



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

### Fall 2016 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 Annual Membership Meeting - November 9th**

The Friends of the B2B Trail will hold its annual general membership meeting on Wednesday, November 9th, 7 pm at the Ann Arbor REI store community room, [970 W Eisenhower Parkway](#). The meeting starts off with updates and speakers on the B2B Trail and ends with a short business session. You do not have to be Friends of the B2B member to attend this event (but we would love for you to join!).

The featured speaker at the annual meeting will be Peter Sanderson from the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (the main agency behind the Trail) giving news about the trail including efforts to take the Trail off road from Dexter to Ann Arbor and extend it north into Livingston County. Also at the meeting, representatives of the Huron Waterloo Pathways group (<http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>) will give an update on their work to create an off-road path from Dexter to Chelsea to Stockbridge.

### **Become A Friends Of The B2B Trail Member**

Individuals, families, organizations and businesses now can support the Friends of the Border To Border Trail by becoming a member. Memberships begin at \$10/year for individual memberships or \$25/year for a family membership. Membership supports the Friends of the B2B Trail in its mission of completing, enhancing, and encouraging the use of the Border-To-Border Trail. Members receive discounts at select area bike and outdoor activity merchants. Members can also nominate and vote for 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.

### **Friends Of The Border-To-Border Trail – Board Of Directors Volunteers Needed**

The Friends of the B2B Trail is looking for volunteers willing to take a more active role in the organization. Duties including attending Board meetings (approximately 6 times a year) and working on group projects. To see what happens at meetings, visit the [Board Of Directors tab](#) on the Friends web page for agendas/minutes. If interested in serving on the Board please contact Bob by November 5th at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) or call 734-487-9058.

### **Board Minutes**

To find out even more what is going on with the Friends of the B2B, Board of Directors meeting 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***

### **Reconstructed Border-To-Border Trail Section Reopens**



After some construction delays, on October 13<sup>th</sup> the City of Ann Arbor reported “*Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the 1-mile portion of the Border-to-Border trail, between Geddes Dam and Gallup Park picnic shelter, has reopened. Paving is complete, but additional work will be ongoing to finish the edges of the path where topsoil will be added. Until this additional work takes place, please use caution when using the trail. We appreciate your patience during the project, and we hope you enjoy the wider path from 8 to 10 feet.*”

### **Ypsilanti Area B2B Update**

- Water Street Area B2B Trail – As of late October, the portion of the B2B Trail from Michigan Avenue southeast to Grove Road was still closed due to nearby soil contamination. Bids are out for soil remediation with work anticipated to take place in November so the Trail can reopen by the start of winter.
- Michigan Avenue HAWK Crossing – Work started in September on the B2B Trail crossing of Michigan Avenue from Riverside Park to 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).
- On Street B2B Reroute – As part of a plan to bring an Amtrak stop to Ypsilanti, the at-grade crossing of Park Street across the railroad in Ypsilanti was closed. That closed section of Park Street was also where the temporary on-road B2B Trail was routed. A reroute of this section of the B2B Trail has taken place with signage installed. A map is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/YpsiReroute>.
  - Eastbound – The new route goes east on Cross Street through Depot Town. Before reaching the railroad tracks on Cross Street, turn right (south) on River Street. Go south on River Street until you see a church on your right, then make a left turn on to North Street and go east to the second stop sign. Turn right (south) on Park Street to rejoin the B2B on-road route.
  - Westbound – The new route goes north on Park Street. After crossing Michigan Avenue, turn left on North Street. Go west on North Street until it dead-ends at River Street. Turn right to go north on River Street. Just before the railroad tracks, move to the left turn lane at the River Street/Cross Street intersection, which has a traffic signal. Turn left (west) on Cross Street until you pass the “clock tower”, then make a right (north) turn on Rice Street to rejoin the B2B on-road route.

### **B2B Trail Directional Pavement Stencils**

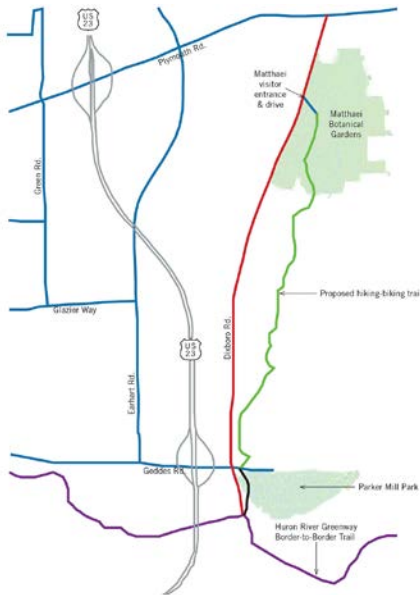


The Friends Of The B2B is placing a limited number B2B pavement markings before winter arrives that have a “B2B” marking along with a directional arrow informing users to turn or go straight. These markings will be in addition to B2B directional signs already in place, and should help with navigation where the B2B intersects or runs along roads. Such directional symbols are commonly used on large bicycle ride events, such as the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society “One Helluva Ride”.

## B2B Short Updates

- Northern B2B Extension -The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has started a formal engineering feasibility study on 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.
- Dexter To Ann Arbor – The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is finalizing an engineering plan for an off-road B2B section from Dexter Huron Metropark east to Zeeb Road. The Commission has also submitted grant applications for funding this section and is waiting for approval news.

## Dixboro Non-Motorized Trail



Matthaei Botanical Gardens will become the destination of an off-road paved biking trail in 2017 if the balance of the trail's \$3.3 million budget is raised in the upcoming six weeks. The new trail will connect to the B2B Trail at Parker Mill Park, traveling two miles north from the intersection of Geddes and Dixboro roads to the Botanical Gardens. This spur trail is the first phase of a trail that will connect further north along Plymouth Road in Phase II. Because it provides a critical north-south non-motorized transportation connector, the trail fits the priorities of State, County, Ann Arbor Township, and the Botanical Gardens.

For users, the path will open up a wonderful new destination, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens is seeking your help. Of the final \$800,000 to raise, \$350,000 has been verbally committed. The University of Michigan is seeking any monetary support that individuals can offer to complete the trail. Gifts and pledges of all sizes will help.

Click on <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/give/dixboro-trail.asp> to give now or to learn more, or feel free to contact Gayle Steiner, Director of Development, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, University of Michigan at 734-647-7847.

## Huron-Waterloo Pathway Initiative

The Huron-Waterloo Pathway Initiative is dedicated to a fantastic off-road trail project connecting to and expanding the network of trails including the B2B Trail. The trail will go from Dexter to Chelsea to Stockbridge. The Initiative continues to build momentum with new funding sources. They are planning to start construction in 2017 on a 4.7 mile trail segment starting from M-52 and Werkner Road and going north to North Territorial Road. For more information visit <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>.

## ***Outreach and Advocacy News***

### **Bicyclists and Pedestrian Urged To Support More Non-Motorized Projects In Washtenaw County On The November 8<sup>th</sup> Ballot**

On Tuesday, November 8, Washtenaw County residents will have the opportunity to vote on a four-year millage that would not only pay for approximately 200 miles of road improvements but also direct 20% of funds raised to non-motorized projects in the County. The non-motorized funds raised from the millage would be used for:

- Border To Border Trail projects, such as placing the Trail off-road between Dexter and Ann Arbor, building a tunnel under railroad tracks in Ann Arbor's Bandemer Park for off-road Trail passage to the west and helping take the Trail completely off-road through Ypsilanti.
- Re-establishing the popular Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's "Connecting Communities" program that helps fund non-B2B trail projects (such as the Lohr Road & Platt Road paved pathways in Pittsfield Township).
- Bike lanes and widened road shoulders.
- Sidewalks.
- Lighted crosswalks.

In addition, a portion of the non-motorized funds raised would go directly to County cities and villages for their non-motorized projects. Each year, for four years, local governments would receive for projects such as bike lanes, sidewalks, and other non-motorized improvements: City of Ann Arbor - \$500,000/year; City of Ypsilanti - \$45,000/year; City of Chelsea - \$25,000/year; City of Saline - \$25,000/year; City of Dexter - \$20,000/year; City of Milan - \$15,000/year; Village of Manchester - \$10,000/year.

The Friends of the B2B Trail has endorsed the November 2016 road & non-motorized millage. Other non-Motorized organizations in Washtenaw County that have endorsed the millage include:

- Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society – [www.aabts.org](http://www.aabts.org)
- Ann Arbor Velo Club - <http://www.annarborveloclub.org>
- Common Cycle – [www.commoncycle.org](http://www.commoncycle.org)
- Program To Educate All Cyclists – [www.bikeprogram.org](http://www.bikeprogram.org)
- Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition – [www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)

The 0.5 millage will cost a homeowner \$50 per \$100,000 in taxable value on their property. The average Washtenaw County homeowner will pay \$35 per year. However, property owners will not see an increase in their tax bill as compared to the previous two years, as the proposed millage extends the Public Act 283 road millage which levied the same amount (0.5 mills) in 2015 and 2016.

For more information visit [www.justfixtheroads.org](http://www.justfixtheroads.org) or [www.wcroads.org/millage](http://www.wcroads.org/millage).

### **Washtenaw County Bike Maps**

A reprinting of the County bicycle map (with separate Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti panels) has been completed and individual copies are available at the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission offices at 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/RVV8V8HbToy>) during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm). Maps will also start becoming available at area bike and running shops with more details soon on the Friends web page ([www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)).

### **Friends Of The B2B Outreach**

In the summer of 2016, the Friends of the B2B Trail had a number of outreach efforts to inform the public about the Trail and gather public input on what improvements are needed. The Friends had an information table at the August 30<sup>th</sup> Ann Arbor Cobblestone Park farmers market, Washtenaw Community College's (WCC) September 14<sup>th</sup> and again at WCC after the reopening of the Gallup Park B2B section on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Look for future Friends of the B2B outreach information tables in 2017 at Dexter's Warrior Creek Park, Argo Cascades in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti's Water Street area.

## **Washtenaw County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update – Your input needed!**

The Non-Motorized Plan for Washtenaw County is a policy document that helps guide the development of the region's non-motorized facilities (including the B2B Trail). The previous Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS – The County's official transportation planning agency) non-motorized transportation plan was completed in 2006. The 2006 plan focused on countywide facility inventory and future investments. [Read the 2006 Plan here.](#) The 2017 plan will focus on the identification of primary and secondary countywide transportation commuting corridors. For more information on the planning process or project, contact Project Manager Suzann Flowers at [flowerss@miwats.org](mailto:flowerss@miwats.org); (734) 994-3127. You can also post a comment to Facebook or Twitter. As part of the process, a Steering Committee has been formed representing various interests linked to pedestrian and bicycle movements around the county (the WBWC is a Committee member). For a complete list of the members, please [click here.](#)

Staff are in the process of setting dates and locations for public input meetings. The public input meetings will be placed on the WATS calendar ([www.miwats.org/watscalendar/](http://www.miwats.org/watscalendar/)). If you cannot attend a meeting feel free to complete the WATS 4-question survey or share the survey with others: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BM6DPQF>

### **Impacts Of Trails On Property**

Often property owners have fears that a trail (such as the B2B) being built may have a negative impact on their ability to sell their house. In fact in almost all cases the opposite was true as per this report: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/adjacent/sumadjacent.html>

### **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.

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