



We're leading the movement to build a bicycle-friendly America for everyone
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Mar 31, 2022

Senator Wayne Langerholc Jr.
Senate Box 20303
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035

Senator Marty Flynn
Senate Box 203022
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3022

Dear Senators Langerholc and Flynn,

I am writing to express the full support of the League of American Bicyclists for HB140, the Pennsylvania legislation that provides a technical fix to Pennsylvania's vehicle code to permit parking protected bike lanes to be installed on state roads. Since 1880, the League of American Bicyclists has represented bicyclists in the movement to create safer roads, stronger communities, and a Bicycle Friendly America. Through education, advocacy and promotion, we work to celebrate and preserve the freedom cycling brings to our members everywhere. The League also administers the Smart Cycling program and certifies League Cycling Instructors. The League supports HB140 because it enables Pennsylvania to add another design tool to its traffic calming toolbox to make roads safer for all road users and to attract new bicyclists to use a bicycle for transportation.

In 2019, the League evaluated all fifty states to provide highlighted information about each state to provide a useful comparison between states and serve as a reference for state efforts related to bicycling. The 2019 Bicycle Friendly State report card is based on over 100 data points for each state and input from state agencies and advocates. Pennsylvania earned a C on Legislation & Enforcement, Education & Encouragement and Policies & Programs; a B- on Infrastructure & Funding and a B on Evaluation & Planning. Based on the information we obtained for Pennsylvania, the League of American Bicyclists provided a number of actions that would improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Pennsylvania.

Among those recommendations, we stated that "the state legislature may need to be more proactive to reinforce and support those efforts. One recent bill has attempted to clarify the ability to build parking protected bicycle lanes in Pennsylvania and other laws that explicitly allow modern bicycle, pedestrian, and micromobility infrastructure should be pursued." HB140's predecessor bill from the 2019-2020 session is precisely the legislative language we were referring to in that recommendation.

Developing well-connected biking networks is essential to making bicycling safe, comfortable, and accessible for all. Separated bicycle lanes are a critical component of high-quality bicycle infrastructure that offers the most safety to bicyclists and attracts new bicyclists of all-ages and abilities. Parking protected bike lanes are one type of separate bicycle lanes and they offer a range of benefits to urban and suburban communities. We support legislative language that will add this type of bike lane to PennDOT's bike lane toolkit and believe that parking protected bike lanes on Pennsylvania roadways, where appropriate, would be an important improvement for bicyclists. We urge you to pass HB140 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill Nesper
Executive Director