



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

January 2013

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

"LIVE THE DREAM IN 2013"...

Seems appropriate for the Bicycle Access Council to pursue its Mission Statement with three added goals for the new year. More than any other year, members and supporters will be asked to help with grass-roots efforts and financial backing. The added goals are:

- Introduce Share-The-Road (STR) license plate legislation. The final design and wording is to be determined and most likely will come as a recommendation from the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) once BAC secures sponsoring legislators.
- Re-establish a Legislative Bike Caucus. The time is right to present some new legislators with the idea. A capitol area ride event during May, Bike Month, will highlight a new group.
- Re-introduce a bill to include electric-assist bicycles in the Vehicle Code making them legal on roadways. House Bill 2330 expired last session. A new bill is required. Rep Seth Grove – York, has already circulated a memo seeking new sponsors. A companion Senate Bill may not be necessary for passage.

CONGRESSIONAL TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE...

Includes several Pennsylvanians among its 60 members. In addition to Chairman Bill Shuster (R-9), Patrick Meehan (R-7), Lou Barletta (R-11), and freshman congressman Scott Perry (R-4), all cover a good geographical area of the state. Keeping in mind that "earmarks" are no longer used as local pork-barrel projects, Pennsylvania still has a good mix for highway funding needs. Note: the 4th district is now in south-central Pennsylvania replacing the 19th, which was eliminated following redistricting. Retiring Todd Platts represented the 19th District.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED...

For the Pennsylvania House and Senate. House Majority Chair is Dick Hess (R-78) while Minority Chair is Michael McGeehan (D-173). The committee has fifteen Republicans and ten Democrats. The Senate Majority Chair is John Rafferty (R-44) and Vice-Chair is Donald White (R-41). Minority Chair is John Wozniak (D-35). The Senate committee has eight Republicans and five Democrats.

YEAR END DONATIONS are appreciated and tax deductible as allowed by law. BAC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. A letter verifying donations is sent for amounts of \$250 or greater, or for any lesser amount upon request.

BICYCLE COMMUTER FRINGE BENEFIT...

Is continued in 2013. This voluntary tax free allowance by employers is up to \$20 per month. Details are found in the tax code, section 132(f). Other “transit” benefits just increased to \$240 per month making it equal to parking allowances. Benefits cannot be combined — so ride your bike to the bus stop, but no “double-dipping” is allowed.

11th ANNUAL BIKE CLUB CONFERENCE...

Date announced — April 13. Info to clubs will be mailed shortly with details and registration forms. This is an open invitation for bike club officers and individuals who want to learn more about active club issues from across the commonwealth. Attend to learn and share. Advocacy topics are covered as well to help clubs deal with media and the public.

NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT...

Changes dates to March 4-7, 2013. Previously scheduled as March 5-8. Workshops now will be held on Tuesday and Capitol Hill lobby day is Wednesday. Congressional Bike Caucus Ride to be held Thursday.

STOP SWAP AND SAVE...

Is the largest east coast indoor bike swap and consumer expo. Westminster, Maryland. February 10. 9 A.M.— 2 P.M. Admission \$5. See: stopswapandsave.com for details.

PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES A BIKE SHARE PROJECT...

That proposes 120 bike stations offering 650 bikes by early 2014 with 550 more by 2015. Mayor Nutter will be requesting \$3 million from City Council to fund the project. Intended users are commuters, shoppers and tourists that would purchase daily, weekly or monthly access at bike stations.

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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