Ohio Bicycle Communicator

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House Bill 154 Passes House 81 to 16!!
by Chuck Smith, OBF Chairman

Your Ohio Bicycle Federation’s House Bill 154 passed the full Ohio House by an 81 to 16 vote on Tuesday, May 24!

We want to thank our entire OBF membership for going to our www.ohiobike.org website to send emails to their state representatives! Thank you all so much!

Your great work in contacting your state representatives was acknowledged by our HB 154 sponsor, State Representative Mike Henne, during his remarks on the House floor just before the vote. He thanked the Ohio Bicycle Federation for our strong support of HB 154, telling the state representatives that their offices have all been contacted several times by OBF.

We also received help in the effort from Bike Cleveland, Queen City Bike, Bike Miami Valley, the Ohio Sierra Club, and many other organizations!

HB 154 went to the Senate Rules and Reference Committee for assignment to a standing committee. The bill is expected to be assigned to the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee.

Unfortunately, the Ohio General Assembly has since recessed for the summer and fall. The next Ohio House session is scheduled for November 15.

It is not too late to go to www.ohiobike.org, click Take Action!, enter your zip code, be linked to your state senator, and send off a prepared email supporting HB 154.

Our identical Senate Bill 192 is still before the Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee. We now focus on HB 154, as it is further along in the legislative process than SB 192.

Both HB 154 and SB 192 would do two things to improve cycling in Ohio if passed:

Require that Ohio motorists leave at least 3 feet of clearance when passing cyclists.

Permit all Ohio vehicles to proceed through an intersection after stopping and yielding right-of-way, even when not detected by the device meant to move the signal from red to green.
**OBF Sponsors and Exhibits at TMACOG Transportation Summit**
By Chuck Smith, OBF Chairman

Your OBF exhibited at the March 18 Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) Transportation Summit in Maumee. It was OBF’s fifth year as a TMACOG Transportation Summit exhibitor.

OBF Chair Chuck Smith and former OBF Board Member Pat Squire were on hand, along with OBF Secretary Christine Connell, who organizes the Transportation Summit for TMACOG each year.

Representative Mike Sheehy of Toledo stopped at the OBF display (photo). Representative Sheehy is co-sponsor of OBF’s House Bill 154.

Over 200 transportation engineers, political leaders, and others in NW Ohio transportation attended the Summit.

The Summit featured an Active Transportation Panel discussion including representatives from the Toledo schools, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor. OBF volunteered to participate in a similar panel during the 2017 Summit.
The OH-KY-IN Regional Council of Governments works with a regional transportation plan with a 20 year horizon which has to be updated every four years. Inclusion in the plan is a pre-requisite for funding project applications from local and state governments for highways, transit, freight and bike and pedestrian facilities. The OKI region includes Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren, Boone, Campbell, Kenton and Dearborn Counties.

The plan update has been underway for several months and will be presented for adoption by the Board in June. For the first time in the update process, a coordinated effort to identify and include important bike facilities was carried out by Tri State Trails. Their director, Wade Johnston, surveyed their members for projects and submitted a list of twenty trail projects to Summer Jones, OKI’s Bike/Ped Planner, which have been included in the plan. In addition, on-street bike facilities are included in several local highway plan applications.

The entire list of projects can be seen here: http://2040.oki.org/2040finalrecommendations/

Significant trail projects include:

- Ohio River Trail West from Smale Park to the Mill Creek, from State to Fairbanks and to the Fernbank Park Trail
- The Little Miami Scenic Trail bridge connecting to Lunken Trail
- The Oasis Line Trail from downtown to Lunken Trail (note: the passenger rail project for this corridor is also in the plan)
- The Mill Creek Greenway Trail from Caldwell Park to the fairgrounds
- Wasson Way Trail from Montgomery Rd to Wooster
- Miami 2 Miami - two sections from Mason to Franklin and Lebanon to Monroe
- Connect the Lebanon YMCA trail to Mason trails
- Licking River Greenway Trail from 8th to 15th St (Covington)
- Riverfront Commons Multi-Use Path - Covington

Bike facilities are included in the following highway projects:

- Bethany Rd from Cincinnati-Dayton to Butler-Warren
- SR 747 from Miliken to SR4
- KY 8 / 4th St bridge over the Licking River

Inclusion of these projects in the OKI plan does not imply timing. Each project requires a local sponsor responsible for funding the local share of a federal construction grant (usually 20% of the construction cost) as well as project planning, engineering, right-of-way, utility relocation and environmental studies. This typically takes years once started.

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.

To save money and trees, your OBF Communicator is now available in electronic newsletter form. Our OBF Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar will continue to be published in both electronic and paper form.
PEDAL WITH OBF TO A BETTER OHIO IN 2016!

Join below or online at www.ohiobike.org today!

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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, 865 South Dixie Drive, Vandalia, Ohio 45377

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join us October 8, 2016
for our 1 pm OBF meeting in the Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Cincinnati, as part of the Recumbent Cycle-Con / Bicycle Tour & Travel Expo.

Join us April 29, 2017
for our 4th Annual “OBF Day at the Cleveland Velodrome.” All OBF members arriving at the Velodrome by 11 am will receive free instruction in riding the velodrome on a track bike courtesy of Fast Track Cycling. Bring your helmet, pedals, and shoes. Cleveland Velodrome is at 5033 Broadway Ave (enter off Pershing). Join us for our 1 pm OBF meeting at Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op, 1840 Columbus Road.

Join us May 2, 2017
In the Statehouse Atrium for OBF’s 4th Annual Ohio Bicycling Summit! Hear from state representatives and senators, then meet with your legislators to support pro-bicycling legislation!

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFO GO TO WWW.OHIOBIKE.ORG