



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

May 2014

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

MAY IS BIKE MONTH...

Do your part — Ride your Bike!

IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS A PERFECT EDITORIAL, ...

We think this is it! Just in time for Bike Month, the editor of the York [PA] Daily Record says it best. Enter the title heading, *Avoid vicious cycle confrontations on the road* in your browser or use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/l7qb7qx>

SO, HOW BIKE FRIENDLY IS PENNSYLVANIA...

According to the League of American Bicyclists' survey? PA ranks 19! Down a few levels from last year at #15. The evaluation process is somewhat convoluted and complicated. Input from PennDOT is the main source of data. Meanwhile, other states are improving in criteria used as well. It's a moving goal to stay in the top states. Pennsylvanians can still be proud.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS...

—Your insurance limits, that is. While some bicyclists are “car free” and don't have automobile insurance, those that do should be aware of what coverage is available in the event of a car-bike crash resulting in you being injured. If you have a motor vehicle insured in Pennsylvania, you have *First Party* benefits available for medical expenses. There's no deductible or co-pay against that limit— basically, “no questions asked” to submit a claim. Your policy and the policy of the driver that injured you come into effect if your claims exceed your limit. It's important to know the difference between Full Tort and Limited Tort if you need to sue an at-fault driver.

Your insurance agent is the best resource to explain your policy terms. Here are some extra considerations to inquire about in the *What If* category:

- What if, I'm riding a tandem. Are both riders' injuries covered? At what limits?
- What if, I crash and get injured without contact with a vehicle caused by that vehicle's action?
- What if, I caused the car-bike crash while riding my bicycle?
- What if, my expensive bike is damaged? Who pays, what limit?
- What if, I own a home or rent? How is this related to auto insurance if your bike is damaged?

Got you thinking? Send your car-bike crash insurance questions to BAC. We'd like to hear from you and sort through more *What If* scenarios.

ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLES GET A BOOST...

By amendment to another bill, HB 573. Rep. Ron Miller (R-93), introduced the language of HB 213 as an amendment in a House Transportation Committee hearing. HB 573 now moves to the full House for a vote, hopefully when back in session in June.

PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLISTS NEEDED ACT 3 of 2012...

To prevent this from happening: <http://tinyurl.com/pw3v26v> A woman commuter has been charged with 'reckless driving' (a new twist) for snarling motor vehicles on a busy stretch of Kentucky highway. Bicyclists in Pennsylvania can not be cited for impeding traffic as this case highlights rights on the roadway into the news.

This case now has a nationwide following on Facebook. Check out, "Cyclists are Drivers"

IMITATION IS THE BEST FORM OF FLATTERY...

When it comes to advocacy, too. New Jersey has just passed a four-foot overtaking bill out of its Transportation Committee. Maryland is also working to change from three-feet to four.

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

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

Dates to remember...

May 16 Bike to Work Day, Spoke-n-Gear Expo, Keystone Bldg, Harrisburg
May 28 Bicycle Forum — Midtown Scholar Book Store, Harrisburg, 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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