

Bike Program Steering Committee Meeting Notes

June 17, 2026

Updated Notes released by Paul Selden, Chair – July 2, 2026

Please report corrections to Chair

Participants

Keith Baker – City of Coldwater
Heather Bowden – Michigan Office of Hwy Safety Planning
John Bueche – Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission
Dave Goldenberg – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Terry Hutchins – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Sharon Lowhim – Oshtemo Township Public Works
Sia Mwendu – Western Michigan University
Kelvin Oliver – Texas Township Kalamazoo
Joe Scheid – City of Coldwater
Paul Selden – Bike Friendly Kalamazoo
Larry Wyner – City of Kalamazoo

Welcome & Roll Call

Welcome! Participants introduced themselves with their names and affiliations via the Chat function.

Standard Meeting Goals

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

Next Quarterly Steering Committee Dates: Wed. Sept. 16, 2026; 4-5pm; Wed. Dec. 9, 2026

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
Notes - summarize main points and are not formal minutes
For more information, see **Reference** section below

Special Meeting Topics

The following special agenda items were covered first.

E-Bike / Scooter Safety & Regulation -- Kelvin Oliver; Code Enforcement Officer, Texas Township

Texas Township is received citizen concerns about what some have described as the unsafe use of high-powered electric motorcycles and electric scooters by those who appear too young to have a motor vehicle operator's license and without direct parental supervision. In response, on June 6 Texas Township held a 2 hour "Bike and E-Bike Rodeo" (see <https://www.facebook.com/chartertownshipoftexas/posts/save-the-date-june-6-900-am-1100-am-texas-township-hall-parking-lot-join-us-for-1462186719286282/>). Approximately 8 parents and children attended. There are plans to do it again.

Mr. Oliver thanked City of Coldwater City Manager Keith Baker and Chief of Police Joe Scheid for providing helpful information about the city's "Rolling Safely" approach (infographic summary at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18vt3KSBxR/>)

Note: The League of Michigan Bicyclists have it as a priority to preserve full use of the currently allowed and regulated Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes. Electric motors of more than one-horsepower fall outside the current state laws. The trick is to preserve the current rights of Michigan's citizens while moving forward. Andy Rohrer welcomes input at andy@lmb.org.

Michigan Traffic Crash Reporting: Updates to the UD10 To Enhance Cause-Effect Analysis -- Sia Mwende; Western Michigan University

An MDOT-sponsored research project in which Sia Mwende participated identified potential opportunities to enhance incident lighting conditions reporting in crashes (by modifying the so-called standard Michigan UD10 Incident Form). Reasons for this include:

- Approximately 77% of pedestrian fatalities occur at night.
- Current crash-report lighting categories ("dark-lighted" and "dark-unlighted") are subjective and may not accurately represent actual illumination levels.
- Field verification revealed discrepancies between reported and measured lighting conditions, demonstrating the value of collecting objective lighting data.
- Most severe (fatal and incapacitating injuries) pedestrian crashes in the study occurred at locations with illumination levels below 5 lux.
- Similarly, there may be opportunities to examine whether existing bicycle crash variables can be clarified or supplemented to support cause-effect analysis better.

It is possible that using instruments to collect lighting information at crash scenes, and including that information on the Incident Form, could lead to identifying intersections where improved illumination would reduce serious crashes. See the presentation at https://bikefriendlykalamazoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/UD10-Updates-for-Cause_Effect-Analysis-260617.pdf

Infrastructure Countermeasures To Reduce Bike-Motor Vehicle Crashes At Intersections & Driveways -- Christopher Zull; Progressive Companies

Due to a schedule conflict, this presentation will be covered during the next quarterly Bike Program Steering Committee meeting.

Program Updates/Announcements on Long-Term Initiatives

This committee's main purpose is to share information and exchange guidance with those implementing it. The community is encouraged to use this information and implement ideas as best seen. Please email additional thoughts to the Chair. *At today's meeting our standard Program Updates were handled as additional brief Announcements at the end of the meeting, as relayed below.*

Standard agenda topics (based on previously agreed-upon steering committee interest)

1. Education
2. Safety Awareness-Building / Public Safety Messaging
3. Signage / Infrastructure
4. Crash Reduction Program

1. Education

Bike Rodeo Updates -- Emma Youngs, Kalamazoo Safe Kids Coordinator

5/16 Bike Helmet Event with Trestlewood Pediatrics

- First year aligning with Kalamazoo Bike Week - plan to do so again in 2027!
- 20 new helmets fitted (total participants ~25-30)

6/13 Bike Rodeo in Mattawan with VBDL

Hosted by VBMDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch

- 45 child participants - 30 new helmets fitted
- Representation and support from AAA Portage office and WMU Office of Sustainability bike repair shop.
- Continuous course incorporated fun obstacles like a roundabout, stoplight, slalom, and turtle crossing.
- At least 10 kids came with helmets from last year's event.
- Several families shared how much their kids enjoy and look forward to this event every year now.

Upcoming 6/20 Bike Rodeo in Vicksburg with VPS and VPL

Hosted by Vicksburg Middle School 11a-1p

- Sawyer Duncan creating course
- Helmets are free for participants sponsored by Bronson Health Foundation.
- Expecting representation and support from AAA Portage office and WMU Office of Sustainability bike repair shop.
- Local Biggby donating coffee and donuts!
- More volunteers needed! contact Emma Youngs at youngse@bronsonhg.org

Helmets and fittings available at select Bronson pediatric offices.

\$10 per helmet - open to the community. Child does not need to be a Bronson patient.

Flyer with locations attached.

Remaining June Summer Safety Days (Bronson pediatric offices)

Bike Helmet Fittings | Chat with an Injury Prevention Specialist about ways to keep children safe at home, at play, and on the go.

- Tuesday, June 23rd 10a-4p | Bronson Internal Medicine and Pediatrics (W. Main)
- Monday, June 29th 10a-4p | Bronson Primary Care Partners - Texas Corners

All Kids Bike Updates – Terry Hutchins, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

- The nation-wide All Kids Bike Learn To Ride PE program equips elementary schools with everything needed to get their students rolling as part of their regular physical education curriculum. The program 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 FAQ page](#).
- More than a dozen area schools have adopted the program.
- Arcadia Elementary – most recent school – volunteers from Pfizer and BFK assembled the bikes with PE teacher Lauren Fron on May 8, in time for them to be used as the weather was turning warmer.
- Please share names of elementary school candidates for 2026 funding with Terry Hutchins, terry@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org

2. Safety Awareness-Building / Public Safety Messaging

Public “Joys of Bicycling” Mural Program Updates - John Francis Bueche (BEEkee), Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission

- Bike Friendly Kalamazoo promotes public art consistent with its mission to help make the greater community even more bicycle friendly. In recent years it has organized the painting of large public murals expressing the joys of bicycling as a means to increase ridership, improve traffic safety and enhance public spaces.
- 2026 mural site: N. Westnedge facing wall of 436 W. Willard in Kalamazoo
 - Kalamazoo's historic Northside neighborhood, near the SW edge of the emerging Northside Cultural Business District, and within view of the new Kalamazoo Event Center
 - one of many sites considered under the guidance of Patrick Jouppi, then chair of BFK's citizen's Art Committee (Committee pursued this and other sites; the Chair and Committee are thanked for their work)
 - building owned by Clark Logic - host of BFK's first mural in 2022
 - bike lane adjacent and high volume/high visibility vehicle traffic
- Related Dates:
 - site announcement and artist request for qualifications early April
 - June 15th Request for Proposal sent to artists
 - deadline for Artist Proposals: July 17th

BFK's Driving Change Public Service Announcement Program via Social Media (read into these notes to share the information)

- Based on WMU data analysis of three primary crash presented in previ+ous Bike Program Steering Committee Meetings
 - Intersections
 - Overtaking/Passing
 - Visibility
- Ad running 30 days starting June 5
- 3,000 Link Clicks (to additional safety info) as of this morning
- Main parameters same as previous years: Kalamazoo County; Facebook age demographics
- Expected “touches:” same as previous years (in 250,000 range)
- Please share comments with Amelia Katanski, amelia@bikefriendlykalamazoo.org.

3. Signage / Infrastructure

Portage Austin Lake Trail (reported for the record after the meeting by Kathleen Hoyle, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Portage)

- Austin Lake Trail is on schedule for completion in early September. Tree planting some 800 native trees will commence through November.
- City of Portage submitted their League of American Bicyclist renewed application for the Bike Friendly Community Award. The city is currently at Silver level.

5 Foot Safe Passing Yard Signs

- On display at many Kalamazoo Public Safety Stations
- Available at many bike shops and additional locations
- Made available by Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

4. Crash Reduction Program

See Infrastructure Countermeasures agenda item, above

Other: New Business, Additional Comments & Announcements

Note: New business items are dropped after two consecutive meetings with no action.

The Chair thanks everyone for their participation today!

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 (needs updating)

Bill Adams - Village of Vicksburg

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

Deb Carpenter* - Child Safety Consultant

Amanda Cockcroft - City of Kalamazoo

Neil Conway - City of Kalamazoo

Jeff Christensen - Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office (awaiting replacement)

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

Tom Hohm* - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Kathleen Hoyle - City of Portage

Jennifer Johnson - Chain Gang (Bicycle Club)

John Knowlton - Stones Church

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

Annie Prior - City of Portage Parks Dept.

Chelsea Maupin - Gud Marketing

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

Quinn Passmore - Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning

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

Mike Seals - At Large

Paul Selden* - Bike Friendly Kalamazoo - Cmte Chair

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
 Adrian Stroupe - MDOT
 Scott Vanderende - City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
 Ron VanHouten - Western Michigan University - Dept. of Psychology
 Paul Wells - Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
 Donna Whitcomb* - AMBUCS

Guests / Awaiting Confirmation

Nancy Buchanan - Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 Anna Horner - Oshtemo Township (possibly Karen High's replacement in Parks?)
 Megan Mickelson - Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study
 Jodi Stefforia - Oshtemo 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:

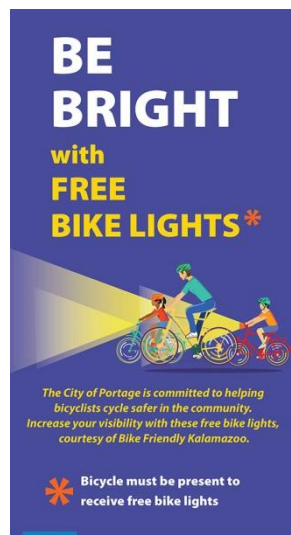
Average Comprehensive Cost by Injury Severity, 2018

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