



Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Winter 2015

www.bordertoborder.org

“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.

Ypsilanti Trail Segment

As of late February, a slight redesign was still being reviewed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for this B-to-B segment just east of downtown. The project would involve a bridge from Riverside Park south to the eastern end of the Michigan Avenue bridge across the Huron River, as well as constructing a permanent (hard surface) trail along the north shore of the Huron River from Michigan Avenue south/southeast to Grove Road. The reason for the redesign is that when construction bids went out in 2014, the bids received turned out to be higher than project funds available. Plans were then redrawn to allow for some cost savings but keep the project mostly intact.

Once the DNR approves the redesigned plans (which is expected soon), the bids will go out again for this project. Actual construction of these segments will now not take place any earlier than late spring 2015. For a basic map of the planned Ypsilanti segment, [click here](#). At Michigan Avenue, there will be a HAWK signal which is basically a stoplight for motorists to give non-motorized a way to cross a road. For a short video on how a HAWK light works go to <http://youtu.be/ReNk2T5ay1c>.

Winter Trail Maintenance

A basic goal of the Friends of the Border To Border Trail is to keep the Trail plowed and open from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti. To this extent in the winter of 2014-15, the City of Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan University both get an “A” for snow removal, but other sections are problematic but continue to be worked on by the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail. Further updates on snow removal will be posted on the [Friends Facebook page](#) and e-mail group list.

B to B Mentioned In WEMU “Green Room” Program

WEMU Radio (FM 89.1) broadcast a short program on "Pedestrian and Bicycle Access in Winter" on February 27th about problems Washtenaw County residents face, and how they cope, when bicycling and walking in the winter. During the program, one portion focuses on winter use of the B to B. The program was the latest installment of WEMU's "The Green Room" series by Barbara Lucas. To hear the program, read a transcript and offer comments, visit <http://wemu.org/post/green-room-pedestrian-and-bicycle-access-winter>

Friends Of The Border To Border Board Of Directors Formation

At a January 2015 meeting, Friends of the Border To Border Trail acting Board members chosen, these being Ryan Bowles, Ashley Fox, Bruce Geffen, Bob Krzewinski, Laura Shiltz and Tom Leone. Of these individuals, acting Officers will include Bob Krzewinski as Chair, Ashley Fox as Secretary and Tom Leone as Treasurer. Also at the January meeting, by-laws for the organization were approved (view them at http://bordertoborder.homestead.com/Approved_By_Laws.pdf). At its March 4, 2015 meeting, the Board is expecting to concentrate on membership development (a Friends membership drive will kick off shortly) and the organization having information tables at local events). To view Friends Board meeting agendas and meeting minutes, visit www.bordertoborder.com and click on the “Board” link box.

If you are interested in becoming a Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Board member, or just helping with tasks/projects of the Friends, please attend Board meetings (time/location announced at www.bordertoborder.org) or contact Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com or call 734-487-9058.

Ann Arbor Group Meets To Push For B to B Completion There

Larry Deck of the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition (www.wbwc.org) met with a number of Ann Arbor individuals in February for a plan of action ([click here to view this document which does include maps](#)) to work to complete off-road Trail routings in the City. This group also attended the February Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Committee meeting to present this plan and will also attend the Committee's March meeting. Representatives from the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail will start becoming involved with this group and also lobby the City of Ann Arbor for Trail completion there.

More B to B Feeder Trails

A growing number of feeder trails are being planned to tie in with the Border To Border Trail, with the following being two examples...

- Dixboro Shared Use Trail – This trail is planned to start at Parker Mill County Park (on Geddes Road between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti) and go north into the University of Michigan Mathaei Botanical Gardens. Future plans are for the Dixboro Trail to extend all the way north to Plymouth Road. This project is being overseen by Ann Arbor Township and the Friends of the Border To Border Trail has sent a support letter to the Township to aid in obtaining development grants. For a conceptual map of the Trail, [click here](#).
- Allen Creek Greenway – This path would run along the largely submerged (i.e. drain pipes underground) Allen Creek watershed, just to the west of downtown Ann Arbor ([for a map click here](#)). For more on this Trail, which would tie in to the Border To Border Trail in the Wheeler Park area, visit <http://www.acgreenwayconservancy.org/greentheway>. And to support the group behind the effort, the Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy, visit <http://www.allencreekgreenway.org/> (donations and memberships are encouraged).

2nd Annual BtoB West River Trail Fun Run & Walk

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is sponsoring the 2nd annual West River Trail Fun Run & Walk on Saturday, May 2nd at Hudson Mills Metropark just north of Dexter. The event will start at 9am will have a fun run & walk along with a 10k timed run. Runs start at 9am and will start from the north entrance to Hudson Mills Metropark along Territorial Road. Registration can be done on the day of the event (registration starts at 7:30am) or can be done online at [WebTrac Activity Search](#).

Volunteers Needed To “Adopt” Trail Segments

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail is still looking for volunteers who would be willing to “adopt” a section of the Border To Border Trail. Volunteers, who routinely use a specific B to B segment on a regular (2-4 times a month) basis would be asked to perform the following...

- Pick up trash (although for the most part, the B to B stays remarkably trash-free).
- Report serious problems (potholes, major downed branches, missing direction signs, etc.).
- During the “green” months, trim back (with hand-tools) vegetation tending to obstruct the trail.

Currently, B-to-B segments needing “adoption” would include (links are to maps of each segment)...

- Grove Road (Ypsilanti Township) - [Bridge Road west to Harris Road/Loonfeather Park](#)
- Grove Road (Ypsilanti Township) – [Harris Road/Loonfeather Park west to Grove Road I-94 bridge](#)
- [St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Washtenaw Community College area](#)
- Ann Arbor – [Corner of Fuller Road/Maiden Lane west to Whitmore Lake Road \(just beyond M14 bridge\)](#)
- Dexter - [Dexter-Huron Metropark](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com indicating what segment you would like to adopt. Thanks in advance for any help on this!!!

Major Donation To The Friends

On January 13th, [RF Events, Inc.](#) gave a \$2000 donation to the Friends of the Border To Border Trail from proceeds of the annual December Dexter Holiday Huddle run. This donation was very well times to match up with the formation of a Board of Directors and a more active and organized Friends Of The Border To Border Trail. Thank you so very much RF Events!!!

Cross-Michigan Iron Belle Trail To Include Border To Border Trail

On the "[blue](#)" route, the Iron Belle Trail uses portions of Washtenaw County's Border To Border Trail - For more information on the Iron Belle, visit the [Michigan DNR Trail web page](#) or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153--346208--rss,00.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](#).

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, that being what Michigan County the Trail is in.

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