

City Of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2014 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 2014 on the first Thursday of the month with the exception being no July meeting due to conflicts with the Independence Day holiday.

2014 members of the Committee were as follows...

- Tony Bedogne (City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission member)
- Diana Gonzalez
- Kevin Hill (Downtown Development Association) Note: Alternative DDA NMAC liaison is DDA Director Tim Colbeck
- Rod Johnson (Chairman – City of Ypsilanti Planning Commission Chair)
- Bob Krzewinski (City of Ypsilanti Recreation Commission)
- Richard Murphy
- Laura Shiltz
- Cheryl Weber (Full Circle Community Center & AAATA Local Advisory Council)

Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2014 Actions

During 2014 the Committee actively worked to complete many of the goals of the Non-Motorized Plan, as listed below.

- 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.). The Committee also maintains a non-motorized information rack inside Ypsilanti Cycle on Michigan Avenue.
- Bicycle Map – The Committee continued work with the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) to expand and revise current bicycle maps so as to have a more dedicated cycling route map for the City. A public map working session was held at the downtown Library on December 8th with Committee members and Washtenaw Area Transportation Study staff attending.
- Sidewalk Improvements – The Committee worked to identify and take action to complete sidewalk gaps within the City.
- Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community applications – Both were submitted in 2014 and it was learned in December that the City had received “Honorable Mention” Bike Friendly award to which the Committee started working to obtain a higher status in a follow-up application.

- Bike Friendly Business program – The Committee continued work on creating a local Bike Friendly Business program as a way to promote active and healthy lifestyles for employees and customers in the Ypsilanti area. The campaign will honor corporations, organizations, associations, government agencies or non-profit groups located in Ypsilanti that actively promotes bicycling for transportation, recreation, exercise and sport. Roll-out for the program is expected in the spring of 2015.
- Public education outreach to encourage bicycling and walking – The Committee did public outreach & education on the 2014 change to the City sidewalk snow removal ordinance requiring sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall. WEMU aired a number of City related non-motorized news items, starting with a segment on New Years Day morning news about the Committee's 2014 priorities. The Committee worked with the AAATA to keep bike racks cleared on snow at the Ypsilanti transit center as these racks are well used over the winter. The Committee had an information tables at the Bike Ypsi Spring Ride (5/4), Parkridge Summer Festival (8/23) and annual downtown Ypsilanti Halloween Festival (10/30). The Committee also sponsored a “Cold Weather Cycling” talk at the Michigan Avenue Library on November 11.
- Signage/pavement marking improvements – The Committee identified areas where pedestrian safety signage and markings need to be improved.
- Border To Border Trail completion progress – The Committee continued to follow and report updates on Trail construction in the City.
- Prospect Avenue rebuild non-motorized aspects – The Committee provided input to the City Planning Commission and City Council on plans to reconstruct this street in 2015.
- Depot Town non-motorized use safety improvements –Committee sent a letter to the Planning Commission and City Council with Committee concerns about Cross Street pedestrian safety problems in this area.
- West Michigan Avenue “road diet” reconsideration –Committee sent a letter sent to the Planning Commission and City Council urging that the road diet (two traffic lanes – a center turn lane – bicycle lanes) be continued for safety reasons.
- I-94/Huron Street non-motorized project - The Committee attended, and gave input, at working group meetings organized by the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS), as well as recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council on preferred plan alternatives.
- Police Department – Committee members met with the City Police Chief on non-motorized issues.
- Wayfinding signage – Committee members attended Downtown Development Authority meetings in 2014 on this subject as well as urging that EMU to downtown/Depot Town bike/walk routes be established.
- May Bike-Bus-Walk Week (May 11-17) – The Committee again oversaw this event (which coincides with national Bike To Work Week), which encourages people to try alternative transportation in the hope that this will become a habit. As part of the week's events, “Ghost Bikes” (white painted bikes with signs on them stating “a cyclist was injured near this spot” to encourage sharing the road) were displayed around the City to encourage motorists and bicyclists to safely share the road.
- Committee members attended, and gave input, at the Southeast Michigan Council Of Governments (SEMCOG) Non-Motorized Plan meeting on 9/18.
- Additional bike racks – The Committee gave input to the Downtown Development Authority on suggestions for additional bike rack locations.

- AAATA Transit Center – In anticipation of future improvements to the Ypsilanti Pearl Street Transit Center, the Committee started work on recommendations to the AAATA on non-motorized improvements to the facility. (i.e. bike racks/lockers, pedestrian improvements).
- Committee Priorities – The Committee started work on a list of Committee priorities for the upcoming calendar year in October and completed the list at its December meeting.
- EMU Bike Sharing – The Committee participated in a survey process on a potential Eastern Michigan University bike-sharing (short term rental) program.
- Huron-Hamilton Street “Road Diets” – The Committee gave input to the Planning Department throughout the year on this project and co-sponsored a public hearing on December 2.
- Monthly Planning Department meeting – Members of the Committee met with Planning Department staff prior to most Committee meetings for input and updates.
- Eastern Michigan University – Committee members held a meeting with EMU Public Works staff to discuss non-motorized improvements to the University campus area.
- Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition - The Committee continues to work with this county-wide advocacy group