

Ohio Bicycle Communicator



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OBF OHIO BICYCLIST SUMMIT MAY 13, 2014

Join your OBF and other bicycling groups in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on May 13, 2014 for our first Ohio Bicyclist Summit!

All attendees will be briefed on our House Bill 145 and other current cycling issues, then have an opportunity to attend pre-arranged meetings with their state representatives.

Organizations are encouraged to go to the Ohio Bicyclist Summit Eventbrite site at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/ofb-ohio-bicycling-summit-may-13-2014-tickets-7112336189> to register for a display table for the Summit.

The Summit will take place in the atrium from 9am to 3pm, the same space used for our OBF Bicycling Awareness Day on June 4.

The above photo shows OBF Secretary Tricia Kovacs, OBF Chair Chuck Smith, House Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Rex Damschroder, and Queen City Bike President Frank Henson during June's OBF Bicycling Awareness Day in the Statehouse Atrium.



Rep. Mike Henne (Sponsor of OBF's House Bill 145) joins Major Taylor Cycling Club of Dayton President Frankie Brown and Kijsten Frank of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission at the Major Taylor display during OBF Bicycling Awareness Day in June, 2013.



OBF Secretary Tricia Kovacs drives human-powered Rhoades Car. OBF made the Rhoades Car legal for road use in Ohio during 2013.

OBF Testifies to Support “Brandon’s Law” (House Bill 137)

Your OBF supports House Bill 397, which would increase penalties for motorists who leave the scene of an accident in which serious physical harm or death results.

OBF Secretary Tricia Kovacs testified to support House Bill 397 during the March 12 hearing before the Ohio House Judiciary Committee. Later in the hearing, the Committee passed the bill unanimously. It is now awaiting a vote by the full House before consideration by the Ohio Senate.

Too many Ohio cyclists are hit by motorists and left behind to die. In Ohio, 13% of all crashes are “hit and run”, 23% of bicycle-related crashes are “hit and run”, and 28% of pedestrian-related crashes are “hit and run.”

Under current law, failure to stop after an accident on public or nonpublic roads is normally a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the accident results in serious physical harm to a person, the offense is a felony of the fifth degree. If the accident results in death, the offense is a felony of the third degree. The bill raises the penalty to a felony of the second degree when there is serious physical harm to a person or death. The current sentencing of 6-12 months for serious physical harm and one to five years for death would increase to a two to eight year prison term.

Representative Brian Hill of Guernsey County is the primary sponsor for the bill.

HB 137 is also known as “Brandon's Law”, named for a teenager killed by a hit-and-run driver while riding in Representative Hill’s district. Fourteen-year-old Brandon was fatally struck by a motorist and a friend was thrown ninety feet as a result of the collision. The driver fled the scene and was picked up the following day thanks to an anonymous tip to the police. The driver admitted to consuming alcohol and smoking marijuana prior to driving that night. However, because he was not apprehended at the time of the accident, intoxication levels could not be obtained and a lesser sentence was given by the judge based on the evidence.

The full text and analysis of HB 397 can be found at:

http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_397

Proponent testimony can be found in the records from the Jan 22, Feb 19 and March 12 hearings of the judiciary committee: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/committee/judiciary>

As the bill proceeds to the full House and Senate, please contact your state representatives and senators, asking them to vote in favor of HB 397 or Brandon's Law.

Thanks from your OBF!

OBF Attains Tax Exempt Status

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has approved our application for Federal income tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a result of the exemption, contributions to the Ohio Bicycle Federation are now tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax adviser to find out how the deductibility will apply to you.

The March 13 letter from the Internal Revenue Service read in part, “We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.”

Under this determination, OBF is now also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, transfers, or gifts and we are eligible to receive grants to help us carry out our work.

“Bike Share” Growing in Ohio

by Chuck Smith, OBF Chair

“Bike Share” was a major topic during the March, 2014 League of American Bicyclists Summit in Washington, DC which I attended with seven other members of our Ohio delegation.

One night, our Ohio delegation set out to test the Washington, DC “Bike Share.”

We found a “Bike Share” rack in the downtown area. Each of us inserted a credit card, and a light came on showing that we could pull out a bicycle to rent. Our card would be charged \$7 for the first hour.

We rode up the bike lane in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue from downtown to the Capitol Building. We then pedaled through the Mall to the World War II Memorial, Washington Monument, and White House. We finally returned our bikes to a “Bike Share” rack near a Metro station for our ride back to our sleeping accommodations.

The “Bike Share” bikes were quite heavy, ensuring durability as they stand all year outside in uncovered racks. They are designed for short trips where the rider will not be so concerned about the weight of the bike.

I would give the Washington, DC “Bike Share” high ratings. The ability to rent at one rack and return at another makes the “Bike Share” a great way to get to meetings and appointments downtown. Since we were riding after dark, the front and rear lights on each bike were very important to us. The fat tires with aggressive treads permitted us to ride through the snow and ice without a slip.

While Columbus is the only Ohio city with “Bike Share” to date, other Ohio cities will follow soon: At press time, Cincinnati planned to make an announcement regarding its “Bike Share” plans. Dayton plans to launch a “Bike Share” next year. Cleveland is looking at “Bike Share.”

Please let me know at bikeohio@gmail.com if your city has “Bike Share” plans.

Cycling Savvy is Coming to Ohio!

By Tricia Kovacs, OBF Secretary pkovacs@att.net

Cycling Savvy is a new traffic cycling curriculum from Florida Bicycle Association. The adult traffic cycling course was built from the ground up by FBA members Keri Caffrey and Mighk Wilson, who believe that fear of cycling in traffic is the greatest hindrance to cycling and bicycle transportation. Do you fear riding on roads lacking bicycle infrastructure? We can help you overcome that fear by busting the myth that cycling is dangerous, riding big, becoming mindful of the roadway environment and traffic dynamics, integrating into that environment, letting go when other road users are disrespectful and building mutual respect through our own behaviors.



Cycling Savvy is a modular course, consisting of three 3-hour classes:

- The Truth and Techniques of Traffic Cycling (Friday, May 2 @ 6-9pm) – a 3-hour classroom session on traffic laws, crash prevention, bicycle driving principles, and unique traffic management strategies developed for this course
- Train Your Bike (Saturday, May 3 @ 9am-12pm) – a 3-hour on-bike skill-building session held in a parking lot
- Tour of Columbus (Saturday, May 3 @ 2-5pm) – a 3 hour experiential, on-road learning experience

Students may take any of the three classes, but the Tour of Columbus requires the first two classes as a prerequisite. Register for the classes and get more information at:

<https://register.cyclingsavvy.org/findaclass>

We encourage you to learn more about mindful cycling at these websites:

<http://cyclingsavvy.org/hows-my-driving/>

<http://cyclingsavvy.org/category/education/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CyclingSavvy.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/iamtrafficorg>

Ohio Bicycle Federation

PEDAL WITH OBF TO A BETTER OHIO IN 2014!

Ask your state representatives and senators to support our House Bill 145 which would permit Ohio vehicle drivers (including bicyclists) to proceed into intersections after stopping and yielding right-of-way, even when the detector controlling the traffic light does not detect the vehicle and the traffic light remains red.

Register below as an OBF member today!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Select Level	Years	Single	Family	Supporting or Organizational	Sustaining	Lifetime
[]	1	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$300
[]	2	\$35	\$45	\$90	\$190	
[]	3	\$50	\$65	\$135	\$280	

Join or Renew at Supporting Level or above and receive an OBF T-Shirt (specify size)!
Join or Renew at Sustaining Level and also receive the new Ohio to Erie Trail Bikeway map!

Make check payable to Ohio Bicycle Federation and mail completed form to:
Ohio Bicycle Federation, 812 East National Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377



WWW.OHIOBIKE.ORG



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join us May 13

in the Statehouse Atrium for our first OBF Ohio Bicycling Summit!

For additional info go to www.ohiobike.org.

Join us Sep 14

for our first "OBF Day at the Cleveland Velodrome" during which, all OBF members will receive free instruction in riding the velodrome on a track bike.

SAME ROADS • SAME RIGHTS • SAME RULES™

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO GO TO WWW.OHIOBIKE.ORG