



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

April 2014

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

APRIL MARKS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF ACT 3, ...

The landmark Bicycle Safety legislation that gave Pennsylvania bicyclists a greater margin of safety on the road. Here's a summary of the Vehicle Code as amended with references to the actual statute section number as found in Title 75:

- §3301(b)2(ii) Bicyclists must keep to the right as far as practicable — **unless** unsafe to do so or when preparing to change lanes
- §3301(c)(ii) Bicyclists may “control the lane position” on two-lane, two-way roadways
- §3303(a)3 Motorists must allow a minimum of four-feet to overtake [pass] a bicyclist
- §3307(b.1) Motorists may cross a centerline to maintain a four-foot passing distance — when safe to do so. See §3303(a)(3) and §3305
- §3331(e) Motorists may not make turns to interfere with bicyclists proceeding straight — an intended “right hook” prohibition*
- §3364(b)2 Bicyclists may not be cited for impeding traffic — while operating at a reasonable speed for bicycling conditions

*The intent and the narrative description of §3331(e) was incorrectly given in PennDOT's 2012 press release to the media and remains incorrect on its website referring only to left-turning motor vehicles. BAC has pointed this out many times asking for a correction, but to no avail. §3322 requires left turning traffic to yield to any oncoming vehicles and sufficiently protects all vehicles and was not amended by Act 3.

SENATE BILL 997 PASSES UNANIMOUSLY...

On March 31 to add “Electric Assist” pedalcycles [bicycles] to the Vehicle Code. It now moves on to the House Transportation Committee for consideration. Meanwhile, House Bill 213, a bill with identical language that BAC worked to craft in 2010, still has not been scheduled for any hearing and a House spokesman says it won't be considered anytime soon. The bill(s) would allow electric-assist bicycles with certain features to be used on Commonwealth roadways. Currently they are not “street legal” as defined by PennDOT, regardless of claims by dealers that they are. SB 997 or HB 213 does not address use on *non-motorized* trails or paths.

GEARING UP FOR 2014 ...

With a primer on gearing and something funky called gear-inches. Here's a link to an article by noted technical writer, John Schubert that describes some terms and concepts useful for new and experienced bicyclists. By permission: <http://limeport.org/2009/08/bicycle-gearing/>

A COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATIVE BIKE CAUCUS...

Current list of members was released to BAC as requested by the co-chair offices. Is your General Assembly member included?

House of Representatives

Tom Killion, Co-Chair (R)
 Mark Longiotti, Co-Chair (D)
 Madeline Dean
 Adam Ravenstahl
 Mauree Gingrich
 Patrick Harkins
 Kevin Schreiber
 Steve Mentzer
 Garth Everett
 Brendan Boyle
 Jordan Harris
 Deborah Kula

Steve Barrar
 Frank Burns
 Dom Costa
 Paul Costa
 Peter Daly
 Ron Miller
 Tom Murt
 Brian Sims
 Glen Grell
 Mike Sturla
 Hal English
 Mike Hanna

Senate

Mike Folmer, Co-Chair (R)
 Lisa Boscola, Co-Chair (D)
 Matt Smith
 Rob Teplitz
 Jay Costa
 LeAnna Washington

HELP SUPPORT BAC — BE A MEMBER, GET A MEMBER...

Please ask your friends and club members to join and donate!

Dates to remember...**May is *Bike Month!***

- May 8 PPAC meeting, **12-3 PM**, Harrisburg. Open to the public. **Note new start time.**
 May 16 Bike to Work Day, Spoke-n-Gear Expo, Keystone Bldg, Harrisburg
 May 28 Bicycle Forum — Camp Hill Giant Food Store, 7 PM. BAC Executive Director, Joe Stafford will be offering info and updates on bicycle safety legislation and tips on bike commuting as part of Bike Harrisburg. Contact BAC for details and directions.

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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