



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

August / September 2017

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

FOUR BICYCLISTS ASSUALTED IN A ROAD RAGE INCIDENT...

In Lebanon County on July 22. A motor vehicle driver intentionally directed an SUV into a group of bicyclists riding single-file along a rural road on a Saturday morning. The weather was clear and the roadway section was straight. The SUV driver plowed into the bicyclists from behind and actually made two attempts to strike all four bicyclists. While the bicyclists "didn't know what hit them" from their recollections, an on-coming motorist observed it all and gave authorities a general description of the SUV — a 1990s Dodge Durango, tan or light brown color. The SUV has not yet been located and the driver of that vehicle is still not known.

It's been six weeks and one cyclist still remains hospitalized with serious injuries and long term physical rehabilitation is expected. The other three cyclists were slightly bruised and injured, but recovered quickly without long term treatment required.

Media coverage around the Susquehanna Valley was extensive; however, like most news, it was old news quickly. Bicycle South Central Pennsylvania (BSCPA), a regional advocacy group, did not want the effort to locate the car and driver to go stale. It quickly launched a media event of its own to keep the public aware of the incident and possibly produce leads for law enforcement officials.

One week later, BSCPA placed three "red bikes" at an intersection near the assault to remind locals to be on the lookout for the suspected vehicle. Like white "ghost bikes" that memorialize bicyclists killed, the red bikes were symbolic here. A positive media frenzy resulted.

Three network TV (ABC, NBC, CBS) affiliate stations, along with print media, descended at this intersection to hear BSCPA and the three assaulted bicyclists not seriously injured give their version of the crash as it unfolded. All were quick to credit the first responders that came to their aid, as well as, making the plea to find the SUV and driver.

As of August 31, no additional information has been made public regarding the progress of the investigation. BSCPA is contemplating a Reward Fund to work with an anonymous Criminal Tip Line to keep interest ongoing for finding the culprit responsible for this horrific act. South Londonderry Township Police is in charge of the investigation.

ROAD RAGE DIRECTED AT BICYCLISTS...

Happens far too frequently. Is there anything bicyclists can do to minimize this? Consider the following Letter-to-the-Editor that appeared August 28, 2017 in the *York Dispatch* newspaper Go to: yorkdispatch.com keyword search—bicycle. Article will appear.

PENNDOT UPDATES THE BICYCLE DRIVER MANUAL...

Publication **380** with an **April 2017** revision. It now finally includes the elements of Act 3 of 2012 in the Introduction — the bicycle safety legislation amending the Vehicle Code created for a greater margin of safety. It's available on-line and in print. Note: there is a typographical error in the print issue on page viii. BAC brought this to PennDOT's attention and it has been corrected on-line. Much to the frustration of BAC, the new Share-the-Road license plate is not included in text or illustration even though it was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law June 8, 2016. Now PennDOT says it will consider including it at the next update— whenever that is.

HERE'S A POP QUIZ FOR BICYCLISTS...

From PennDOT's website. There are 15 questions. None are trick questions, but it helps to know the current Vehicle Code. See how well you do. <https://quiz.fbapp.io/bicycle-safety-quiz>

Answer to June/July's Pop Quiz: Is it okay to hang on to any part of a vehicle to be pulled along? No, it is strictly prohibited in the Vehicle Code, §3711.

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Of this issue is a full page flyer to promote the Pennsylvania Share-the-Road license plate. You may print it out and distribute copies to your local bike shop, athletic store, gym, or any place bicyclists might go.

As of August 31, 2017,
00575
plates have been issued
by PennDOT



Dates to Remember

Sept 20 *Three Creek Century*. For details, see: harrisburgbicycleclub.org
Nov 4-5 *Philly Bike Expo*, Convention Center

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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SHARE THE ROAD

PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE



To obtain a plate from PennDOT, web search Pennsylvania Share the Road plate. You will find a link to form MV-917. It's a two-page form and all information is clearly explained. Cost is \$40 one time for a new plate and registration card. Annual renewal date and fees do not change.

HELP PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLISTS BY EDUCATING MOTORISTS ONE PLATE AT A TIME!

Created and made possible by the Bicycle Access Council
www.bicycleaccess-pa.org