

January 2, 2017

**2016 Annual Report – Final  
TCBA Advocacy Committee  
Submitted by Mike Unsworth**

- **Organizational matters:**
  - About ten people regularly attend the Committee’s monthly meetings (see the end of report).
  - Around 90 people are on the discussion list with 228 on the Facebook page.
- **Trails systems:**
  - **Ingham County Trails Millage:**
    - Advocacy members Steve Leiby, Lenny Provencher, Dean Brailey and Mike Unsworth attended numerous meetings on this project.
    - We lobbied for passage by the County Commission and pressed that the bulk of the funds go to actual trail-related projects. The Commissioners agreed with us on both counts.
    - Friends group:
      - ❖ We attended a workshop on forming one; the main speaker was Julie Clark of TART Trails.
      - ❖ The Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails (formerly known as Friends of the Lansing River Trail) is working on a framework
  - **Other Trails**—Mike Unsworth attended a Land Use Summit which focused on integrating trails & parks into improving the quality of life in the Tri-County area.
- **Rides of Silence:**
  - May 18—We had 200 riders, a new record, for the annual ride. Thanks to Lynse Tait for organizing it
  - July 13—Sixty riders turned out to commemorate the Kalamazoo Five and Randy Robertson.
- **“Let’s Pedal: How to Have Safe & Enjoyable Bicycling”**-- Ken Hendrick and Mike Unsworth are working with the Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties to replicate its successful “Let’s Walk” program. “Let’s Pedal” will be an introductory session open to people of all ages. The first class will be in Spring 2017.
- **Advocacy Members Represented TCBA at the Following Meetings/Events:**
  - 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.

- Quiet Waters Symposium—staffed a table
- Michigan Traffic Safety Conference—
  - Several members attended this event at Central Michigan University.
  - A session on tour management mentioned the success of short weekend segments of major rides. Thus inspired, Ken Henrick inaugurated a two-day option for the 2016 DALMAC
- Tour of bike infrastructure of Lansing and East Lansing by Stephen Clark, Bicycle Friendly Community Specialist of the League of American Bicyclists—This bike-around showed Stephen various aspects of the local cycling environment
- MSU Bike Friendly America Conference
- Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails
- **Survey of Political Candidates** – In this inaugural effort, we sent questionnaires to 300 candidates for local offices in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. We received 53 replies for an 18% response rate. The replies were posted on the TCBA site.
- **Speakers Bureau** – Dan Stockwell and Keven Schumacher are working on presentations for local groups, schools, etc.
- **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
- **Major Programs/Projects:**
  - **Bicycle Safety/Cyclists’ Rights:**
    - Several members participated in the annual Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day on May 18
    - A letter to the Lansing State Journal on Bike fatalities was published in the Aug. 23, 2016 issue
    - Members attended a hearing of the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee on September 20 on a package of safety bills
  - **East Lansing Costco**—Despite Costco’s reluctance to follow East Lansing’s policies to provide pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, the East Lansing City Council required Costco to build sidewalks and initially

provide eight bike parking spaces. Prior to the final vote, TCBA sent a letter to East Lansing urging it not to grant Costco a variance.

- **Lansing Non-Motorized Plan**—The City began updating its plan with two community workshops. TCBA members were active participants at both.
- **Bath Bicycle Days**—Dan Stockwell is spending a great deal of effort on this Spring 2017 event; TCBA will be a sponsor
- **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TRRPC) FY 2017-20 Transportation Improvement Program Projects List (TIP List)**—Several members, especially Tim Potter and Lenny Provencher, provided detailed input on bicycle related features of specific road projects
- **Meridian Township Pathway Millage**—Advocacy members staffed a table at the Meridian Farmers Market for several Saturdays this summer. The Millage passed with 67% approval
- **Proposed Bus Rapid Transit on the Michigan/Grand River Avenues Corridor:**
  - The TCBA Board adopted a policy stating that any infrastructure for Bus Rapid Transit along Michigan and Grand River Avenues should conform to the existing Complete Streets policies of the affected jurisdictions
  - TCBA sent letters explaining this policy to the Cities of Lansing & East Lansing and Meridian Township
  - TCBA members attended numerous public meetings on this issue
- **Bike Shorts Film Festival**— About 100 people turned out for two screenings at the Robin Theater
- **Retreat:**
  - On January 30, the Committee held a retreat in which we established these goals:
    - Long Term (five years)
      - ❖ Build relationships and create collaboration with other organizations in support of our mission
      - ❖ Increase the number of cyclists in the tri-county region (thus increasing the mode share)
    - Short Term (three years)
      - ❖ Increase the number of cyclists engaged in advocacy
        - ✓ Keep an eye to diversity
        - ✓ Increase membership in the TCBA Advocacy Committee
      - ❖ Engage public officials in events and activities with cyclists
  - This year's results—we didn't refer to them as much as we should:
    - Long Term (five years)
      - ❖ Relationships/collaboration—done with AARP (Age Friendly Lansing program) and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (Let's Pedal classes)

- ❖ Increase the number of cyclists in the tri-county region – no activity specifically addressed this item
- Short Term (three years)
  - ❖ Increase the number of cyclists engaged in advocacy—used social media to update people on developments and had two new Committee members
  - ❖ Engage public officials in events and activities with cyclists—this was the bulk of our activities

### **Committee Members**

Dean Brailey  
Mike Dombrowski  
Steve Leiby  
Bob Lovell  
Nancy Krupiarz  
Tim Potter  
Lenny Provencher  
Art Slabosky  
Dan Stockwell  
Mike Unsworth  
Phil Wells  
Jeanne Wright