

January 27, 2016

**2014-15 Biennial Report - Final  
TCBA Advocacy Committee  
Submitted by Mike Unsworth**

Due to the Chair's hospitalization and recovery which took place from November 2014 to March 2015, he forgot to do an annual report for 2014. Thus, he is submitting a combined one for 2014 & 2015.

Attendance at the Committee's monthly meetings ranged from seven to twelve people. Around 80 people are on the discussion list with 206 on the Facebook page.

- **U.S. Housing and Urban Development Grant on Developing the Michigan & Grand River Avenues Corridor (March 2013- November 2014)**
  - Planning Charrettes – Committee members were active participants in the May & October 2014 meetings which resulted in the document *The Capitol Corridor: A Regional Vision for Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue* (<http://migrand-charrette.com>)
  - Several committee members worked on a map of bike routes and Non-Motorized Transportation infrastructure in the tri-county region. Much of this information was incorporated into MDOT's University Region Non-Motorized Master Plan (<http://www.uregionnomoplan.com/>)
- **Trails systems:**
  - At almost every meeting we discussed various aspects of maintenance, hours, services, closures, and infrastructure (bollards, signage, etc.). We pursued solutions with the city of Lansing and other appropriate agencies when possible.
  - In November 2014 Ingham County voters approved a millage to support the development of a county-wide regional trails and parks system. This new funding has created opportunities for TCBA to help develop a comprehensive system of trails. In 2015 Committee members participated in the Ingham County Regional Trails and Parks Plan public meetings. We now await the decisions of the County Trails Task Force.
- **Publicity:**
  - The Advocacy web site (<http://advocacy.biketcba.org/>) went live in 2014 and is constantly being updated.
  - AARP regional Transportation Workshop (November 2014)—TCBA had a table and passed out literature

- **Mid-Michigan Ride of Silence--**Wells Hall Plaza at MSU was the gathering place and has proven to be a good location
  - 2014: 152 riders and 18 bicycle officers participated
  - 2015: a record 200 riders and 14 bicycle officers participated
- **Jill Byelich**—Byelich, a 35 year old mother of two, was killed by a distracted driver on Sept. 4, 2014, in Clinton County
  - Our October 5, 2014, Memorial Ride had 150 riders
  - Driver sentencing—Committee members Lenny Provencher and Mike Unsworth attended sentencing hearings at the Clinton County courthouse. Family members appreciated our presence. The sentencing included:
    - Six months in the Clinton County Jail
    - 24 months of probation
    - 150 hours of community service
    - 20 drivers' education classes
    - A restriction on owning a phone or portable texting device for two years
    - Payment of \$15,000 in restitution and court fees
- **Bicycle Parking:**
  - Bike Rack Assistance page (<http://advocacy.biketcba.org/bike-rack-assistance/>) has been formally brought up on the Advocacy web site
  - Bath Township took advantage of this program to install racks at public venues
  - Trowbridge Village bike racks—We contacted the developer about the need for bike parking. Sixteen racks with a total capacity for 88 bikes plus a Fix-It Station with a hand operated air pump were installed at the developer's expense
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee of the Michigan Dept. of Transportation's University Region**
  - The goal of these quarterly meetings is to share information about ways to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety: best practices, lessons learned upcoming projects, new approaches, successes, etc
  - These meetings began in January 2014. Around fifteen to twenty people from different agencies and organizations attend. Committee members Steve Leiby, Nancy Krupiarz, Tim Potter, and Mike Unsworth have participated.
  - Tim Potter and Mike Unsworth gave a presentation on MSU's bike infrastructure
  - A Regional Non-motorized Plan was unveiled in 2015  
<http://www.uregionnomoplan.com/>

- **Contact with Major Agencies**—we met with officials from the following agencies on their future activities:
  - Michigan Department of Transportation
  - Ingham County Road Department
  - City of Lansing
  - Capital Area Transportation Authority – on June 4, 2015, we had a special meeting with Assistant Executive Director Deb Alexander and discussed:
    - Bus/cyclist interactions
    - Bicycle infrastructure at Intermodal Transportation Center in East Lansing (AKA new Amtrak Station)
    - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on the Michigan/Grand River Avenues Corridor—we were disappointed that CATA decided not to have bikes share the BRT lanes (the preferred option of the Capital Corridor Design Charrette)
- **Major Infrastructure Projects**—we provided input on:
  - North US 127 & French Road crossing in Clinton County
  - Interurban Trail crossing Okemos Road
  - Okemos Road Interchange over I-96--We believe our advocacy work helped produce in an improved (but not perfect) design.
  - Poorly located road construction signs
  - Okemos Road pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River
- **Local Advocacy Sub-Committees:**
  - Bath Township-- Started by Dan Stockwell and Tom Hardenbergh in October 2014. Projects tackled:
    - Marsh Road & Business I-69 (AKA Old M78/East Saginaw Street) intersection
    - Bath Township Farmer Market ride
    - Bike racks in various locations
    - Proposed recreational pathway around the south shore of Park Lake in Bath Township,
    - Planning a 2016 bike event
  - Meridian Township—Planning began in November 2015 by several residents
- **Bike Shorts Film Festival**—In late May 2015 approximately 100 people showed up at the Mid-Town Brewing Company with 40 riders using the Valet Bike Parking service
- **Bike Infrastructure**--- we worked on:
  - East-West Bike routes that would connect Frandor with Downtown Lansing and Lansing Community College
  - Bike lanes on Mt Hope Road from Okemos Road to Moore’s River Drive

- Saginaw/Oakland Buffered Bike Lane Extension
- East Michigan Avenue bike lanes in Lansing
- We planned for a retreat to be held early in 2016.

### **2014-2015 Committee Participants**

Dean Brailey

Rick Brown

Tom Hardenbergh

Steve Leiby

Bob Lovell

Nancy Krupiarz

Tim Potter

Lenny Provencher

Art Slabosky

Dan Stockwell

Mike Unsworth

Dwight Washington

Phil Wells