



# Ohio Bicycle Communicator



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## Rep. Arlene Setzer to Sponsor OBF Bike Law Reform Bill



Rep. Arlene Setzer  
of Vandalia

Under the current Ohio Revised Code, Ohio cyclists must ride under different rules in each community in our state. This confusing state of affairs for cyclists contrasts sharply with the uniform rules of the road for motorists. The OBF seeks to correct this problem with a bill soon to be introduced into the Ohio legislature. This bill will ensure uniform regulation of cycling throughout Ohio. Another reform included in this bill will be a revision of the law governing riding as *near as practicable* to the edge of the road. This rule is often misunderstood to require unsafe riding position. Other changes include:

1. Clarifying penalties for bicycling infractions.
2. Exception for continuous turn signal requirement.
3. Clarifying stopping or slow speed rule
4. Allowing cyclists on some freeway shoulders.
5. Allowing the passing of slow-moving vehicles in no-passing zones.
6. Clarifying safety equipment requirements.
7. Clarifying titles of traffic laws.
8. Clarifying upon the seat requirement so we can legally stand on our pedals.

The Ohio Highway Patrol and Ohio Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator are reviewing the bill before introduction. For a full description of this proposed legislation, go to <http://www.ohiobike.org/advocacy.htm>.

Rep. Arlene Setzer of Vandalia, who sponsored our successful "Share the Road" license plate bill, has agreed to sponsor this bill also.

## Cleveland Transit and Cal Kirchick Receive Horace Huffman Awards

In the left photo below, OBF Chair Chuck Smith presents the Horace M. Huffman, Jr. Award for Service to Ohio Cycling to Cleveland Transit Team Lead Richard Enty. Cleveland Transit has now mounted bike racks on all buses. In the right photo below, long-time OBF Board Member Cal Kirchick receives Huffman Award. Both presentations were made during the 2005 Lake County Bike Expo in Kirtland.





## Ohio Share the Road License Plates Now on Sale!!

As of September 9, 572 SHARE THE ROAD license plates have been sold. 428 more plates must be sold by March 22, 2006 or the plates will no longer be made. Proceeds from the plate sales pay for publishing "Ohio Bicycling Street Smarts, Riding Confidently, Legally, and Safely," a free booklet covering the Ohio law regarding cycling, and presenting illustrated instruction on riding in traffic. To get your plates, visit [www.oplates.com](http://www.oplates.com), click on "SPECIAL PLATES," select a vehicle type, then click on "SHARE THE ROAD." Or, visit your Bureau of Motor Vehicles Deputy Registrar Office to order plates. Or, dial 1-800-589-8347. Be sure to request STR plates at renewal time (up to 90 days prior to expiration).

## Mandatory Helmet Bill Introduced in Ohio Legislature

Senator Tom Roberts of Trotwood reintroduced his mandatory bike helmet bill on July 28. If the bill becomes law, the parents of children under 18 years of age caught riding without a helmet must pay a \$25 fine. Here is a link to the bill: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126\\_SB\\_163](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_SB_163)

Problems presented by this bill include motorists hitting helmetless kids using the lack of helmet as a defense, and a reduction in cycling as the poor cannot afford helmets (already documented elsewhere). No bicycling education (the true need) is included in the bill.

OBF members (particularly residents of Trotwood) are encouraged to contact Senator Roberts by mailing a letter to his home at 628 Mapleside Drive, Trotwood 45426, or office at The Statehouse, Columbus OH 43215. Or call Senator Roberts at (937) 854-3088 (home) or (614) 466-6247 (office). You may email Senator Roberts at [robertsoffice@maild.sen.state.oh.us](mailto:robertsoffice@maild.sen.state.oh.us).

## Ohio and OBF Represented at League Summit

Six Ohio cyclists and three OBF members participated in the 2005 League of American Bicyclists Summit in Washington. Five of the six Ohioans are shown (from left) John Gideon of Columbus, Mike Abrams of Bolivar, (New League Region 4 Director), Chuck Smith of Vandalia, Ken LaDell of Columbus, and Steve Magas of Cincinnati. President James Garfield of Mentor stands in the background, in the center of Garfield Square, in front of the U.S. Capitol. Doug Hamilton, a bike shop owner from Oxford, is not shown. The Ohio delegation stands next to the Traveling Bicycle Museum from New Bremen, Ohio. Smith briefed Summit attendees on the OBF work with the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances in making the Uniform Vehicle Code more cyclist friendly.



# Vandalia: Ohio's First Cyclist Friendly Community



The City of Vandalia received its Cyclist Friendly Community in May and posted it in September along the Great Miami River Trail. The sign is indicative of Vandalia's selection as the first Ohio Cyclist Friendly Community. If your community would be interested in Cyclist Friendly Community status, email the OBF at [chuck@ohiobike.org](mailto:chuck@ohiobike.org).

The picture at left was taken during the May 2 Vandalia City Council meeting, during which OBF Chair Chuck Smith presented the first Ohio Cyclist Friendly Community sign to Vandalia Mayor Bill Loy. Loy presented Smith with the annual proclamation, making May Bike Month in Vandalia.

## Senate Bill 158 – Ohio Right of Way Bill

By Pete Precario, OBF Board Member and Columbus Attorney

Over the past few months, the Ohio Bicycle Federation has been working as part of a coalition whose purpose is to help make the “right-of-way” safer for motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The coalition, known as the Ohio Right-Of-Way Working Group, is made up of: Abate of Ohio, Inc., American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), Central Ohio Bicycle Advocacy Coalition (COBAC), the Columbus Coalition of Motorcycle Riders, Concerned Motorcycle Riders of Ohio (CMRO), Confederation of Clubs of Ohio (COC of OH), Ohio Bicycle Federation (OBF), and Train MRO, Inc. These groups have all been working together to promote changes to Ohio law to make certain violation penalties consistent with other traffic laws and penalties.

Under current Ohio statutes, the penalty for a driver failing to yield right of way, not assuring cleared distance ahead, or not obeying marked lane would be a minor misdemeanor which includes a fine of no more than \$150.00 and up to 30 hours of community service. This minor penalty applies even if the violation resulted in death or serious injury to another driver, rider, or pedestrian. In December, 2004, the Ohio Right-Of-Way Working Group was formed to bring the penalty for these potentially serious violations more in line with other traffic violations and to hold all motor vehicle operators accountable for their actions.

In June, 2005, a draft legislative proposal submitted by the Ohio Right-Of-Way Working Group was introduced as Senate Bill 158 (SB-158). This Bill was introduced by Senator Charlie Wilson (D-Bridgeport) and co-sponsored by Senators Joy Padgett (R-Coshocton), Ray Miller (D-Columbus), Marc Dann (D-Liberty Township), Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown), C. J. Prentiss (D-Cleveland), Kimberly Zurz (D-Green), and Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo).

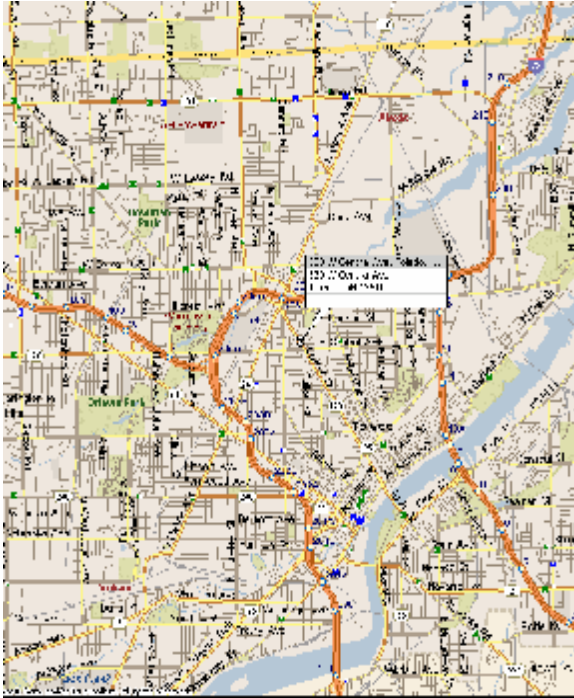
SB-158 would increase and enhance the penalties for failure to yield right of way, failure to assure clear distance ahead, or failure to obey marked lanes that results in either serious injury or death to another roadway user or pedestrian. The final penalty or fine depends upon the exact nature of the offense and the seriousness of the injury. The Bill also includes the suspension of driving privileges and assessment of points against the driver's license.

Significantly, SB-158 also establishes a highway traffic safety fund within the Ohio Department of Public Safety for educational purposes related to highway safety. Part of the fines collected under this Bill would be allocated to that educational fund. Hopefully, the enhanced penalties as well as the increased educational efforts will help to make the roads safer for bicyclists across the State of Ohio. The OBF and the Ohio Right-Of-Way Working Group are seeking support for SB-158 from anyone interested in promoting highway safety in Ohio. Senate Bill 158, is available on the Ohio General Assembly website at:

<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm>

## OBF to Meet October 1 in Toledo

Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 for our next OBF Board Meeting, to take place in the Sanger Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library in Toledo. **From the south, take I-75** north to exit 204 (I-475) on the north side of Toledo. Follow I-475 to Secor Road (Exit 17). Take Secor Road south to West Central Avenue, then turn left. The library is a few blocks east of Secor Road at 3030 West Central Avenue. **From the east** (Cleveland area), take the Ohio Turnpike (I-90 and I-80) west. Take Exit 64 to I-75 north. Follow I-75 north to I-475 at Exit 204, then follow above directions to the library. The OBF will erect a display for the 13th Annual Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' Transportation Summit on September 29. OBF will also present the Horace Huffman award to the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) for mounting bicycle racks on all of their buses during the Transportation Summit.



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The Ohio Bicycle Federation is an alliance of individuals and organizations interested in promoting the use of bicycles for recreation, transportation and sport. It serves by providing opportunities for the betterment of bicycle education, engineering, legislation, and the encouragement of activities involving the use of bicycles and by serving as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

- 1 Year** – Single \$20, Family \$25, Supporting/Organization \$50, Sustaining \$100  
 **2 Years** – Single \$35, Family \$45, Supporting/Organization \$90, Sustaining \$190  
 **3 Years** – Single \$50, Family \$65, Supporting/Organization \$130, Sustaining \$280  
 **Lifetime** – \$300

### Membership Levels

Join at the Supporting level or above and receive an OBF t-shirt so you can proudly show your support!  
*Adult Extra Large Only*

Ohio Bicycle Federation, P.O. Box 253, Xenia, OH 45385-0253

## Please Join or Renew!

**Complete the form below and send it today!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

