



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

October & November 2011

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

BICYCLE SAFETY LEGISLATION MOVES CLOSER TO PASSAGE...

In November. The "Bicycle Safety" bill (HB 170) did get approved by the House Transportation Committee and was routinely voted on as a House Bill in the Senate Transportation Committee (making no changes or amendments). The Senate now needs to have a full vote on it. Provided it's not amended, it then goes back to the House for concurrence, then to the governor. There's a good chance of passing in November with a typical effective date 60 days later.

BAC wrote the bill and sought out the Representative to sponsor it. It's been watered down from the original language introduced in 2008 due to PennDOT and PA State Police objections to some portions of it. The four-foot overtaking [passing] requirement is still included.

ROADS AND BRIDGES WILL GET PRIORITY FUNDING...

According to Pennsylvania Transportation Secretary, Barry Schoch. At a Secretary Panel roundtable discussion during the 2011 Greenways & Trails Summit (Oct 23-25, York, PA), the PennDOT Secretary made it clear that funding shortfalls for highway transportation projects require that services may have to be shared in collaborative ways with DCNR (Department of Conservation & Natural Resources), like mapping. DCNR Secretary Richard Allen was in agreement and acknowledged the need to find ways to minimize the duplication of services when and where possible.

PENNSYLVANIA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL VIDEOS...

Are now available to view and download. Five cycling safety videos produced by Commonwealth Media Services and PennDOT, are at:

<http://www.saferoutespa.org/other-links-resources>

Long time Pennsylvania advocate and League Cycling Instructor (LCI), Bill Hoffman provided on-scene technical assistance during filming. Overall, the quality is very good. BAC was one of several contributing storyboard reviewers. See if you can find any errors. Send comment to BAC.

ASSAULTED CYCLIST CASE MOVES TO BERKS COMMON PLEAS COURT...

In December for a Petition Hearing. The defendant, who is expected to plead guilty, will be ordered to pay restitution to the cyclist victim and receive the terms of his ARD supervision and probation period (six-to-twenty-four months). Although the defendant could change his mind to enter a Not Guilty plea, this is not likely given the overwhelming evidence available. See the September 2011 BAC News & Digest for details

RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS COMING TO A CORNER NEAR YOU...

For "Third Class" cities is closer to passage in the General Assembly with lots more debate ahead. Are they effective at reducing crashes? — Philadelphia transportation officials say, Yes, where they have been installed for nearly six years. And, oh, by the way, they also generate a lot of revenue. Your comments on this are welcome.

CALORIES BURNED IN CYCLING VS RUNNING...

Is explained and calculated by Doctor Gabe Mirkin in his October 31 e-Zine issue. Check out www.DrMirkin.com for this item and many other health and fitness topics.

Dates to Remember...

- Nov 6** **Daylight Saving Time** Ends (2 AM) Now first Sunday in November. Set clocks Back. Adjust your bicycling routine to use proper lights for changing low light conditions.
- Dec 15** **PPAC** (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee), Harrisburg, 1-3 PM
Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.
- 2012** **March 20-23 National Bike Summit**, Washington, DC. See www.bikeleague.org
Friday, March 23, is the traditional Congressional Bike Ride around DC.

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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