

City Of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2013 Annual Report

Introduction

The City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee was created out of a recommendation in the City Non-Motorized Plan and serves under the City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission. The Committee was created in September 2010.

The Statement of Purpose of the Committee is as follows... "The City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee, working through the Planning Commission, will work to enact recommendations of the City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Plan so as to offer residents increased non-motorized transportation and recreation options as well as having the Plan creating economic and quality of life incentives to the City".

Operations

The Committee met every month of 2013 on the first Thursday of the month with the exception being no July meeting due to conflicts with the Independence Day holiday.

Current members of the Committee are as follows...

- Adam Gainsley (Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition) – Term expires January 2014
- Kevin Hill (Downtown Development Association) – Term expires January 2014 – Note: Alternative DDA NMAC liaison is DDA Director Tim Colbeck
- Rod Johnson (Chairman – City of Ypsilanti Planning Commission) – Term expires January 2014
- Laura Shiltz – Term expires January 2014
- Bob Krzewinski (City of Ypsilanti Recreation Commission) – Term expires January 2015
- Richard Murphy (City of Ypsilanti Planning Commission) – Term expires January 2015
- Cheryl Weber (Full Circle Community Center) – Term expires January 2015

Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2013 Actions

During 2013 the Committee actively worked to complete many of the goals of the Non-Motorized Plan, as listed below.

- The Committee's By-Laws were revised with updated language indicating the term of office for members, how members are appointed, how the Committee Chair is selected and a requirement for an annual Committee report.
- The Committee continued to work to support actions to complete an off-road placement of the cross-County Border To Border Trail through Ypsilanti. This included letters of support to the Planning Commission/City Council, attending the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCP&RC) Greenways Advisory Committee and field trips with City Planning staff as well as WCPR&RC staff to scout out possible new Trail routings.
- Ypsilanti Bicycle & Walking Maps – The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, along with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, has started work in 2013 on a series of new County bicycle maps. These maps may have a County-wide map on one side and on the flip side will have one of three specific-area bike maps (Ann Arbor, eastern Washtenaw County or Dexter/Chelsea). Tentative plans are to have the new maps ready for printing in the late summer of 2014. Non-Motorized Advisory Committee members have been present at map meetings and will continue to do so in 2014.
- Eastern Michigan University Along with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission staff and City Planning Department staff, met with Eastern Michigan University personnel to explore non-motorized improvements to the University campus area. Future regular meeting are also planned between all parties.

- Public Input – The Committee’s meetings always start with a public input session on the City’s Non-Motorized Plan and the work of the Committee. The Committee also maintains a Facebook page offering an opportunity for additional public input.
- Publicity/Outreach – Committee meetings are publicized through an official City notice through the City Clerks office as well as announcements over the Committee’s Facebook page as well as through other email/Facebook pages (i.e. Bike Ypsi, Ypsilanti Health Coalition, etc.). Committee work was also highlighted in the Ypsilanti Courier and AnnArbor.com through the year, as well as radio interviews over WEMU promoting Committee projects as well as Bike-Bus-Walk week (May) and Committee priorities (December). The Committee also maintains a non-motorized information rack inside Ypsilanti Cycle on Michigan Avenue.
- Bicycle Parking – The Committee worked with the Downtown Development Association and City Planning Department over 2013 to list additional locations where additional bicycle parking loops could be placed in the City. These additional locations were then forwarded to the Downtown Development Agency for possible funding which by the end of 2013 resulted in the purchase and installation of additional bicycle racks.
- Complete Streets – Gave input to the City Planning Department on the rebuilding of Grove Road south of I-94, which included Complete Street improvements.
- Bicycling/Walking Safety & Outreach – In 2013 the Committee gave winter bicycling talks at the Michigan Avenue library and promoted safe trick-or-treating at the annual downtown Ypsilanti Halloween Festival.
- Ypsilanti Bike-Bus-Walk Week (May 12-18) - The Committee coordinated Bike-Bus-Walk week to encourage people to try alternative transportation once during the week in hope that it would become a year-round habit. Activities during BBW week included a bicycling safety talk at the downtown library by Bike Ypsi and the Committee, Bike-To-Work Day in Ypsilanti on May 17th (part of a nationwide event that day), a “Ghost Bikes” display of all white bikes commemorating cyclists hurt or killed and a joint Ypsi-Ann Arbor “Ride Of Silence” to commemorate cyclists hurt or killed (with an overall message urging all parties to share the road).
- I-94 & Huron Street Non-Motorized Crossing – Laura Shiltz is the Non-Motorized Committee member attending meetings with the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (the County’s main transportation planning agency) to improve non-motorized access to this intersection.
- Bike Friendly/Walk Friendly Community Designations - Committee member Adam Gainsley is continuing work on a League of American Bicyclists “Bike Friendly Community” application. Also, the Committee supported work by the City Planning Department to complete and submitted an application for Ypsilanti to become a “Walk Friendly Community”.
- Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition - The Committee continues to work with this county-wide advocacy group with Committee member Laura Shiltz attending a WBWC outreach session in the late summer of 2013.
- The Committee held a National Trails Day event (cosponsored by the City Recreation Commission and Friends Of The Border Trail) on June 1st at the Water Street Trail area, with an information table and guided walks.
- The Committee started work on creating a Ypsilanti Bike Friendly Business program, which would not only encourage businesses to take steps that would attract cyclists, but also encourage businesses to encourage incentives for their employees to bike to work.
- Committee Priorities – Work began in October 2013 on planned Committee priorities for 2014. Besides general projects, priorities are also being set for the top-five list for categories of proposed new bicycle lanes, sidewalk improvements and pedestrian/cyclist signage.