



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

August 2014

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

AUGUST MARKS A “BAKER’S DOZEN” ANNIVERSARY...

For the Bicycle Access Council. Thirteen years ago, at Altoona, BAC launched its first membership campaign during a League of American Bicyclists rally. There are still current members who signed up that month and through 2001. Thank you for your long time support!

So, as with many a typical anniversary, it's time to reflect on where BAC has been, is now, and will be going beyond its youthful thirteen years.

In 2001, Tom Ridge was governor and Brad Mallory was Transportation Secretary (Mr. Mallory is now back as Deputy-Secretary — Administration). The Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) was created in 1995. The BicyclePA network of border-to-border cross state touring routes had been approved, funded and supported by PennDOT in 1999. The governor's sixth annual Keystone Ride was to be held in mid-September across some northern tier counties for several hundred participants. The outlook for the Commonwealth to promote bicycling activity was promising. Pennsylvania needed a statewide advocacy organization, and there was none. Recognizing that need, BAC was established. Then 9-11 happened!

The 2001 Keystone Ride was cancelled. Commonwealth priorities shifted from infrastructure to Homeland Security, including Tom Ridge's appointment to President Bush's cabinet, which required Lieutenant Governor Mark Schweiker to take over. A successful Keystone Ride lead by Governor Schweiker was held in 2002, but it was the last one.

Despite the turmoil of 9-11, BAC pressed on with PennDOT to promote one of its first goals — to create an informational insert with every license and vehicle registration mailing informing the public of bicyclists' rights on the roadway in accordance with the Vehicle Code. The first meeting was an eye-opening, experience building lesson on how bureaucracy works. Without funding and/or a legislative mandate, PennDOT is not able to promote or support a program or even “some worthy cause” without justifying or being reimbursed for the expense of doing so. “But wait — maybe we can do something” said an empathetic Deputy-Secretary, Betty Serian. “Would it be okay if we put the Share-The-Road logo on the back flap of PennDOT envelopes?”

In 2002, the STR logo was the first used “safety” message to be displayed on PennDOT mail and is still used on a rotating basis with other awareness campaigns for driver safety.

BAC has plans to renew its efforts to get that “insert” in PennDOT mailings in the near future. It will take a major effort to do so, but the time is right based on the recent efforts of BAC — namely, the passage of bicycle safety legislation (Act 3 of 2012) and the hopeful passage soon of **HB 1415** this year for a Share-The-Road license plate.

THERE'S A LOT RIDING ON THE SUCCESS OF BIKE SHARE'S FUTURE IN PA...

When reviewing New York City's experience after its first year. From, *The New York Times*, July 27, "The program has strained to recover from an introductory year marked by misguided rider estimates, shoddy software and a frigid winter. Daily and weekly passes, which were seen as potential moneymakers for the system, have failed to generate as much interest as hoped. And the system's popularity with annual members, who tend to ride frequently, has brought unexpected wear and tear to bikes and stations."

BAC wants to know if members and the public would like to see Bike Share™ in their area. Who would use it? Who would support it? Send comments to ED@BicycleAccess-PA.org

AN ARTICLE WORTH SHARING BY SALLIE URFFER...

Appeared in *The Morning Call*, July 23, 2014: <http://tinyurl.com/nlwt9wo>
<http://www.mcall.com/sports/outdoors/mc-road-ahead-07232014-20140723,0,6057807.column>

AND, THE BIKE DESIGN WINNER IS...

Shown here on this short video: <http://m.wimp.com/futurebike/> Very clever.

Dates to remember...

- Aug 29 Valley Preferred Cycling Center, Trexlertown. Madison Cup night. **BAC plans to be there (weather permitting)**. Stop by to chat about advocacy.
- Sept 8-11 ProWalk/ProBike. Pittsburgh. A biennial conference of transportation officials and planners representing government and non-government groups.
- Sept 11 PPAC (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee). Pittsburgh 1-4 PM Southwest Planning Commission building. 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.

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