

## Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Update Briefing

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7:00pm – Zoom Virtual Session

With the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee being a Committee of the Planning Commission, under Commission [bylaws](#), Article 5, Section 6, requires a quorum that shall consist of a majority of the current Planning Commissioners, but no less than four. With only three Committee members attending (Committee members Schulte, Echols and Krzewinski) a proposed meeting of the Committee on December 9<sup>th</sup>, no formal business could take place and instead the Committee Chair, Bob Krzewinski, gave an update on Committee issues which included...

1. New Committee member recruitment – There are two possible new Committee members whom the Committee Chair will follow up on.
2. Committee Annual Report – This will be complete and forwarded to the Planning Commission at its January 2022 meeting.
3. WATS Technical Committee vacancy – There is a vacancy on the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (the official County transportation planning agency) Technical Committee Special Interest Seat Representatives. Applications are due by January 7, More information on this opportunity and application materials can be found at: <http://www.miwats.org/special-interest-seats>. For more information contact Nick Sapkiewicz, Transportation Planner, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, 200 N. Main - Ann Arbor MI 48104, P (734) 994-3127 - F (734) 994-3129 - [sapkiewiczn@miwats.org](mailto:sapkiewiczn@miwats.org).
4. Pedestrian Issues – While there have been two snowfalls, both deposited limited snow. Once a significant and lasting snowfall occurs, the Committee will reach out to neighborhood groups and property owners reminding them of the sidewalk snow ordinance, to clear curb cuts and keep in mind how the disabled can have their mobility drastically reduced by sidewalks that are not cleared.
5. Bicyclist Issues – The Cross Street repaving (EMU to Huron Street) and marking is nearly over but cyclists should be cautious about motorists using the bike lane as motorists used that area to drive in during construction.
6. Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Newsletter – A joint Fall/Winter edition will be published by the end of December
7. Border To Border Trail – While the improved Grove Road crossing of I-94 for the Trail is very, very welcome, there are safety concerns about how there are no barriers on the curb drop off and how an inattentive bicyclist could fall off the ledge and end up in a traffic lane. Discussed was placing a simple barrier at the curb ledge, such as BIKERAIL (<https://dezipline.com/protected-bikeway-pedestrian-products/bikerail/>) that was discussed in a League of American Bicyclists online article (<https://bikeleague.org/content/what-makes-better-bike-lane-barrier>).
8. The City learned earlier in the month that it's application to renew it's Bronze level Bike Friendly Community was approved with the City publicizing the award. On a [Walk Friendly Community](#) application, plans are to submit this document by a December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

9. Events & Community Outreach – Plans are to highlight cold weather bicycling information over the Committee’s Facebook page. The Committee will also continue “Be SEEN At Night” drive where pedestrians and bicyclists are urged to avoid dark clothing at night and wear reflective material. Bicyclists are urged to have working front and rear lights and have a mindset that they are “invisible” to motorists.
10. MDOT 2022 Ypsilanti non-motorized projects – Recently property owners received a “Ypsi Road Renovation” flyer about the road projects next year on Washtenaw, Huron, Hamilton and the Huron Avenue bridge over I-94 that will have significant non-motorized improvements. This same flyer was featured in the December City Newsletter and on a dedicate project web page at <https://cityofypsilanti.com/817/Ypsilanti-Road-Renovations>.
11. The City Planning Department and Public Services Department updates – Andy Aamodt of the Planning Department informed everyone of the proposed new housing development at 945 West Clark Road (map of area at <https://goo.gl/maps/JnaMF1NZNx3SfGGx7>), west of LeForge Road, that will have a large number of senior (150) and affordable family (154) units. A public participation online meeting will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with details at <https://cityofypsilanti.com/819/945-Clark-Rd>. Committee members are encouraged to attend to give input on non-motorized improvements of the proposed development (such a non-motorized pathway from the development to Peninsular Park along the River.
12. 2022 Committee priorities – Briefly discussed with suggestion by Committee member Echols about the installation of [Accessible Pedestrian Signals](#) in the City and she will start making a preliminary survey of possible locations. Formal approval of the 2022 Committee priorities will take place at the January 2022 meeting.
13. Next meeting – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7pm

### **City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee 2022 Priorities (Pending Approval Of The Committee)**

1. City Non-Motorized Plan
  - Vision Zero ordinance (City taking action to have zero-related traffic fatalities by a set date)
  - Improved pedestrian signals & crosswalk ordinance
  - Traffic calming and slowing motor vehicle traffic
  - Shifting modes of transportation more towards walking/bicycling
2. Pedestrian Improvements – Signage, road markings, permanent radar speed signs at select locations, Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon’s, traffic calming, ordinance review. Concentrate on where most pedestrian activity occurs.
3. Bicyclist Improvements – Additional bike lanes, safety signage, road markings, protected bike lanes, sharrows.
4. 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

5. Non-Motorized City budget – Determine yearly, non-motorized project funding amount available. Committee involvement in CIP review and non-motorized project funding disbursement decisions.
6. Neighborhood Connectors - Low-speed street which has been "optimized" for bicycle & walking traffic.
7. Border To Border (B2B) Trail gap completion and enhancement.
8. Bike & Walk Friendly Communities
  - Submit Walk Friendly Community application
  - Bike Friendly Community (BFC) – Review, and act on, suggested improvements. Work towards next layer of award (i.e. go from Bronze to Silver)
  - Bike Friendly Business program drive
9. Events & Community Outreach – Organized walks, cold weather cycling talks, EMU Bike Rodeo, Parkridge Festival, Halloween safe trick-or-treating.
10. Safe Routes To School