devices now.

So, what's up for discussion?

Maximum motor power output measured in watts

Allowing, or not allowing, throttle only operated motor assisted devices

Allowing, or not allowing, sidewalk use with any motor assist.

Consideration for disable persons in accordance with recent Americans Disability Act (ADA) revisions

Dates to Remember

April 30	Pennsylvania State Police ride, Hershey, PA. See Harrisburg Bicycle Club for details BAC will be there. Stop by to say hello.
May 4	PA Bike Summit, Harrisburg state Capitol
May 16-20	Bike-to-Work-Week.

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 roadways 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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