



**SW MI Non-Motorized Plan**  
**Focus: Branch County**  
**Connecting Communities One Trail At A Time**

**WELCOME**

- 1. Sign in**
- 2. Fill out a name tag**

# Branch County Non-Motorized Summit



**Welcome** – Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC and Kathy Worst, Branch CD

**MDOT Non-Motorized Initiative** – Amy Lipset, MDOT

**Non Motorized Overview** - Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC

**Trails in Quincy** – Brian Vanzee, Engineer for Village of Quincy

**Non-Motorized in Coldwater** - Dean Walrack City of Coldwater Planner

**Around the Room** – Non-Motorized Activity

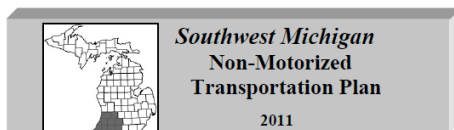
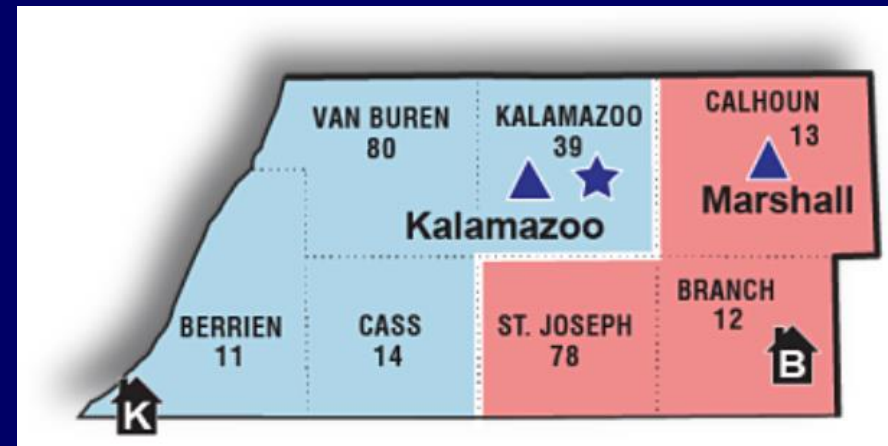
**Break Out Session** - Map Review; Prioritize Regional Non-Motorized Projects ~Emphasis is on regional connections~

**Report Out**

**Next Steps**– Marcy Hamilton

# Regional Nonmotorized Plan – Primary Goals

- Document the Existing and Proposed Network
- Identify Opportunities to Enhance Nonmotorized Transportation
- Help Prioritize Nonmotorized Investment
- Foster Cooperative Planning Across Municipal & County Boundaries and Continue to Coordinate These Efforts



Connecting Communities: A Regional Vision for Non-Motorized Transportation in Southwest Michigan

(Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties)

Developed by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission with funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation



COUNTIES OF Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren

Transportation Information



# Upcoming Trainings



## ***MDOT Training Wheels V2.0*** **On-Road Bicycle Facility Design Training** **One day classes:** **July 29, Detroit** **July 31, Ferndale**

Training Wheels V2.0 is an updated educational 1-day course on the newest planning and design for on-road bicycle facilities. It consists of classroom instruction using state and national guidance, followed by an on-road bicycling segment. We will casually ride through downtown and analyze various types of accommodations for bicyclists such as separated or buffered bike lanes and roadway/bikeway design challenges.

**Target Audience:** This course is for city, county, and MDOT managers, engineers, planners, elected officials, DDA staff, economic development staff, township officials, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders that can help educate people about on-road bicycle facilities.

**Education Credits:** Engineers may be eligible for 6.5 Continuing Education Credits. Planners may self-report up to 6.5 Certification Maintenance hours.

**Please Note:** Class is intended to accommodate bicyclists of all levels. If special accommodations are required, notify us at (517) 335-4381 two weeks in advance. Dress appropriately as we will bike, **rain or shine**.

**National Experts:** Toole Design Group

**Required Items:** Bike and helmet are required. Bikes for Detroit classes provided by MoGo. A limited number of bikes may be available for Ferndale.

**Registration:** **FREE!** Course provided by Michigan Department of Transportation. **Please RSVP by July 12.** Class location will be provided at confirmation. Class bicycle participation is limited to 25.

Lunch and refreshments sponsored by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG University). Hosted with City of Ferndale.

**To register for May class:** <https://www.research.net/r/RDJVKGv>

## ***MDOT Advanced Training Wheels*** **Bicycle Facility Design Training**

**One day classes:**  
**July 30, Detroit**  
**August 1, Ferndale**

Advanced Training Wheels is a new educational 1-day course that will go in depth on factors to consider in choosing a bikeway facility design and mitigating frequent issues like transitions, intersections, etc. It is intended for people who have either already attended a prior Training Wheels class or are familiar with various newer bicycle facility types.



**Target Audience:** **Intended for those familiar with various newer bicycle facilities types.** This course is for city, county, and MDOT managers, engineers, planners and other stakeholders that have either had the regular Training Wheels class V2.0 or are familiar with basic on road bicycle facility design and planning.

**Education Credits:** Engineers may be eligible for 7.0 Continuing Education Credits. Planners may self-report up to 7.0 Certification Maintenance hours.

**Please Note:** There will be a field class exercise, no bicycling. If special accommodations are required, notify us at (517) 335-4381 two weeks in advance. Dress appropriately as we will walk, **rain or shine**.

**National Experts:** Toole Design Group

**Required Items:** No required items; if possible, bring a laptop to upload & use Street Mix.

**Registration:** **FREE!** Course provided by Michigan Department of Transportation. **Please RSVP by July 12.** Class location will be provided at confirmation.

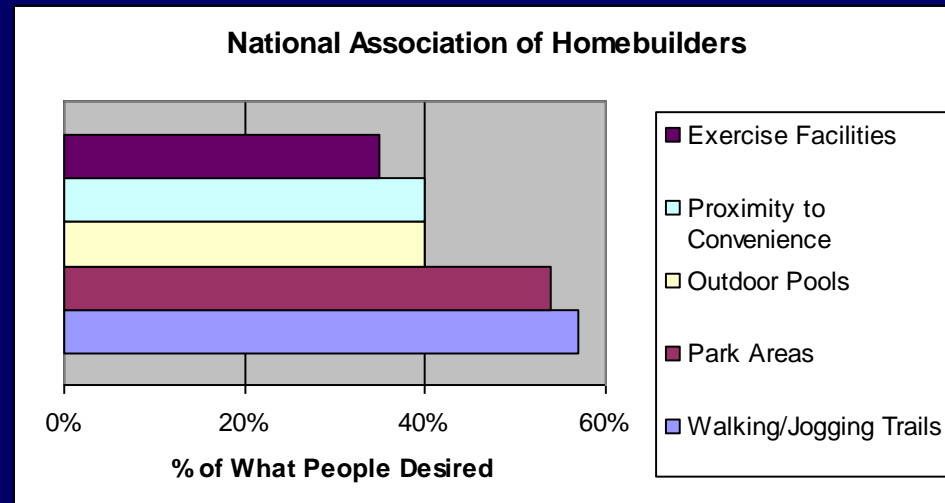
Lunch and refreshments sponsored by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Hosts – SEMCOG, City of Ferndale.

**To register for class:** <https://www.research.net/r/RDJVKGv>

# Why Invest in Non-Motorized?

- Retains and Attracts Businesses, Young Adults and Families
- Increases Real Estate Values
- Promotes Tourism
- **Increases Tax Revenue**
- Encourages Physical Activity (health)
- Improves Safety

In most metro areas studied, every one-point increase in the 100-point Walk Score scale is associated with an increase in home value of \$500 - \$3,000.



# Bicycling in MICHIGAN



Population: 9,897,264

Total annual economic impact of bicycling

**\$668 million**



Bicycling retail revenue  
**\$63 million**

**44%**

Residents who place an annual value of at least \$100 on the ability to use bicycle infrastructure

Total annual spending associated with bicycling events and vacations in Michigan

**\$38 million**

**39%**

Households that reported that someone in their home used a bike for transportation in the last year

People employed by bicycling industry: 796

**28%**

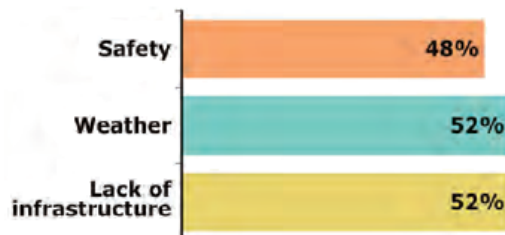
Bicyclists who commute by bicycle at least twice a week



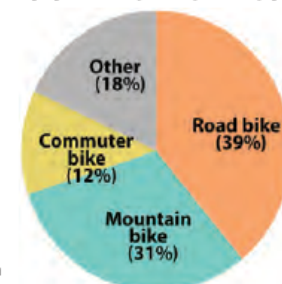
**4%**

Residents who participated in a bicycling event or bicycle-oriented vacation in Michigan in the past year

## Key barriers to bicycling



## Top primary bicycle types



Study funded by MDOT

For more information contact Josh DeBruyn, MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator at [debruynj@michigan.gov](mailto:debruynj@michigan.gov)

# Define Non-Motorized

- **Non-Motorized Travel**

- Biking, Walking

- **Users**

- Families

- School Children

- Commuters

- Carless

- elderly, disabled, low income, by choice

- Long Distance Riders







# 7-County Non-Motorized Plan

## Focus: Branch County

### Connecting Communities One Trail At A Time

#### Southwestern Michigan Bicycle Travel Information



#### COUNTIES OF

Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Allegan, Barry  
Calhoun, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Branch

## Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Transportation Plan – 2019



Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo,  
St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

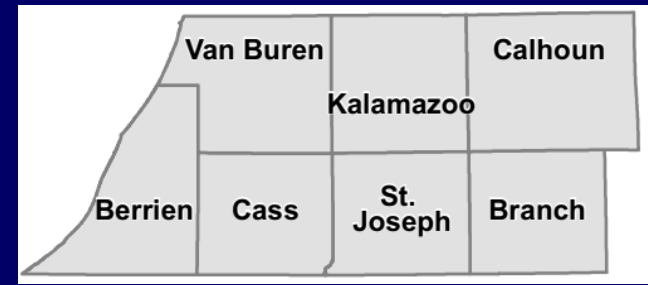


Developed by the Southwest Michigan Planning  
Commission with funding from the  
Michigan Department of Transportation





# What Is The Scope?



- **Transportation Focus - MDOT Funding**
  - biking and pedestrian facilities
- **Scale – 7 counties**
  - Cannot show everything!
- **Focus on Regional Connections**
  - Local plans/projects that tie into regional efforts



# On Road Facilities

- Paved Shoulder  
(4 foot minimum)



- Bike Lane  
(5 foot minimum)



- Shared Lane  
Marking/Sharrows



- Bike Routes



# Off Road Facilities

(10 foot minimum)

## -Shared Use Path

Improved – paved or crushed fines

Unimproved – gravel or dirt



## - Side Path



# Moving Forward – Tips for Success

- Champion / Organizer
- Find a Feasible Route
  - who has jurisdiction?
- Build Partnerships
  - Involve Local Government Officials
- Seek out Resources
  - (SWMPC, Road Department, MDOT, NPS, etc)
- Build Public Support
- Understand Funding Options
  - Be Prepared to Raise Money





# Low Cost Ideas

- Add **signage** (bike route signs)
- Add **pavement markings**
  - “sharrow” symbols, bike lane markings, crosswalk markings, etc.
- Restripe Roads – Reducing lanes
- Add **Bike Racks** or **Bike Repair Station** (downtowns and destinations)



**What is happening in  
Branch County?**

# Break Out Session Goals



1. Review accuracy of non-motorized facilities
2. Give input on desired/planned non-motorized facilities
3. Prioritize Facilities

# Marking on Your Maps

- **Existing Facilities**

- Shared Use or Side Path – BLUE

- Paved Shoulder/Bike Lane – BLACK

- **Planned or Desired Facilities**

- On Road - PURPLE

- Off Road – GREEN

PRIORITY – ORANGE





# Report Out



# What's Next?

- Public input sessions will be held in the remaining counties
- SWMPC will put information into a GIS
- Analyze gaps
- Finalize regional priorities
- You can track progress on the website:  
<https://www.swmpc.org/nonmortorizedmap.asp>

# Thank You

