



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

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

January-February 2017

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

## **A YEAR IN REVIEW AND A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE...**

For advocacy benefiting Pennsylvania bicyclists.

A Share-The-Road motor vehicle license plate tops the list of goals achieved in 2016. **Act 36 of 2016** created a permanent reminder to motorists that they must allow at least 4-feet when overtaking [passing] a bicyclist. The underlying message of the plate is that bicycles belong on Pennsylvania roadways—it's subtle, but affirmative. It was also the logical follow-up to Act 3 of 2012 that brought comprehensive amendments to the PA Vehicle Code providing greater margins of safety and enhanced legal rights on roadways. **364** plates have been issued as of December 31 according to PennDOT.

BAC spent a considerable amount of time, effort and expense as a “named party” in a **PUC Complaint legal filing** to challenge access for bicycles at the *Dauphin Narrows* underpass on Routes 22/322 in Dauphin County. It's a unique situation that also would force the re-routing of BicyclePA Route-J from the east shore to the west shore of the Susquehanna River. Besides extending the mileage significantly for bicycle commuters, experienced bicyclists have evaluated the change as one with numerous hazards far greater than the current route. The same location in dispute is designated as part of the *9-11 Memorial Trail Route*. To maintain the status of a “named party” in the legal process, BAC had to submit a comprehensive “answer” to an Administrative Law Judge at the PUC, as well as, mail copies to all other named parties. The list is extensive. BAC intends to remain active in its challenge to PennDOT that has made an arbitrary decision to ban bicycle access without due process to satisfy the PUC. This issue will continue through September 2017 or until resolved favorably.

BAC has logged 4,026 miles for 2016. That's business miles only, excluding local trips. Attending bike events, meetings with legislators at the Capitol, various meetings and trainings all add up through the year.

**The focus for 2017** will be educating and testing the knowledge of bicyclists on the skills and awareness necessary to “drive your bike” competently and with confidence. BAC will probe what and how proper technique is taught and whether it's effective. Is there a difference in solo riding versus group (club) ride behavior? All this will be part of promoting the best information available to benefit Pennsylvania bicyclists. See the *Mission Statement* at the end of this newsletter to see why this is important.

Also, a new website upgrade is in the works and expected to be launched soon to help meet the Mission Statement and be an improved resource and clearinghouse of information.

BAC will also conduct a strategic planning session to evaluate what role it should play in the current environment of state government, internet access and demographics so totally different from when BAC was established in 2001.

Seeking new leadership and relying on new resources will be essential for serving all bicyclists if BAC is to move forward. Want be part of BAC? Tell us what role you would like to play and what your passion and vision is for the future of a bicycle advocacy organization. Send us a letter — no emails, please — to PO Box 92, Dallastown, PA 17313. All correspondence will be held in confidence.. All letters will be acknowledged and sent an appropriate response.

### **STATE HOUSE AND SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE...**

Chairman assignments were announced. Representative John Taylor (R-177) and Senator John Rafferty (R-44) retain majority chairs. No vice-chairs assigned yet in either chamber. Senator John Sabatina (D-5) is Minority chair in the Senate.

### **2016 DONATIONS ...**

Are tax deductible as allowed by law. BAC is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. A letter verifying donations in 2016 was sent to individuals for amounts of \$250 or greater and will be sent for any lesser amount upon request.

### **Dates to Remember**

- March 18      *Bicycle South Central PA 'Bike Summit'* at Harrisburg H.A.C.C Campus  
Registration required. \$15 fee (lunch included).  
April 5        *PPAC (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee)*, Harrisburg.

### **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

