

BFK Annual Meeting Notes

Combined BFK Annual, Bike Program Steering Cmte & Diversity and Bicycling Leaders Team Meeting
March 20, 2024
Via Webex

Please report updates/corrections to Paul Selden, Committee Chair

Participants

Collin Banner - Stakeholder	Chris [Last Name Unavailable]
Nolan Bergstrom - City of Kalamazoo	Quinn Passmore – OHSP
Deb Carpenter - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	Paul Rehkopf - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Peter Coles - Citizen	Randall Schau – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Melissa Fish – Southwest Michigan First	Paul Selden – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Lacey Fisher – Portage Department of Public Safety	Adrian Stroupe - Vine Neighborhood Assoc.
Josh Grab – MDOT Southwest Region	LaTonya Turner - Kalamazoo Public Safety
Isaac Green – Open Roads	Capt. Scott VanderEnde - KDPS
Paul Guthrie – Bronson Methodist Hospital	Paul Wells – Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Patrick Hershberger – BFK Art Committee Chair	Jeremy Zonts – Portage Public Schools
Karen High – Interested Party	
Tom Hohm – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	

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 2024, including monthly First Friday Group Rides, an Earth Day event, many Earn-A-Bike Sessions, and more, which will be posted to their website at <https://www.openroadsbike.org/>

City of Kalamazoo – **Nolan Bergstrom** - The City of Kalamazoo will be hosting its second annual Kalamazoo Bicycle Show on May 11, the opening day of Kalamazoo Area Bike Week 2024. This event will take place at Bronson Park and will be in conjunction with an event held by the Bee Joyful. This year, the Kalamazoo Bicycle Show is collaborating with the organizers of Sounds of the Zoo for live music and will also serve as the starting and ending point of the 2024 Kalamazoo Area Bike Week Mayor's Bike Ride.

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. Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County will be continuing the bike helmet program this season, with the goal to reduce incidence and severity of head injuries. In partnership with KDPS and Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation, Safe Kids is sponsoring the delivery of 100 bike helmets to this year's Bike Rodeo at Mayor's Riverfront Park, which will take place from 5-7pm on May 15th. Safe Kids also be bike rodeos at Antwerp Sunshine Library in Mattawan on June 8th, and September 21st in Vicksburg. Monthly coalition meetings will resume in April. Email Emma at youngse@bronson.org if interested.

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 and events coming up, including the 32nd KalTour on Sunday, June 30. For more information about the KalTour, see <https://www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org/events/kaltour/>

City of Portage – **Per Available Information** - Throughout the coming year Portage Parks & Recreation has scheduled many bike related events, including an Earn-A-Bike program, self-guided bike tours and cycling skills training sessions. These will be posted to the Portage Parks & Recreation calendar, which can be found at <https://www.portagemi.gov/215/Parks-Programs-Events>. Scroll through the calendar to learn more.

Meeting Goals

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

Next Quarterly Steering Committee Date: Wed. June 26, 2024; 4-5pm

Tentative later dates: Tues September 24 and Tues December 3. Meetings to be held via WebEx 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, Diversity/DEI Cmte is forming) 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

City of Kalamazoo: **LaTonya Turner** – A Bike Rodeo will be held at Mayor's Riverfront Park in the parking lot on Wednesday, May 15 from 5pm to 7pm. There will be a bike safety course organized by KDPS and Parks and Rec Partnership, aimed at teaching youth aged 1-9 bike safety skills. Helmet fittings and bike repair services will be available, provided by Open Roads. Additionally, there will be three raffle prizes of bikes donated by Open Roads, and 100 helmets will be provided to participants who may not have them.

BFK Education Committee: **Emma Youngs** - The All Kids Bike program in Paw Paw was not able to use their bikes; they have all been generously donated and transferred to King-Westwood Elementary in the Kalamazoo Public School system. Also, there are rolling bike racks available for the All Kids Bike Programs. The next Education Committee meeting will be in April, the exact date will be announced.

Portage Public Schools: **Jeremy Zonts** – Portage Public Schools received a grant from the City of Portage for 4 out of 8 of the elementary schools to receive bicycles for the All Kids Bike Learn to Ride program. In addition, every single Friday of this school year, the Kindergarten and Young Five students have had the opportunity to use the Strider Bikes. Lots of positive feedback from all involved. See pictures and videos on the Portage Public Schools Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/portagepublicschools>. Mr. Zonts will update us at the next quarterly meeting.

Kalamazoo Bicycle Club: **Paul Wells** – KBC’s Bike Camp begins with a classroom session and ride on Saturday June 1st at the Oshtemo Community Center. KBC Group Camp Rides on Monday and Wednesday will lead up to the KalTour at the end of June. There will be more details on the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club website at <https://www.kalamazoo-bicycleclub.org/events/bike-camp/>

Kalamazoo Public Schools: **Katie Kelly** – Last year, Washington Writer’s Academy was the recipient of All Kids Bike equipment, curriculum, and teacher training program thanks to the generosity of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo. Two kindergarten classes and two first grade classes were able to participate. Altogether, 80-100 students participated. In the Kalamazoo Public School system, Edison, Milwood, and King-Westwood elementary schools have also received the All Kids Program in the past few years.

2. Public Safety Messaging & Enforcement

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo: **Paul Selden** – The Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office is working on a traffic safety reminder in a joint media release anticipated just before the Kalamazoo Area Bike Week. Silent Observer has a rewards program that stands at over \$3,000 for matters related to reporting serious crimes against bicyclists including hit and runs. For more information about the Silent Observer rewards program see <http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com/sitemenu.aspx?P=index&ID=644>

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety: **Cpt. Scott VanderEnde** – The City of Kalamazoo and KDPS has been putting out information about construction projects that have been going on; primarily regarding Westnedge/Whites roads. They have dedicated traffic enforcement and speed trailers in that area. In the Winchell neighborhood, the bike lanes have been transitioned into bike routes. The No Parking signs have been removed in order to transition the area into a shared roadway. The main roads for this treatment were Duke, Broadway, and Winchell. Volunteers are needed for the Kalamazoo Marathon, which is happening on May 5th. If interested, please visit the Kalamazoo Marathon website at <https://www.zeiglerkalamazoomarathon.com> .

Public Art Committee: **Patrick Hershberger** – Public Mural Update – BFK’s Art Committee will be reviewing specific potential public mural sites in Kalamazoo, Galesburg, Parchment and Vicksburg before sending its recommendations to BFK’s board. The Committee expects to be meeting in April to do so.

3. Signage

City of Kalamazoo: **Per Available Information** -- Kalamazoo’s Department of Public Services is working on improving the timing of the new traffic lights on West Michigan Avenue. More information to come at a later date.

4. Program Effectiveness

Office of Highway Safety Planning: **Quinn Passmore** – 2023 Campaign - FY ’23 had \$297,000 paid out into media which targeted Wayne, Kent, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Ottawa, and Washtenaw counties, which are the highest ranked counties for bicyclist/pedestrian crashes. Creatives were put on gas stations TVs, sides of buses, social media, and street signs. The creatives included safety laws that all cyclists and drivers should know about and the “Share the Road: Everybody’s Road, Everybody’s Rules” campaign. Enforcement in Kalamazoo had 44.45 hours; they issued 96 warnings and one citation. FY 24 has \$200,000 going out in paid media in the same targeted areas as FY 23, but FY 24 will be specifically targeting men aged 21-54, which ranked the highest in data from bicycle crashes. They will use the same creatives as FY 23. Kalamazoo public safety has 10 enforcement periods planned for the month of July. The Michigan Crash Facts database updates for 2023 have not been released yet. Ms. Passmore will update us at the next quarterly meeting.

New Business: Community Bicycling Poll – Tom Hohm

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.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo Annual Local Bicycle Programs Poll Summarized March 20, 2024

Ideas For Bike Friendly Improvement

1. Please share your TOP idea(s) for making our greater community even more bicycle friendly (infrastructure, laws, policies, education, encouragement, etc.). Please be as specific as possible. If applicable, please 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. 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.

Continue efforts with early childhood cycling education; expansion of education to later grades as well

Continuing to work with the Art Committee and the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission to identify and add public murals with a focus on the joy of cycling into the Pixelstix database for public access

Infrastructure and Education: Increased cooperation between University/Colleges, City, County and Region.

Continued engagement with other bicycling orgs and sharing best practices.

Hosting BFK college and youth events to inform more students and people of color about laws, infrastructure and how to be more bicycle friendly.

CONNECTIVITY - bike routes and trails are for more than meditation in the wonderful outdoors and fitness. They should get us where we want to go. EFFICIENCY and CONVENIENCE - urban bike routes and trails should be able to guide us through, but not necessarily alongside heavily motorized routes such as Kalamazoo Ave and Main Street. SAFETY - we need to continue to emphasize following rules of the road, bicycle lights (front and rear) and wearing helmets. We need to work with urban planners, highway departments, state highway personnel and state legislators to assure the our roads and streets are designed to be safe for all roadway users, not just motorists.

I am interested in bringing back some sort of bike camp to the community working directly with Public Safety

Public safety awareness

Ask all governmental bodies that publish and mail newsletters to their residents to include bicycle friendly and informational articles. Ask them to also feature bike-friendly items and information on their websites and social media channels.

High profile community biking events. Every neighborhood has parks and greenspaces; neighborhood associations can assist

- 1) Targeted traffic law enforcement (speed limit, safe passing) on designated bike routes (example Lover's Lane)
- 2) Some sort of public education to counter the negative local social media rants about "bike lanes".

Enforce speed limits. More speed bumps vs other "experimental" approaches.

Have it make sense. Downtown kzoo does not make sense.

For community planning and development: 1: connected infrastructure, not isolated segments of bikeways 2: secure bicycle parking at transit stops 3: secure parking for bicycles that are not "naked"

Education and promotion of programs/organizations/etc. I feel like bicycling has gotten more attention over the years but I'm very interested in promoting it for folks who don't fit into the standard idea of what a cyclist is; youth, women, lgbt+, poc, disability, larger bodies, etc. What that looks like, I don't know!

Education for drivers and cyclists to better use the roads and work together.

Education and encouragement

slow traffic speeds on major roads to make crossing on bike safer

Education for all ages

4 -BFK Annual Public Meeting Agenda: March 20, 2024 *Thank you for your input and participation!*

Incentivize biking to work

Not sure what to put here... you guys already do so much!

1. More protected cycling infrastructure 2. Campaign to promote peaceful coexistence between drivers and cyclists. (This involves education, yes, but also encouraging respect for cycling/cyclists)

Hire traffic engineer from Indianapolis fire Randolph

Simpler bike paths/driving lanes, more bike racks, more police patrols

Please expand the several blocks of *PROTECTED* bike lanes you've established downtown. Connect that path to area suburbs.

The ""bike lanes"" on Westnedge and Park are good in theory. But I see people driving in them every day! You need more north/south *protected routes, now that you've started an east/west protected route within the city.

Kudos to you for trying to make this town more bikeable/walkable. Certainly our downtown should be as pedestrian friendly as possible.

1. Separated bike facilities - Public Works Dept

2. Connecting existing trails to increase accessibility

3. laws that prohibit parking or unloading in bike lanes - City of Kalamazoo Planning Department 4. law that allows bicycles to slow down at a stop sign but not stop completely if there is clearly no other vehicles - City of Kalamazoo Planning Department

5. More bicycle education for motor vehicle drivers - Secretary of State

actual protected bike lanes (we currently have zero of them). this is basically the only thing to get people to ride who don't feel safe comfortable. every 'safety' campaign ya'll do focused on individualsafety just sets our community back. every fake award ya'll give out to local gov't that has done less than the bare minimum just sets our community back (while making the people giving away the award feel good about themselves)

Optimize the traffic signal timing downtown - Kalamazoo

Encourage additional municipalities to adopt 5 foot passing ordinances

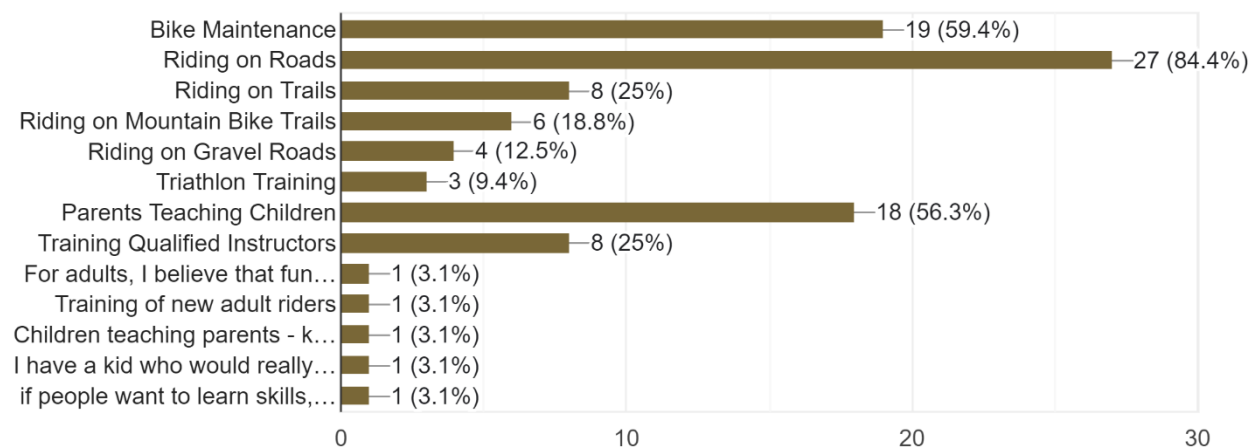
Move bike lanes on Park and Westnedge to right side of road

Ticket drivers using protected bike lane at W. Michigan and Westnedge as a right turn lane

Adult Bike Skills Education

Do you think there is a need for hands-on bike skills training workshops for in our greater community? If so, please check the topics you feel should be included. IMPORTANT - Please ignore whether these skills are being provided or not currently - your answers may encourage those who are providing them already!

32 responses



Comments

For adults, I believe that fun group rides are an ideal tool for encouraging ridership. Modeshift's holiday lights ride grabbed a lot of attention and was a blast for participants

I have a kid who would really, really, really love a local juniors road racing program. (More broadly—cycling instruction, including road safety, in schools is needed)

if people want to learn skills, great! when our supposed 'bike advocacy' org's focuses on personal safety I consider it to be toxic work fueled by the ego of supposed 'bike leaders' to make themselves feel/look good

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. **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).

I'm not familiar with which schools would benefit

Washington writer's academy

Schoolcraft

EI Sol

not personally familiar with schools.

Haverhill Elem

Winchell school

KPS for sure! It might be a struggle to get into the school system, but I think an after school program would be very interested, especially if cost wasn't a barrier. Communities in Schools, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA may be interested. Could be a great partnership for Open Roads if they have the capacity.

King Westwood Elementary

EI Sol Elementary

Milwood Elementary and Greenwood Elementary

Northglade Montessori Magnet (KPS public school)

Winchell Elementary

Maple Street Middle School

Parchment Central Elementary

Northglade Montessori (in KPS); the Montessori School (on Howard; contact Jessica Hagen)

Gull Lake Community schools

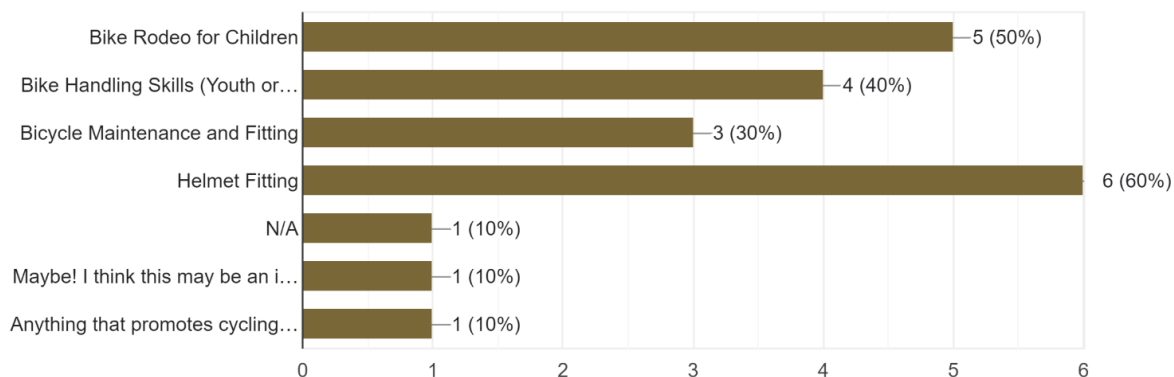
Kalamazoo Public

Any school that doesn't have the program already

Education Venues

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

10 responses



Comments

Although BFK does not directly deliver bike education, a BFK's Education Cmte or Board representative will contact survey respondents who answered this question with information that may help them host the programs on their own or with other organizations.

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.

10 responses



Comments

BFK's Education Cmte will contact those who wished to be contacted, with more information. For an easy way to offer safety information, please see <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/drivingchange/>: The information is based on a five-year crash analysis conducted by WMU's Center for Transportation and Livable Communities and created by Gud Marketing (the firm that created and implemented the successful public safety campaign in Grand Rapids).

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>

Comments

A representative from BFK and/or the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club will follow up with the five individuals and organizations requesting signs. Kudos to the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club for making these signs available.

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:

Portage has already implemented this ordinance.

Kalamazoo

It already has (Portage)

Calhoun County

Kalamazoo - especially roads going into downtown like Rose, Burdick, and Crosstown.

City of Kalamazoo

Comments

Please let us know if you would like to help work with municipalities whose charter permits them to pass local 5-foot passing distance ordinances. Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Twp, Oshtemo Twp and Portage have such ordinances.

Traffic Signs Aimed At Public Safety

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

The best tools we have to prevent crashes are those that send a clear nonverbal signal to road users about who has priority (signalized intersections are an easy example). To signal that bikes or pedestrians have priority in a given conflict zone, raised crossings work well.

N/A

Unsure

Decrease the speed limit (currently 50 or 55 mph down to 40 mph) on Gull Road from approximately the 'Nazareth' Post Office to G Avenue. This stretch of roadway is heavily commercial and also residential. Decrease the speed limit on Gull Road when approaching Richland at DE Ave, from 55 mph to 40 mph, then 25 or 30 mph. This stretch of roadway is predominantly residential even if it is not in the town limit.

Bike turn signals at intersections

Stop signs at every park and public building exit. I'm shocked to know that they aren't standard, at least in Portage. That's the case even when those exits cross bike lanes and trails. Also install full-time LED bike crossing signs at every trail crossing point as well as highly-visible crosswalk markings. Add "Watch for Pedestrians and Bicycles" at every high traffic intersection where right turn on red activity is high (example, Romence and Westnedge northbound in Portage).

Howard and Merrill Street; Westnedge- the whole of it.

Northbound Burdick past Crosstown Pkwy : Bike lanes end and become "sharrows" section. Lots of traffic turning into Bronson/Ramp at John St. Danger of cutting off bikes headed north. Signage to watch for bikes (like they have on Burdick and Stockbridge) would be good.

Too many signs.

Bikes may use full lane Oakland Dr at Lovel, South, Academy

Flashing cyclist yield signs on Michigan Ave to allow cyclist in the bike track and car traffic to exist together. Updating bike lane signs to indicate direction of traffic (bike with traffic)

Lovers Lane by Milwood El, Cork St by Greenwood El and Cork St near Milwood middle school. Portage St in Milwood neighborhood near Dollar General

West Main at Woodward

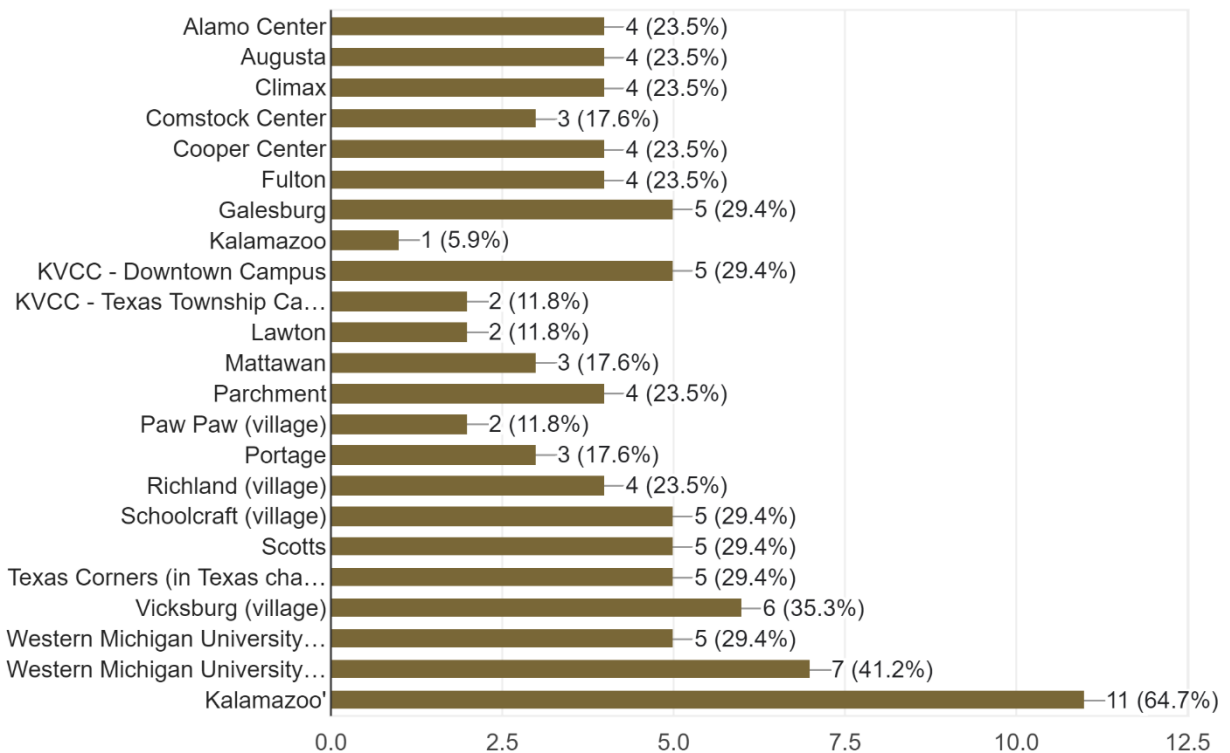
if signs got us there kalamazoo would be the safest place to bike in the world. probably a sign we're getting more safe for people outside of cars would be less ineffective signage.

Bikes May Use Full Lane Sign at all roundabout entrances and where sharrows exist

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.

17 responses

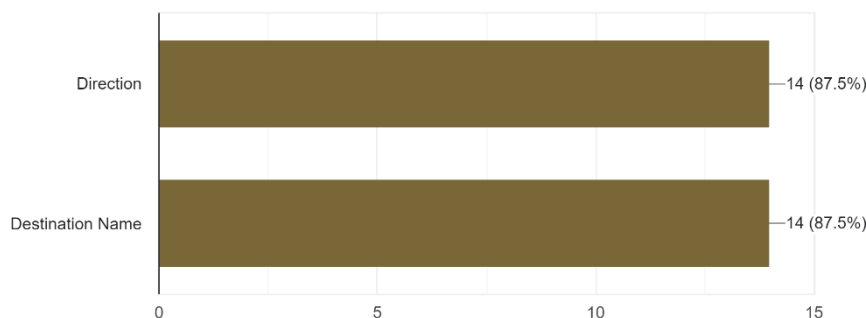


Comments

Please let us know if you would like to help make the Southwest Michigan Bikeway (a regional bikeway connecting all these locations) a reality. K-College and most of the townships and/or township halls not named in the list above could also be included in the wayfinding signage.

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

16 responses



Destination-Naming Comments

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

Signs that benefit way-finding for bicyclists also would benefit motorists by enhancing the visibility of the named communities. Since GPS is such a common feature on both bicycles and motor vehicles, some form of enhanced way-finding should be implemented on those services (I don't know how, but it should be possible.) - including showing connectivity of various fragmented routes that are currently displayed.

Welcome signage and "Established/Founded with Year."

This is still very much a car-commuting city and suburbs; don't assume folks know what neighborhoods/destinations may be just because they drive through them daily.

The areas I listed are small towns. The benefit to their identity would be increasing bicyclists who may want to visit further at other times and/or stop for snack breaks, etc.

Destination naming encourages the view that bike transportation is real transportation, not just for pleasure.

Please include Kalamazoo College

"Any destination oriented signage would help those not familiar with the area, and also remind those who are familiar with the area, that these places are ""real.""

The great thing about destination oriented wayfinding signs is that once they are up, they serve as paid-up permanent ""advertisements"" for those destinations."

Bike Security

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

Grocery stores, restaurants/bars, any destination in a city's "core areas"

Kalamazoo north side

Almost anywhere a business wants to appeal to a broader customer base. Such racks should be obvious and in a public sphere - not hidden behind or alongside a building. Bike theft in Central Kalamazoo is a huge problem.

4th Coast Cafe. Martini's, O'Duffy's, Walnut and Park, RAWK.

Looking at the bike parking map of downtown Kalamazoo, Bronson Park does not appear to have much bike parking. <https://downtownkalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Kalamazoo-Downtown-Parking-Map-2023.pdf>

D&W, Mieijers

Downtown KVCC campuses! Especially culinary and Food Innovation. We have one rack but could always benefit from more, especially covered ones. The FIC is a big spot for folks to park and walk to the farmers market in the summer.

South street between Westnedge and park Ave. in front of Sarkozy bakery.

Downtown parks, MLK Park, Bronson Park and Arcadia Festival site. Also downtown mall areas

KNAC on West Michigan (formerly First Baptist Church) in Kalamazoo

Oakwood Plaza

Downtown bike lockers

Downtown Kalamazoo on either end of the walking mall

More are needed along the Kalamazoo Mall and along the Michigan Ave cycle track

Kalamazoo mall

By Arcadia Park, Shakespeares, Bio Mat etc (where my bike was stolen this year!!!!)

At every nature preserve/walking trailhead. I would love to ride my bike, but there is no place to lock it up at the majority of these destinations.

all of downtown? Kalamazoo bike parking implementation is a big failure when it should be the lowest hanging fruit. also important is we get functional bike racks (upside down U), not old school school yard racks that don't actually work to lock up bikes.

Any of these must-use locations that don't already have them: gyms, super markets, town halls, post offices, hospitals, employers

Public Murals

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

Downtown Kalamazoo

4th Coast and Bagel Beanery parking lot

It's probably not allowed, but the large walls along I-94 where it crosses Lover's Lane would be the most high visibility possible. Perhaps something that aligns with the City of Portage Logo that includes a bike? Otherwise, for cyclists and walkers, the Bicentennial Trail under pass of I94 has had graffiti on the columns. Might be a nice spot for a bicycling/walking mural.

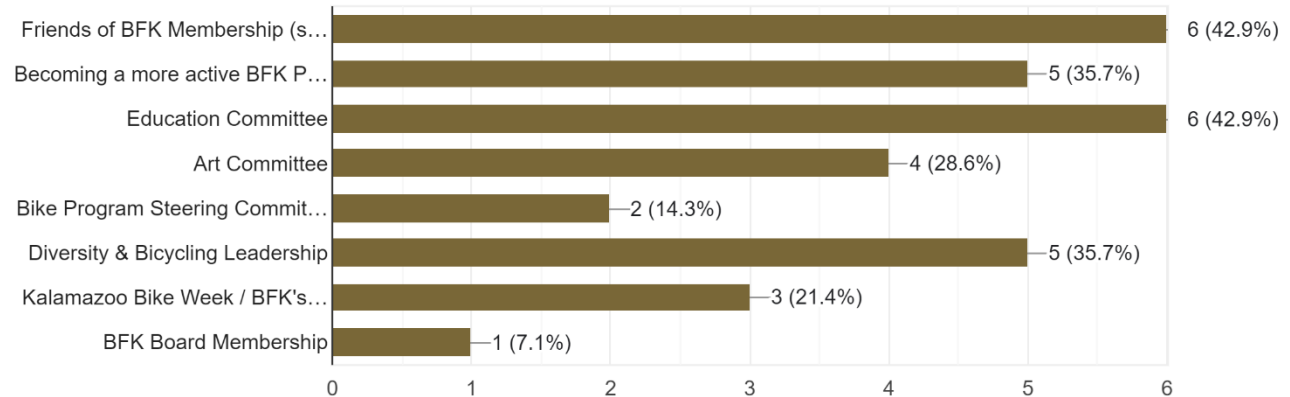
Coming into downtown in the area where riverview turns into kalamazoo ave

The wall on Lovell by Kalamazoo College

Participation

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

14 responses



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.]

Open Roads Bike Program - Ethan Alexander, Founder and Isaac Green, current Executive Director. Ethan, as founder, has shepherded ORBP from a small neighborhood garage organization to one that is serving the entire community. Isaac, as ED, has been instrumental in helping ORBP recover from the COVID pandemic 'depression' and expanding the services and the reach of ORBP, including providing bicycles to youth and adults in the refugee communities, in cooperation with other community-minded organizations.

Dustin Black ModeShift Mr. Black has been hugely instrumental in working with the City of Kalamazoo and the Vine Neighborhood Association with the installation and maintenance of the Bike Wave lane on Lovell St, arguably the only bike lane well received in the city of Kalamazoo.

Chris Lampen of Gazelle and Tim Crone of Pedal are working on having an event to promote bicycling in Kalamazoo. It's in early stages, but they are making progress. Might be good to consider them.

Modeshift Kalamazoo

ModeShift Kalamazoo and Open Roads Bike Program

ModeShift Kalamazoo. They've done a great deal of work to promote the visibility of cyclists and the normalization of cycling as a daily mode of transportation in all seasons—emphasizing the ways cycling contributes to healthy communities, healthy humans, and a healthy planet.

Oshtemo Township Parks - for getting their new multi-use trail (Fruitbelt Trail)

Kalamazoo Parks & Rec - for getting their Bike Rodeos going

Portage Parks & Rec - for taking the lead on LCI training and incorporating bike activities on their recreational calendar

Open Roads Bike Program - for serving the community's youth in bike mechanic skill training for so many years

Kalamazoo Public Schools - for adopting so many All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE Programs

Portage Public Schools - for adopting so many All Kids Bike Kindergarten PE Programs

Comments

Onward with this most valuable work!

BFK and the Steering Committee (which is a direct spin-off) should position itself, not a just another bicycling-oriented organization, but should play a role in bringing together all the different bicycling organizations in the community to leverage the strengths of each into an overall cohesive umbrella that can speak for bicycling in a coordinated manner.

Bill Greer

We love cycling as a family and have a lot of hope to shift the culture in Kalamazoo to be more friendly toward cyclists. We often feel threatened or just unsafe while cycling and would like to shift this lens through education and unifying bike experiences. More annual rides (Night Ride, Family Ride, Slow Roll) could give more people the opportunity to try out our cycling infrastructure.

Bike on

I'm unable to attend the meeting because I'm working in Australia (living here car-free, in the bike-friendly city of Wollongong, NSW) until the end of June. I'd like to become more involved when I return!

Thanks for all that you do!!!! Sincerely enjoy your organization.

ya'll created a 'diversity' committee in response to your incredible white, male perspective that dominates this group. are ya'll accountable to Black people at all? If so, how? why aren't Black folks involved in your work? Maybe take a break on these things that make you feel great about yourself and do some digging into the framework of an org built for and by old white guys.

"It's great how BFK taps into the whole community's input and feeds the results back.

Keep up the great work!"

Other Comments & Announcements

Kalamazoo Area Bike Week Planning Meeting: Tues. March 26; "Mini-Meetings" start at 4:30 & 5pm
Please be on time for your session – we will end at 5:10pm if there are no participants for 5pm mini-meeting.

Kalamazoo Area Bike Week: May 11-18, 2024

Offers opportunities for extra awareness-building spotlight on your bike programs.
Please contact paul@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org for more information.

BFK's Bike-Booster Mini-Grant: First Round Deadline April 2, 2024

See <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/bike-booster-mini-grants/>

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.

References / Resources

Please see below

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 in 2021)

Thom Brennan - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

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 Pryor - 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; membership needs to be confirmed)

Mike Seals - At Large

Paul Selden* - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo - Cmte Chair
Emily Shinevar - Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (Recently promoted; Replacement TBA)
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
Ron VanHouten - Western Michigan University - Dept. of Psychology
Paul Wells - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
Eric Wimbley - Pretty Lake Camp
Donna Whitcomb - AMBUCS*

Guests / Awaiting Confirmation

Nancy Buchanan - Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Anna Horner - Oshtemo Township (possibly Karen High)
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:

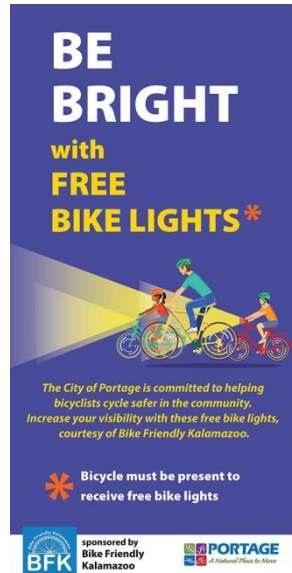
Average Comprehensive Cost by Injury Severity, 2018

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