



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

June & July 2014

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

## **HB 1415 PASSES SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE...**

**On June 29 !!!** The bill, providing for a motor vehicle *Share-The-Road* license plate, was sent to the full Senate for "First Consideration" on July 1 and is set on the Senate calendar. Given that the Senate was only in session for one day, July 8, before recessing until September, it was not possible to get this bill on its way to the governor for his signature. Bills must be brought up on the Senate floor for a 'Second' and 'Third' consideration for a Senate final vote.

So, while the waiting is extended a bit longer than hoped for, it should be noted that this was an amazingly quick progression of the legislative process. Bills seldom move this fast through both chambers. BAC is very hopeful to see this passed once the General Assembly returns.

Along with repeated trips to the Capitol urging action over these last many months, BAC wants to thank all those who supported the grassroots campaign by contacting their Representatives, and finally Senators, to move this legislation along. We're so close to seeing this happen for the benefit of Pennsylvania bicyclists.

## **REMEMBERING WHY HB 1415 IS SO IMPORTANT...**

Includes a sad reflection for whom its passage will be named. HB 1415 will be known as the *Dave Bachman Act* who passed on July 7, 2012, ending a distinguished career at PennDOT.

## **PITTSBURGH GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO 'GREEN LANE PROJECTS'...**

As recently announced by Mayor Bill Peduto. So what's a *Green Lane Project*?

The name *Green Lane Project* is a pilot program sponsored by *People For Bikes* (formerly *Bikes Belong*) which promotes the concept of "protected bike lanes" — a facility for exclusive bicycle use separated from motor vehicle traffic by posts (bollards), parked cars, road markings or other in-ground barriers. Oh, and most times the lane is painted — Green. Get it? Use your browser to search for Green Lane Projects for examples of existing designs in use. Many current Green Lane Projects are located in major cities with an urban street network that can support higher volumes of bike-mode trips.

Designs of bicycle facilities used in Green Lane Projects are generally found in the Urban Street Design Guide, a publication of the National Association Of Transportation Officials (NACTO). Not all designs and features that exist or proposed are approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and are considered experimental until more data is available.

### THE PENALTY FOR HIT-AND-RUN CRASHES...

Is expected to increase if Senate Bill 1312 becomes law. An amendment to an otherwise innocuous bill attempts to close a loop-hole in the current Vehicle Code by treating anyone found guilty of leaving the scene of a crash causing death as the same punishment for that of a DUI associated offense. Minimum jail time will be three years (now one year). Also, Judges have an option of "enhancing" penalties if a victim dies. post decision, but before sentencing. This may be a small consolation to a family of a bicyclist killed when a driver flees the scene. BAC continues to monitor legislation that affects bicyclists, even if only indirectly.

### TAP DANCE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE...

For congressional elimination of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding as the federal budget process nears its deadline, September 30. Alerts are being sent to and through various organizations urging leaders and their members to oppose cuts. The latest alert was regarding an amendment by Senator Toomey, who is not on the Transportation Committee, but on the Finance Committee. BAC looked into this. There's been no introduction of the amendment yet, nor is it scheduled. Senator Toomey's staff is prepared to respond by saying that the Senator appreciates the value of local trails and bike facilities, but opposes some of the qualifying projects when roads and bridges in Pennsylvania are in dire need of repair.

### Dates to remember...

- Sept 8-11 ProWalk/ProBike. Pittsburgh. Early registration deadline is July11. A biennial conference of transportation officials and planners
- Sept 11 PPAC (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee). Pittsburgh 1-3 PM Lawrence Conference Center. Contact BAC for details.
- Sept 27 Shoo-Fly Classic. Berks County Bicycle Club. **BAC will be there**

### 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.**

Joe Stafford, Executive Director  
Bicycle Access Council  
Dallastown, PA  
[www.BicycleAccess-PA.org](http://www.BicycleAccess-PA.org)  
(717) 417-1299

