

**Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Planning Meeting Minutes**
KRESA November 21, 2019 4:30-5:30pm

Participants

Mike Boersma - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Thom Brennan - Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Deb Carpenter - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
John Lindenmayer - League of Michigan Bicyclists
Lauren Lott - City of Portage
Renee Mitchell - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Katie Reilly - City of Kalamazoo
Paul Runnels - Open Roads Bike Program
Ed Sackley - Gear Geezers
Brian Sanada - MDOT
Paul Selden - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Bill Surna - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Lewis Whalen - Disability Network of SW Michigan

Meeting Goal

Plan the next steps of implementation for two key programs: bringing the League Cycling Instructor (LCI) training and a “Be Bright” bike light campaign to our area.

Note: The public meeting held by BFK on October 17, 2017 uncovered sufficient interest in implementing these two programs to move forward. The notes from that meeting are worth reading, as well. They are found at <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BFK-Session-Minutes-191017-v191105.pdf> and as a choice on our website’s Meetings tab.

LCI Introductory Comments

by John Lindenmayer, Executive Director of the League of Michigan Bicyclists

- LMB in 3rd year of grant from Office of Highway Safety Planning: 1st two years focused on law enforcement training, drivers ed instructor training; in 2020 focus is on bike instructor training
- 30 League Cycling Instructors in Michigan
- Smart Cycling - prerequisite to League Cycling Instructor (LCI) training: ½ day self-study (or in-class, with slides led by LCI) + ½ day hands-on
- LCI - 20 hour course; minimum 8 students, maximum 16; must schedule with League of American Bicyclists 3 months in advance; can be Friday night, Saturday all day, Sunday 1/2 day; \$500 per person [need to double-check what website said: \$350]
- Facilities needed: traffic free parking lot (How big?); access to building with class space and bathrooms

John needed to leave the session at approximately 4:50pm.

Summary of General Discussion

Rene Mitchell is a current LCI and interested in helping with the Smart Cycling program; Kalamazoo Bicycle Club strongly supports the effort and may have interested students; Bike Friendly Kalamazoo intends to provide scholarship assistance to prospective LCI’s; cities of Portage and Kalamazoo have facilities. (In previous meeting, other organizations might also have interested LCI students).

Both major cities can share the programs; in their interest to do so in order to advance their status as Bike Friendly Communities: for example, one for Smart Cycling, the other for LCI training; trail and street locations for the “Be Bright” Bike Light Campaign.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo can facilitate organizational meetings such as this and help provide funding.

League Cycling Instructor (LCI) Training

WHAT (to do?)

Identify excluded dates

Identify facility

Identify dates & optional backup dates

Identify host for SCT and LCI

Publicize

Sequence SCT and LCI

WHO (does WHAT)?

Rene Mitchell - will reach out to John L on seeing what we can do regarding date for Smart Cycling Course

WHEN?

Smart Cycling - Spring (during Bike Week? May 9-16, 2020)

Smart Cycling - April 2020

KalTour June 28

Fall Bike Celebration [Ride] Sunday Sept. 20

Tweed Ride - October 3?

LCI Training - Fall

WHERE?

City of Portage: possibly have a physical space

Schrier Park

School

KRESA

Mayor's Park

City of Kalamazoo: host locations for preliminary course & LCI Training

QUESTIONS

LCI Training - What & Who

1. What level of commitment is expected from each graduate?
2. Whether self-funded or scholarship, will the individual fully understand and embrace the commitment?

“Be Bright” Bike Light Campaign

WHAT (to do)?

Use Strava heat maps to help focus high use venues

Leverage “National Night Out”

Discussions point to multiple events/locations

WHO (does WHAT)?

Fire and police departments put on lights

Volunteers

Staffs of cities and other organizations wanting Bike Friendly Status

WHEN?

Fall 2020

WHERE?

Find where people ride without lights

Distribution ideas: places that are destination and connection spots for primary transportation cyclists

Ministry with Community

Maple St. YMCA

Douglass Community Association
Portage Community Outreach
Vine Neighborhood
Hispanic American Council
Kalamazoo Transportation Center
Open Roads on Riverview is right on the KRVT; would be good site if done on right day; in conjunction with Tweed Ride
Perhaps Kazoo Swift could be a location for handing out lights

City of Portage - Rangers have a couple of lights on shift and can hand them/apply them on the bike possibly

QUESTIONS

“Be Bright” Bike Light Campaign

1. Is this a one off event or could it be multiples?
2. Who is contact for submitting Kalamazoo’s Bike Friendly Community package?

Other comments, thoughts:

KBC has contact with an LCI Trainer who has scope beyond LCI Training. Can we designate our desired instructor?

Fee for SCT?

Lauren Lott - City of Portage has space; would need to consult

Rene would be SCT Trainer in conjunction with other MI-LCI’s

BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: share responsibilities - Portage & Kalamazoo

Next Steps: Participants*

Are there some next steps that you might take? If so, please jot your thoughts below:

[Generally speaking, locally, Rene Mitchell, Lauren Lott, Katie Reilly Paul Selden will be following up with their organizations, each other and various contacts on making both programs “happen.” John Lindenmayer will be following up as LMB brings on board a staff member to coordinate their LCI related efforts. Leadership of other organizations such as the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, Open Roads Bike Program, Portage Public Schools and others will be involved as well.]

Keegan Adriance - City of Kalamazoo Complete Streets Advisory Cmte - keegan.s.adriance@gmail.com

Jen Johnson - Chain Gang Bicycle Club - jlsytsma@yahoo.com

Lauren Lott - City of Portage - lottl@portagemi.gov

Renee Mitchell - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - rmitchell@arienne.com

Dave Rachowicz - Kalamazoo County - dmrach@kalcounty.com

Paul Rehkopf - Open Roads Bike Program - paulrehkopf@gmail.com

Katie Reilly - City of Kalamazoo - reillyk@kalamazoo.org

Paul Runnels - Open Roads Bike Program - canoe.boy2008@yahoo.com

Jim Righter - Portage Public Schools - jrighter@portageps.org

Paul Selden - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo [Chair of This Meeting] - president@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org

Lewis Whalen - Lewis Whalen - Disability Network of SW Michigan - WhalenL@dnswm.org

*Participants whose emails are listed above agreed to share their contact information to facilitate follow up by others (as taken from this and the October public meeting). BFK encourages individual initiative and collaboration among organizations on these potential worthy programs! Please do not abuse this information. If your name is not on this list but you want to add it, please contact Paul Selden.

BFK’s Next Steps

- Prepare / distribute / publish minutes.
- Ask others to participate.
- Explore & seek funding options (e.g., for bike lights, scholarships)
- Hold follow up meetings re. these and other programs (e.g., “Driving Change Program”)

References/Meeting Materials

[Be Bright Lessons Learned](#) - Compiled by Planet Bike (contact: Jay Ferm, Director of Advocacy & Operations - 608-310-3546)

[Become an LCI](#) - League of American Bicyclists (LAB)

[So you want to become a League Cycling Instructor?](#) - LAB

[How to Host a League Cycling Instructor Seminar](#) - LAB

You are welcome to share any additional thoughts & ideas with Paul Selden or each other, any time!

Thank you for your input and participation and, thanks to KRESA for providing these facilities!