

PRESIDENT’S LETTER — JOHN KNOWLTON

Big Group Rides, Thanks to Leaders and Fix the road Crossing!

The ride was big for March 11. Weather was mild this winter allowing people to keep riding outdoors. They came to the first Monday Night Ride of the season ready to go! We had more than 25 people on the first official group ride of the KBC season. For comparison I have been one of three people to show up in previous years’ first ride of the season. My goal is always to ride at least a little bit on the first Monday of Daylight Savings time. Temperature on the 18th was in the 30’s and rain fell from the sky, so that was a bust. March 25 we had another big group of 30 to 40 people! This is a great year for riding with the club. Reminder that we start evening rides at **6:00 p.m. during April**. Please join us! **Your presence** makes everyone’s day better!

Big thanks to our **ride leaders**. More than 50 people have offered their help to lead rides on Monday mornings, Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, Tuesday night time trials, Wednesday evenings, Friday mornings, and Saturday mornings. That’s a lot of bike riding! Leaders welcome new people, pick routes and paces, and share a pre-ride briefing to help rides be safe and fun for everyone! Please thank your ride leader each time they rise to the challenge.

Besides offering THE BEST group road rides in the area, KBC works on infrastructure and advocates for bicycle facilities. You may know that MDOT rebuilt 131 between Schoolcraft and Three Rivers last year. One element of their design makes it impossible to cross 131 on east-west county roads. Since 2012, MDOT has been required to incorporate a “complete streets” approach to road projects, accommodating non-motorized users in a safe manner. Club members have worked with local MDOT contacts for the past 6-8 months to have 131 corrected. That hasn’t yielded results, so we have now asked the state legislature and Michigan Transportation Commission to exercise oversight. You can find the letter on page 10 of the Pedal Press. This will be a long process, so keep riding, coming to KBC events, and keep you spirits up!



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Please send stories and photos of your rides to:

editor@kalamazoobicycle club.org

KBC Business

The next KBC meeting will be **Tuesday, April 9** at **6:00 p.m.** at **Oshtemo Community Center** (North Room), 6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo MI .

**Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
March 12, 2024
Oshtemo Community Center
Minutes from Business Meeting**

ATTENDANCE

Rick Whaley	Paul Selden,	Paul Sotherland
Peter Coles	John Knowlton	Pam Sotherland
Bill Surna	Sharon Surna	Mike Krischer
Dick Hewitt	Paul Wells	Pat McGinnis
Clark Bennett		

Update on XY and YZ Ave intersections with US 131

- a. As a result of recent renovations to 131 all intersections south of Schoolcraft are now J-turns.
- b. No accommodations, other than J-turns, for non-motorized – therefore, no safe way to cross the road.
- c. Project developed during COVID “forgot” about requirement to include complete streets in road reconstruction.
- d. During KBC meeting last fall we came up with 2 ideas in response to the situation
 - I. Letter, written by Doug Kirk, to MDOT expressing KBC’s displeasure with the 131 renovations. Members present decided to pause this option until after outreach to MDOT via other avenues.
 - II. Sotherland and Selden – bring issue to KATS meetings; use relationships developed there to explore ways to remedy the unsafe crossings at XY and YZ.
 - Paul Sotherland had several conversations and email exchanges with MDOT non-motorized representative.
 - There has not been satisfactory movement by MDOT to resolve the issue of the J-turns.
 - Recommendation - John will get in touch with Doug Kirk – ask for Doug’s suggestion.

Bike Camp

- a. Will be run like Run Camp, with one morning of instructional time following by Monday, Wednesday, Friday rides during the month of June in preparation for participants to ride KalTour.
- b. Instructional time will Saturday, June 1, be 9 – 1 pm. at the Oshtemo Community Center
- c. Bike Camp 2024 information on KBC website

- d. Registration for Bike Camp will be via BikeReg

KalTour

- a. Site secured for start and finish.
- b. Registration in BikeReg., KBC website and volunteer signup via SignUpGenius will be updated.

Ride Captain

- a. Gordy resigned after 10 years of service.
- b. We have a sign up google sheet for Ride Captain for a specific date, thus far only 1 person has signed up. We'll give it more time to see how it goes.
- c. Responsibilities of Ride Captain
 - Regular Attendance at rides.
 - Command the attention of the group.
 - Brief Pre-ride briefing for full group.

Pedal Press recipients

- a. Recommendation to send only to current members or secondary members.
- b. Rick allows members to slide by or a few months after their membership has expired. He then
- c. sends a reminder after 3 months informing them that they are removed from the list.
- d. If membership has expired long ago - remove them from the list.
- e. Rick and John will work with Jenna to iron out the communication piece.

Bike Week

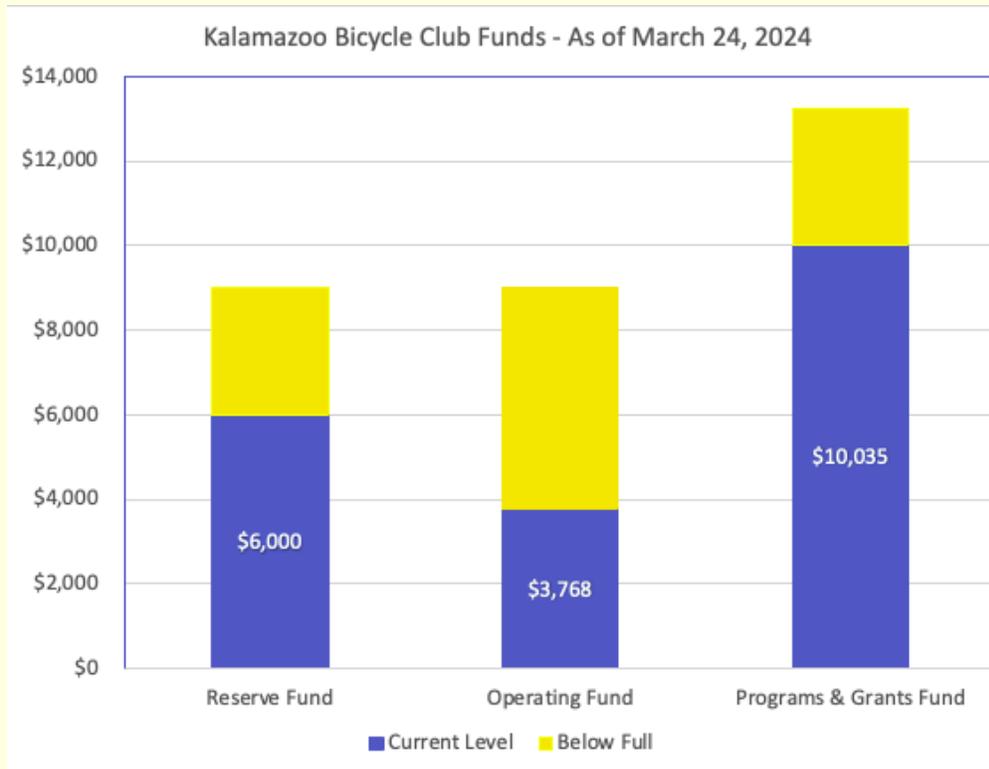
- a. March 20, 4-5 pm – open meeting for groups to have 2-3 minutes to talk about what's important to the group.
- b. March 26, final orientation meeting for groups that are new to Bike Week
- c. March 31, deadline for submitting event for Bike Week
- d. Thursday, May 16 – Dick Hewitt presentation on ebike at Portage District library
- e. Saturday, May 18 – Tim Krone will do an ebike rodeo

Cycling Shorts Presentation “Pedaling in Portage”

March 12, 7-7:30 pm

Pat McGinnis, Portage City Manager

Q1 2024 KBC Financial Update



Submitted by Pam Sotherland, KBC Treasurer

April 2024 Membership

Total Memberships: 298

Total Individuals: 468

New or Renewed Members: Travis Branderhorst; Mike Connelly; Tom Cross; Carolyn Douglass & Family; Gustavo Garza; Gary Hammock; John Howson; Megan James & Family; Michelle Karpinski; William Keene; Stephanie Kennedy & Family; Josh Lacey; Cheryl-Marie Manson; Michael McKeeby; Barry Olson & Family; Vincent Patrizi; Jonathan Penrod; Scott Powers; Scott Spray; Brian Vanderberg & Lisa Rene Cook

April Expired Members: Keegan Adriance; Lauren Cummings; Laura Doherty; Andrzej Dudek; Andrea & Don Fore; Matt & Kristy Gunderson; Rick Huyser & Family; David Jones & Leslie Mars; Scott Kirklin; Ann LaPoint & Family; Mike Louwaert; Richard Morse; Roger Poorman; Barry Roelofs; Pam Stinchcomb; Darren Timmeney & Family; Brandon Visser; Carolyn Wyllie

Rick Whaley, Membership Director

The 2024 W Ride

Robert Lamm, that noted musical philosopher, once asked, "Does Anybody Know What Time It Is?" Well, he may have lived a life of temporal ignorance, but I certainly know what time it is! It's time for the 24th (Almost) Annual W Ride!

This year, we'll tempt the weather fates during the month of April again. We'll meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 27 at the east parking lot of Vicksburg High School and we'll ride on every inch of pavement that W Avenue can offer (twice!) for 48 miles.

And we'll be doing the classic West-East-West Ride Route. We'll make a right turn out of the parking lot, ride through Vicksburg and then through Schoolcraft, eventually winding our way (figuratively speaking) to the Van Buren County line. Then we'll turn around and ride back to Vicksburg, stopping at the Shell station for hearty food and drink and/or stopping at the parking lot for possible wardrobe changes that depend upon the weather.

Some of you are welcome to do a 24 mile ride and finish the ride here, but those 48 mile riders will continue east through Fulton, where we'll stop and gaze in wonder at the one stop sign on the eastern portion of our route, before continuing to the Calhoun County line. Then, we'll turn around, stop and gaze at the stop sign once again, and return to where we began, where delicious pretzels and Gatorade await.

As usual, maps will be provided for no apparent reason. The Ride Leader will lead a group averaging about 14-15 mph, but other slower or faster groups are welcome to take part in this adventure.

So, come participate in what will almost certainly become one of the highlights of your life. Because, as Robert Lamm approximately once said, "We've all got time enough to ride!"

Rick Whaley, W Ride Leader

KalTour 2024 and KalTour Committee Meeting

Although it is snowing while I write this, the KBC ride season has begun, which means it is time to plan for KalTour. KalTour 2024, the club's largest and longest-running annual event will take place on Sunday June 30, starting from the Wind + James Event Center in Schoolcraft.

The last several years in Schoolcraft have demonstrated that a start location opening onto scenic, low-traffic, open-country routes is the way to go. The move last year to the W +J facility from the school grounds was well received since the routes remained the same and the indoor facilities for the post-ride meal and entertainment were an added bonus.

In 2024 all of these amenities will remain. The one major change will be the elimination of the century ride which has been declining in popularity for the last few years. The routes that remain are 62 miles (metric century), 50 miles, 31 miles, and 15 miles. Perhaps diehard century riders will complete the 62 and go out again!

One aspect of event planning that has changed greatly in recent years is the increasing importance of online and social media publicity to attract participants. Even though I don't know the difference between Instagram and Snapchat, I do know that fliers and posters are much less important now than they were a few years ago, and that there are fewer places to distribute and post them around town than there used to be. I know that the means of reaching club members and other cyclists in our region have changed. Last year we put KalTour registration on **BikeReg** and volunteer signup on **SignUpGenius**. KalTour routes have already been available for some years on **Ride with GPS**. Those listings are already active for this year. However, there is more that can be done, both with free and paid social media efforts. There will be a KalTour Committee meeting on Tuesday evening April 16 at 7:00 pm at the Portage Public Library to discuss various publicity initiatives and to examine how the resources that formerly went into printed publicity can best be redirected. Other aspects of KalTour planning will also be on the agenda. Please let me know if you are interested in contributing to this discussion.

Mike Krischer, KalTour Director

COMING SOON



BIKE CORRALS



SPRING - FALL
2024

PILOT BIKE CORRAL PARKING IS COMING TO DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO IN 2024! THIS PROJECT WILL INFORM WHERE BIKE PARKING DEMAND IS

SPONSORS

MORE INFORMATION AT KALAMAZOOCITY.ORG



WHAT IS A BIKE CORRAL?

A bike corral is a type of on-street Bicycle Parking for commercial areas shifting parking from the sidewalk to on-street. Located close to intersections a bike corral can act as bump-outs reducing motorist speeds.



Bike corrals can be permanent or mobile and can be designed to meet the needs of a certain area. They are great tools to understand demand for bike parking.

LOCATION 1: APRIL 10 - MAY 10

LOCATION 4: JULY 10 - AUGUST 15

LOCATION 2: MAY 10 - JUNE 10

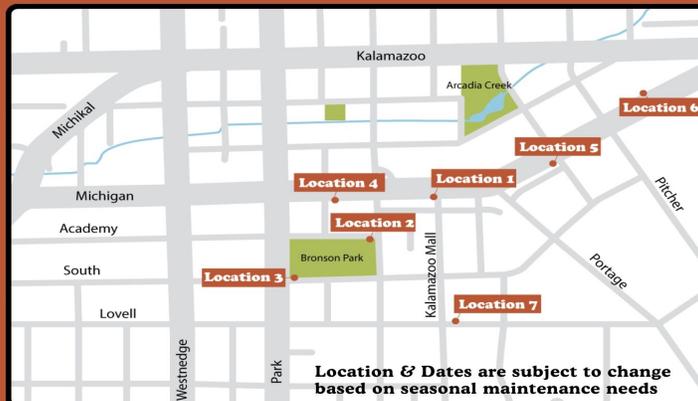
LOCATION 5: AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 15

LOCATION 3: JUNE 10 - JULY 10

LOCATION 6: SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

LOCATION 7: OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 15

Locations



Location & Dates are subject to change based on seasonal maintenance needs



Great opportunity & support of local bike shop

I wanted to let you know that Pedal is organizing a **Used Bike Sale** at our downtown location in April, and I hope you will promote the event to KBC members.

Sellers will be able to bring their bike/bikes to our downtown shop beginning April 1st through April 13th. Our staff will evaluate the bikes to ensure they are safe, and help set the price with the seller. When checking in their bike sellers will choose to claim 100% of the selling price as in-store credit or receive 80% of the selling price by check. The **sale will be on Sunday April 14th**; since this will be an outdoor event we will have a rainout date of April 21st. Bikes that go unsold would have to be picked up by their sellers by April 27th or be donated.

- There is no haggling at the sale, bikes either sell at their agreed upon sale price or they don't sell.
- Sellers can not bring bikes to the sale day of, **they must be received between April 1st-13th to participate.**
- Bikes must be in good working order to participate
- No department store bikes are allowed in the sale
- [CLICK THIS LINK TO THE PEDAL SITE FOR MORE INFO](#)

I hope this event will be a good opportunity for our community members to clean out their garages of bikes that aren't getting ridden, while allowing other community members access to quality affordable bikes!

Ryan Maguire

PEDAL

General Manager

Ryan@pedalbicycle.com

(269)56/PEDAL

Cycling Shorts - 09 April 2024



Bike Week — Isaac Green



The April Cycling Shorts will feature Isaac Green (Open Roads and Chair of Kalamazoo Bike Week) at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 9th, at the Oshtemo Community Center. Isaac will give an overview of Kalamazoo Bike Week. After Isaac speaks there will be a preview of the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge.





What is the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge?

- It is a two-week event – **May 17-30** – to engage as many people as possible in riding their bikes for trips – to work, shop, dine, or simply to enjoy cycling – in and around Kalamazoo, Portage, Vicksburg, Richland, or... throughout Kalamazoo County.
- The Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge will activate our bikeways – shared use pathways, bike lanes, and bike routes – with people doing practical cycling and enlivening the areas that have bikeways.

What else will the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge do?

- Anonymized and aggregated records of practical cycling trips, recorded with Love to Ride, will be used to generate crowd-sourced maps of where people frequently ride their bicycles.
- These maps can be used to augment planning, improving, and maintaining bikeways in the Kalamazoo region. This will enrich our bikeways and welcome, invite, and retain those who enjoy living in regions with robust active transportation amenities.

How can you get involved in the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge?

- Go to the Love to Ride-Kalamazoo County website (lovetoride.net/kalamazoo), download the Love to Ride app to your phone, register for Love to Ride.
- Be sure to explore all the tabs - including the “Info” tab - where you will learn about the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge, Where to Ride, and locations of our Bike Shops as well as a ton of other information.
- Register for the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge (and...maybe...join a team)
- Ride your bike to work, shop, dine, or simply to enjoy the ride
- Record your rides, check your heat maps, and watch the leader boards (on the “Results” tab) to see how your practical cycling compares with that of other cyclists in Kalamazoo County.
-

And...remember...please keep logging your rides after May and throughout the year to help enrich the cycling map of Kalamazoo County by contributing your rides to the crowd-sourced, anonymized, and aggregated heat map.

Join in the fun...be the change...participate in the Kalamazoo Commuter Challenge!

Paul Sotherland, Grants & Awards Director



March 20, 2024

Michigan Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Senator Erika Geiss, Chair

Senator Veronica Klinefelt, Majority Vice Chair

Senator Joseph Bellino, Minority Vice Chair

Senator Sean McCann

Re: MDOT's failure to comply with Complete Street Policy in US 131 Construction between Schoolcraft and Three Rivers

Dear Ms. Geiss, Ms. Klinefelt, Mr. Bellino and Mr. McCann,

This letter is to alert you to MDOT's failure to comply with policy set by the State Transportation Commission on a recent project in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

During 2023, Highway US 131 was rebuilt between the Village of Schoolcraft and the City of Three Rivers. This section of U.S.131 is a north/south unlimited access divided highway with a generally grassy median and a 55 mph speed limit. Several county roads intersect U.S.131 in this area including XY Avenue and YZ Avenue in Kalamazoo County and Flowerfield Road, Muskrat Road, Cotherman Lake Road, Michigan Avenue, Johnson Road, Moorepark Road, and Heimbach Road in St. Joseph County.

During construction, MDOT changed the means of crossing 131 when traveling on county roads. Previously, county traffic was required to stop at a stop sign, then proceed across the first two lanes of traffic and either wait in the paved median or proceed across the next two lanes of traffic if it was clear. MDOT has replaced the straight ahead crossing with J Turns. In addition, the grassy median now has a deep drainage ditch which makes any attempt at straight ahead crossing impossible. This new scheme requires a road user to make three turns next to busy highway traffic to continue on the county road. The arrangement is simply unsafe for non-motorized users. The project has certainly favored motorized traffic at the expense of non-motorized users' safety.

Since 2010 (PA 135 of 2010) MDOT has been required to include a complete streets approach to transportation projects. Public Act 135 defines complete streets as "...roadways planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle." STC officially adopted the Complete Streets policy on July 26, 2012.

The STC's complete Streets Policy makes provision for MDOT to seek an exemption to the policy. However, there is no evidence that MDOT sought an exception to the Complete Streets policy and no evidence that an exception was granted by the State Transportation Commission.

Therefore, we request that the Committee exercise its oversight authority and hold MDOT Director Bradley Wieferich and MDOT Southwest Region Engineer Willard Thompson accountable. MDOT appears to have flagrantly ignored the Legislature's express instructions. Please insist that MDOT Revisit the project and make amendments to the roadway that accommodate all legal users and promote safe movement of people.

Sincerely,

John Knowlton, President, on behalf of Kalamazoo Bicycle Club

president@kalamazoobicycleclub.org

DA2



Soliciting membership for their observations for improvement, things that are working well and creative ideas that would improve the overall bicycling experience for riders in the community. One paragraph or two will fit the bill. Send articles & associated photos to editor@kalmazooobicycleclub.org. Lots of good things happening on da2 wheels.

Build it and we will come!



Dressed for the weather these two practical cyclists were thrilled by the welcoming sight of a new bike rack in front of Harding's on Drake, near West Main. It is great to see new bike friendly infrastructure being installed throughout the city.

Thanks Harding's!

Submitted by Pam Sotherland

