

# Ohio Bicycle Communicator



Volume 44, Number 3

[www.ohiobike.com](http://www.ohiobike.com)

Summer 2014

## *OBF holds first Ohio Bicycling Summit in Statehouse Atrium May 13*

OBF Chair Chuck Smith presented the Horace Huffman Award (OBF's highest honor for service to Ohio Cycling) to the City of Columbus for their successful Bike Share program. Columbus led the way in Bike Share in Ohio by implementing last summer. Soon, Cincinnati, Dayton, and other major Ohio metros will follow, providing easy transportation cycling in Ohio's city centers.

The City of Akron (represented by OBF Board Members Andy Davis and Phyllis Jividen) received the League of American Bicyclists' Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community Award.

Four State Representatives, ODOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Julie Walcoff, Ohio Environmental Council Deputy Director Jack Shaner and leading Ohio bicycling attorney and OBF Board Member Steve Magas, spoke during the event. The focus was on legislation which will help Ohio bicyclists, including the Ohio Bicycle Federation's House Bill 145 which would require Ohio motorists to pass bicyclists with at least three feet of clearance and permit Ohio vehicles to proceed across intersections after stopping and yielding right-of-way. Attendees visited the offices of state representatives and senators during the event.

Summit exhibitors included Columbus Outdoor Pursuits (COP), Central Ohio Mountain Biking Organization (COMBO), the Safe Routes to School National Partnership/Ohio Network, the Ohio to Erie Trail Foundation, Queen City Bike, Bike Cleveland, Stark County Bicycle Club, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), and "Pedal with Pete."

Mark your calendar today to join us on April 22, 2015 for our second annual Ohio Bicycling Summit. We expect the Ohio House and Senate to be in session on this date, and have booked the statehouse atrium for 9am to 3pm. Please plan to join us for this exciting event.

For full details on our 2015 Ohio Bicycling Summit, go to our OBF website at <http://www.ohiobike.org>.



Tricia Kovacs, Representative Heather Bishoff, Chuck Smith, and Christine Connell.



Upper Arlington High School Cycling Team with Senator Kris Jordan.



Members of the Stark County Bicycle Club at the Ohio Bicycling Summit.

## *SCBC attends the Ohio Bicycling Summit*

On Tuesday May 13, a delegation from the Stark County Bicycle Club attended the Ohio Bicycling Summit at the Statehouse in Columbus. Present were Al Jones, Stan Purdum, Dave Cardarella, Marilyn Perdue, Don Royer, Toni Powell, Gaile Wilkinson, and John and Fran Shaeffer. With both the House of Representatives and the State Senate in session, I must say this was a very busy and exciting place. The morning opened with the Ohio Bike Federation (OBF) presenting their Horace Huffman Award to the city of Columbus for the Columbus Bike Share program followed by brief addresses from noted bike attorney and OBF board member Steve Magas and Ohio Environmental Council Deputy Director Jack Shaner. SCBC members Al Jones, Stan Purdum, Don Royer, and myself then met with Ohio State Senator Scott Oelslager in his office. We discussed HB 145 (the 3 ft safe passing proposal) and HB 397 (calling for increased penalties for hit-and-run drivers); Senator Oelslager pledged his support for these issues with only a few minor reservations. We also asked for additional support for improved bicycle infrastructure such as wider berms and dedicated bike lanes which he promised to consider. At 11:00 this same group met with State Representative Antony DeVitis in his office in the Vern Riffe Building and covered his position regarding these issues. Rep DeVitis pledged his support as well.

After a quick lunch we listened to State Representatives Brian Hill for an update on the status of HB 397 and Representative Teresa Fedor on the status of HB 145. Following that we heard from ODOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Julie Walcoff who was very excited by Ohio's improvement in the League of American Cyclists state rankings from 32nd place in 2013 to 16th place in 2014 as a Bicycle Friendly state. After a short briefing by Representative Mike Stinziano on HB 523 which addresses neighborhood residents input on speed limit reductions and stop sign placements within their neighborhoods, we again trekked over to the Vern Riffe Building and met with State Representative Christina Hagan. Unfortunately, she was tied up in a committee meeting but we did sit down with her aide and discussed the same issues we had brought before Senator Oelslager and Representative DeVitis. It was refreshing to see many hundreds of elementary school students in the Vern Riffe Building. They are learning what and how our State government works. Finally we packed up our display table and headed home.



State Representative  
Antony DeVitis  
(R-Green)

Safe Cycling,  
John Shaeffer



State Senator  
Scott Oelslager  
(R-District 29)

## ***September 14 is the First OBF Day at the Cleveland Velodrome***

On September 14, all Ohio Bicycle Federation members will receive Track Cycling 101 and 201 instruction at the Cleveland Velodrome at no charge. Bring your helmet, bike shoes and pedals. All riders must have good bicycle handling skills and be accustomed to using clipless pedals.

Track bikes, free Track 101 and 201 instruction, and refreshments will be provided by Fast Track Cycling to all OBF members. Arrive by 10am for 10:30am Track 101, and Noon for 12:30pm Track 201. On site OBF membership registration will be available. Limit of 15 per class.

Your OBF is a Founding Member of the Cleveland Velodrome.

The OBF Fall Meeting, open to all Ohio bicyclists, will take place at 2:30pm September 14 in the Senior Classroom of the new Tinkam Veale University Center at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. The building is so new that the Case Western official who reserved the room does not yet have an address for the building.



## ***Bike Share program to start in September***

Cincinnati leaders unveiled the city's new bike-share program Tuesday, August 12. The bikes being carefully put together will go in key locations all over town. They are being assembled at a garage in Over-The-Rhine. Cincinnati's bike share program, called Red Bike, has 260 cycles and 35 bike sharing stations in downtown, Over-The-Rhine and Uptown. Mayor John Cranley unlocked the inaugural bike at the first station, Fountain Square, Tuesday morning. The bike share system will be up and running, or pedaling, in mid-September: "The concept is simple. For a small fee people can rent a bike, go from one point to another and put it in a station wherever you're going," said Mayor Cranley. "I will use it. I work downtown and often need to leave the building to go to lunch or an errand around town and to have a bike located near my job will make it easier for me to do that," said Mel McVay of Pleasant Ridge. Renters get the bike for 30 minutes. Then they have to check in at another station to pay for another 30 or return the bike. Jason Barron, Bike Share director, said, "The reason for the 30-minute check-in is we want to keep the bikes in the system so others can use them, right? It's a bike share." Bike share programs have been sweeping the nation. Many have been successful but others, like the bike share program in New York City, turned out to be more expensive and less used than predicted. But the vendor for Cincinnati's program said this program was bike friendly and human friendly. "Some people see someone on a road bike, full Lycra going down the street. They may get angry that people are in their way. But with something like bicycle sharing you're more than likely to know someone who tried it. 'Oh I liked it, I took it out to dinner,' it humanizes the biker to a lot of people," said Ben Kunde of B-Cycle Vendor. If people like the bike so much they decide to steal it, think again. You pay for the bike pass with a credit card and if the bike disappears, your card will be charged \$1,200, the cost of the bike. Quite an expensive ride! Read More at [www.local12.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/bike-share-program-start-september-16006.shtml](http://www.local12.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/bike-share-program-start-september-16006.shtml)

## ***Cincinnati is implementing Cycle Tracks on a favored Bike Route***

The first cycle tracks, or protected bike lanes, are being installed on Central Parkway in the downtown and university areas. In some sections, travel lanes are being eliminated to place the bike lanes next to the curb. They will be separated from moving traffic by parking lanes and bollards and will be one way on both sides of the road. This project is the latest to be implemented from the 2010 Bicycle Transportation Plan. Funding was obtained from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

## ***Cincinnati's First Street Festival***

A mile of Cincinnati's streets was closed to traffic and opened up to walkers, cyclists and skaters on Saturday, July 19. Called "Summer Streets," the festival took place in the Walnut Hills neighborhood on McMillan and Woodburn Avenues (between Peebles and DiSailles corners). It was modeled on open streets festivals, or ciclovias, becoming more common around the country.

In addition to the existing neighborhood businesses, food vendors set up along with live bands and recorded music. Demonstrations and activities included Queen City Bike's bike obstacle course, jump roping, hula hooping, pottery making, belly dancing, and a magician. The Cincinnati Bike Center had bikes to rent (customers included the mayor).

Summer Streets was organized by the city's Department of Transportation and Engineering and the Walnut Hills Neighborhood Association. Partial funding came from a grant from Interact For Health. A second festival is planned for the Northside neighborhood in August.

## ***Please Send OBF Your Email Address***

If you wish to continue to receive our OBF Communicator, please send the email address at which you would like to receive our newsletter to Kris Stout of our membership team at [kstout@legaldayton.com](mailto:kstout@legaldayton.com).

To save money and trees, your OBF Communicator will soon come in electronic newsletter form. Our OBF Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar will continue to be published in both electronic and paper form.

# Ohio Bicycle Federation

## Pedal With OBF To A Better Ohio in 2015!

Ask your state representatives and senators to support our House Bill 145 which passed the Ohio House Transportation Committee, and is now in the full House.

HB 145 would:

1. Require that motorists pass cyclists leaving at least 3 feet of clearance.
2. 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.

To contact your state representative and show support for HB 145, go to our OBF web site at <http://ohiobike.org> today!

### 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, OH 45377

### Join OBF at the Following Upcoming Events:

September 14, 2014: the First OBF Day at the Cleveland Velodome

September 14, 2014: the OBF Fall Meeting, open to all Ohio bicyclists, will take place at 2:30pm in the Senior Classroom of the new Tinkam Veale University Center at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland

October 28-29, 2014: OBF at Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference in the Columbus Convention Center

April 22, 2015: in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus for our second OBF Ohio Bicycling Summit



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