

# City Of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2018 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 October, every month of 2018 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue.

2018 members of the Committee through the year (some terms ended, others began) were as follows...

- Tony Bedogne (also a City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission member – resigned in June due to moving out of the City of Ypsilanti)
- Martha Cleary (Resigned due to family obligations in June)
- Bob Krzewinski
- Jared Talaga (also a City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission member)
- Sarah Walsh

## **Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2018 Actions**

During 2018 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 though 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 had a table at the annual Parkridge Festival (8/25/18) where safe bicycling and walking information was distributed and 50 bicycle helmets were given away free courtesy of a grant from the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society ([www.aabts.org](http://www.aabts.org)). The Committee also had a table at the downtown Halloween Festival (10/26) where lighted wristbands were distributed (courtesy of the AAATA) and safe trick-or-treating handouts were distributed. 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 2018 to support non-motorized projects.
- Committee Priorities – Every October and November, the Committee reviews possible priorities for the coming calendar year and finalizing the list at its December meeting. The Committee priorities are then forwarded to the Planning Department and City Council.
- 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.

- 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 2019.
- Border To Border Trail – During 2018, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCP&RC), the main governmental body behind the Border To Border (B2B) Trail, continued 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 staff from the City Economic Development Department, City Planning 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.
- Bike Friendly Community & Walk Friendly Community status – The City officially became a League of American Cyclists “Bike Friendly Community” at the Bronze level in late 2017 with the award being for a four-year period. In January 2018 the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition awarded a grant to purchase five BFC signs that were installed at City “gateway” locations by the City Public Services Department. On the Walk Friendly Community status, the City was received a “honorable mention” standing with the report card for the award noted that to obtain full Walk Friendly status, items such as an ADA Transition Plan, a Safe Routes To School program, Open Street (closing down a street for short periods for pedestrians) events, improved pedestrian crossing signals, pedestrian counts and law enforcement cooperation need to be addressed. The Committee plans to resubmit the Walk Friendly Community once the Non-Motorized Plan is updated.
- 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 2018 the Committee also started researching areas where additional bike lanes would be used in the City, with the top two locations being West Cross Street (west of Wallace) and Harriet/Spring/Factory/Maus Streets. In March 2018 the Committee forwarded a resolution to the Planning Commission noting that “the lack of a center turn lane on Cross Street at the intersection of Mansfield Street is a real safety factor” and urging that “as part of a West Cross Street repaving project, a two-lane, plus center turn lane, configuration going as far west as practical that would include bicycle lanes on both sides of the road as well as vehicle parking on the south side of West Cross Street.”
- ReImagine Washtenaw – At the April 2018 Committee meeting, Nathan Voght, ReImagine Washtenaw Project Manager, gave an overview and update on the ReImagine Washtenaw project along with the challenges that are faced. Committee members assisted the County Office of Community & Economic Development in performing pedestrian counts on Washtenaw Avenue in April to be used for potential mid-block pedestrian crossings.
- Three-Foot Passing Law – The Committee placed basic information on the Committee Facebook page about the Michigan 3-foot bicycle passing law taking effect the end of September and shared with a few area discussion groups. A more thorough educational effort on the 3-foot law is planned for the spring of 2019.
- Bike repair Station – The Committee worked with the Friends of the Border To Border (B2B) Trail to obtain and have installed a bike repair station (containing a work stand, tools and an air pump), as well as a donated bike parking loop, on the south plaza of the non-motorized bridge over the Huron River just east of downtown. It should be noted the bike repair station came from a grant that the Friends of the B2B Trail received from the REI Co-Op and the bike parking stand was a donation from the Friends.

- 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.
- Bike Bus-Walk Week (May 13-19) – 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)), 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 urging motorists and cyclists show respect for each other. The Friday of Bike-Bus-Walk Week is also known nationally at 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.