Ohio Bicycle Communicator

Volume 47, Number 2 www.ohiobike.org Fall 2017

OBF Wins 2017 Advocacy Organization of the Year Award

Your Ohio Bicycle Federation won the 2017 Advocacy Organization of the Year Award presented in May by Bike Miami Valley at the Miami Valley Cycling Summit at Wright State University.

Here are the words read by Bike Miami Valley Executive Director Laura Estandia during the presentation:

Advocacy Organization or Group Award

This award goes to a bicycling organization or group that, in the past 2 years, has made significant progress advancing bicycling opportunities. Their leadership has worked together tirelessly to grow and strengthen their organization and fulfill their mission. The proof of their effort is in the growth of their campaigns and the victories that they have achieved for people who choose to go by bike in the state. Please join me as we recognize, the Ohio Bicycling Federation, Chaired by Chuck Smith, as Advocacy Organization of the Year in 2017.

Details about the recipient, Ohio Bicycling Federation:

The Ohio Bicycle Federation’s most successful effort since the last Cycling Summit is the passage and enactment of Ohio’s Three Foot Safe Passing law, an effort that they have been working on for several years. Under the leadership of Chuck Smith, OBF tirelessly lobbied the Ohio General Assembly, session after session to identify sponsors, and co-sponsors of numerous bills. OBF members testified in Columbus in favor of this bill - not an easy task. OBF also hosted a very useful tool on their web site to assist Ohio citizens to contact with their senator and representative at the state house about the Three Foot Passing Bill. Their work was rewarded with Gov. Kasich’s signature in December 2016 of the new law, which took effect in March 2017.

In addition to policy advocacy, OBF appears at community events, has performed bicycle crash data assessments, and holds a monthly advocates conference call to maintain statewide lines of cycling-related communication. OBF also publishes in print and online the very popular Ohio Bicycle Events calendar which you can pick up today or at any local bike shop around the state.

The Ohio Bicycle Federation has been the leading voice for improving the laws of the state of Ohio to make cycling an equal transportation mode on our public roadways. From the Better Bicycling Bill in 2006 to the Three foot law in 2016, OBF is always on top of the issues of the day. Clearly, OBF’s impact is as a statewide advocacy organization, so the effect of their work extends beyond the Miami Valley.

Please join me in thanking Ohio Bicycle Federation, led by Chuck Smith.

Bike Miami Valley Executive Director Laura Estandia presenting the 2017 Advocacy Organization of the Year Award to Chuck Smith
OBF Chair Chuck Smith presents OBF’s Horace Huffman Service to Ohio Cycling Award to OBF Board Member and Ohio Bicycle Co-Op Director Jim Sheehan of Cleveland

The Presentation took place during the OBF meeting in the Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op which was part of the June 3rd OBF Day in Cleveland.

Team Stelleri bicycle racing team joined OBF during our OBF Day in Cleveland on June 3rd. In the photo, Team Stelleri Captain Pamela Semanik models the new OBF Three Feet Passing kit in the Cleveland Velodrome.

Note the OBF banner behind Pamela. OBF was one of the founding organizations behind the Cleveland Velodrome and a banner bearing OBF’s logo appears on the track throughout the Cleveland Velodrome racing season.

Help us celebrate and publicize OBF’s legislative victory and our new Ohio law by wearing your own OBF Three Feet Passing kit!

Go to https://www.voler.com/browse/collections/details/li/OhioBicycleFederation

OBF members can enter the “OBF” code for a discount at checkout.

HB95 Distracted Driving Bill

HB95 is the Distracted Driving bill which has passed the House and is now assigned to the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee. The previous bills sponsored by Representative Sheehy which would have prohibited cellphone use in school and construction zones and which would have increased texting to a primary offense did not make progress in the House committee. HB95 will define distracted driving as the use of a handheld electronic communication device or engaging in any activity that is not necessary in the operation of the vehicle or which impairs the driver from operating the vehicle safely. If a driver is distracted, they may be charged an additional $100 fine. This additional clause is being added to approximately 50 existing traffic laws.

OBF is advocating that HB95 also include the change to ORC4511.204 to make texting while driving a primary offense.

Only 7 states, including Ohio, do not consider texting as a primary offense. Representative Seitz, one of the primary sponsors, stated that ODPS does not want texting to be a primary offense. But Sharon Montgomery, the Ohio advocate for better distracted driving laws, learned that ODPS does support this change. Tricia Kovacs also spoke to ODOT Director Jerry Wray who stated that he would also support a primary texting law. We are working with these two departments to ask them to testify for this amendment. There is much support for HB95 and we expect it to pass the Senate committee and full Senate. We are hopeful that the amendment on texting will be proposed by one of our Senators.
Ohio Bicycle Federation member Tricia Kovacs attended the International Cycling Safety Conference in Davis, CA in September. She presented our work to advocate for improvements to the traffic crash report to better understand bicycle crashes. These improvements include to consider a bicycle as a vehicle so that all the vehicle attributes of the bicycle will be reported, to use a proper manner of collision (such as angle, rear-end, sideswipe) for bicycle-related crashes, and to include dooring as a pre-crash action for motorists. Additional improvements proposed were the addition of new bicycle infrastructure (such as sharrows, and two stage turn queues) and new traffic control devices (such as Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (a.k.a. hawk signals) and Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons). She also shared our work to download and analyze bicycle and pedestrian crashes and make them available to advocates. OBF collaborated with LAB, ABEA and Bike Illinois on our crash report proposal. But unfortunately, these recommendations were not incorporated into the 5th edition of the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (the national standard for crash reports). We are continuing to work with Ohio Highway Patrol to request that these changes are made in the Ohio crash report. Please see the bicycle and pedestrian crash maps on our website www.ohiobike.org/advocacy.

**International Cycling Safety Conference**

**OBF Day at the Bicycle Museum of America**

Join us Saturday November 11, 2017
OBF Day at the Bicycle Museum of America
in 7 West Monroe Street (St Rt 274)
New Bremen, OH 45869

Celebrate our 3 Foot Passing Clearance Law
with a free tour of the largest bicycle museum in the world at 10 am.

Admission will be free to OBF members.

Join us for an 11 am lunch at the near by New Bremen Coffee Company, then for a 12 noon OBF meeting

**Display Advertising in the Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar**

This year we will produce more than 15,000 copies of the Ohio Bicycle Federation's Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar for circulation throughout Ohio and portions of surrounding states. The Calendar is distributed through bicycle clubs, bicycle shops, and other outlets. The Calendar is in high demand, a valuable tool for adult cycling enthusiasts -- men and women who want the best gear to enhance their enjoyment of the sport. Cyclists retain the Calendar and use it throughout the cycling season.

There is more information at https://ohiodotbike.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/display-ads.pdf

**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 OBF Membership Director Ken Mercurio at kcmerc@yahoo.com. Your OBF Communicator is now available in electronic newsletter format at http://www.ohiobike.org/index.php/blog/newsletters.
Ohio Bicycle Federation

OBF’s 3-Foot Passing Law Effective March 21, 2017!

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

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Phone: __________________________________
E-mail: __________________________________

Select Level

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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 or above, and also receive an Ohio to Erie Trail 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 November 11, 2017
For OBF Day at the Bicycle Museum of America, 7 West Monroe Street, New Bremen, Ohio! OBF members admitted free to the museum! Free tours 10am to Noon. OBF meets from Noon to 2 pm.

Join OBF February 9 – 10, 2018
For the 2018 Adventure Summit in the Wright State University Student Union Building. Your OBF will again sponsor the Summit. The OBF exhibit will anchor an extensive array of exhibits hosted by area cycling organizations at this exciting event.

(left to right) OBF Chair Chuck Smith, House Bill 154 sponsor Rep. Mike Henne, and seven-time Tour de France rider Frankie Andreu promote House Bill 154 during 2016 “Ride for Respect.” OBF’s HB 154 became law on March 21, 2017!

1. Defines “safe distance” for Ohio motorists passing bicyclists as 3 feet.
2. Permits all Ohio vehicles to proceed through an intersection after stopping and yielding right-or-way when not detected by the device meant to move the signal from red to green.