



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

March 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLISTS WILL SOON REALIZE THE BENEFIT OF...

New Bicycle Safety legislation protecting their rights to the roadways and providing a greater margin of safety while interacting with other traffic. Act 3 of 2012 (formerly House Bill 170), which was signed by Governor Corbett on February 2 and becomes effective April 2, is a comprehensive amendment to the Vehicle Code. Who else will benefit from this new law?

Law Enforcement Officers will now have a clearer definition of how to evaluate bicyclists as part of the transportation mix. Motor vehicle drivers will have improved guidance when interacting with bicyclists. And, bicyclists will now have a codified margin of safety needed to use the roadway. It will also draw attention to bicyclists' needs to act responsibly on the roadways they expect to share with other vehicles.

To be accepted by the public at large, bicyclists must take responsibility for operating a bicycle properly, too. There is more to bicycling than balancing on two wheels. Adherence to all traffic laws is essential. Scofflaws on a bicycle demonstrating observable bad behavior should be cited by law enforcement officers as well. All laws pertaining to bicyclists must be enforced, including the use of lights and reflectors at night, wrong-way riding (facing traffic), and even proper use of hand signaling.

Motor vehicle operators should also recognize the contribution bicyclists make when not consuming gasoline, not contributing to road deterioration, and reducing congestion. Personal health benefits are also gained through the effective activity of bicycling.

The public is now bemoaning the high cost of gasoline. The reasons for the sharp recent spikes in costs are complicated, but when more citizens choose to travel by bicycle, for whatever reason, the benefit of this new law will become more apparent.

The Bicycle Safety law benefits many — not just bicyclists. The intent of the new law is less about parity for bicyclists and more about making it easier and clearer how all roadway users can share the road. As longtime advocate and transportation planner John Forester would say, "Bicyclists fare best when they act, and are treated in return, as drivers of vehicles, with the same rights and responsibilities that motorists have."

BICYCLE ACCESS COUNCIL IS ON A ROLL...

WITH NEW LEGISLATION FOR ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLES. Draft language was sent to the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to create a new amendment to the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to include new definitions and applicable sub-chapter sections related to electric-assist bicycles.

FOR OUR TRAIL RIDING FRIENDS...

Check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=qFP28ANXLLA&vq=medium>

Here's a comical look at a very uncommon trail user — thank goodness — out on a ride with his dogs.

THE 10th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE CLUB CONFERENCE...

Is scheduled for April 7 in York, PA. Pennsylvania bicycle clubs received registration instructions in January by USPS mail and e-mail. Although meant to benefit Pennsylvania bicycle clubs, any club from neighboring states, as well as individuals are welcome to attend. Contact BAC for details.

This year's featured speaker is **Keri Caffery**. She co-developed the innovative **CycleSavvy®** curriculum empowering bicyclists to travel anywhere easily with confidence. Currently, CycleSavvy has instructors in seven states and fourteen cities. Keri's presentation will cover the challenges of USA adult bicycling education, including a group ride course component — a benefit for club ride leaders.

The agenda will also devote time to explaining the new Bicycle Safety legislation, Act 3 of 2012. Club leaders must be prepared to respond to the public, as well as, their own club members as to what the new Vehicle Code amendment really means and how it will be promoted.

PennDOT is expected to send a representative to update and explain policies and operations important to bicyclists.

As always, this is an event to showcase best practices among club leaders, whether new or experienced, which supports having a successful club. Thinking of starting a club? Want to improve your club? This is a How-To event to begin that process. Was your bike club missed from the notice? Contact BAC.

NOTE: The date has been changed from one scheduled earlier. New deadline for registration is April 2.

Dates to Remember

March 11	2.00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins (now the second Sunday in March)
March 15	PPAC , Harrisburg. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.
March 20-23	National Bike Summit , Washington, DC. BAC will be there!
April 7	10th Annual Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference , York, PA
May 6	Bike Harrisburg . BAC is a sponsor with Harrisburg Bicycle Club. Details to follow.
May 4-6	BCP Spring-n2-Cycling weekend, Danville, PA. http://phillybikeclub.org

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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