Help Us Get At Least 3 Feet of Passing Clearance Throughout Ohio!

by Chuck Smith, OBF Chair

As we go to press in early December, your Ohio Bicycle Federation’s House Bill 154 was before the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee, awaiting action to refer our bill for a vote of the full Ohio Senate.

If you have not done so already, we would appreciate your help in contacting your state senator through our OBF website at www.ohiobike.org!

Please click on the first “CLICK HERE” on the right side of our OBF home page under “Action Alert” to quickly contact your state senator supporting our HB 154!

Please click on the second “CLICK HERE” to sign our petition supporting three foot passing in Ohio. Add your name to the names of thousands of Ohio cyclists who want at least three feet of clearance when passed by motorists.

The cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo already have three foot passing ordinances on their books. It is important for us to pass HB 154 now to make Ohio law uniform regarding three foot passing!

HB 154 would do two good things for Ohio bicyclists:

1. Require that Ohio motorists leave at least three feet of passing clearance when passing Ohio bicyclists.
2. 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.

Ohio could be the 28th state to have a three-foot passing requirement only if the Senate approves HB 154 and Governor Kasich signs our bill before December 31, 2016, which ends the current session of the Ohio General Assembly.

Thanks for helping us in our mission to improve bicycling in Ohio!

If you are a current OBF Member, please vote online at OBF ballot or print and complete this ballot and mail to:

Ohio Bicycle Federation Election
812 East National Road
Vandalia OH 45377
Attn: Kris Stout

The election is from now through Dec. 31, 2016 Ballots must be received by Dec. 31, 2016

Here are your OBF board candidate profiles...

Chair: Chuck Smith
Chuck logged over 50,000 miles riding his bike from his home in Vandalia to work at Wright-Patterson AFB over 22 years. He founded Bike to Work Day at Wright-Patterson and still organizes seven Blue Streak Time Trials along the Wright-Patterson flight line. As a member of the National Committee for Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances (NCUTLO), he was responsible for changes in the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) which have benefited bicyclists. Chuck is vice president of the Dayton Cycling Club, races with Team Dayton, and officiates USA Cycling races. Chuck is also a League of American Bicyclists Certified Cycling Instructor and Spinning instructor. Chuck takes great pride in the many OBF accomplishments over the years and looks forward to more in the future.

Vice Chair: Communication Director Monica Sakamoto
Monica Sakamoto is a multi-sport enthusiast who recently joined the Dayton Cycling Club, where she uses her marketing and communications skills to serve as Director At-Large for Communications. Her experience includes global brand marketing in three continents and the creation of awarded cause-related campaigns for The Procter and Gamble Company, including the development of the two most successful P&G social media platforms.

Monica believes that besides supporting a healthy living, cycling can play a key role in integrating and developing communities, shaping a future that will include a sustainable and innovative business model.

Treasurer: Kevin Armstrong
Kevin Armstrong lives in Montgomery Ohio. He is the owner of small CPA firm. He is the past president and active member in the Cincinnati Cycle Club (CCC). He has also served on Cincinnati’s Bike Friendly Community committee and represented the cycling community on the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments regional transportation planning committee. He participates annually in several rides for both vacation and charity as well as leading local rides for the CCC. He is committed to working with and encouraging new riders, enabling their skills for riding on the road, knowledge of the laws, rights, and responsibilities of cycling.

OBF Chairman Chuck Smith, HB 154 Sponsor Representative Mike Henne, and 9-time Tour de France competitor Frankie Andreu
Secretary: Christine Connell
Christine Connell is the Director of Operations and Administration Specialist for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments. She is the first person to hold the position, created in 2013. In 2011, she center on public policy and management and their relationships with a variety of transportation stakeholders. Ms. Connell focuses on establishing partnerships, cultivating influential pupil, and understanding the consensus around regional (availability and economic competitiveness issues. She produces a biennial legislative agenda, develops, and implements policy such as the regional complete streets policy, and is Director of the statewide Ohio Conference on Freight. In addition, Ms. Connell serves as staff liaison for TACOG’s Pedestrian and Bikeways committee. Christine is a recreational bicyclist who has also committed to work by bicycle.

Central Ohio Regional Director Maryellen O’Shaughnessy
Maryellen O’Shaughnessy is an attorney and PC law firm, he was pictures, and 10th District Court of Appeals in November 2008. Prior to serving as Clerk, O’Shaughnessy was elected three times to Boblyd, Ohio, he became a full-time Sustainable Transportation Planning Coordinator in 2011, and is a founding member of the Greater Columbus Transportation Policy Network (GCTPN), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing sustainable transportation policies and practices in the greater Columbus region. O’Shaughnessy’s work has focused on issues such as complete streets, bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly zones. He has also served as a board member for the Ohio Bicycle Federation (OBF) and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission (GCSC). O’Shaughnessy has been an active advocate for cycling and bicycle safety throughout his career, and has helped to bring about significant changes in bike infrastructure and policies in the Columbus area. He is currently the Executive Director of the OBF, where he continues to work towards making the Columbus region a safer and more bike-friendly place to live.

At-Large 2: (Bicycle Law) Steve Magas
Steve Magas is an avid cyclist and an Ohio trial lawyer whose practice focuses on two-wheeled cases. In the past 30+ years, Steve has handled over 300 “bike” cases, representing cyclists who are injured or killed due to errant motorists, loose dogs or defective products. Steve likes to say that this is his 9-5 job, and that his “9-5 job” is in civil advocacy. He has been a long time advocate for bike safety and has written numerous articles on Bicycle Law for local, state and national publications. He is a member of several national and state bike advocacy groups and has been a member of the OBF Board for over 10 years. Steve’s Board experience tends to focus on safety, crash statistics and legal issues. He is currently chairing a project to create a state wide bike crash report for EVERY fatal bike crash in Ohio, searching for lessons, problems and trends. Steve has had many high profile bike cases including winning an important victory in a case representing the family of Tony Parks, who was arrested for “riding a bicycle on the roadway,” and, most recently, working with Cherokee Schill, a single mom who has been repeatedly ticketed by Kentucky police for riding on the roadway instead of the shoulder during her 18 mile daily commute. Steve rides either a steel Independent Fabrication Club Racer or an old titanium Litespeed when he and his wife enjoy the local roads and trails.

At-Large 3: (Commuting and Trikes) Brady Elton
Brady Elton, Ph.D., Senior Computational Scientist, Signal & Image Processing, Engility Corp., was an avid cyclist in California and Washington State until he called it a career in 1996. After relocating to Ohio, he learned to ride a recumbent trike, and in 2007 he returned to cycling. He now regularly commutes about 30 miles roundtrip on a Catrike 700. In 2009 he facilitated writing the definition of “bicycle” in the Ohio Revised Code updated to include all-road trikes. The same strategy was applied to further update the definition to include quadri-cycles and beyond. Dr. Elton advocates safe cycling, including following existing traffic laws. He develops and promotes strategies for furthering safe cycling advocacy and for improving transportation infrastructure.

At Large 4: (Columbus) Steve Wartenberg
Steve Wartenberg is a long-time journalist and writer. He worked for newspapers in the Columbus area for 30 years as a bike commuter. In 2006 he joined the Ohio State University as a business reporter in 2008, where he also worked as a bike blog. Steve is now a freelance web-content provider for Peoria, The James and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. Steve began riding in 1990 and has ridden about 100,000 miles since, and has written a few eBooks about biking in France (Provence, Loire and Normandy soon) and one on biking the Skyline Drive.

At-Large 5: (Grants) Andy Davis
Andy Davis is a professor of law, having graduated from the University of Akron in civil engineering, with an M.S. in education. He now teaches cycling at the University of Akron, with an office in the university’s Student Union. A League Cycling Instructor (LCI #2567), he has focused on safety education. After a move to Tennessee, he joined the Smoky Mountain Wheelmen in Knoxville TN, and as Ken Mercurio
Henry "Mr. Pedal" Mr Magas's Board experience tends to focus on safety, crash statistics and legal issues. He is currently chairing a project to create a state wide bike crash report for EVERY fatal bike crash in Ohio, searching for lessons, problems and trends. Steve has had many high profile bike cases including winning an important victory in a case representing the family of Tony Parks, who was arrested for “riding a bicycle on the roadway,” and, most recently, working with Cherokee Schill, a single mom who has been repeatedly ticketed by Kentucky police for riding on the roadway instead of the shoulder during her 18 mile daily commute. Steve rides either a steel Independent Fabrication Club Racer or an old titanium Litespeed when he and his wife enjoy the local roads and trails.

At-Large 6: (Youngstown) Bethany Krzywinski
Bethany Krzywinski is the Safety Program Manager at the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, the regional transportation planning agency for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. She has worked with the Eastgate’s bicycle program since 2009. She serves as the liaison for the Local Implementation Program (LIP) and the ODOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Bethany works with local cyclists and community officials to produce regional bicycle maps and identify barriers to bicycle commuting.

At-Large 7: (Cleveland) Jim Sheehan
Jim Sheehan is Executive Director and a founding member of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op, a non-profit bicycle education facility in Cleveland Ohio. He was a director of the League of American Bicyclists from 2006-2009, has been a League Cycling Instructor since 2003, and is a founding member of Bike Cleveland (and previous local advocacy groups, since 1992). He has been a bike mechanic, messenger, tourist, racer (as often as possible) and had the opportunity to ride all across the country in 32 days. In 2012, he rode from Montana to Alaska and back with the James Family Foundation to establish the “Bike Kitchen” community bicycle program. He is currently the Executive Director and education coordinator for the Bicycle Cleveland Program, which provides cycling education and advocacy, and is actively involved in promoting safe bicycling laws and policies at the local and state level.

At-Large 8: (Membership Director) Ken Mercurio
Ken Mercurio has been with the James Foundation for 20 years, and has served in various leadership roles during that time. He is currently the Executive Director of the James and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. Steve began riding in 1990 and has ridden about 100,000 miles since, and has written a few eBooks about biking in France (Provence, Loire and Normandy soon) and one on biking the Skyline Drive.

At-Large 9: (Newsletter Editor) Dave Cardarella
Dave Cardarella is a native of the Stark County Bicycle Club, and has served as its president for over 25 years. He has been involved in a variety of cycling events, including the Stark State Bicycle Racers, the Ohio Bicycle Federation, and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. He is currently the editor of the newsletter, where he delivers valuable cycling news and tips to the membership.

At-Large 10: (OBJ Ohio Bicycling Summit Director) Tess Cunningham
Tess Cunningham is a Healthcare IT Professional living in downtown Columbus, OH. She is currently a member of the Lady Latch Shredders and the Columbus Women’s development and running team in central Ohio. She is active with the Lady Latch Shredders and the Columbus Community, participating in group rides, organizing team events as well as keeping the social media up to date. She has been a member of the OBF Board for over 10 years and is currently a trustee and the newsletter editor. Dave retired a few years ago after a career of chemical plant automation and as an IT consultant. Retirement is spent traveling and riding his tandem as much as he can. After many GOBAs, RAGBAs and Critical Mass events, he now enjoys mountain biking on nearby deer trails in the company -- and the pace of -- their 10 year old beagle, Fressie.

SAME ROADS  SAME RIGHTS  SAME RULES
If you are a current OBF Member, please vote online at http://tinyurl.com/obfelection or print and complete this ballot and mail to:
Ohio Bicycle Federation
Election 812 East National Road
Vandalia OH 45377
Attn: Kris Stout

The election is from now through Dec. 31, 2016.
Ballots must be received by Dec. 31, 2016.

Please check the box to the left of the name of each candidate you wish to vote for. If you wish to vote for someone else, do not check the box for that position, but write the name of the person who has agreed to serve on the line next to the name of the nominee. Please obtain permission from the person before writing in the name.

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SAME ROADS    SAME RIGHTS    SAME RULES
PEDAL WITH OBF TO A BETTER OHIO IN 2017!

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

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

Select Level
[ ] 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, P.O. Box 181, Monroe, OH 45050

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join Us February 4, 2017
For our 1 pm OBF meeting in the Hilliard Public Library, 4772 Cemetery Rd, Hilliard, OH

Join Us April 29, 2017
for our 4th Annual “OBF Day at the Cleveland Velodrome.” All OBF members arriving at the Velodrome by 10:30 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 Noon 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!

Join Us October 7, 2017
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.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFO GO TO WWW.OHIOBIKE.ORG