



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Winter 2016-17 Newsletter

[www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) - Also on [Facebook](#)

*Timeline Disclaimer – Please note that dates of construction are often mentioned in the news items below. It should be taken in account that these dates often change due to design changes, construction delays and other situations.*

### ***News about the Friends of the B2B Trail***

#### **Friends Of The B2B Trail New Years Day Walk**



An enthusiastic group assembled at Ann Arbor's Argo Park for the first annual Friends of the B2B Trail New Years Day walk on a beautiful winter day (clear skies and moderate temperatures). The group walked along the Argo Cascades down to the Broadway Bridge and return, with a commentary given along the way by a Friends of the B2B Trail Board member on potential B2B projects along the route taken. The Friends will plan to make this an annual event, with perhaps additional New Years Day walks at Dexter and Ypsilanti.

#### **Another Reason To Become A Friends Of The B2B Member - SIC Transit Now Offers Discounts To Friends Members**

When you join the Friends of the B2B Trail, your membership card gives you discounts at area bicycle and running merchants. The latest to offer member discounts is SIC Transit on the near northside of Ann Arbor and close to the B2B Trail (1033 Broadway Street – 734-327-6900 - [www.sictransitcycles.com](http://www.sictransitcycles.com)).

Memberships begin at \$10/year for individual memberships (\$25 for a family membership). **New for 2017 are two-year memberships at \$15 for individuals and \$45 for families.** In addition to merchant discounts, the Friends are a federal 501c3 group so all memberships/donations are tax-deductible. Members can also nominate and vote for the Friends of the B2B Trail Board of Directors every November. For more membership information, including a list of merchants offering discounts to Friends members, visit [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) and click on the "Join" link at the top of the page.

#### **Volunteers Needed – Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Membership Committee**

A few volunteers are needed for the Friends Of The B2B Trail Membership Committee to help with a) mailing out new/renewing membership cards and b) once a month emailing out membership renewal requests. This is "at-home" volunteer work with no need to attend meetings! If you can help out please contact Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) or call 734-487-9058. Thanks for considering this!

#### **Board Of Directors Meeting**

The next Friends Of The Border To Border Trail meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2017, 7pm, at the Ypsilanti District Library, [229 West Michigan Avenue](#) in downtown Ypsilanti. Anyone interested in the B2B Trail is invited to attend.

#### **Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes**

To find out even more what is going on with the Friends of the B2B, Board of Directors meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Friends web page at <http://www.bordertoborder.org> under the "Board of Directors" link at the top of the page. Board meetings are held bi-monthly in rotating meeting locations along the B2B route.

## Border to Border and other Trail Updates

### “Karen’s Trail” Project Seeks To Accelerate Completion Of The B2B Trail



Many people (and especially cyclists, runners and other athletes) were shocked last August when world-class triathlete Karen McKeachie was fatally struck by a motorist on Dexter-Chelsea Road while on a bicycle training ride.

Karen was beloved by scores of people, who also naturally were looking for a long-term and fitting memorial to her life. Towards this goal, Lew Kidder, Karen’s spouse, is working with the Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative to create “Karen’s Trail”, a project that “celebrates what Karen loved most by expanding recreational opportunities for everyone in the region.” Karen’s Trail seeks to enable “construction of the entire 70-mile Border-to-Border (B2B) trail system within the next five years.”

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail ([www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)) urges all of its members and supporters to visit the Karen’s Trail web site (<http://www.karenstrail.org>), read about Karen’s remarkable life, the Karen’s Trail project (including maps) and most importantly, make a trail-building donation to this tribute to the life of Karen McKeachie.

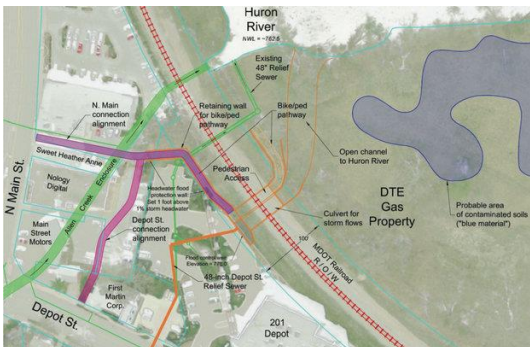
### Border To Border Trail Construction Slows, But Does Not Stop, Over Winter



While winter weather pretty much stops construction, one project being completed in January is the Border To Border (B2B) Trail crossing just east of downtown Ypsilanti. In the fall, concrete work was completed and in early January, fencing, light poles and signals were being installed. This crossing of Michigan Avenue will take B2B Trail users safely from Riverside Park to the Trail in the Water Street development area. The crossing will have a Trail user initiated traffic signal to cross Michigan Avenue using a High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon (HAWK). For a short video on how HAWK lights function, visit

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/89/HAWK\\_Optimized.gif](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/89/HAWK_Optimized.gif). For more information on B2B Trail updates over the winter visit the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail web page at [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/B2Btrail](http://www.facebook.com/B2Btrail).

### A New Ann Arbor Connector To The B2B



The City of Ann Arbor is continuing its work to construct a new connector to the B2B Trail from north-central Ann Arbor. The connector would be from Depot Street north under a set of railroad tracks and to connect with the B2B near the west end of Argo dam. In early January the Ann Arbor City Council approved a design contract for the pathway/tunnel with possible construction starting in 2018. Funds for the project would come from Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds (part of the tunnel under the railroad tracks would be a flood control channel), the City's stormwater fund, and City alternative transportation funds. For more on this story visit

[http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/01/675k\\_design\\_for\\_new\\_tunnel\\_to.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/01/675k_design_for_new_tunnel_to.html).

Related to this story, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is also working with the City of Ann Arbor to possibly combine work on the Depot Street tunnel with a B2B Trail tunnel further north along the same railroad tracks that would take Trail users from Bandemer Park west towards Huron River Drive and Dexter. Combining the projects may lead to cost savings as it is less expensive for joint design, engineering and permitting work, and would allow a contractor to bring in equipment and crews one time for two similar projects that are close to each other.

## **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Recommendations Released – Multiple Trail Projects For Washtenaw County Included**

On December 9th, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund board released their listing of recommended grant projects for 2017. The board's recommendations will go to the state Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the Legislature will forward legislation to the governor for his signature. A full list of recommendations made is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>. Several projects in Washtenaw County were recommended for funding, including:

### Ann Arbor Charter Township, Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Development - \$300,000

Development of a recreational trail that provides a critical, non-motorized link from the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens to the statewide Iron Belle Trail, regional Border To Border Trail, and local Gallup Park Pathway Trail. The route parallels Dixboro Road until it joins these trails and Parker Mill County Park at Geddes Road. It provides non-motorized access to public transportation and UM Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, UM North and Central Campus, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Concordia University, and numerous small businesses. It represents an extraordinary collaboration among Ann Arbor Township, UM, Washtenaw County, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and MDOT and includes a truly unprecedented, two-mile long land easement agreement from UM to Ann Arbor Township. Work on this off-road paved path is expected to start in the second half of 2017 pending a final fundraising push.

### Lyndon Township, Huron Waterloo Loop Phase 1 Development - \$300,000

Development of the Huron Waterloo Loop Phase 1 consisting of a 4.7 mile segment of nonmotorized shared use pathway in a larger regional trail system, the Huron Waterloo Loop of the Border to Border Trail. The Loop is a partially complete approximately 44 mile continuous loop of 10' asphalt pathway that connects to and includes portions of the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) trail and the Lakelands trail section of the Great Lakes to Lake trail. This section of the Loop will utilize Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) land in Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation areas and Michigan Department of Transportation right-of-way. The pathway segment will run along M-52 between Werkner Rd in Sylvan Township and N. Territorial Rd in Lyndon Township and will be universally accessible.

### Development of a portion of the Border-to-Border Trail and Iron Belle Trail in Washtenaw County - \$300,000

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) recently developed a Master Plan for the largest local gap in the trail: 7.2 miles between the cities of Ann Arbor and Dexter. This project is for the implementation of the first phase of the Master Plan: 0.4 miles of Universally Accessible trail with a new pedestrian bridge over the Huron River in the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's (HCMA) Dexter-Huron Metropark (122 acres) going east toward Zeeb Road. This project will provide public access to 17.9 acres of high quality natural areas, which are owned by HCMA and are currently landlocked. This is a partnership between WCPARC and HCMA; WCPARC will construct the trail and HCMA will provide the land. Some construction may start in late summer of 2017.

**Washtenaw County Road-Non-Motorized Millage Passes By 71%! Thank you voters for supporting funds for the Border To Border Trail, sidewalks, bike lanes and other “people-powered” improvements! (Actual vote – For: 118,564, Against: 48,470).** The November 8th ballot initiative (a four-year millage) will not only pay for approximately 200 miles of road improvements but also have 20% of funds raised go to non-motorized projects in the County. The Friends Of The B2B Trail was one of many endorsers of this millage and urged individuals to vote "yes" on the issue. For more information visit <http://friendsofthebtob.wixsite.com/bordertoborder/millage>



## **B2B Short Updates**

- Northern B2B Extension -The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is continuing to evaluate two possible routings to extend the B2B Trail from Territorial Road in Hudson Mills Metropark north to meet up with the Lakeland Trail ([www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands\\_trail\\_state\\_park](http://www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands_trail_state_park)) which in turn will also be a part of the “[Great Lake-to-Lake Trail](#)” from South Haven to Port Huron.
- In addition to the section of the Huron-Waterloo Pathway Initiative described above, the group is also hoping to start work in 2017 on an off-road segment of the B2B Trail from Dexter to Chelsea along a former interurban railroad right of way. For more information visit <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>.
- Ypsilanti Water Street Area B2B Trail – In December 2016 the City of Ypsilanti awarded a contract for a not-to-exceed amount of \$179,876 to TSP Environmental to clean-up contamination along the Water Street section of the Border To Border Trail. The work consists of removal of sections of contaminated soil along portions of the trail. The work is being done in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). A grant from the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (WCBRA) is financing the clean-up and related costs. Work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2017 when the frost is gone and the ground is not frozen. The Trail in this area will reopen when completed.

## **Ann Arbor Safe Bicycle Passing Ordinance**

For those riding in or through Ann Arbor, beginning on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, Ann Arbor’s Safe Passing ordinance goes into effect requiring drivers, when passing a bicyclist, pedestrian or wheelchair user on the roadway, to maintain a distance of at least 5 feet. Drivers are reminded bicyclists may legally ride on Michigan roads except limited access freeways, and should be patient and drive cautiously and wait until enough space is available to pass bicyclists or other users in the roadway. The Michigan Secretary of State advises drivers to “pass a bicyclist as you would another vehicle, but not so fast or close that your tires throw dirt or stones into the rider’s face or that a draft from your vehicle blows the bicycle about.” The ordinance amends [Title X, Section 10:18](#) (PDF) of Ann Arbor traffic code. For more information visit <http://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/transportation/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Web Resources**

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail web site – [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)

Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative web site - <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission B2B web site -

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks\\_recreation/greenways/greenway%20update](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/greenways/greenway%20update)

Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition web site – [www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)

Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance – <http://michigantrails.org>

## **Please “Like” Us On Facebook**

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail has a page on Facebook and it would be appreciated if individuals could not only “Like” us, but also encourage others to do the same. To visit the Facebook Friends page, [click here](#). The Friends B2B Facebook page is updated weekly with news about the Trail.

## **Join The Friends of the Border To Border Trail Discussion Group**

If you want to sign up for the Friends of the Border To Border Trail email discussion group, visit <http://groups.google.com/group/border-to-border>. Please note that to keep out spammers, we ask one question before you can be on the list: what Michigan County the Trail is in.