



Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

January — February 2018

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

THE RIDE IS OVER FOR THE BICYCLE ACCESS COUNCIL...

As of February 28, 2018. The decision has been made and approved by the board of directors to end the state-wide advocacy organization as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Since its founding in 2001, the Bicycle Access Council maintained a *Mission* to advocate for Pennsylvania bicyclists and has a legacy of legislative accomplishments and other milestones to be proud of. However, time and events has made it evident that it's no longer possible to continue on that Mission.

On February 28, 2018, the Bicycle Access Council will be disbanded and no longer operate as a not-for-profit advocacy organization. The Pennsylvania corporation will be dissolved. There will be a transition period in effect.

For an unspecified period of time after February 28, the name, **Bicycle Access Council**, may continue to operate under a "doing-business-as" entity and the website will be available as a resource as long as the website host is willing to maintain it at no charge.

So, what can Pennsylvania Bicyclists do now without a state-wide advocate? Help yourself by being your own advocate!

Learn how to ride throughout Pennsylvania, or anywhere else, by adopting the skills necessary to be a "vehicular cyclist" without the false security and dependence of "bicycle facilities" that may increase the flow of bicyclists, but do little for the real safety of bicyclists. Crashes are still prevalent at intersections where bike lanes and shared use paths are installed. Be wary of the benefits touted in the name of safety when the real motive is to get bicyclists out of the normal transportation mix. Heed the introduction to the PennDOT Bicycle Driver Manual (pub 380) section called, *Street Smarts*. "...how you ride your bicycle depends on how you feel about it." It also goes on to say, "— and sharing the road with cars calls for an attitude of security and confidence" — John Allen. The skills and illustrations covered in *Street Smarts* will enable every bicyclist to gain the competency essential for "Effective Cycling" skills. Those skills are also taught by certified instructors who offer Traffic Skills 101, a League of American Bicyclists education course that gives the knowledge based skills a practical test of an individual's ability.

Even as an optimist, I am often dismayed at how little bicyclists know about the Vehicle Code change that achieved a greater margin of safety on Pennsylvania roadways (Act 3 of 2012). It is so much more than the "four-foot rule" as it's often referred to. Every cyclist should know the other material elements that enhanced the rights and safety included in the Act.

So, for those long time supporters and donors to BAC, it was sincerely rewarding to serve the needs and best interests of all Pennsylvania bicyclists and I thank you all — Joe Stafford

Some final notes and thoughts...

PennDOT does have a Bike/Ped Coordinator in the Harrisburg central office who may now be contacted for bicycle related issues. Roy Gothie at: 717-783-3991 — rgothie@pa.gov

PENNDOT HAS ISSUED A BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN...

And is seeking comments and input. You may take a survey here:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018 BikePed Community Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018_BikePed_Community_Survey)

Ed note: this is the kind of facility-centered plan mentioned above. "Be careful what you wish for" may be the word of caution needed here.

UPDATE...

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Plates have been issued by PennDOT as of January 31, 2018, since authorized in 2016.



BICYCLE CLUB INSURANCE...

Is a good topic to consider for club operations and special events. The cost and coverage should always be reviewed each year as part of a Risk Management assessment of each club's liability exposure. The amount and type of liability coverage that's needed often comes down to how the club feels about it.

BAC was asked recently what some options are besides American Specialties offered through the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). Here is a reputable agency that specializes in bicycle related events. Quotes and proposals are available from McKay Insurance. Contact: Meg Carruthers-Stanley or Scott Diller, Silent Sports Services, McKay Insurance Agency, Inc. 106 East Main Street, PO Box 151, Knoxville, IA 50138 Phone: (641) 842-2135

Final Words of Wisdom...

"Cyclists fare best when they act, and are treated in return, as drivers of vehicles, with the same rights and responsibilities that motorists have." — John Forester, *Effective Cycling*

"Bike Lanes are meant to keep cars out, not keep bicyclists in" — Steve Faust, Brooklyn, NY

To motorists, "That bicyclist in front of you is not taking up your space" — Joe Stafford

"Don't cry because it's over, Smile because it happened." — Dr. Seuss

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