



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

October—November 2017

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

ANOTHER ROAD RAGE INCIDENT...

Occurred October 1st in Berks County injuring one bicyclist. The crash was no accident — a motorist was enraged over a group of cyclists on the road during the *Bicycling Magazine* fall classic event and deliberately made contact with the cyclist. Many witnesses were present and gave accounts of what happened to the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper who responded; however, no charges were filed against the driver at the scene. The bicyclist suffered minor injuries, but required medical treatment and is undergoing some short-term physical therapy. Since then, the Trooper has reconsidered and is expected to file charges against the driver.

The demeanor and the unwillingness of the State Trooper to cite the driver at the crash scene has prompted the Bicycle Access Council to request a review of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) patrol function at the highest levels. There are sixteen PSP Troops that patrol roadways across the Commonwealth, so it's important to know that all Troopers on patrol understand how they are expected to interact with bicyclists and all roadway users in accordance with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and public safety standards.

BAC is looking forward to not only having a policy review with PSP, it intends to utilize what it develops to work with municipal police departments as well for service updates and training.

THERE ARE NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS...

In the case of four bicyclists assaulted in Lebanon County on July 22 at this time. The South Londonderry Township Police is in charge of the investigation. Neither the driver nor vehicle has been located or identified.

SPEEDING & CELLPHONE USING DRIVERS WHO KILL FACE LIFE IN PRISON...

In Great Britain. The *Guardian* reports dangerous drivers who cause death while using their mobile phones or speeding will face life in prison. The decision to go ahead with an extension of sentences comes after a campaign by families and cross-party members of Parliament. Drivers who kill while under the influence of drink or drugs will also face a life sentence. And there will be a new offense of causing serious injury through careless driving, as a renewed effort to improve road safety. The new measures mean such drivers could face the same length of sentence as those convicted of manslaughter, with maximum penalties raised from 14 years to life. <http://bit.ly/2wZM9Ps> From: *NCBW Centerlines*, issue 446, October 18, 2017

Could this happen in the US? Should this happen here? Share your views on why and how.

1-800-FIX-ROAD is the number to call for PennDOT to clear hazardous defects on roadways. The call should be made within the county where the problem is located to be directed to the proper maintenance crew. Be as specific as possible about the location including state road number (SR #), direction (N,S,W,E) and cross roads before and after. Calls for non-state owned roads may be forwarded to the appropriate municipality.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE RANKINGS...

Were just released by the League of American Bicyclists. Pennsylvania is listed **# 12**, staying the same as last year. You can see the entire process that LAB considered to determine each award level. Also listed are Bicycle Friendly Businesses and Universities:

http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS2017_ReportCard_Pennsylvania.pdf

Ed note: Bragging rights among bike advocates notwithstanding, there is minimal value in state rankings. The data used to rank each state is submitted by state department of transportation bicycle & pedestrian coordinators and open source records with little subjective consideration. Averaging input from a state as diverse in population and terrain as Pennsylvania focuses on the wrong objective.

ELECTRIC-ASSIST BIKE TRAILERS...

May soon become the next innovation that proves technology often outpaces legislation. BAC wrote the specifications (Act 154 of 2014) adopted to include electric-assist bicycles into the Vehicle Code permitting them on Pennsylvania roadways. Now, new versions of these throttle controlled bike trailers that basically “push” a bike from the rear have become available. BAC is working with PennDOT to evaluate these new devices.

UPDATE...

00614

Plates have been issued by PennDOT as of October 31, 2017, since authorized in 2016.



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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