



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

[www.BicycleAccess-PA.org](http://www.BicycleAccess-PA.org)

November 2014

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

## **THE 2013-14 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDED...**

With one small win and a huge defeat for Pennsylvania bicyclists. **HB 1415** creating a **Share-The-Road** motor vehicle license plate came so close to passage — *but didn't* — in stunning non-action by the full Senate. It was “laid on the [Senate] table” in July after favorably voted out of the Senate Transportation Committee and only needed a second and third consideration —which by all accounts is routine business—before being sent to the governor to become law. No action means the bill lapses and must be reintroduced next session to begin the entire bill process under a new bill number.

BAC expended thousands of dollars, countless hours, numerous capitol office visits with state legislators and staff to gain support for a “noble cause” — a revenue generating license plate that benefits PennDOT only and supports Act 3 of 2013, bicycle legislation for greater safety margins and accommodations for bicyclists. Discouraged, but not defeated, BAC will launch a new campaign to get HB 1415 reintroduced and passed ASAP in the 2015-16 session.

Now, the good news. Electric-Assist bicycles are now legal on Pennsylvania roadways as part of Act 154. In a convoluted way since first introduced in 2010, a last minute amendment was introduced by Representative Kevin Schreiber (D-95) with identical language to HB 213 by Seth Grove (R-196), which was also identical to SB 997 introduced by Mike Fleck. A definition of electric-assist bicycles [pedalcycles] will be added to the Vehicle Code. E-Bikes now will be allowed if: they include operable pedals, speed limit of 20 mph under power, motor rated at no more than 750 watts (1 hp), no more than 3 wheels, weight not more than 100 pounds, and not to be operated by persons under 16 years old.

*Ed note: BAC has followed this issue since 2008 and helped draft the language needed and used to correct this lag in the Vehicle Code to keep up with technology. This is not universally meant to cover electric-assist bicycles on non-motorized trails or shared use paths, which may still be prohibited by policy in accordance with the intended use design. However, electric-assist bicycles have been included under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recently, so persons who are medically disabled may use them regardless of trail rules.*

## **THE GAME MAY BE UP...**

For off-road bicycling on State Game Lands. A recent proposal to charge a fee for non-hunting uses “is on the table” by the state Game Commission. Maintenance costs of trails for mountain biking and horseback riding are outpacing the fees collected for hunting licenses, which is the only source of revenue. No other state money (taxes) fund the game lands. The public may comment and a meeting is scheduled for December 11 in Harrisburg. Contact BAC for details.

**THE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL COMMITTEE...**

Held public meetings / workshops with the goal of creating a corridor of non-motorized trails and historical sites that connects the three 2001 crash sites— Pentagon, Flight 93 and WTC (World Trade Center). To view the status and opportunities for suggestions, go to: [911trail.org](http://911trail.org)

**THE PASSING OF TOM MAGLIOZZI...**

a.k.a. the *Click & Clack Brothers* as heard on NPR radio **Car Talk** will be remembered fondly by many bicyclists whenever they included references about bicycling on their show, especially when part of the Puzzler series. They never had an unkind word or negative opinion towards bicyclists. R.I.P. Tom. And, so, in that spirit, the next item is introduced —

**WELL, YOU'VE WASTED A PERFECTLY GOOD HOUR...**

Listening to the Diane Rehm Show about Bicycle Safety. Panelists from various organizations try to present current trends and also refute findings by a government study that documents increasing deaths of adult bicyclists. Broadcast October 30, 2014 <http://tinyurl.com/opqcz5c> Is bicycling “safer” as these panelists tell it? Let BAC know what you think.

**SMARTER BICYCLING AT THESE BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES...**

As recognized by the League of American Bicyclists with several new awards in 2014.

Silver	Dickinson College	Carlisle	2014
Silver	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	2014
Bronze	Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	2014
Bronze	Chatham University	Pittsburgh	
Bronze	Montgomery County Community College	Pottstown	2014
Bronze	Penn State University	State College	
Bronze	Temple University	Philadelphia	2014

**Dates to remember...**

Dec 9 PPAC, 12-3 PM, Harrisburg. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.  
Note, this is a change in schedule previously planned for December 11.

**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

