



New Law Regarding Yielding to Pedestrians In New York City

The NYC Department of Transportation is amending Section 4-04(b)(1) of the NYC Traffic Rules to require operators of vehicles and bicyclists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks when traffic controls are not in place or not in operation. Previously, motorists and cyclists were merely required to yield. The amendment is designed to enhance pedestrian safety. This rule applies to vehicles and cyclists in any lane of travel, and that such vehicles and bicycles must stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk until such pedestrian crosses a roadway.

The amended regulation will now read as follows: (1) Operators to stop for pedestrians in crosswalk. When traffic control signals or pedestrian control signals are not in place or not in operation, any operator of a vehicle or operator of a bicycle must stop for a pedestrian crossing a roadway within a crosswalk. Such operators of vehicles and operators of bicycles in any lane of travel must stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian in crosswalk until such pedestrian crosses a roadway.



The stems from the tragic death of a 15-year-old girl who was struck by a school bus driver when she was in a crosswalk. The driver was arrested and charged with failure to yield to a pedestrian and failure to use due care. The city notes that half of the traffic fatalities in the five boroughs take place at intersections. In 2021, 279 people were killed by vehicles in New York City, the highest number of traffic fatalities since 2013.

Boy Jack on The Road in 2022



Boy Jack returns to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for back-to-back Bootblacking.

Catch him Wednesday, 3rd March 2022 at the Fort Lauderdale Ramrod for Jock night from 10pm-2am.

Then, Thursday, 4th March 2022 at The Wilton Manors Eagle for Cigar night from 7pm-1am.

He returns to Long Island for the 30th Anniversary of the Long Island Ravens from 18th March – 20th March 2022.



Half of all proceeds go to SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBTQ+ Elders), where Jack has been a proud volunteer for over a decade.

Next time you see him, be sure to give him a hug and let him work his magic.

Lawmakers Head to the Exits in 2022

Happy New Year! As is the case every two years, 2022 is an election year for much of Congress. All 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and 1/3 of the U.S. Senate are up for re-election in November. Add state and local elections to that and literally thousands of elections will take place this year.

What's been interesting about this year's congressional races is the number of lawmakers who are retiring, and not seeking re-election. While every year has a handful of retirements, 2022 might set a record! As of this week, 37 Representatives (26 Democrats and 11 Republicans) as well as 6 Senators (1 Democrat and 5 Republicans) have announced they will be stepping down at the end of the year.

The reasons for retirements vary, some are seeking higher office, others are fed up with Washington D.C. and others are simply avoiding potential election defeat. Regardless of the reason for these departures, it's surprising that nearly 10% of lawmakers are headed for the exits.



There are two important things you as a Motorcycle Riders Foundation member should take away from these retirements. First, if your elected official is retiring, have they been supportive of MRF (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) priorities in the past? In the final months of their time in D.C., many congressional offices will change their tune on issues and be more supportive of topics they avoided in the past. It doesn't hurt to reach out again, and push for MRF priorities before the lawmakers are gone for good. Ask the MRF D.C. team if we can help!

Second, with so many vacancies around the country, it's a great time to get to know new candidates. Getting in on the ground floor and building relationships early in the process is one of the best ways to impact change and support your fellow bikers. In 2020, bikers in Michigan developed an early relationship with a candidate for office months before the election. That candidate won and became a U.S. Representative! She still fondly remembers the support she received early on from riders in her district. So get involved early and introduce yourself to the new crop of leaders headed to D.C.

Below is the current list of lawmakers departing their current positions. This list will grow in the coming months, keep your eyes and ears opened and stay up to date on who represents you in D.C. Reach out to the MRF D.C. team if you have any questions about the changing make up of Congress.

- Alabama: Brooks, Shelby
- California: Bass, Lowenthal, Roybal-Allard, Speier
- Florida: Crist, Demings, S. Murphy
- Illinois: Bustos, Kinzinger, Rush
- Maryland: Brown
- Missouri: Blunt, Hartzler, Long
- **New York: Reed, Suozzi, Zeldin**
- Ohio: Gonzalez, Portman, Ryan
- **Pennsylvania: Doyle, Lamb, Toomey**
- Vermont: Leahy, Welch
- Arizona: Kirkpatrick
- Colorado: Perlmutter
- Georgia: Hice
- Kentucky: Yarmuth
- Michigan: Lawrence
- **New Jersey: Sires**
- North Carolina: Budd, Burr, Butterfield, Price
- Oregon: DeFazio
- Texas: Brady, Gohmert, E.B. Johnson, Vela
- Wisconsin: Kind



Threats from Europe

The last few months have seen troublesome news for the motorcyclist community in Europe. Yesterday, the website motorious.com reported on a new threat to motorcyclists in Paris, France. Officials there are taking aim at motorcycles and using sound pollution as the justification. According to the report, "Paris authorities have been experimenting with sound radars as a way to fight excessive noise pollution in the city. Such devices allow police to pinpoint which motorcycle is emitting more decibels than is allowed, then fine the rider."



This news for Paris comes on the heels of a Politico report late last year, that the European Commission has plans to dramatically change emission requirements on vehicles. While motorcycles were not included in the initial blueprint, fears are high in Europe. A ban on internal combustion engines "Would be a disaster," said Michael Lenzen of the German Motorcyclists' Association.

Don't forget that in 2020, the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA), issued a warning about end-of-life vehicle directives. Such a policy would require the collection and destruction of motorcycles that have come to the end of their life. At the time, Wim Taal, FEMA's communications officer said, "Inclusion of motorcycles in the scope of the directive could also mean a serious threat to historical motorcycles. These bikes are especially dependent upon available and affordable original spare parts to keep them in working order. And who wants to see old-timers disappear into state approved demolishing facilities?"

Do you really think it couldn't happen here?

Empire City MC's 11th Annual Motorcycle Weekend

Last year, we said that after ten years of travelling to upstate New York for our Motorcycle Weekend we would be going to a new location as of 2022, and we're keeping that promise! In 2022, we will be going to a private venue just south of Pittsburgh, PA called "The Farm", which is Mike N's newest party place for bikers!

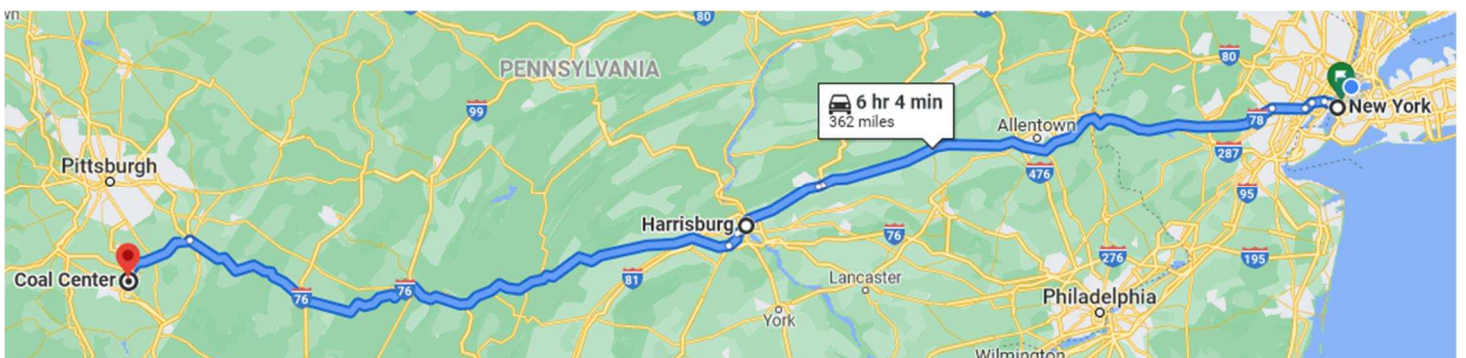
This might sound familiar... because in 2020, we did a test weekend there to see how the logistics would play out.

Because the trip is 365 miles (6 hours, non-stop), just as with the test trip we did in 2020, we'll be stopping half-way for the night both on the way there and back. This will allow people close to Harrisburg to meet up with us on Friday morning and join us for the last segment of the trip.

Next month, we expect to have more information and hopefully a run application. Until then, save these dates, based on leaving from NYC on Thursday, leaving from Harrisburg on Friday, leave from Coal Centre for Harrisburg Monday, and depart Harrisburg for NYC on Tuesday morning.



SAVE THESE DATES in 2022: Thursday, 26th May thru Tuesday, 31st May



Did you know that ALL ECMC Meetings are Online Now?

Curious about Empire City MC operations? Our Open General Meetings, held the 1st Wednesday of each month from 8pm-9pm are open to any interested parties (bikers are especially welcomed!) You can join our O.G.M. by Zoom Teleconference at <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting>

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, we have a 'social meeting' where there is no formal structure and we discuss ideas, perform some of the committee work that keeps us going and share a beer on Zoom. Any interested parties are welcomed to join our social call at 8pm on the 3rd Wednesday by Zoom Teleconference at <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>



UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

Wed 16th February, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Wed 2nd March, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

Wed 16th March, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Wed 6th April, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

Wed 20th April, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Thu 28th April – Mon 2nd May: The Great British Bear Bash. Hosted by the ManBears in Manchester, England, this furry long-weekend party is loaded with drink, food and testosterone! GBBB did not happen in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID concerns, we're crossing our fingers that 2022 will happen!

Wed 4th May, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties my attend.

Wed 18th May, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Thu 26th – Tue 31st May: Empire City MC's 11th Annual Motorcycle Weekend. This year, we'll be hosting in the Pittsburgh, PA region and have allocated an extra day before and after the weekend to accommodate the extra distance.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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