



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

WELCOME

1. Sign in

2. Fill out a name tag

Cass County Non-Motorized Summit

Welcome – Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC and Scott Wyman, Cass County Parks

MDOT Non-Motorized Initiative – Brian Sanada, MDOT

Major Trail Initiatives and Creating A Vision for Cass County- Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC

Trail Opportunities in Cass County - Scott Wyman

Non-Motorized Events in Cass County – Jamie Stafne and Mark Wright

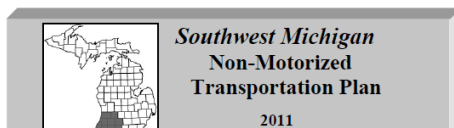
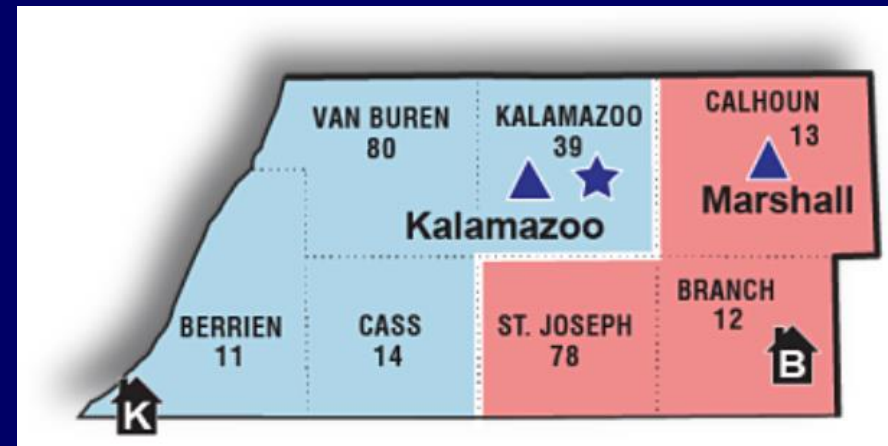
Around the Room Discussion– Non-Motorized Activity

Break Out Session/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)

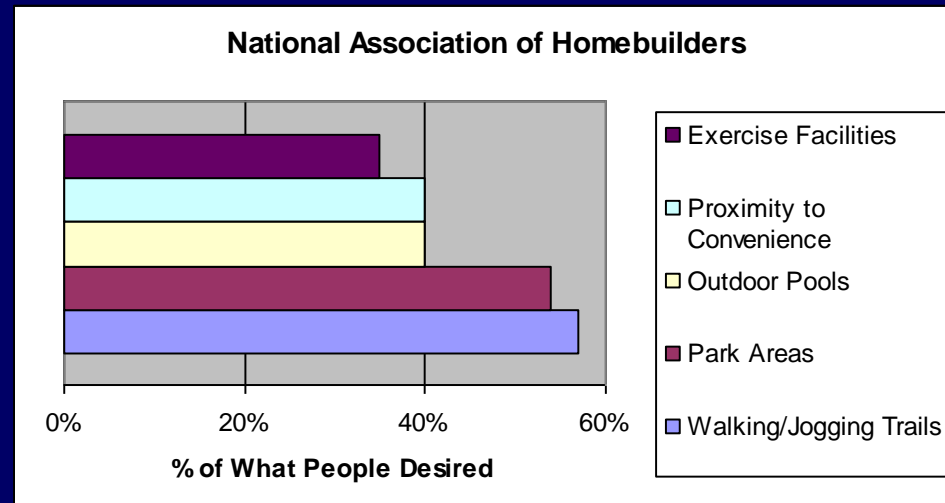
Developed by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
with funding from the
Michigan Department of Transportation



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

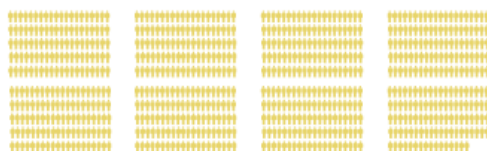
39%

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

People employed by bicycling industry: 796

28%

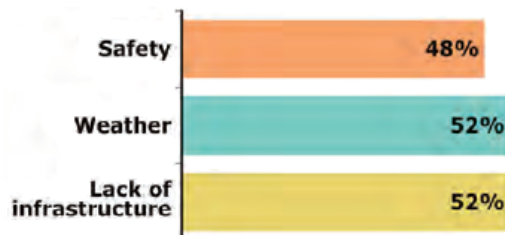
Bicyclists who commute by bicycle at least twice a week



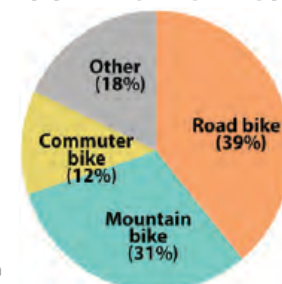
4%

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

Crash Facts

(5-yr average, 2012-16)

Berrien County

- 1.3%** Ped/Bike crashes percent of total crashes
- 15.0%** Ped/Bike fatalities percent of total fatalities
- 10.3%** Ped/Bike serious injuries percent of total serious injuries

Cass County

- 0.8%** Ped/Bike crashes percent of total crashes
- 14.9%** Ped/Bike fatalities percent of total fatalities
- 5.3%** Ped/Bike serious injuries percent of total serious injuries

Van Buren County

- 0.8%** Ped/Bike crashes percent of total crashes
- 12.8%** Ped/Bike fatalities percent of total fatalities
- 4.9%** Ped/Bike serious injuries percent of total serious injuries

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: Cass 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



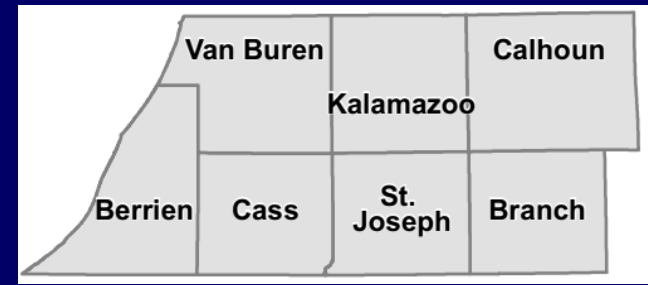
Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo,
St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties



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's Happening In Cass County?

- Around the room discussion about non-motorized activities or interests

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

