

March 10, 2018

**2017 Annual Report  
TCBA Advocacy Committee  
Submitted by Mike Unsworth**

- **Organizational matters:**
  - About thirteen people regularly attend the Committee's monthly meetings or do work on projects. (see the end of report)
  - Online activities:
    - The discussion list has 59 members
    - Facebook has 238 followers.
    - Our Twitter site is following 92 tweeters, has 14 followers and 35 likes.
  - Two long-time members left the committee. Nancy Krupiarz retired and moved to Petoskey. Bob Lovell reluctantly stepped down due to the press of other activities.
- **Safe Passing laws and ordinances:**
  - A separate web page is up at: [www.biketcba.org/safepassing](http://www.biketcba.org/safepassing). It incorporates the need for such ordinances, a model law, press releases, links to resources and video
  - Advocacy members attended hearings of the Legislature on this topic.
  - In May Mike Unsworth gave a presentation to the East Lansing City Council. Despite a favorable reception, there has been no movement in East Lansing.
- **Ingham County Trails Millage:**
  - Committee members Steve Leiby, Lenny Provencher, Dean Brailey and Mike Unsworth attended numerous meetings on this project.
  - We successfully lobbied to ensure that the bulk of the funds go to actual trail-related projects.
- **Rides of Silence--** over 250 bicyclists participated in the nine-mile ride from the Wells Hall Plaza at Michigan State University campus to the Michigan State Capital in downtown Lansing.
- **Non- Motorized Transportation Plans**— Governments are required to have NMT Plans as part of their overall Master Plans if they wish to receive federal funds. Committee members worked with the City of Lansing, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and Bath & Delta Townships in reviewing their plans.
- **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
- MSU Bike Friendly America Conference—Tim Potter and Dean Brailey attended
- Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails annual meeting
- MDOT “Training Wheels” workshop-- Mike Unsworth attended an exhaustive meeting that had dozens of good ideas in creating bike-friendly infrastructure.
- Mike Unsworth, Lenny Provencher, and Dwight Washington staffed a TCBA table and displayed bikes at the June 5 Eaton Rapids Schools Health Fair.
- Shaping the Avenue workshops (<http://shapingtheavenue.com>) -- Committee members found that most of the planners and participants are interested in walkable/bikeable facilities for Michigan Avenue. Many favored protected bike lane options.
  - Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Public Open House: “Moving Mid-Michigan 2045”—Several members attended the sessions.
- **Advocacy on Twitter**—In September the Advocacy feed went up at [https://twitter.com/TCBA\\_Advocacy](https://twitter.com/TCBA_Advocacy)! Ann Siegel and Mike Unsworth are our monitors. Our goal is visibility in the community & media by showing that we are a good community partner. We want cycling to be integral in the enjoyment of people’s lives. In addition to posting Advocacy developments, we’re following any organization or agency that makes transportation decisions and all relevant media in the area with emphasis on bike-car incidents.
- **Survey of Political Candidates** –The Advocacy Committee e-mailed surveys to forty-three candidates for local office in Eaton and Ingham Counties (Clinton County had no elections for public office.) Twelve candidates responded for a response rate of 27%. Eleven supported bicycle-friendly issues
- **Speakers Bureau** – Presentations on “Bicycles: Frequently Asked Questions” have been given to the Bath Lions and South Lansing/Holt, St. Johns & Dewitt Sunrise Rotary clubs.

- **Complete Streets Ordinance for Ingham County**—The County established a Special Complete Streets Committee that drafted an ordinance that the County Commission enacted.
- **Contact with Public Officials:**
  - Dwight Washington, Clinton County Commissioner
  - Anne Readett, Michigan State Police’s Office of Highway Safety Planning
  - Scott House, East Lansing's Director of Public Works
  - Capital Area Transportation Authority
- **MDOT’s practice of blocking crossing of medians for so-called “Superstreet” projects (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superstreet>)**
  - State-wide policy—The Committee is working with the League of Michigan Bicyclists on a statewide effort to reverse this practice
  - Proposed Business I-69 Corridor in Meridian and Bath Townships—TCBA sent to MDOT its opposition to its current plan. The Committee is working with Bath and Meridian Townships on a true Complete Streets treatment to the corridor
- **Other Projects:**
  - Bike safety:
    - The Committee is beginning a publicity campaign with a billboard campaign
    - In 2018, we will start work to have town hall meetings in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties which will bring together local law makers and public safety officials to talk about improving bike safety
  - Cyclists’ Happy Hours—TCBA co-sponsored two at the Lansing Brewing Company in late winter and in the fall.
  - Cargo Bike Rendezvous at Costco—On November 4, three cargo bike riders plus five supporters showed up. Rain canceled our planned trip to Newton Road. Costco was later informed that its parking lot needs signs to direct cyclists to bike parking.
  - Bike Outreach Services to Homeless and Low-Income Cyclists—we will begin work on this in early 2018
- **Proposed Bus Rapid Transit on the Michigan/Grand River Avenues Corridor** – In January CATA decided not to pursue this project.
- **Bike Shorts Film Festival**— Due to the demise of the Kalamazoo Bike Festival, Kevin Schumaker led the effort to have one in early 2018.

### Committee Members

Dean Brailey  
Steve Leiby

Bob Lovell  
Tim Potter

Lenny Provencher  
Anne Readett  
Kevin Schumaker  
Ann Siegel  
Art Slabosky  
Dan Stockwell  
Mike Unsworth  
Phil Wells  
Jeanne Wright