



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

October 2012

Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

## **IS THERE A SHARE-THE-ROAD LICENSE PLATE...**

**In Pennsylvania's future?** At the last PPAC meeting, September 6, the Bicycle Access Council (BAC) introduced its plans to lobby for a Share-The-Road (STR) plate initiative.

The objective of BAC's STR plan is:

- Include a unique bicycle logo that will not be associated with any single bike organization.
- Display "Share The Road" across the bottom.
- ALL funds from the issue of the STR plate go directly to PennDOT for the support of a full-time Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, or appropriate position.
- A new statute in the Vehicle Code is needed to establish this. When passed, it will be known as "The Dave Bachman Act" in honor of PennDOT's first Bike Coordinator.
- This STR plate reflects the passage of Act 3 of 2012, Bicycle Safety legislation.

A meeting prior to PPAC with PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch opened the dialog in advance of seeking legislative support. A very thoughtful and respectful follow-up response by Deputy-Secretary, Kurt Myers, outlined that at this time, PennDOT will not support a new style plate. BAC was asked to "reconsider" its options.

Pennsylvania is moving away from some specialty plates with unique themes and intends to drop those with hard-to-distinguish backgrounds by law enforcement. It is the Department's intention to have a uniform color scheme for all license plates.

"Specialty plates" by organizations will still be permitted under a current statute with a minimum number ordered and a fee split to that organization as a means of fundraising. At this time, twenty other states have STR plates with some type of fee sharing arrangement.

Representative Rick Geist, who is leaving the General Assembly at the end of this term, was approached at PPAC to sponsor a STR bill and he refused, saying, "No, I'm done."

As this 2011-12 legislative session comes to an end, BAC plans to circulate a survey among members, supporters and bike clubs to prepare for a lobbying effort in January. Stay tuned!

## **BAC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTED IN BERKS COUNTY...**

**In the October issue of Berks County Living.** "I feel better when I'm on my wheels..."

-- Emily Weidner, an 84-year old who has spent her lifetime on two wheels, touring states from New York to Virginia describes her passion for bicycling. Source: <http://bit.ly/SHSWVQ>

**THE GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE...**

**Will soon be complete in 2013.** The Allegheny Trail Alliance now anticipates the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage, a bike trail that extends from Cumberland, Md., to Pittsburgh by next spring. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/9cjm5m>

**LOOKS LIKE THE RIDE IS OVER...**

**For Lance Armstrong.** After Nike and Trek recently dropped all financial deals associated with Armstrong, the likelihood of more sponsors doing the same, as well as, cancelled speaker requests will essentially end what was a spectacular career. It's with some irony that part of the unraveling of the scandal allegedly orchestrated by Armstrong was by Pennsylvania's own Floyd Landis who noticed a shortage of team bikes and started asking questions to learn why. For more sources on this, check out: <http://tinyurl.com/9k7kqs7> and <http://tinyurl.com/8sraftw>

*Ed Note: While this is not directly an on-the-road advocacy issue for Pennsylvania bicyclists, the topic is worthy of keeping BAC members and supporters informed to respond and react to the general public.*

**PROWALK-PROBIKE 2014 CONFERENCE...**

**Will be held in Pittsburgh.** As announced by the selection committee of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking (NCBW), the biennial meeting of active walking and bicycling planners, advocates and other transportation professionals will gather in early September 2014. Plans are underway to reapply to the League of American Bicyclists to upgrade the city's 2010 Bronze-level award to Silver as a Bicycle Friendly City in time for the event. Pittsburgh has a high national ranking for bicycling, walking and livability.

**Dates to Remember**

October 27-28 Philly Expo at the 23rd St Armory. Bicycle vendors and seminars. [phillbikeexpo.com](http://phillbikeexpo.com)  
December 11 PPAC, Harrisburg. 1-3 PM. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.

**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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