



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

April 2015

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

THE CURRENT SHARE-THE-ROAD LICENSE PLATE BILL ...

Is scheduled to be considered this month by the Senate Transportation Committee !!!

Pending a favorable vote out of committee, it will be sent to the full Senate for a floor vote, then on to the Governor to be signed into law.

HB 150 authorizes PennDOT to issue a Share-The-Road license plate for motor vehicles at an added cost of \$40 designating all funds to be used for the central office Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator position and/or bicycle signage projects.

WHAT THE SHARE-THE-ROAD LICENSE PLATE WILL LOOK LIKE ...

Is yet to be determined. PennDOT recently released the design criteria for this specialty plate to BAC that describes the template to be used. A 3"x3" area on the left-hand side is available for any graphic or symbol. Two letters stacked on the right-hand side will be used consistent with the theme of the plate, e.g., S & R for Share the Road. Up to five letters and numbers in any combination will be allowed. The text across the bottom, as part of the overall design, is yet to be determined as a collaborative effort of PennDOT and the Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Here's where all Pennsylvania bicyclists have a chance to participate.

Any ideas, graphics, symbols and text slogans should be submitted directly to BAC as soon as possible. How would you use this opportunity to educate the public on bicyclists' rights to the roadway? The mock up design below was created by BAC to promote this bill. How do you feel about it "as is" if used?



APRIL 2 MARKS THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ACT 3 of 2012, ...

The bicycle safety legislation created to improve safety for Pennsylvania bicyclists. Check out: *York Daily Record*, April 12, Viewpoints <http://tinyurl.com/qb4mewy>

WHAT GOOD IS A LAW ...

If no one knows about it? Now that Act 3 of 2012 establishes a four-foot minimum overtaking distance requirement when a motor vehicles passes a bicyclist, there has been little done to make the public aware of this. Two Pennsylvania bicycle clubs have created their own design for a 'yard sign' version to promote the new law. Unfortunately, these cannot legally be used on any state or municipal sign posts, traffic control devices, or within a roadway right-of-way. PennDOT and municipal crews routinely remove these signs. Private property use is subject to local zoning rules.

BAC looked into what it would take to establish a four-foot passing sign approved by PennDOT and adopted into its official sign manual. Historically, all signs are researched by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD), which submits a recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). After a public comment period, the process slowly evolves to officially include a new sign or roadway marking into the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). States then have two years to adopt the latest MUTCD revisions. The BMUFL (BIKES MAY USE FULL LANE) sign, and the Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows) symbol went through this process. BAC regularly attends NCUTCD semi-annual meetings.

To date, only Florida, Utah and California are using "experimental" signs by their transportation departments. Why not Pennsylvania? BAC will raise this issue at the next PPAC meeting in May to ask PennDOT for action to create a sample sign and collect data when used to record driver behavior and bicyclist activity.

Ed note: Attachment to utility poles is also prohibited by other laws, especially when nails, staples, etc. are used. These are a danger to utility workers and degrades the poles. Be advised when advertising bike club events and posting special event ride directions and information.

Dates to remember...

- May 1-3 LCI Trainer class. Lancaster, PA. See March BAC News & Digest for details.
- May 9 Quad Metric, Green Lane Park. See SCU website for details. BAC will be there
- May 14 PPAC (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee), 12-3 PM, Harrisburg
Open to the public. Contact BAC for details
- May 15 Spoke-n-Gear Expo, Harrisburg. Also, Bike-to-Work Day.
- May 30 Horse Farm Tour, Hanover Cyclers

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
(717) 417-1299

