

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2013

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Committee members in attendance were Kevin Hill, Bob Krzewinski, Laura Shiltz and Andrew Hellenga sitting in for Tim Colbeck and the Downtown Development Association (DDA). Also present was City Councilman Pete Murdock.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation – None
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to approve the agenda, passing unanimously.
 - b. Approval of February meeting minutes - A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to approve the minutes, passing unanimously.
 - c. Other
4. Old business
 - a. Complete Streets improvements update – No new updates.
 - b. Downtown bike routes-signage-maps – No new updates.
 - c. Additional bike parking hoop locations – In an email from Tim Colbeck, he acknowledged the letter sent from the Non-Motorized Committee giving recommendations for additional bicycle rack locations and indicated these would be considered by the DDA.
 - d. Border To Border Trail Ypsilanti completion – An update and discussion was held on B to B Trail segment construction in Ypsilanti with work still planned for new trail segments in 2013 and 2014. Bob Krzewinski brought forth a resolution from the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail (attachment 1) urging construction of a ½ mile off-road Trail gap along Grove Road. A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to approve the resolution, passing unanimously. The resolution will be sent to the Planning Commission urging they endorse the resolution, sending it on to City Council for further action.
 - e. Huron/Hamilton road diets – No new updates.
 - f. Bike Friendly Community application - No new updates.
 - g. Hamilton/Michigan pedestrian crossing – On having additional “no turn on red” and “stop here” signs installed on Southbound Hamilton at Michigan, this request has been forwarded to the City Public Services Department for comment.
 - h. Snow removal – A discussion was held on snow removal during the past two snow storms with Pete Murdock indicating that the City is enforcing the sidewalk snow removal ordinance more vigorously, and City Council is reviewing the snow removal ordinance. Also discussed was the lack of publicity about snow removal requirements.
 - i. Other – Bob Krzewinski submitted for endorsement by the Committee a resolution (attachment 2) supporting snow removal from the Border To Border Trail from Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor. At the present time Eastern Michigan University, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and the City of Ann Arbor are keeping the Trail plowed, but there are other gaps in plowing. A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to approve the resolution, passing unanimously.
5. New Business
 - a. Planning Department update – No new updates.
 - b. 2013 Committee priorities – From a list of potential priorities a small number of items were discussed and also noted that the list had a number of projects actively being worked on (i.e. bicycle/walking map). Bob Krzewinski will send the list out by email for online discussion by Committee members.
 - c. Border To Border Trail signage – A third resolution was brought forth by Bob Krzewinski (attachment 3) urging that a “no turn on red” sign be re-installed at the traffic signal on northbound Hewitt at Huron River Drive for traffic turning right. This is a high-use road crossing area of the Border To Border Trail and it is very common for vehicle traffic making turns to not give way to pedestrians/bicyclists crossing, even when a pedestrian crossing signal is illuminated. A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to approve the resolution, passing unanimously.
 - d. May Bike-Bus-Walk Week – A schedule of events from 2012 was discussed for a repeat in 2013, encouraging residents to try bicycling, walking or taking the bus once during May 12-18 in the hopes that they will take up those activity throughout the year. The Committee will be giving a “Basic Bicycling” talk that week in the downtown library.
 - e. Other – Bob Krzewinski gave an interview about the Committee to WEMU for a newscast. Also a request went out for help in creating online PDF City Adopt-A-Park/Street applications that could be emailed when completed.
6. Other Items – Announcements - None
7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Kevin Hill, seconded by Laura Shiltz, to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Thursday, April 4, 7pm at the downtown library.

Attachment 1

Resolution - Border To Border Trail Link Gap – Grove Road In Ypsilanti

Source: Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has done outstanding work in completing Border To Border Trail sections throughout Washtenaw County, and

Whereas, currently funding has been set aside for developing the Border To Border Trail from Riverside Park in Ypsilanti south to Grove Road, and

Whereas, funding has also been approved for the reconstruction of the Border To Border Trail on the south side of Grove Road in Ypsilanti Township, and

Whereas, a completed off-road Border To Border Trail between Ypsilanti Township and the City of Ypsilanti would be a tremendous recreational, and non-motorized asset to all of eastern Washtenaw County

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission consider funding the construction of an approximate one-half mile Border To Border Trail segment along the west side of Grove Road from where the Trail will exit the Water Street development area south to the I-94/Grove Road overpass

Be It Further Resolved that it be encouraged that such a project be scheduled in conjunction with other Border To Border Trail construction projects in the Ypsilanti/Ypsilanti Township area so as to obtain cost savings.

Attachment 2

Resolution - Border To Border Trail Winter Snow Removal

Source: Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Whereas, the cross-county Border To Border Trail is a tremendous community asset, being used not only for recreation, but also for non-motorized transportation, between major population areas, as well as educational institutions and medical facilities, in the County, and

Whereas, even in the winter, the Border To Border Trail sees significant use, a fact that should be encouraged keeping in mind call by health professional to increase physical exercise due to soaring obesity rates, and

Whereas, a goal of keeping the Border To Border Trail open and clear between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor is realistic and obtainable especially since such entities as the City of Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan University are already doing a first class job of removing snow from the Trail

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission encourages the clearing of snow from the Border To Border Trail during the winter months and supports the efforts of the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail in this endeavor

Attachment 3

Resolution - Border To Border Trail – No Turn On Red Sign – Hewitt Road/Huron River Drive

Source: Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission sponsored Border To Border Trail, a non-motorized cross-county pathway, has a well used crossing of Huron River Drive at Hewitt Road in the Ypsilanti area, and

Whereas, it is very common for motorized traffic on northbound Hewitt Road making a right turn (eastbound) on Huron River Drive to conflict with pedestrians and bicyclists on the Trail crossing Huron River Drive, and

Whereas, a “No Turn On Red” sign, next to the traffic signal on northbound Hewitt Road at Huron River Drive would significantly increase the safety of non-motorized traffic on the Border To Border Trail crossing Huron River Drive, and

Whereas, a “No Turn On Red” sign used to be installed on next to the traffic signal on northbound Hewitt Road at Huron River Drive but was removed, and

Therefore Be It Resolved that it is highly recommended, for pedestrian and bicyclist safety, that the Washtenaw County Road Commission install a “No Turn On Red” sign, next to the traffic signal on northbound Hewitt Road at Huron River Drive