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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commuting By Bike Just Got Safer In Pennsylvania

YORK, Pa. (February 15, 2012) – Governor Tom Corbett recently signed into law a requirement that motorists must allow at least four feet of space when passing a bicyclist.

The Safe Passing Law allows motorists, when necessary to cross a double yellow line into the opposing traffic lane when passing a bicyclist, in order to provide the four feet clearance, otherwise the motorist would be requested to wait until it is safe to pass. Pennsylvania will be joining 19 other states that have approved similar safe passing laws, when it goes into effect on April 2, 2012.

“The majority of motorists are already within the guidelines of this new legislature, but it is the motorists that are in a hurry, or do not have a share-the-road mentality that cause accidents or close calls,” said Nate Owens, a local bicyclist. “This new law could be just what is needed to start making motorists more aware of cyclist safety, and hopefully save lives.”

“Not only do we hope the Safe Passing Law will keep our bicyclists safer on the roads, we hope it will encourage more commuters to ride their bike as we get closer to warmer weather,” said Brandy Heilman, Executive Director of Commuter Services of Pennsylvania.

Using alternative transportation, such as riding a bike to work, results in fewer cars and less congestion on the roadways, which helps to improve air quality and lessen travel time. Commuter Services works with employers and commuters to encourage commuting by bike, and other alternatives such as taking transit, carpooling, walking, vanpooling or telecommuting in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

About Commuter Services
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Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through PennDOT and the region’s metropolitan and rural planning organizations.

Commuter Services board includes transit agencies, planning organizations and chambers:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley, Greater Chambersburg, and York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster and Greater Reading Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), County of Lebanon Transit Authority (LT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg);
- Lancaster, Lebanon, Reading and York Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams and Franklin counties Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs).

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