

**Bike Friendly Kalamazoo  
Planning Meeting Agenda**  
Texas Township Hall, Training Room  
January 19, 2017

**Confirmed Participants**

Megan Arndt, Associate Planner, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study  
Megan Bush, District Manager, MI Sen. Margaret O'Brien  
Elizabeth Field, Journalism Student, Western Michigan University  
Melissa Fish, Legislative Aide, MI Representative Jon Hoadley  
Paul Guthrie, Laboratory Manager, Bronson Methodist Hospital  
Shawn Kloha, Member, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club  
Tim Krone, Owner, Pedal Bicycle  
Renee Mitchell, President, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club  
Brendan Molony, Sustainability Coordinator, Bronson Healthcare  
Doug Plachcinski, Planning Administrator, Texas Township  
Patricia Randall, Councilwoman, City of Portage  
Ed Sackley, Member, Gear Geezers  
Lt. James Sandlin, Operations Div., Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept.  
Paul Selden, Member, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club/TriKats  
Sgt. Craig Schmaltz, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept.  
Dale Shugars, Chair, Kalamazoo County Commission  
Dick Skalski, Chief Engineer, City of Kalamazoo (ret.)  
Paul Sotherland, Member, KATS Citizens Advisory Cmte  
Larry Stehouwer, Friends of the KRVT, Cooper Township Planning Commission  
Tim Stewart, Hurley & Stewart Engineers, KBC Member, Team Clark Logic Member  
Phil Tarchala, Planning Commission, Antwerp Twp.  
David Warwick, Chair, Kalamazoo Bike Week 2017  
Paul Wells, Education Chair, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

**Agenda**

Welcome and Introductions

Paul Selden briefly described Bike Friendly Kalamazoo as an informal communications network of participants and volunteers aiming to make our greater community even more bicycle friendly, for all the benefits that would bring.

The purpose of this meeting: generate ideas and priorities for efforts in 2017.

Topical Updates

MPO-wide Bike Route Network - Doug Plachcinski, Planning Administrator, Texas Twp

Next Steps: Townships will be submitting the necessary permits, and some would like volunteer help to determine and/or confirm appropriate bike route sign locations.

Highlight of Benefits

Transportation moves something from one place to another and includes bicyclists  
Bicyclists often cross borders of jurisdictions when they travel, so the network of bike routes needs to be cross-jurisdictional, as well.

Crashes are usually harder on bicyclists, but they impact the community as well.

A well thought out system should increase the awareness that drivers should expect to see bicyclists on properly signed routes. Bike routes are often the only option in rural areas.

The KATS Planned Commuter Bike Routes were developed over a three year period with a great deal of public involvement. As part of the KATS 2045 Transportation Plan, they were approved by the KATS Technical Committee and adopted by its Policy Committee in April 2016. So the routes are already mapped.

The Commuter Bike Route Network should help users identify the best routes to/from each major jurisdiction in the entire KATS metropolitan planning organization, encouraging new cyclists.

Bike Routes are, in general, extremely cost-efficient, with a cost for signs and their installation something around \$2,000 per mile vs. other facilities involving asphalt. Implementing the Commuter Bike Route network will boost regional awareness in many ways, putting our region on the map and also making it easier for bicyclists to explore its attractions.

#### Kalamazoo Bike Week - David Warwick, Chair, KABW 2017

1. Dates of Kalamazoo Area Bike Week: May 13-21, 2017
2. Kalamazoo Area Bike Week – Started in 2012 to increase awareness of KRVT
3. Bike Week’s purpose is to raise awareness of the many ways the community is using and enjoying bicycling, and to encourage other institutions to highlight bicycle their own activities. It has no staff or budget of its own and relies on volunteers.
4. Events currently scheduled: Kal-Haven Trailblazer, Mayors’ City to City Ride, Kalamazoo Bike Film Festival, Ride of Silence, Bike-a-Polooza
5. If an organization has a bike related event to promote as part of Kalamazoo Area Bike Week, it can be put on KABW’s website at [www.kalamazoobikeweek.com](http://www.kalamazoobikeweek.com) OR
6. Contact David at [warwick@envirologic.com](mailto:warwick@envirologic.com) or (269) 217-6945 (cell)

#### KBC's Education Ideas - Paul Wells, Education Chair, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

As the Education Chair for the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, he will be offering bicycling education through KBC’s annual Bike Camp, starting in May.

Messages: “Ride Like You Drive,” “Give ‘Em 5’ To Stay Alive,” “Same Rights, Same Roads, Same Rules”

City of Portage newsletters. Goes to all mailboxes

City and township websites

Billboards

Yard signs

Bumper stickers

Public service announcements-radio, TV, and social media

Law enforcement

Road signage messages- “Share The Road” should include “It’s The Law”

Paul W would like to team up with anyone interested in working with him on bike education; please email or call him at [breakawaypw@yahoo.com](mailto:breakawaypw@yahoo.com), (269) 685-5138.

#### KATSMoves - Megan Arndt, Associate Planner, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

KATSMoves is the short name for the KATS Pedestrian, Greenway, and Transit Plan.

A primary goal of the Pedestrian, Greenway, and Transit Plan is to identify connections between new and existing non-motorized facilities and the Kalamazoo Metro Transit (KMetro) network.

KATSMoves is a 12-month planning process. Anticipated completion of the plan and a final deliverable is expected in September of 2017.

The plan is currently in the public input stage. Citizen participation is actively sought through the survey on the [www.KATSMoves.org](http://www.KATSMoves.org) web site.

A public open house meeting is scheduled on February 7, 4-7pm at Kalamazoo Metro Transit, 530 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

## 2016 Initiatives - Paul Selden, Founder, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Credit for any and all progress goes to BFK's many participants and "friends of bicycling!"

Tangible progress on:

- "Non-Motorized Element" of KATS 2045 Long Term Transportation Plan
- Commuter Bike Route Network ("Map 7") adopted as part of KATS 2045 Long Term Transportation Plan
- Drafting Commuter Bike Route Implementation Guidelines
- Complete Streets Resolutions: Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, Portage
- Safe Passing Ordinances: Kalamazoo, Portage
- Incorporation by reference of KATS' non-motorized plan by Portage, Kalamazoo Co.
- Bike Light Safety Effort Resolution: Portage
- Resolution to Achieve "Gold-Level" Bike Friendly Community Award: Portage
- Heightened awareness of bicycling at many levels of media
- plus local non-motorized infrastructure improvements – too numerous to list here

Work on:

- "Marketing" name to encompass ALL of area's trails, lanes, routes, courses
- BFK Logo
- State-level bike/ped safety education and safe passing laws
- What to do about bike/ped related hit and run incidents (relationship begun with Silent Observer – more to come soon)

Started:

- Awareness-building re. importance of distracted driving, crash avoidance systems, insurance discounts for CAS equipped vehicles, encouraging regulatory agency involvement in mandatory CAS equipped vehicles

State Legislative Update - Megan Bush, District Manager, MI Sen. Margaret O'Brien

Senator Margaret O'Brien plans to reintroduce the following legislation in 2017.

- House Bills 5002 and Senate Bill 1029: Would set penalties for injuring or killing a vulnerable roadway user. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/House/pdf/2015-HIB-5002.pdf>
- House Bill 5004 and Senate Bill 1030: Updates sentencing guidelines for those who violate HB 5002. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2016-SIB-1030.pdf>
- House Bill 5003 and Senate Bill 1077 (will be running the House version.) Would require a five foot safe passage distance when overtaking a bicycle on the left. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/House/pdf/2015-HIB-5003.pdf>
- Senate Bill 1076: Would require a five foot safe passage distance when overtaking on the right side. Because passing on the right and left are included in two different statutes, this bill was required. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2016-SIB-1076.pdf>
- Senate Bill 1078: Would include enhanced requirements for bicycle safety in driver education classes. There is concern that the current statute requiring education on bicycle laws does not have any "teeth," so this would set a three hour timeframe to teach about the laws pertaining to bicycles and motorcycles. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2016-SIB-1078.pdf>

## Q&A / Planning Input

Dick Skalski suggested focusing education efforts on area schools. Paul Wells wants to try to reach parents of children who learned how to ride on sidewalks at home and are getting ready to ride farther, which usually would mean needing to learn skills about riding on the roads. With more and more bicyclists on the roads, motorists and bicyclists need to develop skills accordingly. Dale Shugars asked whether there is a bicycling caucus in the Michigan legislature. Megan Bush was not aware of any. Phil Tarchala wondered whether local institutions such as banks, that have electronic signs, might be asked to use them for bike awareness messages. Patricia Randall commented that Pure Michigan might be approached to emphasize bicycling, even more. Megan Arndt emphasized that KATSMoves will mainly be looking at how to make seamless connections involving Metro Transit and other modes such as walking and biking. Dave Warwick commented that Kalamazoo Area Bike Week's new name emphasizes bicycling in the broader community, and hopes organizations will look at organizing bicycling oriented events during that week.

A more formal BFK Planning Worksheet was handed out at the beginning of the meeting to capture additional ideas. A copy of the survey follows on the next page, noting the results in summary form.

A Commuter Bike Route Preliminary Idea Survey was distributed to gather feedback about a common sign design for marking routes on the proposed Commuter Bike Route (numbered as "Map 7" in the KATS 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan). Note: The survey was handed out without additional orientation or discussion about "pros and cons" so as to get people's input with as little bias introduced by Paul Selden as possible. Results are on page 7, with a copy of the survey.) Seventeen surveys were returned. (Note: There were no "ties," so Paul Selden is withholding his "votes" from the tallies.) The intent was to test out the format of the survey; results are suggestive but informal. A more formal process for gathering public and representative input will commence in/after March.

- Next Steps (most likely in/after March)

- a) incorporate as many feasible ideas as possible into general list of 2017 goals (see worksheet)
- b) implement to extent of volunteer/participant interest and availability
- c) further discuss (off line or at another meeting) any items where further input is needed before they can be incorporated into goal

*Thanks to all the speakers who presented updates at the meeting!*

*Thanks to all who participated, and thanks to Texas Township for providing these facilities!*

## BFK Planning Worksheet January 19, 2017

Name / Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions

Please print or write clearly to facilitate easy follow up. Your comments, questions and answers provided may be included in our meeting minutes to help others benefit from your thoughts.

### 1. Questions/Answers

Due to the amount of material to be covered in this meeting, we may not be able to answer every question on your mind. Please jot remaining questions you have, below, or follow up with each other more directly. Paul Selden will try to facilitate answers to questions noted below. ("Off-line" questions directed to Paul may be recorded in the minutes; for practical reasons, others will remain off-line.)

Make sure you note WHO you would like to answer your question and word your question clearly.

Presenter          Question(s)

**[Note: as noted above, the questions written here are considered "off-line" outside the scope of these minutes and have been directly sent to Presenters.]**

### 2. Bike Route Network Sign Locations Project

Oshtemo, Texas, Cooper and Comstock Townships have asked for volunteers to work on various aspects of finding the best places to locate the proper signage for the MPO-wide Commuter Bike Route Network adopted April 27, 2016 (e.g., main, mileage, turn arrow signs). Volunteer help will be interesting, necessary and appreciated. Would you be willing to help with this effort? If so, please circle here: YES

#### **Name and Preferred Township (if listed)**

**David Warwick: Comstock**

**Paul Sotherland: Oshtemo**

**Elizabeth Field**

**Larry Stehouwer**

**Shawn Kloha**

If your jurisdiction would like BFK to facilitate volunteer assistance, please circle here: YES [**None circled**]

### 3. Efforts/Goals in 2017

Please mark an "X" by priorities you think BFK should / could focus on in 2017. The current plan is to make some progress on as many of the following specific items as possible. Feel free to modify the list per your thoughts as you think best!

- 14 Awareness-building: encouraging mutual respect between motorists/non-motorists  
&/or **Signage on as many bike routes as possible.**
- 12 Education: how to ride safely  
&/or **Educating both drivers and bike riders. Could be/should be supported in schools?**
- 7 Legislation: laws to better protect non-motorists (bicyclists, pedestrians)  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Policy and Planning: Complete Streets policies, long-term non-motorized plans  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Facilities and Amenities: Complete Streets policies, long-term non-motorized plans, etc.  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Regulations: to encourage adoption of crash prevention & avoidance automation  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Technology: work on crash prevention & avoidance systems  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Insurance: encouraging discounts for vehicles equipped w/ crash prevention & avoidance systems  
&/or **[None mentioned]** \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Incorporating / Institutionalizing BFK: making sure BFK's mission is sustained, long-term &/or **Consider incorporating this function in an existing structure, like KATS. Does lay advocacy carry more weight?**

4. Personal Interest

In 2016 most of BFK's participants worked "off-line" in various ways to make our community even more bicycle friendly – large BFK-facilitated group meetings have not been as necessary. If you would like to participate as a resource on projects as they come up, please list topics / efforts, etc. that most interest you, below. Use the topics above for ideas, or add your own.

**Paul Guthrie**

**Can help where needed, for example, on logo. I can also check with Bronson on support and participation. [Paul Selden, David Warwick, Paul Wells]**

**Timothy Stewart**

**I'm interested in helping promote bike safety. [Paul Wells]**

**Richard Skalski**

**Billboards, yard signs, bumper stickers. [Paul Wells]**

**Elizabeth Field**

**Education and Awareness [Paul Wells]**

**Ed Sackley**

**Kalamazoo [Area] Bike Week (David Warwick speaking at Rotary) [David Warwick]**

**Shawn Kloha**

**Interested in helping with Kalamazoo [Area] Bike Week [David Warwick] and KBC Education [Paul Wells]**

**Note: Contact information for the individuals named above who mentioned these special interests have been emailed to the speakers connected with those topics whose names appear in brackets.**

## Commuter Bike Route (“Map 7”) Sign Preliminary Idea Survey Results (1-19-17)

Public discussions have been taking place about using a distinctive sign to mark the planned networks of bike routes adopted in the 2045 KATS Long Term Transportation Plan. This is a preliminary survey to explore alternative sign designs. Your input will help present the survey and concepts even more effectively. Please mark your survey per the steps below and return it at the end of our session today.

For many reasons, the sign below is the model for much of the current thinking. The distinctive “white shield on green background” is in common use and known to the public as marking routes/areas where bicyclists may be expected. There is general agreement that the term “Bikeway” has many advantages. Other general specifications (size, shape, color, etc.) will conform to Michigan standards. This particular survey is only focusing on a few remaining items.

The sign offers room for potential content in three major areas noted as Logo, Owner and Bicycle Symbol below. Please review these items below and mark your survey accordingly.

**City of Portage Bikeway Sign**

Logo

“Owner”

Bicycle Symbol

3. Circle the letter (A-D) of the symbol you prefer.

P=5

A

P=0

B

P=6

C

P=3

D

Total Surveys Returned = 17

### 1. Logo

A logo might be used as a unifying emblem to tie the network together at various “levels.” There are many choices. Please rank the choices below (1=“Most Prefer” through “4=Least Prefer”): **[Mean Response; notes]**

- [1.4] Road agency having “jurisdiction” (a city, village, a road commission, or MDOT logo) [8 “Votes for #1” (VF#1)]
- [1.9] Emblem unique to the entire KATS MPO bike route network [4 VF#1]
- [3.0] Agency logo on one side, “KATS” network emblem on the other
- [3.1] Nothing; leave this area empty [8 “Votes” for #4]

### 2. Owner

Do you agree or disagree with the following general principles related to the name in this area? (Y=Yes; N=No)

- Y [14] / N [2] The name should be the jurisdiction that must pay for the sign (e.g., materials, installation, maintenance), adhering to current agreements for sign posting and upkeep in our area.
- Y [15] / N [0] The name in this area may motivate bicyclists to bike to those places.
- Y [14] / N [1] The name in this area may raise awareness that those places “exist.”
- Y [16] / N [0] The name in this area may be a source of pride to the communities named.

*Please use the back of this survey to write any comments you like, including ways to improve this survey.*  
**[No Comments were added]**

### 4. Symbol 3C may be drawn with or without the backpack / “stencil” lines.

Please circle your preferences:

1. Use Backpack? Yes [8] / No [6]
2. Use “Stencil” [2] or “Solid” [11] bicyclist?

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