

# City Of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2017 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 formed 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, with the exception of February, July and November, every month of 2017 on the first Thursday of the month at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue.

2017 members of the Committee through the year (some terms ended, others began) were as follows...

- Tony Bedogne (also City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission member)
- Bob Krzewinski
- Lena Reeves (term ended October 31 2017)
- Cathie Kinzel (resigned 12/12/17)
- Martha Cleary
- Sarah Walsh

## Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2017 Actions

During 2017 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 by 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, Bike-Bus-Walk Ypsilanti, etc.). The Committee also had a table at the annual downtown Halloween Festival (10/27) where lighted wristbands were distributed (courtesy of the AAATA) and safe trick-or-treating handouts were distributed. A cold weather cycling talk was given in early December at the downtown Library sponsored by the Committee. The Committee also continues to work with the County-wide advocacy group, the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition ([www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)).
- City Meetings – Members of the Committee met, or had telephone conversations, with Planning Department staff prior to most Committee meetings for input and updates. Also, Committee members attended numerous City Council and Planning Commission meetings throughout 2017 to support non-motorized projects.
- City Non-Motorized Plan – The Committee is working with the Planning Department to update the City’s Non-Motorized Plan and expects the process to be complete in 2018. In 2017 an additional public input session on the Plan was held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse with speakers from the Committee, City staff, Washtenaw Area Traffic Study and the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Pedestrian Safety Signage – In 2017, the Committee sent the Planning Commission resolution a resolution urging MDOT action on improved pedestrian safety signage, along with curb cuts at Ferris and Hamilton Streets. The Committee also urged that “Stop For Pedestrians” signs be installed on Congress by the Rutherford Pool, which they were for the non-snow months.

- Snow Removal – In the winter months the Committee mounted a campaign to educate area residents, thorough social media and its Facebook page, about the need to shovel sidewalks as required by City ordinance and how to report problems using ClickFix – Ypsi Connect. The Committee timed media actions to that of just prior to major snowfalls with information sent to all City neighborhood groups on Facebook and NextDoor.
- Border To Border Trail – In the second half of 2017, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCP&RC), the driving force behind the Border To Border (B2B) Trail, started work on an Eastern Washtenaw County (i.e. east of US 23) B2B Trail Master Plan. A working group was established with members that included Beth Ernat from the City Economic Development Department, and City Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Bob Krzewinski, sitting on the working group as the Chair of the Friends of the Border To Border Trail. The working group has been meeting on a regular basis and is expected to hold public input meetings in early 2018. In addition, Rosie Pahl Donaldson, a Planner with the WCP&RC, has attended City Non-Motorized Advisory Committee meetings to keep the Committee up to speed on B2B developments as well as obtain Committee member input. In June, additional B2B directional signs provided by the WCP&RC were delivered to City Public Services and EMU for placement.
- Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community applications – The City officially became a League of American Cyclists (<http://bikeleague.org/bfa/awards>) “Bike Friendly Community“ at the Bronze level on November 30, 2017 as the result of an application filed by the Committee. The award is valid for four years. The City learned in the fall of 2017 that it did not receive a Walk Friendly award but the report given by the organization running the Walk Friendly awards will be useful for improvements to be worked on for the next application expected to be filed by the Committee in late 2018.
- City Council Budget – Committee members attended the annual City Council budget meetings providing non-motorized project recommendations to Council.
- Bike Friendly Business program – The Committee, with the support of the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti, continued to sign up participants for a local Bike Friendly Business (BFB) 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. Business participants receive a BFB window sticker and are listed on the Bike-Bus-Walk Ypsi ([www.bbwypsi.org](http://www.bbwypsi.org)) web site.
- Bike Lanes – In July 2017, a Forest Avenue bike lane gap completion between Prospect Road and Norris Street was completed giving bicyclists a key east-west bike route within the City. In 2017 the Committee also started researching areas where additional bike lanes would be used in the City, with possible locations being West Cross Street (west of Wallace) and Harriet/Spring/Factory/Maus Streets.
- I-94/Huron – Hamilton Streets Non-Motorized Projects - The Committee continued to follow these items closely as there are a fair number of pedestrians and bicyclists using Huron Street over I-94 with no dedicated non-motorized facilities. In July, the Committee also passed the following resolution – *“The City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee urges the City Planning Commission, Mayor and City Council to support overdue and needed non-motorized improvements to the Huron Street overpass of I-94.”* The Committee was also in favor of the City buying “Share The Road” (with pedestrian and bicycle symbols) on the Huron Street bridge over I-94 to increase motorist awareness.
- Bike repair Stations – Non-Motorized Advisory Committee and Eastern Michigan University (EMU) faculty member Sarah Walsh spearheaded a project for EMU to purchase and install three bike repair stations (containing a work stand, tools and an air pump) with two to be installed on the main campus and one at the EMU College Of Business downtown.
- EMU Bike Share – Committee members in 2017 attended meetings and merchant demonstrations of bicycles for a potential “bike-share” (rental) program at Eastern Michigan University. Organizers are looking for a start of a bike share program in mid-2018.

- Bike Bus-Walk Week (May 14-20) – With the intent to have individuals try alternative transit in the hope that such modes of transportation would become a habit, the Committee coordinated events during this week (also known as national Bike To Work Week). Events during this week included a Border To Border Trail bicycle ride (sponsored by the Friends of the Border To Border Trail – [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)), a “Ghost Bikes” display (white bikes where cyclists have been hit in Ypsilanti meant to be a simple message to motorists and bicyclists to “share the road” with courtesy to each other), and a “Ride Of Silence” (sponsored by the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society and the Ypsilanti-headquartered Program To Educate All Cyclists) starting from Recreation Park to memorialize cyclists injured or killed and again urging motorists and cyclists show respect for each other. The Friday of Bike-Bus-Walk Week is also known nationally as Bike To Work Day and a bike commuting station was set up that morning at Beezy’s Café by the Committee offering free bike maps, literature, coffee snacks, etc. Wrapping up Bike-Bus-Walk Week was a cleanup of the Border To Border Trail in the Water Street area as a part of Ypsi-Proud Day.
- Traffic calming – The Committee worked with Depot Town merchants on ideas for traffic calming on Cross Street and gave recommendations to the City for ideas to slow traffic on Congress Street.