

**Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Route Planning Meeting Minutes**

Stryker Corp.

December 5, 2013

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Participants

Lee Adams, Resource Coordinator, Kalamazoo County Department of Planning and Community Development; Administrator, Southcentral Michigan Planning Council
Kyle Doster, Officer, Portage Department of Public Safety
Paul Guthrie, Laboratory Manager, Bronson Methodist Hospital
Jeff Hamilton, Asst. Principal, Portage Public Schools
Michelle Karpinski, VP of Development, Kalamazoo Nature Center
Shawn Kloha, IT Project Manager, Stryker Corp.
Tim Krone, Owner, Pedal Bicycle
Jon Scott, Trustee, Ross Township; President, Gull Lake View Golf Club
Paul Selden, Director of Road Safety, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club; Member, TriKats
Richard Skalski, Senior Construction Engineer (former), City of Kalamazoo
Cara Smith, Bike Director, TriKats
Jodi Stefforia, Associate Planner, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Doug VanDyk, Manager, Global IT Training & Development, Stryker Corporation

Goals and Rationale

The primary goal for this meeting was to develop a draft catalog of 72 round-trip commuter bike routes between each of the major chartered governmental jurisdictions in the Metropolitan Planning Organization under the purview of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. The catalog will be used for a variety of transportation planning purposes, both to support the general informational needs of the community and to facilitate formal transportation planning and development.

Agenda – Facilitated by Paul Selden

Overview of BFK / Advisory Vote Results

Background on Bike Friendly Kalamazoo and BFK's route planning effort, 2011 through present.

Representatives from range of area organizations generated and distilled 600+ ideas into 2013's three primary goals related to bicycling and community development: infrastructure improvement, education, and awareness building.

Presentations hosted by BFK participants touching on points of importance to bike route development have included:

“Rules of the Road” (Sgt. Jim Campbell, MSP)

“Pedestrian & Bicycle Roadway Design – Safe, Smart and Defensible” (Josh DeBruyn, MDOT)

“Designing For Bicycle Safety” (T.Y. Lin International, for MDOT)

[Note: Participants Christopher Barnes, City of Portage, and Marc Irwin, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club have also delivered well-illustrated presentations on bicycle infrastructure and policy at BFK meetings, covering Madison, WI and the Boston, MA areas, respectively.]

Results of BFK's 2012 route advisory vote were presented: 96% of those responding favored a "county wide" (now, MPO-wide) system of bicycle routes; 85% favored assembling high-level bicycle route planning guidelines (now posted on BFK's website); and, 73% favored naming the system (or portions) to facilitate identification and building public awareness.

The status of work on these advisory vote items is ongoing. The Metropolitan Planning Organization-wide effort to plan bike routes is ongoing. A quick set of route planning guidelines is now posted on www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org, and, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission is working on their own bike and non-motorized infrastructure policies right now. Ideas for naming the system of bike routes will be solicited beginning in 2014.

Route Planning Progress Update

To date a variety of commuter, shopping, recreational and fitness routes have been drafted and posted online. Links to these routes may be found on www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org.

Today's focus was on commuter route planning. This is probably the most likely to be supported by public funding of any of the bike / non-motorized route categories.

Ongoing work on route planning will take place on a number of fronts. The routes our volunteers have drafted will be reviewed, refined, and collated. Routes will be posted to BFK's web site for convenient public access and use. Participants will work with local jurisdictions agencies on a master bike/non-motorized plan.

The history of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's route planning effort was briefly presented. Milestones include:

November 2012: Community-wide volunteers oriented to route preparation guidelines led by participants Christopher Barnes, Kevin Martini, and Doug VanDyk. The outcome of that work is that commuter, shopping, recreation & fitness route teams crafted 35 routes are now posted on BFK's web site.

October 2013 (three meetings): Community-wide participants engaged in a rapid route planning session. Participants Shawn Kloha, Paul Selden, Tim Stewart and Doug VanDyk: followed up that session to convert hand-drawn route maps into on-line routes. The outcome of those meetings is that 23 additional routes have been posted for review on the BFK web site. Participants Christopher Barnes, Tom Hohm and Paul Selden then met to inventory the categories of roads most suitable for non-motorized use in the KATS MPO. The outcome of that meeting was the recognition that only one stretch of road in entire MPO is both low traffic and shouldered (portion of Mandigo in Portage). [Note: Participants also made some progress on preparing route descriptions between key jurisdictions, which await to be compared with the commuter routes generated in the current meeting.]

Commuter Route Planning “Blitz”

Participants drafted 72 round trip commuter bike routes (see Appendix A) using a rapid planning technique using “Ride With GPS” (RWGPS), an online route planning tool at www.ridewithgps.com. The tool was set to use Google’s route mapping technology for cycling, with automated to-from round-trip routing of Google’s most preferred route. All 72 routes were generated using this method. Some progress was also made exploring the number of alternative routes that Google generates for each of these routes.

Work to transfer the routes drafted onto links accessible on www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org is targeted to be complete by the end of December. Selected routes will be posted/linked to BFK’s website for non-binding consideration by the public and area planners (e.g., for possible use in long-term non-motorized plans). Routes submitted will be further vetted by volunteers at a later date.

Minutes prepared by Paul Selden Released December 10, 2013

Appendix A

BFK Commuter Routes Worked on During This Meeting

Note: return routing (e.g., From Lawton-To Alamo) is not listed,
but was included in the process.

From	To
1 Alamo	- Lawton
2 Alamo	- Mattawan
3 Alamo	- Paw Paw
4 Augusta	- Cooper
5 Augusta	- Kalamazoo
6 Augusta	- Richland
7 Climax	- Augusta
8 Climax	- Galesburg
9 Climax	- Kalamazoo
10 Climax	- Portage
11 Climax	- Scotts
12 Climax	- Vicksburg
13 Comstock	- Augusta
14 Comstock	- Kalamazoo
15 Comstock	- Parchment
16 Comstock	- Richland
17 Cooper	- Alamo
18 Cooper	- Mattawan
19 Fulton	- Climax
20 Fulton	- Comstock
21 Fulton	- Galesburg
22 Fulton	- Kalamazoo
23 Fulton	- Portage
24 Fulton	- Scotts
25 Galesburg	- Augusta
26 Galesburg	- Cooper
27 Galesburg	- Kalamazoo
28 Galesburg	- Parchment
29 Galesburg	- Richland
30 Kalamazoo	- Alamo
31 Kalamazoo	- Cooper
32 Kalamazoo	- Mattawan
33 Kalamazoo	- Oshtemo
34 Lawton	- Mattawan
35 Lawton	- Paw Paw
36 Mattawan	- Paw Paw
37 Oshtemo	- Alamo
38 Oshtemo	- Cooper
39 Oshtemo	- Lawton
40 Oshtemo	- Mattawan
41 Parchment	- Alamo
42 Parchment	- Augusta
43 Parchment	- Cooper
44 Parchment	- Kalamazoo

- 45 Parchment - Richland
- 46 Portage - Alamo
- 47 Portage - Comstock
- 48 Portage - Galesburg
- 49 Portage - Kalamazoo
- 50 Portage - Mattawan
- 51 Portage - Oshtemo
- 52 Portage - Texas
- 53 Richland - Cooper
- 54 Richland - Kalamazoo
- 55 Schoolcraft - Lawton
- 56 Schoolcraft - Mattawan
- 57 Schoolcraft - Oshtemo
- 58 Schoolcraft - Portage
- 59 Schoolcraft - Texas
- 60 Scotts - Comstock
- 61 Scotts - Galesburg
- 62 Scotts - Kalamazoo
- 63 Scotts - Portage
- 64 Scotts - Schoolcraft
- 65 Texas - Alamo
- 66 Texas - Kalamazoo
- 67 Texas - Lawton
- 68 Texas - Mattawan
- 69 Texas - Oshtemo
- 70 Vicksburg - Portage
- 71 Vicksburg - Schoolcraft
- 72 Vicksburg - Scotts