

BFK Annual Meeting Notes

Combined BFK Annual, Bike Program Steering Cmte & Diversity and Bicycling Leaders Team Meeting
March 22, 2023

Via Webex; Notes Released April 5, 2023

Please report updates/corrections to Paul Selden, Committee Chair

Participants

Paul Selden - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Collin Banner - Stakeholder
Bruce Johnson - Creative Magnets
Beth Keith - BFK Advisory
Steve Walsh - Vine Street Neighborhood Assoc.
Isaac Green - Open Roads Bike Program
Dave Chadderdon - Citizen
Jun Oh - WMU
Deb Carpenter - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Patrick Hershberger - Kal. Co. Public Art Comm.
Kathleen Hoyle - City of Portage

John Kern - The Prairie Rond Artist Residency
Quinn Passmore - Office of Highway Safety
Planning
Paul Rehkopf - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Ron Van Houten - WMU
Keisha Dickason - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
LaTonya Turner - City of Kalamazoo
Paul Wells - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Rachel Bennett - Interested Party

Welcome

Special Welcome & Announcements from Bike-Related Organizations

BFK's Annual Public Meeting has traditionally included presentations from the greater community's bike-related organizations, providing an opportunity to describe their leadership, purpose and a quick review of upcoming programs.

Open Roads Bike Program - **Issac Green**, Director - Open Roads is a youth development bike program that provides kids under 18 with opportunities to earn free bikes and the knowledge to repair them. They have many upcoming events and programs in 2023, including an Earth Day Ride, Tweed Ride, and their Bike-A-Palooza.

Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission (KCPAC) - **Patrick Hershberger**, Chair - The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission (PAC) was created by a joint "Urban Cooperation" agreement between the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage and the County of Kalamazoo. The purpose of the Commission is to determine the best practices for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and deaccession of public works of art. It oversees hundreds of pieces of public artwork, which includes indoor and outdoor sculptures, memorials/tributes, murals, and architectural detailing. They are currently facilitating a program with the mobile app PixelStix, which involves adding plaques to public art that the community can scan with their phones to learn more about the art piece.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) - **Paul Wells**, Education Chair - KBC promotes cycling in the Kalamazoo area through endeavors such as organizing rides, races, and educating the public on safe cycling practices. They also work to protect the rights of cyclists and cooperate with other organizations with similar goals. KBC has numerous rides coming up, including a weekly Woman's Ride and LGBTQ+ Ride.

WMU Office for Sustainability - **Issac Green**, former Director - WMU's Office for Sustainability guides and assists the Western Michigan University community in fulfilling and growing its sustainability commitments. Through building a diverse and flourishing learning community around sustainability, they strive to continually explore and develop new opportunities to create a culture of sustainability and improve quality of life for all. They currently provide free bike repair services to WMU students and are running a bike shop on campus. Visit their website to find out more about their upcoming events.

Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County - Emma Youngs, Bronson Hospital Childhood Injury Prevention Coordinator - Safe Kids Kalamazoo County is led by Bronson Children's Hospital, which provides dedicated and caring staff, operation support and other resources to assist in achieving our common goal: keeping your kids safe. Based on the needs of the community, this coalition implements evidence-based programs, such as car-seat checkups, safety workshops and sports clinics, that help parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries, including bike helmet fitting programs.

Office of Highway Safety Planning (OSHP) - Quinn Passmore, Vulnerable Roadway User Safety Program Coordinator - OHSP is an office within the Michigan State Police that develops an extensive catalog of road safety publications and information related to bicycling. For a number of years OHSP has also led state-wide public awareness building campaigns in a variety of media.

Roll Call

Meeting Goals

Orient new perspective members
Share updates re. relevant information
Consider additional programs

Quick Review of Steering Committee Purpose / Process

Charter - consider matters related to defining and accomplishing named Programs and relay non-binding advice to Program Core Team(s)

Guests - can join per process as recognized organizational members or as member stakeholders at large

Members - are named by their organizations, agree to serve as delegates or at-large, allow their emails to be sent as cc's; give Chair contact info. **Action Item: please review roster and notify Chair of changes.**

Notes - summarize main points and are not formal minutes

For more information, see **Reference** section below

Next Quarterly Steering Committee Date: June 21, 2023

Also September 20, and December 6. Meetings to be held via WebEx for foreseeable future.

Program Updates on Long-Term Initiatives

Topics listed based on items of previously agreed-upon steering committee interest. This committee's main purpose is to share information and offer guidance to those implementing. The community is encouraged to use this information and implement ideas "at will." Please email additional thoughts to the Chair.

1. Education

Vicksburg - The Village of Vicksburg is hosting a bike rodeo during KBW on Saturday, May 13th from 9am to 12 pm.

City of Kalamazoo - **LaTonya Turner**: Bike Rodeo at Mayor's Riverfront Park in the parking lot on Wednesday, May 17 from 5pm to 7pm.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - **Paul Wells**: KBC's award-winning Bike Camp will be compressed from its prior multi-day format into a single morning session. They will hold a class session in the morning followed by a ride later in the afternoon. For subsequent Mondays, they are integrating bike camp lessons into their regular Monday evening rides. For more information, please contact **Paul Wells**.

Bike Light Giveaway - **Paul Selden**: The League of Michigan Bicyclists is giving away free bike lights to qualified organizations. Bike Friendly Kalamazoo has applied to receive some of these lights. For more information, see the BFK Facebook page or visit <https://lmb.org/2023/03/bike-lights-for-michigan-nights/>. Discover Kalamazoo has reached out and expressed interest to receive and give away

bike lights. Per **Dana Wagner**: “Once our visitor center is able to re-open this could be a good way for us to be involved.”

City of Portage - **Kathleen Hoyle**: The Earn-A-Bike program (in association with **Open Roads**) is finishing up; classes have been full and feedback has been positive. During the coming year and during Bike Week, there will be “Bike Expeditions” consisting of four separate rides that will highlight historical facts, stops, food, etc. For kids, there will be a “Kids-Fix-It” program to educate children about bike repair. For adults, there will be a “Smart Cycling” course which is a prerequisite for the LCI training that Portage will be holding later in the year. Please let them know if interested. Sign-up is available on their website. It will be a busy summer for cycling education in Portage. We are also very excited to share the news that the four elementary schools in Portage has received the funding for and will be implementing the All Kids Bike Kindergarten P.E. program.

Pending Updates We Hope to Receive

Discover Kalamazoo - Bike Light Giveaway, “Once our visitor center is able to re-open this could be a good way for us to be involved.”

Michigan Senate - Bike Light Giveaway - still need to check on this with Sen. McCann’s office

Portage Central Middle School - Bike Light Giveaway, Bike Handling Skills (Youth or Adult)

Portage West Middle School - Bike Light Giveaway, Biking education through Riding for Focus

Pretty Lake Camp - Bike skills training - still unsure whether this training occurred

2. Public Safety

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety - **Capt. Scott VanderEnde** (per previous update): During the upcoming Kalamazoo Bike Week, the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety will be conducting a five foot safe passing ordinance enforcement effort. The project will involve a bicycle equipped with a sensor and cameras able to detect passing distances, and a police cruiser ready to stop and educate those violating the law. This effort is very similar to the successful program conducted in Grand Rapids following passage of its 5 foot safe passing ordinance. **Dr. Ron VanHouten**, a traffic safety expert from WMU who is experienced in the Grand Rapids’ Driving Change project, can making the necessary sensors available and advising KDPS. At this point, he is in the stages of procuring the necessary sensors.

Office of Highway Safety Planning - **Quinn Passmore**: Currently starting proposals for 2024. They have the wrap-up from Fiscal Year 22. Their statewide Bicycle Education Campaign is a public education campaign that assists drivers and cyclists regarding Michigan vehicle code sections that pertains to both motorists and cyclists. The goal of the project is to increase awareness of laws applicable to bicycle safety through one statewide campaign. Within that campaign, they have the “Everybody’s Roads, Everybody’s Rules Campaign” and the “Lie or Law Bicycle Safety Campaign.” The campaign runs from May through September, and it focuses on informing both motorists and cyclists about bicycle safety laws. They utilize a wide variety of media in this campaign including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, gas station advertising televisions, mobile bus shelters, Snapchat, and Twitter. Through their FY 22 they had 36 million impressions.

3. Public Bike Art

BFK’s Public Bike Art Committee - **Patrick Hershberger**: BFK’s Art Committee is working on securing a site on Portage Road for the next mural. Should the site at Portage Road fall through, BFK has secured enough pledges to create a second mural elsewhere. They will also be pursuing an artist to paint a new mural expressing the joys of cycling at this location following the success of the last mural, located at the Clark Logic building on Lover’s Lane. Pictures of the completed mural can be found on artist Ellen VanderMyde’s Instagram account. Also, we are still interested in possible leads for public mural sites. If anyone has any suggestions, contact either **Paul Selden**, **Patrick Hershberger**, or look

on BFK's website for BFK's Contact Form. If possible, please provide the contact details for the property manager if submitting a suggestion.

City of Portage - **Kathleen Hoyle**: Portage has created an art committee and is currently beginning to look into the creation of public murals and other public art. This could be an opportunity to establish more murals that express the joys of cycling in the greater Kalamazoo area.

4. Signage, per **Paul Selden**

Wrong way bicycle driving is a major factor in bicyclist-motorist crashes. This type of crash accounts for about a third of the serious injuries and fatalities that occur in the area. A majority of these crashes occur in the urban area of Kalamazoo, which suggests that posting wrong-way riding signs offer a potential way to decrease these types of accidents. We are still waiting to hear about whether or not WMU has been able to connect with the City of Kalamazoo. It may be that this particular project is taking a backseat due to the number of other major traffic studies/street projects that are taking place in downtown Kalamazoo. Expect further updates in the future as these traffic conversions projects progress.

New Business: Community Bicycling Poll

All are welcome to make use of this information. The Steering Committee will accept updates on these items at the next quarterly meeting of the Bike Program Steering Committee (June 21, 2023). Highlights have been added in an attempt to draw attention to main themes noted.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Annual Local Bicycle Programs Poll
Summarized March 22, 2023

Ideas For Bike Friendly Improvement

1. Please share your **TOP idea** for making our greater community even more bicycle friendly (infrastructure, laws, policies, education, encouragement, etc. It helps to be as specific as possible and, if it is applicable, to list the agency / municipality / organization that your idea may apply to the most. If you have more than one idea, please separate each by number.

infrastructure

- "1. Color painted bike lanes / City of Portage and City of Kalamazoo
2. **PR and education for 5-foot safe distance** / Municipalities & Police Department"

Interconnectivity of all established trails

infrastructure improvements

Campaign to get bikers to wear high visibility clothing. We need to help ourselves as bikers to be more visible. We make request of others to make bike lanes, pass laws, etc to make it safer for cyclists, but we are not doing our part.

bike lanes

The new bike lanes within Kalamazoo have create confusion & even ill with comments stating they will cause more accidents & why are we spending money on this rather than other needs. My idea is to create a vehicle for people to voice their opposition which can then be followed up to explain the rationale for the bike lanes.

I think bike friendly kalamazoo should publicly apologize for advocating for sharrows for so long. take accountability for the harm ya'll have caused. [Note: In point of fact, BFK's board has not taken a policy stance on sharrows. On the other hand, BFK's Facebook page does contain links to articles related to the pros and cons of their use.]

Kalamazoo Public Safety needs to promote more biking specific issues such as bike lane blockage and 5ft passing law. It's more about the optics rather than actually writing tickets. People driving in **Kalamazoo need to know KPS has high priority** when it comes to pedestrian and biking safety and will investigate any issues pedestrian encounter from drivers being aggressive.

In Kalamazoo it is never a lack of funding, but a lack of vision. Bike infrastructure needs to be implemented in a smart manner

More protected bike lanes; education about the value of protected bike infrastructure

Separated/protected bike lanes

Slow car traffic speed

1. More signs for visibility

"1. **Community rides and events** to regularise active transport

2. **Safe riding education** at all age levels"

Continually working with various programs that are out educating communities and training enforcement officers.

Infrastructure -- paint does not protect. Bike lanes in central Kalamazoo MUST be protected.

"1. **Switch new bike lanes in Kalamazoo to right side of road on one-ways.**

2. **Enact 5 foot passing ordinance in more municipalities** after openly studying and prioritizing where it makes most sense on variety of dimensions.

3. Extend current programs as resources permit."

Program Expansion

BFK wants to support and encourage programs especially in the areas of: 1) Education; 2) Public Safety Messaging; 3) Safe Passing Ordinances, and, 4) Signage. **IMPORTANT: BFK offers Bike-Booster Mini-Grants to help fund worthy programs; for more information see <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/bike-booster-mini-grants/> (application deadlines April 2 and August 2).**

Education

BFK raises funds for the nationally-proven All Kids Bike Kindergarten Physical Education program in elementary schools in our area. Please suggest the name of a local school district and/or elementary school that you are personally familiar with, that could benefit from this module. If you know a good contact name/title please suggest that as well.

Principal Quinn at King-Westwood EI

The Kalamazoo YMCA

Martin Luther King elementary on Nichols Rd - Scott Forester PE Teacher

EI Sol

Northglade Montessori Elementary in KPS

North Glade Elementary

Winchell Elementary

Leonard Elementary, Ovid, MI - Rachelle Parsons

El Sol Elementary, KPS

Education Venues

Are you interested in HOSTING one of these programs at your organization? Check all that apply.

Modeshift

Bike Rodeo for Children, Bike Handling Skills (Youth or Adult), Bicycle Maintenance and Fitting, Helmet Fitting, Bike to school day

Vine Neighborhood Association

Bike Rodeo for Children, Bike Handling Skills (Youth or Adult), Bicycle Maintenance and Fitting, Helmet Fitting

Kalamazoo College

Bike Handling Skills (Youth or Adult), Bicycle Maintenance and Fitting, Safe riding on the roads

Organization (TBD)

Bike Rodeo for Children

Office of Highway Safety Planning

Helmet Fitting

Interested Party (TBD)

Bike Rodeo for Children

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

BFK's Education Cmte can explore how to encourage this, throughout the year.

Public Safety Messaging

BFK's board will let qualified municipalities and nonprofits use our fact-based public safety messaging social media and web educational content, as-is at no charge. If you represent a nonprofit or municipality that would like to do so, please let us know.

YMCA SPRING NEWSLETTER, call Dave Morgan and see if he is willing to publish

Please contact me to explore the possibilities for my organization / municipality.

Team Clark Logic, Kalamazoo College, Office of Highway Safety Planning

we need protected infrastructure not public education

BFK's Bike-Booster Mini-Grants could be used to facilitate public safety messaging.

Messaging via Yard Signs

Safe passing yard signs have been generously donated for individual use at many local bike shops, businesses and neighborhoods associations. You can help us get them to the groups your organization serves. Would you like to help distribute 5 Foot Safe Passing yard signs at your organization or event? Yes - I will sign up at <https://forms.gle/qZvh4v3Yqee5Gd2x5>

Modeshift, Team Clark Logic, Interested Party, Vine Neighborhood Ass'n

Safe Passing Ordinance

Please let us know if your municipality would benefit from an ordinance to increase safe passing distances, by listing the name of the township, village or city, here:

Schoolcraft, Cooper, Kalamazoo, Texas, Ross Township, this is not an effective use of anyones time, Kalamazoo city

Traffic Signs Aimed At Public Safety

Please let us know the type and specific location of traffic signs you think would help reduce serious bicycle crashes with motor vehicles, pedestrians or other bicycles.

Anywhere down **VW Avenue** between Vicksburg and Schoolcraft

Share the Road/Bike Lane Sharrows

we don't need more education, we need physically protected infrastructure

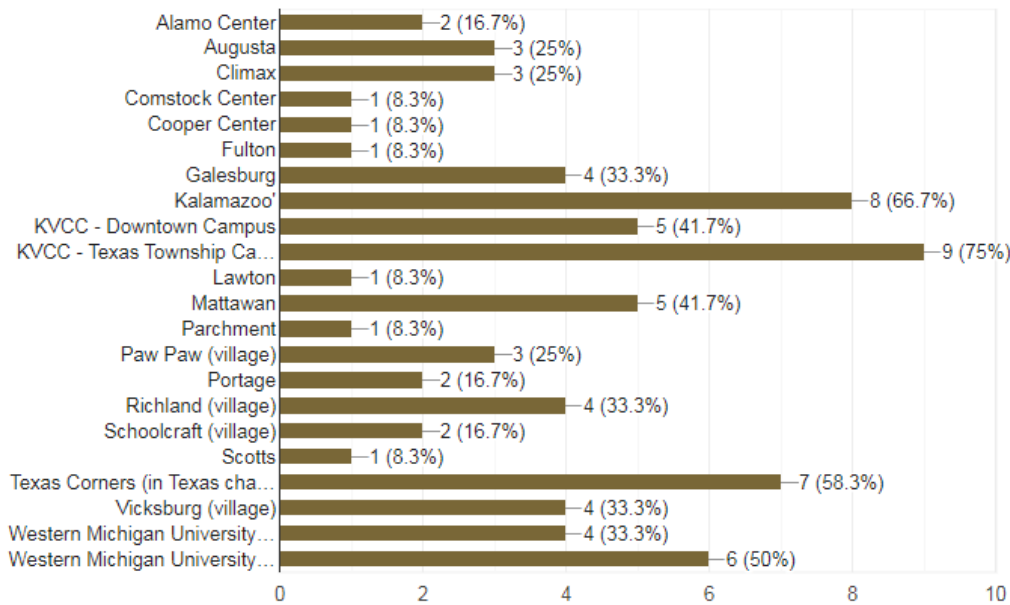
Multiuse trail crossing needs sign to tell motorists to look both ways. Also many driver blindly follow **left turn signal especially at lovers and portage Rd** intersection

"Bikes may use full lane" sprinkled liberally throughout the community , "Left hand bike lane" at left turns along Westnedge Ave

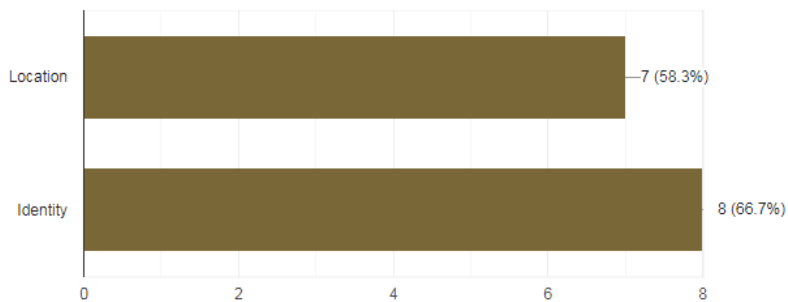
Research effectiveness of where this would help locally, including track record of various types of lane markings and signs.

Signs Supporting Municipal Pride & Identity, Placemaking, Community Development and Wayfinding

Please let us know which of these destinations could benefit from boosting their identity for visitors, newcomers and those not familiar with the area.



For these destinations, which of the following do you think directional signs would support?



Destination-Naming Comments

Please comment further about how destinations could benefit from boosting their identity for those not familiar with the area.

Names may need to be more specific. For example, "Kalamazoo Downtown," "Portage City Hall, etc.

Vicksburg. They try harder.

Any information will only increase awareness.

I think it's important to have people be aware of their travel distance. If you are at Epic center and want to visit KVCC museum, it be nice to show it's how many ft away. So people don't just hop in their car to drive that short distance.

Kalamazoo College would benefit from this, too

Directional bicycle signs for other permanent destinations off the regional Southwest Michigan Bikeway and existing bike routes, such as to Kalamazoo College, public libraries, parks, etc., would also be helpful.

Bike Security

Please suggest one or more locations for bike racks, being as specific as you can.

Convenience stores (Circle K stores, non-affiliated stores, etc), strip malls like Tiffany's Village and the West Century Center

Hardings on Centre, Meijer on Westnedge, How about covered bike parking downtown Kzoo?

Maple Pavilion

More Needed at the Farmers Market not only in Kazoo but also at Portage & Mattawan.. Downtown Kalamazoo on the Mall (north side)

every single place in town?

AZO airport. I live 4 miles away, can totally bike to the airport with my luggage or bike there to occasionally rent a car, but there isn't long term security bike parking.

Vine neighborhood. Outside of RAWK, 4th Coast, Martini's, etc

Kazoo School

A fact-based approach to where theft is most common , with reminders to lock your bike or where security cameras are present, etc., could help.

Public Murals

We'd like to encourage more bicycling via public art and trail enhancements, starting with public murals. Our Bike Art Committee would like your ideas for specific sites that [might] be great places for murals that express the joys of bicycling. We need to be able to locate an address from your description.

Downtown buildings without street-facing amenities: Radisson along Rose st, for example

Downtown Kzoo- anywhere

2026 West Main-5 Lakes

The wall facing children's nature playscape by Bronson park.

Central corners (Vine and Westnedge intersection).

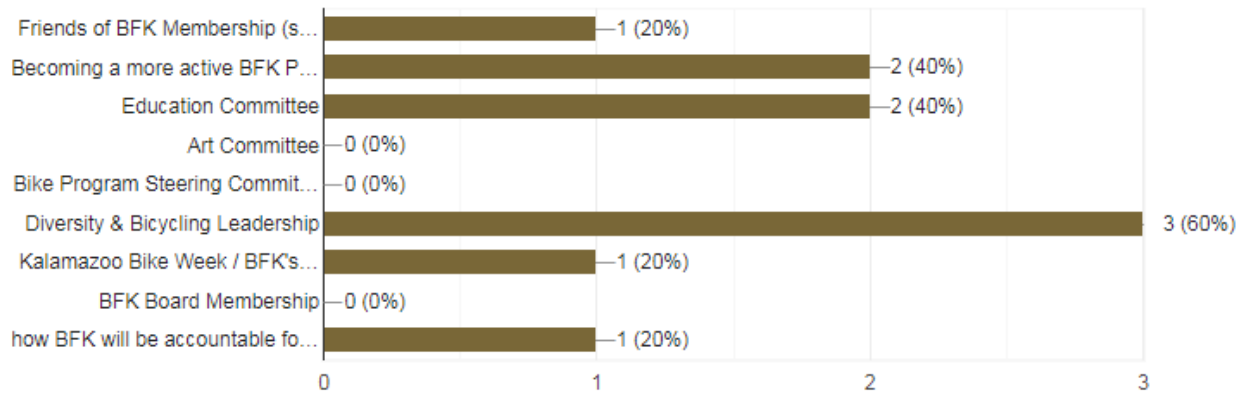
The cement retaining wall on Lovell alongside Kalamazoo College's campus

Oakland Drive; Park/Westnedge Avenues

Could Land Bank properties be used?

Participation

Please check all that apply. I'd like to learn more about:



Civic Leadership Award Nominations

Other than your own organization, what individual(s) or organization(s) do you feel merits BFK's Civic Leadership Award? Please explain your suggestions. [Only nominations reported here.]

Pedal Bike Shop

Rebecca Kik City of Kalamazoo, Rick Lee former owner of Zoo City cycle

no- BFK has advocated for harmful strategies like sharrows for about a decade and has no accountability for what they have done. [Note: In point of fact, BFK's board has not taken a policy stance on sharrows. On the other hand, BFK's Facebook page does contain links to articles related to the pros and cons of their use.]

Dustin Black ModeShift Hugely instrumental in working with both the City of Kalamazoo as well as the Vine Neighborhood Association in getting the wave lane installed on Lovell St.

ModeShift Kalamazoo for how engaged they have been in advocating for improvements!

ModeShift Kalamazoo

WKZO & its Morning Show - for supporting Kalamazoo Bike Week and the Fall Bike Celebration for so many years

Comments

I think this is very thorough!!

The survey is wordy and over structured. (Especially the wayfinding section) What initiatives are other Bike friendly communities undertaking? Should these be considered for BFK- with a ranking option? Why is this survey not anonymous? More input would be provided if names and contact information were not required. [Note: The survey was modified to allow anonymous input, and re-sent with that description.]

I look forward to listening and understanding the issues and activities of BFK at your meeting. Thank you for the invite! Keep up the great work!

Kalamazoo college students are organizing a bicycle cooperative to further use & interest in cycling. Reach out to Theo @ theodore.niemann@gmail.com. He can then inform others to get involved.

A public apology would be a good way to start. something like this <https://www.peopleforbikes.org/news/were-wrong-about-sharrows>

Need to promote bike lane connectivity. I'm been told there is a connection in the works between Kalamazoo and Portage since I moved here in 2016. I ride from Westnage Hill to Stryker every week and there is always a dead zone for biking. Overall I have good confidence in Kalamazoo making the right choice with human scale infrastructure.

We need increased public education/awareness and to advocate for PROTECTED bike lanes in Kzoo.

Many local communities are doing more and more to make our greater community even more bicycle friendly -- their initiatives are wonderful to see as they multiply organically!

Comments & Announcements

Kalamazoo Bike Week: May 13-20, 2023

Offers opportunities for an extra awareness-building spotlight to your bike programs.

Please contact paul@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org for more information.

Useful Emails Email ideas regarding bike education and public bike-themed art to:

- education@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org
- bikeart@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org

BFK is using MailChimp for some but not all of our emails. Will be used in to confirm memberships, poll the community and send important updates. Please help us keep your email addresses up to date.