



Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Winter 2015-16 Newsletter

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"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.

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Board Meeting – February 23rd

The Friends of the Border To Border (B2B) Trail will hold its next Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd. 7pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, [229 West Michigan Avenue](#) in downtown Ypsilanti. Free parking is available behind the library and adjacent streets. Anyone interested in completing, expanding and increasing the use of the Border To Border Trail is invited to attend. For the meeting agenda, [click here for a PDF download](#) of the agenda document.

Friends Of The B2B Trail Proposed By-Laws Changes

At the February 23rd Friends of the Border To Border Trail meeting, three revisions are proposed to the Friends by-laws. By-laws revisions are governed by Section 6.1, which states...

6.1 By Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the power to amend or repeal by-laws by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed action is given in the call for the meeting.

The first revision deals with changing membership periods from a calendar year (January to December) to a 12-month period from when a membership fee is paid...

Proposed replacement for Section 2.7:

2.7 Membership Period. Friends Of The Border To Border Trail memberships are based on a 12-month membership year starting when a membership fee is paid.

The next two proposed revisions deal with amending the by-laws to help conform to federal 501c3 non-profit status, which the Friends of the B2B will be submitting to the Internal Revenue Service in March...

Proposed replacement for Section 4.8:

4.8 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the receipt and tracking of all funds of the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail. The Treasurer shall maintain correct and complete financial records, and shall present an updated financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall not have the ability to write checks or otherwise disburse funds. After the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail achieves 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, the Treasurer shall submit an annual information return in accordance with IRS requirements. The annual information returns shall be available for public inspection for at least three years after the filing date

Proposed new section 4.10:

4.10 Allowable activities. All officers are responsible for ensuring that activities of the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail are consistent with federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. The organization must absolutely refrain from participating in the political campaigns of candidates for local, state, or federal office; any lobbying activities must be restricted to an insubstantial part of total activities; and earnings must not inure to the benefit of any private individual.

Dexter To Ann Arbor B2B Routing Public Meetings

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has engaged a consultant team to determine the preferred Border To Border Trail (B2B) route to connect the cities of Dexter and Ann Arbor. This corridor represents the largest remaining gap in the B2B (7.6 miles) and will involve a great deal of coordination with many agencies, municipalities, and organizations. This [project flyer](#) has some preliminary details.

The Commission will be hosting two public meetings to seek input on the Master Plan for this Dexter to Ann Arbor section of the B2B. There will be a brief presentation followed by general Q&A, opportunities to examine maps up close and provide comments. Public feedback on the alternative routes will help the Commission determine a "preferred alignment" for the Trail which will help guide future design, engineering, and grant applications.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday February 24 at 4:30 pm at the Burns Park Senior Center (1320 Baldwin Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 – map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/nyPspXmeGrN2>)
- Wednesday March 2 at 7:00 pm at the Dexter Library (3255 Alpine St, Dexter, MI 48130 – map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/WAGpfRoME322>)

The meeting on March 2 will also serve as an opportunity to comment on upcoming grant applications by WCPARC to assist with potential construction funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Transportation Alternatives Program.

B2B Snow Removal

This winter again the Friends of the B2B has been working to keep the Trail open (plowed) between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as well as exploring keeping the Dexter area B2B Metropark sections cleared of snow. A big thank you goes out to, however, to the City of Ann Arbor, St. Josephs Mercy Hospital and Eastern Michigan University for doing a great job of keeping the B2B open all winter. With that said, the Friends will continue to communicate with property owners/property jurisdiction areas where snow on the Trail is not plowed (even though there tend to be loads of footprints/bike tire tracks).

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 (\$25 for a family membership) with those joining receiving 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 and click on the “Join” link at the top of the page.

Dexter-Huron Metropark To Dexter Segment

At the end of December 2015, construction on this very short segment from the current west end of the Dexter-Huron Metropark path to Central Avenue in Dexter (about 2/10's of a mile) has wrapped up for the winter according to this article (page 18): <http://dextermi.gov.../council/2015/Packet/2015-12-28.pdf>

Over the winter the trail will be left with its limestone base. The water and sewer connections have been made to the Hafner property per the terms of the agreement for the property purchase. The asphalt paving will occur in the spring.

Ypsilanti B2B Proposed Re-Route

In January 2016 a meeting was held in Ypsilanti about re-routing the “official” B2B route from being on-street to taking users through Riverside Park and the new Water Street section of the Trail. Such a routing would also incorporate the new Trail bridge across the Huron River and the planned signaled crossing of Michigan Avenue. The meeting included representatives of the City of Ypsilanti, the Friends of the B2B Trail and staff from the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.

To put the proposed changes in perspective, this link shows the current on-road B2B routing through central Ypsilanti - <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6779367>. This link shows the proposed off-road routing - <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6776805>. It should be noted, however, that this proposed routing will not happen in the immediate future as the new route requires some grading from the Rice Street area to the south end of Frog Island Park and the “tridge” (3-way bridge) across the Huron River into the north end of Riverside Park.

Also discussed at the January meeting was a discussion of proposed routing of the B2B Trail from Frog Island Park northwest to Eastern Michigan University. All meeting participants will continue to work on completing the B2B off-road throughout Ypsilanti.

B2B Northern Extension Update

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is exploring 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) which in turn will also be a part of the “[Great Lake-to-Lake Trail](#)” from South Haven to Port Huron. Staff from Washtenaw County Parks will be continuing to meet with the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority, Livingston County and Hamburg Township on coming up with a final preferred route in 2016.

Quick Updates...

- Dixboro Shared Use Trail – This north-south hard surface trail starting from Parker Mill County Park (on Geddes Road just east of US 23) and going to the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens is in the final planning/engineering stages with a construction start still hoped for 2016. Through existing non-motorized path connections, this new path would connect to the B2B Trail.
- Zeeb Road Connector – Work is slowly continuing on a B2B connector trail along Zeeb Road in Scio Townships with some sections completed and other sections having easements acquired. For more on this project visit <http://sciotownship.org/boards-commissions/paths-technical-advisory-commission>.
- Huron-Waterloo Pathway Initiative – This off-road trail project to connecting Dexter to Chelsea to Stockbridge continues to build momentum with new funding sources. For more information visit <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>.

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](#)

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!!!

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](#). It should be noted that 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, that being what Michigan County the Trail is in.

Bob Krzewinski

Chair

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