



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

P. O. Box 8510  
Erie, PA 16510-0510  
March 4, 1994

(814) 871-4251

Presque Isle State Park

Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca  
House of Representatives  
1216 West 26 Street  
Erie, PA 16508-1520

RE: "Bicyclists & Motorists Share The Road"

Dear Representative Cappabianca:

Last September, I responded to a correspondence of your's concerning precautionary signage in the park reading "Bicyclists and Motorists: Share The Road". (see attached) In my letter I promised I would contact your office once more information was obtained on the status of these signs. Knowing summer is quickly approaching, I again spoke with Dave Bachman of Secretary Howard Yerusolim's staff today on this issue. Mr. Bachman stated that PennDot has selected a sign they like from the state of Oregon concerning this issue and on Monday, March 7, 1994 this issue will be discussed with the State Bicycling Advisory Board. Mr. Bachman felt that upon approval of the sign design, production could soon be forthcoming.

We will continue to stay in touch with PennDot on this issue and once signs are available, we will place them on the park's roadways immediately.

Sincerely,

Harry V. Leslie  
Park Operations Manager I  
Presque Isle State Park

cc: File

HZL:sam

ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA, MEMBER  
1216 WEST 26TH STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-1520  
PHONE: (814) 453-7639  
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ROOM 30, EAST WING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

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PRESQUE ISLE

September 8, 1993

Harry Z. Leslie  
Park Operations Manager  
Presque Isle State Park  
P.O. Box 8510  
Erie, PA 16505

Dear Harry:

Over the past several months I have received quite a few letters from bicyclists who regularly use Presque Isle, complaining about unsafe conditions they face. In correspondence with Secretary Howard Yerusolim, I was informed that new precautionary signs were going to be placed within the park, reading "Bicyclists & Motorists - Share the Road". However, my mail is indicating that these signs have not yet been placed.

It is vitally important that motorists be aware that bicyclists have a right to use the road while being assured of their safety. I ask your assistance in seeing to it that these signs are put in place in the very near future. All of our citizens should be able to enjoy the Park, perhaps you can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Italo".

Italo S. Cappabianca  
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr

ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA, MEMBER  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

September 8, 1993

Honorable Howard Yerusolim, Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 Transportation & Safety Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Yerusolim:

*Howard*

Recently, I wrote to you concerning the safety problems bicyclists were facing on the roadways of Presque Isle State Park. I appreciate your assistance in directing that new signs be placed reminding motorists to "share the road" with bicyclists. While the signs are still not in place, I trust they will be forthcoming. Nonetheless, an additional concern has now been brought to my attention.

Apparently the roads of the park have been resurfaced with tar & chip material. This surface makes it precariously unsafe for the bicyclists. They now run the risk of losing their balance and being thrown further into the path of traffic. Could something be done to change this new surface? It may have been the most economical, however, it is certainly not the safest.

I ask your assistance in addressing this surfacing problem, and as always, appreciate your kind attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

  
Italo S. Cappabianca  
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

September 21, 1993

Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca, Member  
House of Representatives  
Room 30 East Wing, Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Mr. Cappabianca:

*Italo*

Thank you for your letter of September 8, 1993 concerning the safety problems facing bicyclists in Presque Isle State Park.

The Department has been in contact with Mr. Harry Leslie, Presque Isle State Park Operations Manager, for an update on the condition of the new tar-and-chip road surface in the park. The loose chips which remained following the initial application have been removed and the surface is now relatively smooth. You may be interested to know that the park roads were recently utilized for a 12.5 mile bicycle time trial event sponsored by the Iroquois Sports Boosters. No adverse incidents occurred and Park management received no complaints following this event. Thus, it appears the problem you noted has now been corrected.

You may be pleased to know also that the draft designs for the bicycle "Share the Road" signs are now in final review and the finished product should be available for distribution in about two months. We will be in touch with Mr. Leslie as soon as the signs become available.

Thank you, again, for your letter calling these matters to our attention.

Sincerely,

*Howard*

Howard Yerusalim, P.E.  
Secretary for Transportation



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Bureau of State Parks  
Presque Isle State Park  
P. O. Box 8510  
Erie, PA 16505-0510

September 17, 1993

Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca, Member  
House of Representatives  
1216 West 26th Street  
Erie, PA 16508-1520

Dear Italo:

I am replying to your September 8, 1993 letter concerning PennDot signage for Presque Isle State Park, reading "Bicyclists & Motorists - Share the Road". As of this date, we have not received this signage from PennDot. I have recently called Dave Bachman of Secretary Howard Yerusolim's staff whom originally contacted me concerning this issue back in June, and he is now checking on the status of these signs. He has not contacted me as of this date, but I did want to respond to your letter in a timely fashion. It was my understanding in June, that these were new signs just being developed and there would be some lag time between design, and production. I will call your Erie office directly upon receiving word back from Mr. Bachman on the current status of the signs.

Once the signs are available, our crew will install them at our earliest possible convenience. I believe these signs will help to some degree the conflict we have with some cyclist and motorist, but it certainly will not be a cure-all.

Most of the motorists and cyclists who currently share the roadways on Presque Isle do so with little to no impact on each other. We have had no recorded accidents this year between cyclist and motorist and our attendance to date is nearly 3.5 million persons. Where we do experience a problem concerns two completely different issues. The first is an attitudinal barrier with some motorists and in fact some cyclists. A minority of each group feels that they have the primary right to the road and even a smaller minority of each group is very arrogant in how they interrelate to one another. The signage we will be getting from PennDot will help to remind those few, that both user groups are permitted on the roadway.



September 17, 1993

The second issue, and as a recreational cyclist myself, I feel the more important issue, concerns the condition and narrow width of the roadway on the "Back Loop" of the park. I refer to the two-way roadway starting at Duck Pond Crossover, going to Perry's Monument, Beach #11, Beach #10, Lighthouse and back to the Mill Road beaches where the 4-lane highway starts again, as the "Back Loop". In this five mile section of two-way traffic, it is very difficult for a motorist to pass a slow moving cyclist safely due to the narrow width and curvy sections of roadway. Most of the problems experienced by cyclist and motorist are on this section of park roadway. Also the deteriorating condition of this section of road makes it even more difficult for cyclist to negotiate safely. We continually try to patch, seal, grade berms, and repair this section of roadway with our crew and PennDot's assistance through our park's operation and maintenance budget to make it safe and secure as possible, but a major renovation is needed to correct this roadway properly.

With the establishment of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund this year that you assisted in passage, monies will become available in the near future for projects such as this. One of Presque Isle's first priorities for these monies would be a major renovation to our roadways, parking lots, and Multi-Purpose Trail surfaces. Within this project we would call for at least a widening and resurfacing of the "Back Loop" roadway which would help alleviate some of the current problems with cyclist and motorist in this area. We would even like to explore the feasibility of a bikeway lane along this roadway, if at all environmentally possible.

At this current time, there has been no decisions within the Bureau of State Parks which projects statewide will receive funding priority, but I will alert your concern on this issue to our Bureau Director for his consideration.

Please feel free to call me on this issue if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your concern in this matter and for your continued support of Presque Isle State Park.

Sincerely,



Harry Z. Leslie  
Park Operations Manager I  
Presque Isle State Park

HZL/sam

pc: Park Region #2  
Central Office  
File