

Bills under consideration by General Assembly of interest to PPAC

Painted Curbs/Protected Bike Lanes – SB788 (Farnese)

Current Vehicle Code language prevents the construction of certain types of Parking Protected Bike lanes as in this design, vehicles are not able to meet the requirements of the law being five or more feet from the curb. “[e]very vehicle standing or parked upon a two-way highway shall be positioned parallel to and with the right-hand wheels within 12 inches of the right-hand curb or, in the absence of a curb, as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder.” As a solution to this problem, legislation was drafted to require parked vehicles to be within 12 inches of the outside line of the buffer area between the pedalcycle lane.

Status: House passed HB1657 unanimously on October 2, 2017, and was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee on October 5, 2017.. SB 788 awaits passage out of Senate Transportation Committee, a full Senate vote and House concurrence.

Speed cameras pilot in work zones and speed cameras pilot on Roosevelt Boulevard-SB 172 (Argall)

Earlier this year, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that states and localities take stronger action to address speeding, which is responsible for the same number of traffic deaths as drunk driving nationwide. Among those recommendations: all states without auto enforcement programs, such as Pennsylvania, should pass authorizing legislation. The place to start is on Roosevelt Boulevard. This 15-mile stretch of roadway makes up only 0.6 percent of Philadelphia’s streets, but is where 13 percent of the City’s traffic deaths occur annually.

*Status: House Transportation committee passed HB1187 on May 24, 2017, and remains on the table calendar in the House. Language of HB1187 was amended into **SB172**, which passed out of the Senate on July 10, 2017. Awaits final House passage and Senate concurrence.*

Cell phone ban for novice drivers – SB 786 (Rafferty and Sabatina)

This bill creates a cell phone ban for novice drivers (under 18 years of age or a person with a learner’s permit) from using a cell phone.

Status: Passed the Senate Transportation Committee on June 21, 2017. Laid on the table in the Senate on July 17, 2017.

Cell phone ban – HB 1684 (Brown)

This bill, introduced by Representative Rosemary Brown prohibits those older than 18 to talk on cell phones without hands-free accessories, prohibits those under 18 from using a cell phone at all, and adds three points to the \$50 penalty for violating the law.

Status: Pending consideration by the House Transportation Committee.

Prioritize Vulnerable Users – HB 1646

Earlier this year, Reps. Brett R. Miller and John Taylor introduced HB1646, the “Vulnerable Highway User Protections” bill, to increase the penalties for careless drivers who inflict bodily injury, or worse, death, upon others. Today, a careless driver who kills a pedestrian is fined \$500; who causes serious bodily injury - \$250. Vulnerable users, according to the bill’s language, are defined as pedestrians, bicyclists, people in wheelchairs, motorcyclists, skateboarders, horseback riders, horse and carriages and farm equipment. Introduced in July, the bill raises fines for people whose careless driving results in death or bodily harm.

Status: The House passed HB1146 on October 16, 2017.. Awaits Senate Transportation Committee and full Senate vote.

Radar for Local Law Enforcement – SB 251

Bill introduced by Senator Randy Vulakovich. It would allow municipalities (after adopting an ordinance) to use radar technology to monitor traffic speed. The bill caps the amount of revenue a municipality can retain and sets calibration standards for RADAR guns. It is supported the Coalition to Eliminate the Prohibition Against Municipal Police Using Radar.

Status: Awaits House Transportation Committee and full House vote. Referred to transportation Nov 16, 2017.