

Non-motorized Transportation (biking and walking) in and around Livingston County

Presented by the Livingston County Transportation Coalition
Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - 3:00 – 4:15 PM
622 East Grand River, Howell, MI

Biking and Walking in our County

- ✦ There is a growing network of bicycle/walking paths in southern Livingston County.
- ✦ The environment for bicycling and walking around the county is generally “unfriendly” and in many areas dangerous.
- ✦ Walking and biking may be relatively safe in individual developments, but most connecting roads between developments and to/through business districts have few bike lanes or paths and narrow shoulders, making it dangerous to ride outside of our residential neighborhoods.
- ✦ Some paths and sidewalks have been built by townships, cities and villages around the county, but their integration into a countywide network of connectivity has not been addressed (except in some southern municipalities such as Pinckney, Hamburg and Green Oak).
- ✦ Good non-motorized paths can make other forms of public transportation more efficient and less costly by bringing riders to bus routes and reducing congestion by removing cars on shorter trips from the road.

National studies show that non-motorized transportation is a good for citizen’s health and economic development

- ✦ Good paths for walking and bicycling provide great options for travel and exercise to residents
- ✦ Statistics have shown that bikers spend approximately \$150 per person, annually on goods and services related to trail systems.
- ✦ Houses with above average walkability/bikeability are shown to have a higher value than those that score below average.
- ✦ Cycle commuting has been shown to lower employer health care costs.

Clearly, good or poor public transportation can have positive or negative impacts respectively on our residents and visitors in Livingston County. These and other issues will be explored by two leaders in community development and transportation:

- ✦ **Tim Schmitt, Community Development Director – City of Howell:** Tim will discuss the current state of non-motorized paths and lanes in the City and the lessons learned from the recent MDOT Training Wheels program that support the development of non-motorized travel in the county

- ✦ **Brian Pawlik, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner – Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments:** Brian will discuss the plans and projects related to biking and walking in the region, focusing primarily on those in and near Livingston County.

A discussion of the impact of current non-motorized paths/lanes and future options in and around Livingston County will follow these presentations.

Bike riders, walkers, community planners, leaders of bicycling organizations, and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Participants should come prepared to explore the following questions:

- ✦ How would a county-wide network of non-motorized paths and lanes impact our communities and our residents?
- ✦ What non-motorized routes would be most desirable in our county or from our county to nearby destinations?

For more information on the Livingston County Transportation Coalition and its efforts to improve transportation options for our residents, visitors and businesses please contact Leo E. Hanifin, Chairperson LCTC, at leo.hanifin@udmercy.edu or 313-402-4295.