

Bike Program Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Bike Program Steering Cmte & Diversity and Bicycling Leaders Team Meeting Sept. 20, 2023

Via Webex; Notes Released October 2, 2023

Please report updates/corrections to Paul Selden, Committee Chair

Participants

Angela Bowers - Southwest Michigan ThunderCats

Hugo Galvez - Southwest Michigan ThunderCats

Paul Guthrie - Bronson Healthcare

Dick Hewitt - Portage Bicycle Advisory Committee

Tom Hohm - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Kathleen Hoyle - City of Portage

Valerian Kwigizile - Transportation Research Center for Liveable Communities

Nicky Leigh - Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition

Don Leitow - Southwest Michigan ThunderCats

Katherine Mills - iCan Shine Bike Camp

Quinn Passmore - MI Office of Highway Safety Planning

Paul Rehkopf - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Paul Selden - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Madelaine Thorburn - MI Dept. of Transportation

Emma Youngs - Safe Kids of Kal. County

Sean Warren - Michigan Scholastic Cycling Association

Paul Wells - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

Welcome & Roll Call

Meeting Goals

Orient new perspective members

Share updates re. relevant information

Consider additional programs

Next Quarterly Steering Committee Date: December 6, 2023; 4-5pm

Information Exchange & Election of Chair; Meetings to be held via the web for foreseeable future.

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.**

Core Teams - Self-forming and self-directed; Act on priorities between quarterly meetings

BFK's Volunteer Committees (Bike Art, Education) Volunteer Chairs Call Meetings Separately

Notes - summarize main points and are not formal minutes

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

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

Sean Warren, Executive Director of Michigan Scholastic Cycling Association (MiSCA), introduced us to this youth mountain biking nonprofit.

- Mission: empower communities to develop and grow K-12 mountain biking programs.
- We instill confidence by promoting the values of an active lifestyle, healthy competition, and outdoor stewardship and adventure while building life-long friendships in an inclusive environment.

- Our programs include a series of 6 cross-country mountain bike races, BRAVE adventure ride clubs for girls, coach certification/training, student leadership, DEVO elite junior development, and more
- Nearly 1,200 unique students participate in our programming, and over 600 certified coaches support them. Around 600 students participate each race weekend.
- Learn more about the program at www.miscabike.org

Hugo Gálvez, Team Manager of the Southwest Michigan ThunderCats, reported on this new youth mountain biking program, covering these main points:

- First mountain bike team for youth riders from K - 8th grade in the Kalamazoo area.
- With the participation of 73 riders and 52 parents volunteering as coaches, on June 12th, we kicked off practices riding the trails around the area 2 times per week.
- With an average of 33 riders, the team is currently participating in the state championship series consisting of 6 races across Michigan.
- With great results, the team is turning heads and is positioning as a serious contender.
- Learn more about the program at <https://www.facebook.com/swmthundercats> and <https://www.instagram.com/swmthundercats/>

Emma Youngs reports that Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County organized a successful bike rodeo during the Fall Bike Celebration Weekend on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10am to 12 pm hosted at the Vicksburg Middle School that was well attended. Emma also reported that, as Chair of BFK's Education Committee, she called a meeting of local bike educators in July to brainstorm ways the area could offer a season-long bike training series similar in concept to "Run Camp," but for cyclists. That effort would require the support of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, which has hosted a local Bike Camp for many years. The Committee will also likely develop a directory of local schools implementing the All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE Program to facilitate exchanging information.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - **Paul Wells**: There are now at least four certified (by the League of American Bicyclists) League Cycling Instructors in our area (Jen Johnson, Rene Mitchell, Bill Surna and Paul Wells); another, Hayden Guild, has moved to the Grand Rapids area. Paul and Bill Surna will be working with the Edison Neighborhood Association on a bicycling related event soon.

Katherine Mills local organizer of the iCanShine Bike Camp this past summer, presented the following main points:

- ICan Bike by ICan Shine - Specially designed program for kids and adults with developmental disabilities
- Brought to Kalamazoo for the first time this summer by DSAWM (Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan) but camp was not limited to people with DS
- 32 participants; almost 100 volunteers
- iCanShine sent specialized equipment and two staff members
- Monday and Tuesday on rollers; Tuesday on a Tandem; Wednesday starting to ride on their own; Friday parents are trained to keep working with their kids
- Got involved in summer 2022 when my daughter did camp in GR. She has grown to love riding her bike and recently upgraded to a Trek Preciber with gears and I'm struggling to watch her go as fast as she does, especially down the hills in our neighborhood.
- I expected a lot of kids to experience riding a bike for the first time during camp, what I didn't expect was the community that would be built.

- It's rare to find places where people with disabilities are held to high expectations and don't feel judged by limitations, but camp was one of those rare spaces.

All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE Update - **Paul Selden** reports that El Sol Elementary School in the Kalamazoo Public Schools is likely to be the next to apply for the program.

Updates We Still Hope to Provide:

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 - did it occur?

2. Public Safety Messaging & Education (locally tailored multi-faceted "Driving Change" campaign - Urban areas have the highest frequencies of serious bicycle crashes.)

Post-Session Note: Bike Friendly Kalamazoo ran an extensive "Driving Change" social media campaign in June. Paul Selden will report results at our next session. We may also receive an update from the Office of Highway Safety Planning about OHSP's statewide Bicycle Education Campaign. This is a public education campaign that assists drivers and cyclists regarding Michigan vehicle code sections that pertains to both motorists and cyclists.

2. Public Bike Art

BFK's Public Art Committee - Artists Chafe Hensley and Heidi Weiss have almost finished painting the mural on the east-facing wall of 1122 Portage St. in Kalamazoo. The mural will face the new Creamery development at the intersection of Lake and Portage, painted on the building occupied by the Dream Center, which overlooks both traffic and bike lanes in downtown Kalamazoo.

If anyone has any suggestions for bike mural sites, contact either **Paul Selden, Patrick Hershberger**, or use the Contact Form on BFK's website. If possible, please provide the contact details for the property manager if submitting a suggestion.

3. Signage

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo – **Paul Selden**: We have no information about whether or not WMU has been able to connect with the City of Kalamazoo about putting up "wrong-way bicycling" signs. We hope to receive an update in the future. Post session note: More "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signs have been noticed along some roads leading to roundabouts.

4. Crash Reduction Discussion

Transportation Research Center for Liveable Communities – **Valerian Kwigizile** commented that the effectiveness of countermeasures for bicycle crashes is influenced by the context of the crash: high-speed vs low-speed roads, daytime vs nighttime, urban vs rural, etc. Most bicycle crashes result from the lack of safe space to operate in. Lack of bicycle infrastructure force bicyclists to ride in the roadway. Dedicated bicycle facilities that separate cyclists from motorized traffic, such as protected bicycle lanes, can be more effective. Also, enacting and enforcing safe passing distance laws could improve bicyclist

safety. Adding paved shoulders and widening existing shoulders, especially in suburban and rural settings could improve bicyclist safety as well.

City of Kalamazoo – **Dennis Randolph** is in the process of compiling more information and will be providing a more complete update at our December meeting. He reported that he/Kalamazoo:

- We are finishing up on developing our bicycle track on Michigan Avenue, and should have all work done in October
- Have been gathering data regarding our traffic calming work, especially crash data, and should have some results in November
- Have been doing a lot of lane marking work around the city to better define where all road users should be and to help everyone share our public rights of way. These include some edge lines, parking areas and bicycle lanes and sharrow markings.
- Have been finalizing some of our new federal-aid contracts, especially our Safe Streets for All contract which ties into pedestrian and bicycle safety efforts over the next several years
- Are getting ready to start our Michigan Avenue conversion design work, with expected start of construction in 2026.

Note: Paul Selden will follow up with Quinn Passmore to see if she or another delegate from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning can comment on the information found in a link the OHSP provided at our last meeting at:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/book/countermeasures/countermeasures-work>

New Business; Additional Comments & Announcements

None at this time.

Chair Selden thanked everyone for their participation.

References / Resources

Steering Committee Membership

The following approach has been agreed upon:

- a) after meeting, invite delegates from your own organization to round out delegates/alternates list (1-2 delegates, up to 3 alternates); please let the Steering Committee Chair know their contact info as you get it to make sure people are emailed meeting notices
- b) The Chair will be (and has been) following up on ideas for additional organizations / names based on judgement of how representative they may be as a cross-section of relevant bicycling stakeholders. The Chair will reach out and may ask for help in inviting others, especially if a name/organization is suggested that he isn't familiar with. Some of the new guests at this meeting are a result of this effort.
- c) BFK held a Diversity and Bicycling Leadership Meet & Greet meeting in August 2020 and the membership has grown since then; those participating are being invited to sit in as Steering Committee Guests on an ongoing basis.
- c) a Steering Committee Member roster is included in the Reference section below.
- d) It is the role of current members from a named organization to appoint delegates and/or alternates from their own organization, making those decisions internally. The Chair will not directly invite other delegates from member organizations unless members ask for help (e.g., for protocol / diplomatic reasons, etc.).

Bicycle Program Steering Committee Roster

Bill Adams* - Village of Vicksburg

Ashton Anthony - City of Kalamazoo (inviting new staff member to take his place?)

Thom Brennan - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (may be stepping down from his membership)

Deb Carpenter* - Child Safety Consultant

Amanda Cockcroft - City of Kalamazoo

Neil Conway - City of Kalamazoo

Jeff Christensen - Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office

Keshia Dickason - Girls on the Run

Sawyer Duncan - School Health and Physical Educators of Michigan

John Dunlop - BFK Advisory Council

Paul Guthrie - Bronson Hospital

Jeff Heppler - Village of Augusta

Kathleen Hoyle - City of Portage

Jennifer Johnson* - Chain Gang (Bicycle Club)

Brooke Gieber - Gud Marketing

John Knowlton - Stones Church

Keneth Kwayu - Stakeholder At Large

Valerian Kwigizile - Western Michigan University - Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities

Annie Prior - City of Portage Parks Dept.

Chelsea Maupin - Gud Marketing

Dexter Mitchell - Kalamazoo Township

Jun Oh - Western Michigan University - Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities

Chris Praedel - City of Kalamazoo

Adam Rafels - Stakeholder at Large

Paul Rehkopf* - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Jim Righter - Portage West Middle School

Rachel Roon - Comstock Township
Brian Sanada - Advisor/Stakeholder at Large (has taken new position; replacement is Madelaine
“Maddee” Thorburn)
Mike Seals - At Large
Paul Selden* - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo - Cmte Chair
Emily Shinevar - Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (Recently promoted; Replacement is
Quinn Passmore)
Dick Skalski - Oshtemo Township
Education Director - League of Michigan Bicyclists (pending confirmation)
Community Policing Officer - City of Portage (to be determined)
Larry Stehouwer - Stakeholder at Large
Scott Vanderende - City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Ron VanHouten - Western Michigan University - Dept. of Psychology
Paul Wells - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Eric Wimbley - Pretty Lake Camp (may need to send a different delegate)
Donna Whitcomb - AMBUCS*
Guests / Awaiting Confirmation
Nancy Buchanan - Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Anna Horner - Oshtemo Township (possibly Karen High’s replacement in Parks?)
Megan Mickelson - Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
Jodi Stefforia - Comstock Township
Ali Townsend - Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
*BFK Board Member
Italics indicate possible change in affiliation/status

Every effort will be made to keep roster up to date. Guests have attended one or more meetings.
Some members may be alternates who have not yet attended meeting. **Please notify Chair and your
own organizational members of any changes.**

National Safety Council

Cause of Death	Odds of Dying
Heart Disease and Cancer	1 in 7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	1 in 28
Intentional Self-harm	1 in 95
Unintentional Poisoning by and Exposure to Noxious Substances	1 in 96
Motor Vehicle Crash	1 in 114
Fall	1 in 127
Assault by Firearm	1 in 370
Car Occupant	1 in 645
Pedestrian Incident	1 in 647
Motorcycle Rider Incident	1 in 985
Unintentional Drowning and Submersion	1 in 1,188
Exposure to Fire, Flames or Smoke	1 in 1,498
Choking from Inhalation and Ingestion of Food	1 in 3,461
Pedacyclist Incident	1 in 4,486
Firearms Discharge	1 in 6,905
Air and Space Transport Incidents	1 in 9,821
Exposure to Electric Current, Radiation, Temperature and Pressure	1 in 15,212

- from <https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/tools-resources/injury-facts/chart>

Comprehensive costs of motor-vehicle crashes. In addition to the economic cost components, the following comprehensive costs also include a measure of the value of lost quality of life, obtained through empirical studies of what people actually pay to reduce their safety and health risks. The average comprehensive costs on a *per injured person* basis were:

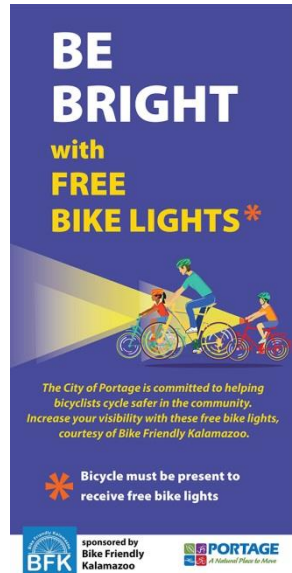
Average Comprehensive Cost by Injury Severity, 2018

Death	\$10,855,000
Disabling	\$1,187,000
Evident	\$327,000
Possible injury	\$151,000
No injury observed	\$50,000

Since the lost quality of life figures, included in the comprehensive costs calculations, do not represent real income not received nor expenses incurred, they should not be used to determine the pure economic impact of past crashes.

- from <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/all-injuries/costs/guide-to-calculating-costs/data-details/>

Be Bright - Bike Light Giveaway Banner - Used by the City of Portage, October 7, 2020



https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20-024_PortageBeBrightBannerC_9-30-20.jpg

[How To Do A Successful Bike Light Program Giveaway](#) – “... lessons learned from programs around the country” with free downloadable / printable version.

Bicycle Program Steering Committee / Core Team Elements

Bike Program Steering Committee Elements

- Charter - consider matters related to defining and accomplishing named Programs and relay non-binding advice to Program Core Team(s)
- Composed of stakeholders, organizations and representatives of the groups involved in the implementation of programs and the receipt of the program deliverables (such as but not limited to governmental units, transportation & law enforcement agencies, bicycle clubs & shops, 501c3 organizations, citizen groups and committees, etc.) with aligned missions, goals and programs
- Preference for participants & employees of incorporated organizations, such as non-profits, municipalities and agencies
- Participants are named delegates, with preference for participants whose organizations recognize them as delegates
- One-two delegates from any one organization, with one co-delegate and up to three additional alternates; all are to be named and their contact information shared (at least one email address per participant)
- Chief consideration is given to programs with cross-jurisdictional/agency/organizational implications & may require potential cooperation; others as benefits sharing of ideas
- 2020-21 Programs
 1. Bike Visibility (e.g., bike light giveaway)
 2. League Certified Cycling Instructor training
 3. Bicycle-Motorist Public Service Announcement Campaign (locally tailored “Driving Change” media campaign)
- Additional programs on agenda, as Steering Committee sees best
- All delegates and alternates may attend meetings
- Steering Committee’s recommendations are non-binding
- Size and composition of the Steering Committee may vary

- Self-directed, may elect volunteer chair / secretary
- Include members of Program Core Teams
- Meet approximately quarterly: e.g., March, June, September & November/December
- Participation is voluntary
- Members do not have set terms
- Steering Committee can modify/further clarify these elements over time
- With the exception of BFK's March Annual Planning Meeting, meetings may or may not be public at the discretion of the Steering Committee

Program Core Team Elements

- Program Core Team members represent the independent lead organization(s) responsible for and/or possess authority to implement programs (e.g., expend funds, secure resources)
- Core team members to be named and their associated program roles and affiliations listed
- Membership is voluntary
- Organizations represented recognize Core Team membership
- Members are bound by the policies, procedures and practices of the organizations they represent
- Core Team's recommendations are submitted to the organizations they represent, which organizations then follow their own policies, procedures and practices to execute at their sole discretion
- Decisions and actions are non-binding
- Policies do not supersede those of the organizations they represent
- Organizations members are affiliated with/represent are responsible for implementing the core team decisions
- Core Team meetings are open to named Core Team members; others may be invited but in most cases meetings will not be public
- These elements may be changed over time as Core Team(s) see best

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo's Role

- 2020: call and facilitate/chair three quarterly Bike Program Steering Committee meetings (e.g., June, September & November/December)
- 2021: same as 2020; agreed upon by Steering Committee; to be reviewed in December

Previous Meeting Notes

<https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/about/meetings/>

Links to Bicycle Educational and Safety Programs

<https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/education-safety/>

Background (Included for historical reference; 2019-2020 - will become dated over time)

- Meetings on bicyclist visibility/bike light "Be Bright" campaign, bicycle instructor certification and public service educational messaging, October 2019-March 2020
- Strong & clearly overlapping in interests of representative institutional stakeholders better served by combining meetings - proved effective in Grand Rapids
- Progress on program implementation was rapid until COVID-19 considerations slowed the pace
- Bicycle Program Steering Committee / Core Team approach adopted March 26, 2020: larger Steering Cmte advises, smaller Core Teams implement
- Charter - consider matters related to defining and accomplishing named Programs and relay non-binding advice to Program Core Team(s)
- Gud Marketing - proposal on table for \$10,000, \$75,500 & \$150,000 budgets
- Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - LCI "ready," scholarship, grant
- League of Michigan Bicyclists - timing, marketing, participation
- Office of Highway Safety Planning - statewide effort
- City of Kalamazoo - overview of readiness to begin, budget

- City of Portage - overview of readiness to begin, budget
- Bike Friendly Kalamazoo - LCI Scholarship Program & Bike Booster Mini-Grant programs online, Bike Ridership Field Survey results, reminder re. National Insurance Inst. Value of human life
- WMU - has analyzed crash causes