

BFK Annual Meeting Notes

Combined BFK Annual, Bike Program Steering Cmte & Diversity and Bicycling Leaders Team Meeting
March 18, 2026 Via WebEx Released April 6, 2026

Please report updates/corrections to Paul Selden, Committee Chair

Participants

Lacey Fisher – Portage Dept Public Safety	Evan O'Donnell – Interested Party
Morgan Gillies – Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation	Jun Oh – Western Michigan University
Dave Goldenberg – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	Andy Rohrer – League of MI Bicyclists
Tom Hohm – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	Ed Sackley – Gear Geezers
Terry Hutchins – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	Paul Selden – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Patrick Jouppi – Kalamazoo Public Library	Calin Sferdean – Zoetis
Katie Kelly – Kalamazoo Public Schools	Michael Smith – City of Kalamazoo
Jessica Lanave – League of Michigan Bicyclists	Emma Youngs – Bronson Children's Hospital; Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County
Sharon Lowhim – Oshtemo Township	Chris Zull – Progressive Companies
Cee Maul – City of Kalamazoo	

Next Quarterly Steering Committee Date: Wed. June 17, 2026; 4-5pm

Meetings to be held online for the foreseeable future.

AGENDA

Roll Call & Special Welcome

Chair Selden welcomed everyone, and asked that roll be entered in the Chat by each participant to save time.

Meeting Goals

Orient new perspective members
Share updates re. relevant information
Consider additional programs
This meeting coincided with BFK's Annual Strategic Planning meeting.

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 the roster and notify the 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

Meeting Notes - summarize main points and are not formal minutes

For more information, see References / Resources section below

The Chair commented that results of BFK's Annual Survey would be entered into the Meeting Notes in their entirety as New Business since, given the number of presenters today, there would not be time to cover anything but a few survey highlights. He remarked that the Chair was doing double-duty as meeting facilitator and compiler of the Meeting Notes, and asked presenters to email him the main points they wanted to cover, after the meeting. He mentioned that due to other matters he was attending to, it would take a couple of weeks to complete the notes and asked for everyone's patience.

Program Updates on Long-Term Initiatives

Topics are 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 it. The community is encouraged to use this information and implement ideas "at will." Please email additional thoughts to the Chair.

Due to their extensive nature, much of the presenter's material is presented as select highlights, with links to their full presentations as noted.

Education

Katie Kelly, Kalamazoo Public Schools: All Kids Bike Learn-To-Ride Kindergarten PE Program

All Kids Bike includes everything needed to teach hundreds of students at a school for 7-10 years: teacher training and certification, a fleet of 24 bikes, pedal conversion kits, helmets, an instructional bike for the teacher, 2 rolling metal bike storage racks, and access to a resource portal and live support for the life of the program. Learn more about the program on [All Kids Bike's Program Details](#) page.

The All Kids Bike Kindergarten Learn to Ride PE Program is now being presented in some half a dozen Kalamazoo Public School elementary schools. Approximately 750-800 students have been reached by the program in KPS alone. Ms. Kelly will be reaching out to other schools within the district to assess whether another school may be ready to receive the program in 2026.

El Sol Elementary is being considered for the program in the next couple of years; the schools are being asked if any want to receive the program in 2026.

Questions were asked in the chat about whether kids love the program or find it scary, and, whether the kids can ride outside as well as in the gymnasium. Katie Kelly replied:

Some find it scary at first, but starting without pedals makes it much safer and more accessible. They build confidence quickly. Some schools do go outside, others do not. Just depends on the schedule and weather!

Link to full presentation: <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BFK-March-26-Meeting-KPS-Impact-Summary-260317.pdf>

Emma Youngs, Bronson Children's Hospital and Safe Kids of Kalamazoo County: Safe Kids Events

Emma Youngs presented a schedule of Child Safety oriented events for the spring and summer. Volunteers are needed for both bike rodeos, please contact her if you are available to support.

- Safe Kids / Bronson Children's Hospital will be providing helmet fitting at Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation's May 13 Bike Rodeo (see Morgan Gillies' presentation, below).
- Bike Safety Event - Saturday, May 16th from 11a-1p at Trestlewood Pediatrics in Portage
- Bike Rodeo - Saturday, June 13th from 11a-1p at VBDL Antwerp Sunshine in Mattawan
- Bike Rodeo - Saturday, June 20th from 11a-1p with VDL & Vicksburg Schools

Other Events & Projects

- Will be partnering with Kzoo Parks for their spring bike rodeo on Wednesday, May 13th 5-6:30pm at Rockwell Park in Kalamazoo.
- Bronson Bike Helmet Program launching in May - \$10 helmets and fittings at 9 locations
 - Bronson Rambling Road Pediatrics - Stadium & Oshtemo

- Bronson South Haven Pediatrics
 - Bronson Lakeview Family Care Pediatrics
 - Bronson Primary Care Partners - W. Main, Texas Corners, Richland, Three Rivers
 - Bronson Internal Medicine and Pediatrics on W. Main
- Three Rivers Bike Safety Event - TBD July/Aug

Morgan Gillies, City of Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation: Bike Rodeo and Playground Plans

- Kalamazoo’s Parks and Recreation Department plans to host a free Bike Rodeo on May 13 from 5-6:30pm at their new Rockwell Park facilities (<https://www.kzooparks.org/Events/Kzoo-Parks-Events/Bike-Rodeo>). This event focuses on teaching children safe riding practices; it will take place in the middle of Kalamazoo Area Bike Week (May 9-16, 2026).
- Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation is also excited to announce that its new Bike Playground is now completed at Rockwell Park, 1106 Trimble Avenue, Kalamazoo, 49048 (see image, below).



Comment: This type of playground (often called a “Traffic Park,” or “Traffic Garden”) allows parents, teachers and others to teach children the rules of the road on a course that provides realistic situations they may encounter. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traffic_park for more information.

Public Art

Patrick Jouppi, Kalamazoo Co. Public Art Comm (fmr): 2026 Joys of Bicycling Mural Location

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo (BFK) and Clark Logic have finalized a Public Mural Site Agreement to bring a large-scale art installation to 436 West Willard Street. The mural will span the west-facing wall bordering the North Westnedge Avenue corridor (Business Loop US-131), a primary artery for city commuters and cyclists.

The site is positioned for maximum community impact. Located directly adjacent to a dedicated bike lane, the mural will welcome thousands of new visitors to the district upon the completion of the highly anticipated Kalamazoo Event Center. A call for muralists is planned to go out in April. This project is made possible through a collaborative partnership between the Jim Gilmore Jr. Foundation, Clark Logic and Bike Friendly Kalamazoo.

Legislative Update

Andy Rohrer, League of Michigan Bicyclists: LMB's 2026 Positions

In 2026 the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) is emphasizing:

- protecting users of e-bikes that are powered by electric motors of no more than 1 horsepower (750 watts)

from excessive regulation

- amending the motor vehicle code to more clearly differentiate motorcycles powered by electric motors greater than 1 horse power, from the already classified e-bikes (Classes 1, 2 and 3)
- seeking legislative sponsors
- amending the motor vehicle code to allow bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs.
 - In many other states that have enacted this law, there are fewer crashes
 - Seeking legislative sponsors

A question was asked about how the public can get involved in supporting the bills. Answer from Andy Rohrer: [T]he LMB website (<https://lmb.org/get-involved/current-issues/>) is periodically updated with links to a platform we use that formats letters for you. You are allowed to use it as much as you like. Neither of these subjects have draft legislation in the legislature, yet! Once we get something moving, we can activate the campaign. I would also invite all of you to join LMB so that you can get our monthly e-news, email action alerts, and follow us on Socials (FB/Insta).

A participant commented, “I’m wondering if the Michigan SOS could provide and highlight a link in their various online application processes. Whether it be DL renewal, vehicle registration or other routine functions, some subset of online users would view them. As an add-on, the SoS and MDOT could administratively blast out a Safety Message encouraging all motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to view it. Even if a small percentage take advantage of the opportunity, it would be helpful.”

Comment: Based on the Chair’s experience at LMB’s Advocacy Day in Lansing on March 10, LMB is also continuing to focus on passage of Vulnerable Roadway User (VRU) legislation. The bills would protect bicyclists in a similar way that road workers are currently protected. To the Chair’s knowledge, they are still pending a vote in the House Judiciary Committee.

Link to slide presentation: <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/LMB-Leg-Advocacy-2026.pdf>

Link to E-Bikes vs E-Motos information sheet: https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Emoto_V_Ebike.pdf

Crash Reduction

Dr. Jun Oh, Western Michigan University: Bike Crashes & Behavioral Countermeasures

The following points were selected as condensed highlights from Dr. Oh’s data-rich presentation. Please see links to the more comprehensive information.

Crash Locations

- Michigan-wide, intersections account for 72% of bike-motor vehicle crashes
- In urban areas, intersections on higher-speed corridors account for 78% of bike-motor vehicle crashes
- Fewer crashes occur in rural areas on higher-speed roads; but of those that occur in this location, 34% occur at intersections; 66% occur on the roads between intersections (“mid-block”)
- Local Higher Risk Corridors include:
 - S. Drake (W. Main – Stadium)
 - Gull (G Ave – Sprinkle)
 - W. Main (Maple Hill – Spice)
 - D. Ave (Owen – Adobe)
 - Michigan Ave (W. Michigan – Howard)
 - Rose (Walnut – W. Kalamazoo)
 - W. Kalamazoo (N Westnedge – Harrison)
 - Gull Rd (Riverview – Inverness)
 - Douglas (W. North – Alamo)

Behavioral Countermeasures

- Education & Encouragement for Drivers
 - Yielding at intersections, especially at stop signs
 - No distracted driving
 - No speeding
- Education & Encouragement for Bicyclists
 - Riding with the flow of traffic
 - Yielding at intersections, especially re. traffic signals

Dr. Oh advised the group that pedestrian should walk against traffic. However, bicyclists should bike the same direction as traffic according to Michigan Vehicle Code.

A question was asked about who characterized the cause of the crash? Law enforcement? Dr. Oh responded that police reports (“UD10”) were used.

A participant remarked that there are some challenges with the current UD10 (primarily that it is fully dependent on the responding officer to capture everything in the narrative). I was just told today that the new UD10 (potentially going active this summer) will utilize check boxes and other methods to get a more complete AND accurate depiction of what happened. I think this will significantly aid in such analyses.

After the meeting Dr. Oh / Selden prepared a list of more than 20 behavioral countermeasures with the assistance of Google Gemini. It is in the process of being further refined. Once complete it will be posted on BFK’s Education & Safety web page under the Written Material section (<https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/education-safety/>).

Link to slide presentation: https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BFK_March_1-Jun-Oh-260318.pdf

Christopher Zull, PE, Progressive Companies: Bike-Motor Vehicle Crash Infrastructure Countermeasures At Intersections

Christopher Zull illustrated a variety of actual crash countermeasures / intersection treatments, using images taken along a colleague’s bike commuting experience to work in Grand Rapids.

Comment: After the meeting Zull provide an updated presentation that highlighted these and additional treatments. Many of the benefits are mentioned in the illustrations. The benefits may be easier to see in the illustrated slide presentation than described in the brief set of words below.

Highlights of countermeasures shown in the augmented presentation included:

- Dashed line pavement marking: bicycle lane drops before intersection (‘mixing zone’). Reduces right-turn ‘hook’ conflicts by requiring cyclists to take the lane and become more aware of drivers approaching from behind.
- Advisory lane demarcated by dashed line pavement marking: the presence of lane markings increases rider comfort, even if not a fully preferential bike lane (continuous solid line with bicyclist pictograph pavement markings that prohibit motor vehicle presence in the lane).
- Cycle tracks: Also known as a protected bike lane, a cycle track is an exclusive bicycle facility separated from motor traffic by a physical barrier, such as curbs, bollards, planters, or parked cars.
- Green pavement markings: alerting areas of potential bike-motor vehicle conflict
- Curb extension: instead of the usual radiused intersections, curb extensions force road users to slow down and reduces the chance to strike someone crossing at the sidewalk from behind.
- Bike boxes: green pavement markings allow cyclists to position themselves more clearly in view of

- motorists, enhancing visibility
- Flexible lane delineators: clearly separate lanes, parked cars and bicyclists with high visibility “Flexi-posts”
- Concrete curbing: as shown in the image, can be used to prevent drivers from using the bicycle lane as a space to turn right [and reduces the chance for motorists to wander into a bike lane]
- Parking-protected bike lane (or, a parking-separated bike lane): a type of protected bike lane (or separated bike lane) where parked cars act as a physical barrier between cyclists and moving motor vehicle traffic.
- Curb extensions: Paint and temporary flexi-posts used to create a curb extension that clearly indicates a no-parking area and slows turning speeds [as illustrated, at intersection corners]
- Raised crosswalk: used to maintain level sidewalk height at sidewalk street crossings, all the way across the side street; (like speed bumps/humps/cushions) they slow driver turning speeds.
- Traffic circle with all-way stop: Forces speed reduction at intersection.
- "Shark's teeth" lane markings: a series of white, isosceles triangles painted across lanes to indicate a yield or "give way" point. They point towards oncoming traffic and instruct drivers to yield to vehicles or pedestrians at roundabouts, intersections, or merging lanes. They function as a painted yield sign.
- Left turn lane pavement markings w green bicycle only box: Bicycle space is maintained through the intersection, with the left-turn lane offset from the through lane, reducing turning conflicts.

Participants wondered, “How do we educate drivers that have been driving for 30+ years and are unfamiliar with these “new” to them features and treatments?” and remarked, “Agreed! I love that we are making safe changes, but I now many people are unfamiliar with the bike lanes here in Kalamazoo and that's the hard part!” Another observed, “... combined bike lines/car lines where cars go into the bike lines in the face on coming car traffic works well in Europe. Speed should be below 30 mph. Maybe 45 mph on rural roads.” Zull mentioned:

“advisory Bike Lanes have a recommended threshold for both speed and volume that are typically below 35mph and 4k vehicles (per his recollection).

After the meeting Christopher Zull / Selden prepared a list of more than 20 infrastructure countermeasures with the assistance of Google Gemini. It is in the process of being further refined. Once complete it will be posted on BFK's Standards & Guidelines web page (<https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/resources/standards-and-guidelines/>). Many of these countermeasures can also be found on a web page generously provided to Bike Friendly Kalamazoo by Matthew Boelkins and Zull at Progressive Companies, at <https://mboelkins.wixsite.com/bfkintersections>.

Link to updated slide presentation: <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BFK-Intersection-Design-Treatments-260331.pdf>

Additional Remark By Participants and Presenters (lightly edited)

The possibility of some sort of drivers continuing education requirement or web-based course when renewing driver licenses was discussed at a recent Traffic Safety Network Meeting. Although it would be difficult to enforce as a requirement, it could be a good partnership with insurance companies to offer a discount for those who complete it.

Other Comments & Announcements

- March 31: Deadline for 2026 Kalamazoo Area Bike Week (May 9-16) Event Submission - see <https://kalamazoobikeweek.org/organizer-info> for details
- April 10: Deadline for 2026 KABW Announcements - see <https://kalamazoobikeweek.org/announcements> for examples

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

Thank you to our Supporting Institutions, Corporate Sponsors and Friends of BFK for your financial support and encouragement!

New Business

Terry Hutchins, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo: Annual Survey Results

- Hutchins thanked those who took the time to complete BFK's Annual Survey.
- Results would be reviewed with BFK's Directors at their April board meeting, and personal follow up will take place based on available resources.
- In the meantime, the survey results are being shared with community leaders, He encouraged them to take independent action as they see best.
- Hutchins highlighted names of those nominated by the greater community for BFK's Annual Civic Leadership Award, noting that being nominated is an honor in itself.

Community Cycling Poll

The following survey results are unabridged. *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 14, 2026

Ideas For Bike Friendly Improvement

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.

Consider additional bicycle infrastructure. Consider winter maintenance for bicycle routes (snow plowing only). Design the transportation system for appropriate vehicular speed.

1. Revise/develop/codify a bicycle action plan/non-motorized master plan 2. Use the afore mentioned plan and capital improvement plans to prioritize non-motorized improvements (both in existing projects and new projects to be programmed) 3. Celebrate successes and pursue higher Bike Friendly classifications 4. Wayfinding

Off road bike trails

More dedicated trails

We could make a nice map of where there are current bike lanes, designated bike routes, and also just streets that work well for biking. I'm hoping to start a "bike bus" from the Milwood neighborhood to the Farmer's Market this spring. Bike week could be expanded. I think a bike show/contest of local people's fun bike builds would be cool. I'd like to see an annual Bike Swap get started at the new Cooney building near the Farmer's Market.

Bike lane "tours" across the city to encourage more awareness and more cyclists

Greater permanent barrier separation of traffic from cyclist. Greater integration of cycling routes. Great use and improvement of sidewalk system as shared bike/walking system. Requires huge upgrade in sidewalks.

More connectivity between the greater Kalamazoo and Portage systems. Start by connecting the Portage Bicentennial Trail with the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail via row along Lovers Lane. Both systems are developing but need that connection to make systems available to all.

Make sure bike lanes are clear, don't let them be blocked with trashcans and lawn waste.

"1. Use eminent domain to take bike lane/sidewalks land and create SAFE throughfare instead of waiting for landowners to decide if they DO or DO Not want to invest in a sidewalk next to State Highways. My current concern is M 43.

2. Celebrate biking on any new bike trail built with a quarterly bike parade fun celebration for families and reward them in some way for participating. I did a bike parade out of Frays Park once, but it was on small suburban streets. And slow and lots of littles who were taught bike safety techniques. That is good, but with an affordable housing crisis, inflation of food and a diabetes epidemic, how do we do a celebration that encourages people to use bikes as transpo. America is missing this. People are WAY too dependent of cars, gyms and exclusive (expensive) clubs. Biking saves lives from chronic health conditions if people would get out of their darn cars and be able to BIKE down to do errands. I did all my grocery shopping by bike. It's not so hard if we can teach people to care about the environment their health and long term benefits of community supported biking.

3. Keep the bike lanes down town. I am so tired of complainers and populist politics that pounce upon poor people's safety, transportation options and joy in exercising on a bike. But I digress into opinion. Forgive me! "

Implement laws for registering and restricting e-bikes (level -2 e bikes) as motor vehicles and not bicycles.

"1. The City of Portage should incorporate more elements that will increase the safety of bicyclists in its Lake Center Corridor re-design, especially since current plans show a preference for using sidewalks and sidepaths in that stretch of Portage Road, when sidewalks and sidepaths account for between 70-75% of bike-motor vehicle crashes.

2. More area communities should adopt a five foot safe passing ordinance, and those that have done so should include pedestrians in their safe passing ordinances. "

EDUCATION: All Kids Bike PE Program

BFK raises funds for the nationally-proven All Kids Bike Kindergarten Learn-To-Ride 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.

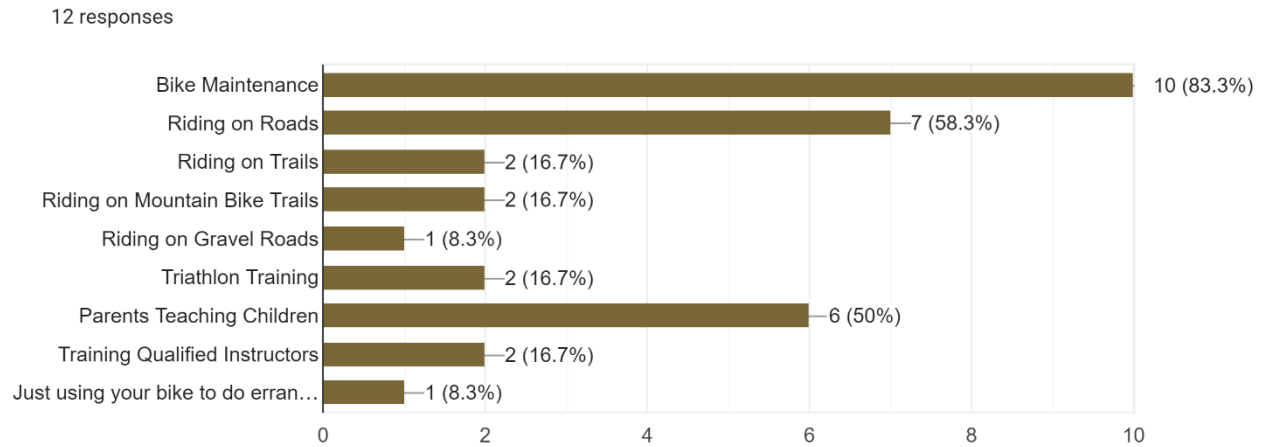
EI Sol

Comments

I do not educate kids nor need this. I did my time as a professional teaching youth. It's not my skill set.

EDUCATION: Hands-On Adult Bike Skills

Do you think there is a need for more hands-on bike skills training workshops for in our greater community? If so, please check the topics you feel should be included. **IMPORTANT** - Please disregard whether such skills are being taught **currently** - your answers may encourage those who are teaching them already!



Education: Hosting Venues

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

Bike Rodeo for Children

Bike Handling Skills (Youth or Adult)

Bicycle Maintenance and Fitting, Helmet Fitting

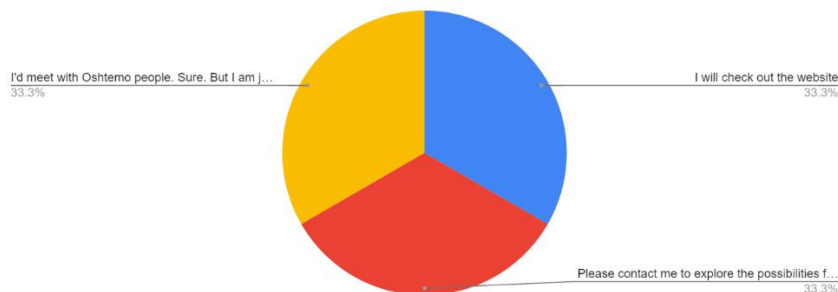
You have to talk our affordable housing retirement community into allowing this on property...or see if Oshtemo would partner...but being OLD and still being able to bike...or trike and how to access this inexpensively

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: "Driving Change" PSA Sharing

BFK's board will let qualified municipalities and nonprofits use our fact-based public safety messaging social media and web educational public service announcements, as-is, at no charge. If you represent a nonprofit or municipality that would like to explore doing so, please let us know. Information and results from our "Driving Change" social media program in 2025 can be found at: <https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Bike-Friendly-Kalamazoo-Driving-Change-Report-2025-250908.pdf>



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).

SAFETY MESSAGING: Yard Signs

"Five Foot Safe Passing" yard signs have been generously donated by the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club and are available 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?

Comments

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

Safe Passing Ordinances

Please let us know if your municipality would benefit from an ordinance to increase safe passing distances to 5 feet, by listing the name of the township, village or city, here:

Portage should include pedestrians in their safe passing ordinance

I quit telling politicians what to do. I can't FOIA bike accident reports along M 43 to discern this, but I know I am sky high with anxiety on M 43 if I didn't break local laws and bike on sidewalks. Go ahead! Ticket me! M 43 needs a five foot wide bike trail to Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery! The bus can't take people duck watching out there for migration. It's a beautiful annual eternal event...

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. The city of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Twp, Oshtemo Twp and the city of Portage have such ordinances.

SIGNAGE: Traffic Signs Aimed At Public Safety

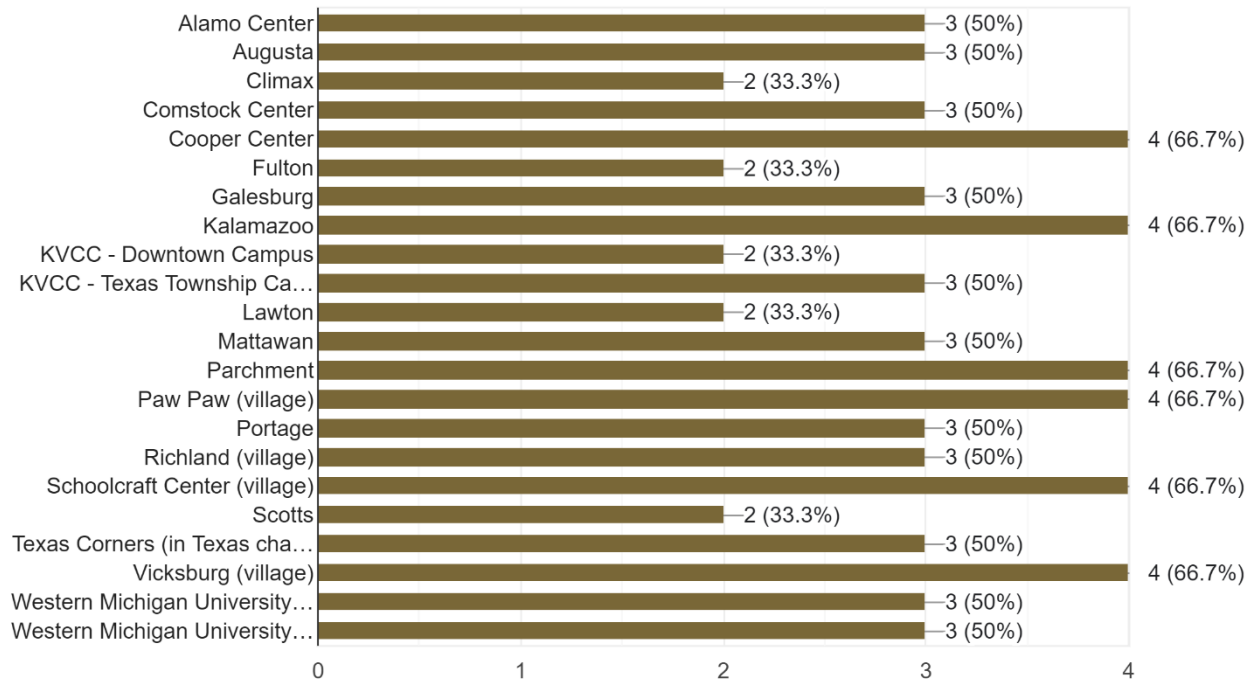
Please let us know the type and specific location of traffic signs and/or signals you think would help reduce serious bicycle crashes with motor vehicles, pedestrians or other bicycles.

A traffic sign is often ignored. Drivers are too busy paying attention to all the electronics in their little car bubbles that make them feel all comfy, happy and psyched up...signs are only effective for a shot time, and unless they are lit with an electronic strobe light, they get lost in the mass of other signs. Build the M 43 bike path out from Kalamazoo City to the County Line.

SIGNAGE: Wayfinding (Supporting Municipal Identify, Placemaking, Community Development & Recognition)

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

6 responses

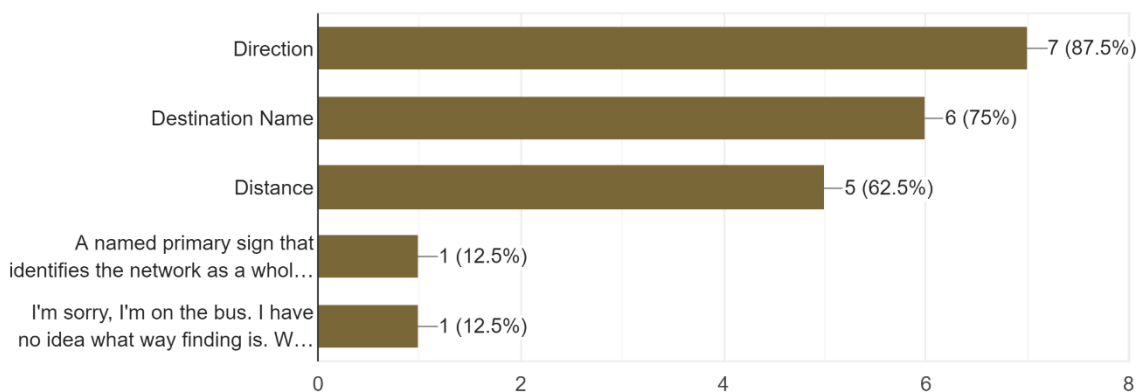


Comments

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.

To support wayfinding to these destinations, which of the following do you think the wayfinding signs should display?

8 responses



"Other" Responses

A named primary sign that identifies the network as a whole - Southwest Michigan Bikeway

I'm sorry, I'm on the bus. I have no idea what way finding is. Why is Oshtemo not listed. Forgive me. I'm just doing a survey and selfishly interested in safe biking along m 43

Destination-Naming Comments

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

Visitors to the area could use destination oriented signage to reduce confusion when wayfinding; the communities named in destination signage would benefit from increased name recognition and community pride; the 7-8% of people who move into the area from outside it annually would benefit from improved wayfinding; students and others who attend local universities and colleges would enhance their knowledge of the area and improve wayfinding.

Use iconic landmarks noted as "first find" in a simple google search.

Anything natural that celebrates God's Miraculous work in creating nature.

Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery

Portage water treatment ponds turned into beautiful bike trails

Lilith? Arboretum

Kleinstuck...but Put bike lock stations or pods by there so that bikes don't make the Kleinstuck area unwalkable

The Kazoo Valley Trail.

Crash Reduction Focus

The community wide Bike Program Steering Committee puts regular review of Crash Reduction methods on its agenda. Please suggest ideas for topics and speakers.

Dennis Randolph - City of Kalamazoo Changes

Peter Dame - City of Portage Changes

Kathleen Hoyle, David Rachowicz - Trail Development

Oshtemo, Texas Township - Trail Development

Safe Streets for All program administer

How to cross heavy intersections safely by becoming a communicator using hand signals to communicate with over rushed drivers who want to push their "right" to go fast and scare people going slow. I don't know, actually. This is a sore spot for me. I have had too many near misses. How do you get drivers to CARE? IDK

Expert analysis of crash data. Recommendations for modifications to infrastructure to address the crash history.

John Morrison - West Michigan Trails, Kristin Bennett - Mobile GR

OTHER PROGRAMS: Bike Racks, Security and Public Bike Art

Bike Security

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

Milwood Elementary School, the Cork Lane Shopping plaza, Kalamazoo Public Library, Bronson Park, shopping plaza with Zooroona in it, center of Vine district
Grocery stores. Creat Bike lock in pods. Hiking trails could use these, too. I'd love to hike but do not want to leave my bike behind. Pods are GREAT! I do not have to strip my bike of expensive lights and bags.

Public Bike Art

BFK has a long-standing effort to encourage more bicycling via public art and trail enhancements.

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 / site owner from your description.

I love the bike art memorial at Drake and MI. More of that. I am an artist...create bike art to promote bike use for errands. List benefits of exercise and how to pack groceries in a bike bag and where to access them. Oh, gosh, do not get me going on bike art for advocacy!!! But YES

Bike Park near WMU

Amplifying/Sharing Your Messaging

BFK is exploring ways to boost bike friendly messaging of all sorts, such as by sharing your posts. To help us brainstorm, please share your social media handles/URLs below. Copy and paste the following list into your answer and fill it out.

Facebook

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo could share its messaging with local civic and bike-oriented organization's websites to share messaging of help to all bicyclists - like an "Associated Press"

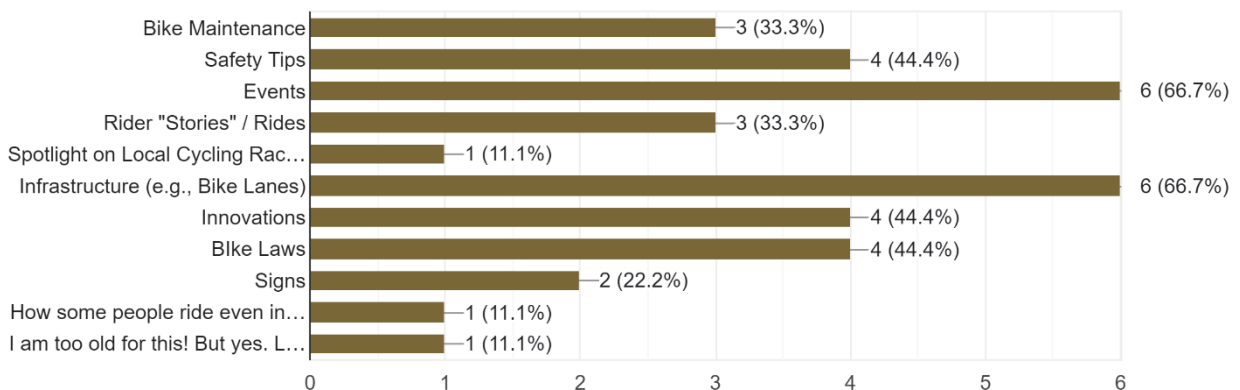
I'm planning to start an "Alt Biking Kalamazoo" Facebook page and possibly Instagram and would be happy to share that, once I get it rolling.

Taber@IHATEsocialMEdy

Messaging Topics/Themes

BFK is exploring ways to post on topics or themes. Which of the following do you think might be of most interest? To see what we come up with, you can Like/Friend/Follow one or more of our Facebook pages (@bikefriendlykalamazoo, @kalamazoobikeweek, @fallbikecelebration, @southwestmichbikeway).

9 responses



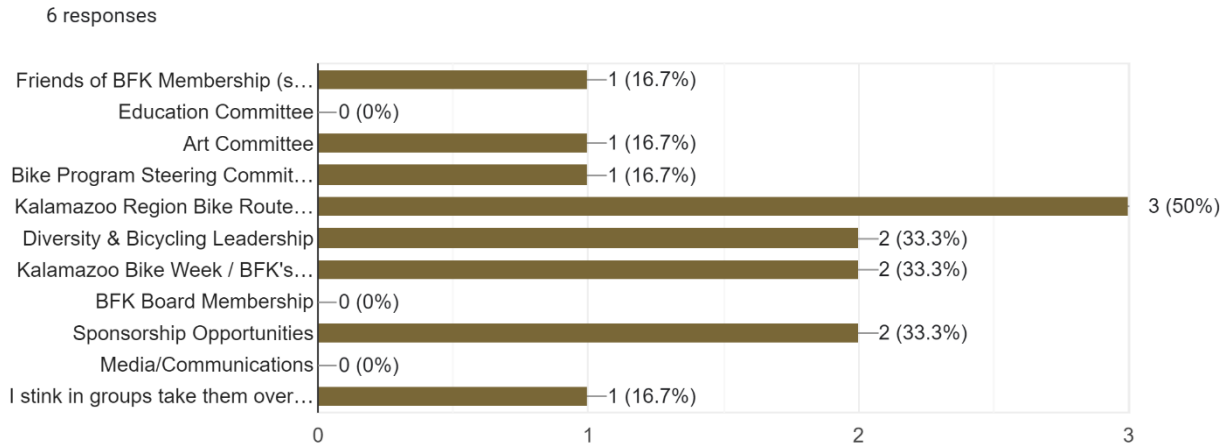
"Other" Responses

How some people ride even in the winter

I am too old for this! But yes. Let younger people give opinions. I need to get OFF my phone. I'm gonna go. Bike. Get medical testing done today...um, why DID I think I might be able to just whip out a quick helpful survey????

Participation

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



“Other” Responses

I stink in groups take them over. I'm not sure....sorry

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.]

- Kalamazoo's public works department - for bold street designs that have improved public safety by reducing crashes
- City of Portage's City Council - for embarking on improving Portage Rd between Centre and the southern city limits by reducing speeds and installing traffic safety improvements
- Village of Vicksburg - for being one of the first in the area to so radically improve its infrastructure (bump-outs, pedestrian crossing protections, bike lanes, bike racks, etc)
- Oshtemo - for its new trail
- Portage - for its new trail
- Rick Fuller

PARTING COMMENTS

Keep up the great work, BFK!

I'm glad BFK exists. I'm busy but am happy to support in small ways.

Onward...one good clear step at a time.

Peace and grace. Use your bike to alleviate poverty. Ride it to do errands. Bike with your kids. Have bike to church events all over the city in the spring and fall. Bike with your kids and grandkids and teach them that bikes are more than just toys. They promote healthy living. Yay. Our beloved Sheriff has a heart for persons living withoutt usual resources. His jail does good things. And he has power to like bike policy change so his employees do not have to scrape people off highways and families are not destroyed.

Our community must build on successes that are all around us. Keep making improvements to the system to increase ridership and safety. It seems that the pedestrian and bicycle traffic has increased in recent years. It would be helpful to see some analysis of bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts in areas that are being targeted. Consider additional enforcement for vehicular speed in areas where bicycles are frequently present.

Enforcing speed limits is one of the biggest safety enhancements for bikers, walkers and runners

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 Hepler - Village of Augusta

Kathleen Hoyle - City of Portage

Jennifer Johnson - Chain Gang (Bicycle Club)

Lacey Fisher – City of Portage Dept. of Public Safety

Brooke Gieber - Gud Marketing

John Knowlton - Stones Church

Keneth Kwayu - Stakeholder At Large

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

Annie Pryor - City of Portage Parks Dept.

Sharon Lowhim - Oshtemo Township

Chelsea Maupin - Gud Marketing

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

Chris Praedel - City of Kalamazoo

Adam Rafels - Stakeholder at Large

Paul Rehkopf – Open Roads Bike Program

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)
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
Comstock Township Representative
Megan Mickelson - Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
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:

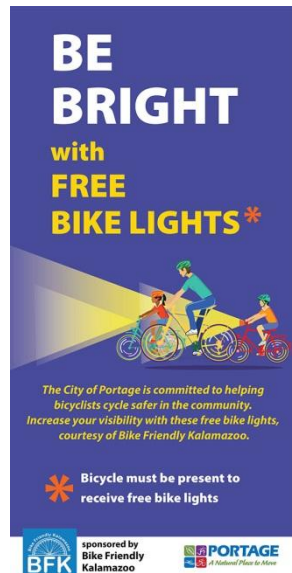
Average Comprehensive Cost by Injury Severity, 2018

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