

Charlier Associates, Inc.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

KALAMAZOO NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MI (COMPLETED)

Terri Musser led a team of consultants examining transportation improvements needed to make the home of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College more hospitable to bicycling and walking. Plan priorities ultimately focused on linking the two universities with downtown Kalamazoo and student and faculty housing populations. Solutions included creative access across active rail lines and high-speed arterial corridors that diagonally cut off origins from destinations, and several applications of "road diets" as part of a system of improvements to City and campus streets to discourage automobile travel and make bicycling and walking more attractive commuter options.

Public participation guided the project, kicked off by a Kid's Planning Charrette. Regular meetings were held with a multi-jurisdictional Plan Advisory Committee, a citizen-based Bicycle Task Force and an accompanying Pedestrian Task Force. The Task Forces and consultants conducted walking audits and on-bike evaluations of key neighborhoods and selected travel corridors. Interactive planning workshops and a non-motorized community newsletter were utilized for broad public involvement.

Due to the level of community education undertaken, we can report that several individual projects were moving forward before the final plan was adopted by the Kalamazoo City Commission. Two railway projects received Enhancements funding for \$1.5 million; Metro Transit received \$36,500 to place bike racks on all system buses; economic development projects are underway along the Kalamazoo River in conjunction with railway development; abandoned railroad rights-of-way are being acquired; and bike-friendly street improvements are occurring as part of public works activities.

Subconsulting team members included Suzan Anderson Pinsof; O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates; The Greenway Collaborative; and The Forum for Kalamazoo County.

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