

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 14, 2021– Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:06pm by teleconference. Committee members attending were Mike Davis Jr., Renee Echols, Dylan Goings, Helen Schulte and Bob Krzewinski (quorum met). Also attending was City Planner Andy Aamodt, Public Services Project Manager Bonnie Wessler and City Council member Steve Wilcoxon.
2. Introductions - Audience participation - Public input – None.
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – Offered By: Committee member Davis; Seconded By: Committee member Goings. Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0.
 - b. Approval of September 2021 meeting minutes - Offered By: Committee member Davis; Seconded By: Committee member Echols. Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0.
 - c. Bylaws review – Reviewed. No upcoming elections or Committee member terms ending.
 - d. New Committee member recruitment - Committee member Davis will contact urban planning classes at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan.
4. Old & continuing business
 - a. 2021 Committee priorities (Abbreviated List)
 1. City Non-Motorized Plan – Next steps – Reviewed Committee members comments from September meeting with overall priorities of the group being a Vision Zero ordinance (City taking action to have zero-related traffic fatalities by a set date, improved pedestrian signals & crosswalk ordinance, slowing motor vehicle traffic, shifting modes of transportation more towards walking/bicycling, creating a non-motorized Neighborhood Connector route system, and making Ypsilanti accessible to all. Committee member Echols will start work on a draft Vision Zero ordinance along with Committee members Davis and Krzewinski. Committee members Davis and Krzewinski will continue working on a Neighborhood Connector network.
 2. Pedestrian Improvements – No new updates.
 3. Bike Lanes – West Cross Street, from Huron to Washtenaw, should be repaved and have a repainted bike lane, by November 14th pending any unforeseen delays.
 4. Communication & Education
 - Sidewalk vegetation trim back promotion by Committee – Added will be a request of property owners to sweep up walnut seeds on sidewalks which can and have caused injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Summer Non-Motorized Committee newsletter. Next deadline – November 15, 2021
 - Downtown Halloween Festival –The traditional downtown trick-or-treat event sponsored by the Downtown Association of Ypsilanti will not be held this year. Lighted wristbands, donated by The Ride (AAATA), and distributed by the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee at the downtown Halloween Festival have been donated to the downtown Library for distribution to children and parents along with safe trick-or-treating handouts.

5. Neighborhood Connectors - Low-speed streets "optimized" for bicycle & walking traffic. – Committee member Davis and volunteer Kai Le continue to work on Connector routes and maps.
6. Border To Border (B2B) Trail gap completion and enhancement – Work is wrapping up for the year on the B2B improvements of the Grove Street crossing of I-94 with fencing delayed until 2022. Committee recommending that “Walk Bicycles On Bridge” signs be installed on the Tridge under the Cross Street bridge.
7. Bike & Walk Friendly Communities
 - Bike Friendly Community – Status of Bronze level renewal request should be known I December.
 - Walk Friendly Community application (due 12/15/2021) - <https://walkfriendly.org/apply> - Subcommittee will work with Bonnie Wessler on December application.
8. Events & Community Outreach - Cold weather bicycling talks planned for November. The Committee will run an online “Be Seen” campaign urging pedestrians and bicyclists to wear bright clothing and have working front/rear lights at night. The campaign would also urge motorists to slow down and be cautious during Halloween and the change back to Standard time in November. .
- b. MDOT 2022 Ypsilanti non-motorized projects – Huron, Hamilton and Washtenaw non-motorized projects scheduled to start construction in 2022.

5. New Business

- a. City Planning Department and Public Services Department updates – Andy Aamodt alerted the Committee to new zoning regulations. Bonnie Wessler informed the Committee of Ypsilanti’s submission to the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) of it’s 2025 Transportation Improvement Plan which includes improvements to Harriet and Cornell Streets.
 - b. 2022 Committee priorities – 2022 Priorities will be reviewed by the Committee during October and November before being finalized at it’s December 2021 meeting.
6. Other Items – Short discussion of new Bird motorized scooters in Ypsilanti and safety concerns.
- Announcements - Next meeting Thursday, November 11th, 2021.
7. Adjournment - Offered by: Committee member Echols; Seconded by: Committee member Krzewinski: Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2020-21 Priorities (Complete List)

1. City Non-Motorized Plan – Complete update.
2. Sidewalk curb cut inventory & improvements.
 - Create an annual City Curb Cut Priority List
 - Create a City Curb Cut deficiency list
3. Pedestrian Improvements – (Signage, road markings, permanent radar speed signs at select locations, Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon, traffic calming. Concentrate on where most pedestrian activity occurs)
 - Continue current efforts with MDOT on in-City State Route pedestrian improvements (i.e. Huron, West Cross, Washtenaw, Hamilton, Michigan).
 - Install permanent (i.e. solar powered) radar speed signs at locations with a high incidence of speeding.
 - Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB) demonstration project
4. Bike Lanes
 - West Cross Street
 - Harriet/Spring/Factory/Maus
 - Spring repainting of existing bike lanes
 - Sharrows at beginning and end of bike lanes
5. Communication & Education
 - Invite Mayor, City Council, Planning/Sustainability Commission members, City Manager, Police Chief, Public Services Director to Committee meetings.
 - Publish quarterly Non-Motorized Committee newsletter.
 - Review City Council, Planning Commission, Sustainability Commission agendas for possible Committee input at their meetings.
 - Spring bicycle safety education program for both motorists and bicyclists
 - Sidewalk/Curb Cut vegetation (summer) snow removal (winter) promotion by Committee
 - Amplify public notice of Commission/City Council projects that impact non-motorized activities
6. Non-Motorized City budget – Determine yearly, non-motorized project funding amount available. Committee involvement in CIP review and non-motorized project funding disbursement decisions.
7. Neighborhood Connectors - Low-speed street which has been "optimized" for bicycle & walking traffic. Potential projects: Adams (Cross to Forest), Pearl (Hamilton to Mansfield), 2nd Avenue (Michigan to Watling).
8. Border To Border (B2B) Trail gap completion and enhancement.
 - Support City and Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission efforts to complete the Trail through the City.
 - Install “State Law – Stop For Pedestrians In Crosswalk” signs at mid-block B2B Trail crossing of Cornell Street between Collegewood and Mayhew.
9. Bike & Walk Friendly Communities
 - Submit Walk Friendly Community application when Non-Motorized Plan update complete
 - Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award recertification (current BFC award expires in November 2021)
 - Bike Friendly Business program drive
10. Events & Community Outreach – B2B Trail walks, cold weather cycling talks, EMU Bike Rodeo, Parkridge Festival, Halloween safe trick-or-treating. Grants for helmet giveaways for events the Committee is at.
11. Safe Routes To School