

# City Of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2019 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 and July, every month of 2019 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue.

2019 members of the Committee through the year (some terms ended, others began) were as follows...

- Jenny Connolly
- Dylan Goings
- Bob Krzewinski
- Helen Schulte
- Lee Stimson
- Jared Talaga (also a City Of Ypsilanti Planning Commission member)
- Sarah Walsh
- Jared Walfish

## **Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2019 Actions**

During 2019 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.
- 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.
- Publicity/Outreach/Communications – 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.). As of early December 2019, there are 353 “Likes” on the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/YpsilantiNMAC](http://www.facebook.com/YpsilantiNMAC)).

In April, the Committee had a table at the Ypsilanti Earth Day Festival (4/14/19) at Cultivate. In early August (8/3), the Committee had an information at the EMU Bike Rode. Next, the Committee had an information table at the annual Parkridge Festival (8/28/19) where safe bicycling and walking information was distributed and 50 bicycle helmets were given away free courtesy of a grant from the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition ([www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)). The Committee also had a table at the downtown Halloween Festival (10/25/19) where lighted wristbands were distributed (courtesy of the AAATA) and safe trick-or-treating handouts were distributed. In early December (12/7/19 & 12/8/19) the Committee, with Bike Ypsi and the Ypsi Bike Co-Op, as cosponsors, held two “Cold Weather Bicycling talks. 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)).

Related to Committee communications, the Committee started publishing a quarterly Non-Motorized Advisory Committee newsletter with the first edition being a Fall 2019 edition. In addition, the Committee has had items published or highlighted in the Mayors Newsletter.

- 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 2019 to support non-motorized projects. At the first Committee meeting of the year (1/9/19), Mayor Beth Bashert participated where various projects and outreach efforts (i.e. safe bicycling education in the spring and sidewalk snow removal in the late fall) were discussed with an emphasis placed on accessibility for the disabled. City Council member (and Ypsi Bike Co-Op volunteer). Steve Wilcoxon, volunteered to be a City Council member liaison to the Committee.
- Snow Removal – In the winter months the Committee mounted a campaign to educate area residents, through 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 2020.
- Sidewalk curb cut inventory & improvements – During 2019, the Committee began work on a priority list for curb cuts with a list assembled from Committee member input, public input through social media and also site visits. The priority list will be forwarded to the Public Services Department as well as the Planning Commission and City Council.
- 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. The Committee plans to start work in 2020 to apply for a renewal of its Bike Friendly Community award. 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.”
- The Committee continues to promote, through social media to neighborhood groups, the City's “Speeding Concerns” web page - <https://cityofypsilanti.com/699/Speeding-Concerns> - that gives the process for citizen petitioning to have traffic calming (such as signage, pavement markings, speed bumps) on a specific street section.
- Three-Foot Passing Law – In the spring of 2019, the Committee placed basic information on the Mayors Newsletter and the Committee Facebook page about the Michigan 3-foot bicycle passing law that took effect in September 2018. The Committee plans to conduct a safe biking drive every upcoming April and May.

- 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 12-18) – 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 “Ride Of Silence” (sponsored by Bike Ypsi, 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. In 2019, twenty-five cyclists stopped by the Ypsi Bike-To-Work Day table.
- City Ordinance On Non-Motorized Device Rentals – In February the City began working towards having an ordinance dealing with dockless bicycle/scooters – With work beforehand between the City Attorney and the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee, City Council unanimously approved a first reading of a new Shared Mobility Device ordinance at its March 4th meeting that contained input from the Committee. Passage of this Ordinance was a priority for 2019 of the Committee.
- Parkridge bike repair station – The Committee worked with the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition on an AARP Community Challenge grant application and matching fund contribution to fund a Dero bicycle repair stand for the Parkridge Community Center. Unfortunately the AARP did not award the City with a grant for a repair stand in 2019.
- Neighborhood Connectors (also known as “Bike Boulevards”) – The Committee is exploring designating a small number of local streets, with lower traffic volume, which pedestrians, the disabled and bicyclists are encouraged to use to travel within the City. These would be a low cost project consisting of signage and road markings. Possible routes could be Mansfield Street, Congress Street and Adams Street.
- The Committee has pledged to work with the City Sustainably Commission on projects and areas of concern.