**TCBA Advocacy Committee**

**October 13, 2021 Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Dean Brailey, Dale Freeman, Steve Leiby, Tim Potter, Art Slabosky, Diana Twede, Mike Unsworth, Jeanne Wright and Dan Opsommer

1. The meeting was called to order and the agenda was approved.
2. The September minutes will be made available prior to the November meeting.
3. Access to Ranney Park and Frandor from East Lansing – Mike Unsworth

Mike reported that he would like to make contact with DTM Management which manages an apartment complex next to Ranney Park about providing access to pedestrians/cyclists to Ranney Park through the complex. He asked for support to draft a letter to that effect if needed. After discussion, the committee supported his request.

1. Trails Millage – Mike Unsworth

Mike reported that the number of applications for Ingham County Trails Millage funds had greatly increased in 2021 as compared to 2020. Last year, there were 7 project requests while this year there were 22 projects requested from 12 units of government within Ingham County.

Projects include $50,000 for a feasibility study to extend the Lansing River Trail north of Moores River Drive on Waverly. This could allow for a safer connection with bike lanes along Old Lansing Rd and with Delta Township’s recently completed Waverly Pathway Project. Other projects include extension of the Lansing River Trail in Meridian Township east of Michigan State University with phase two to Okemos Rd. and phase three to Haslett Rd. as well as multi-stage path and park projects in Leslie and Mason.

1. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s Trails Initiative – Mike Unsworth

Mike reported that he has finished his writeup of the March 2020 Kickoff to Trails Initiative that TCRPC has for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with his analysis being that Ingham is making progress on trails with the help of their trails millage, Eaton is in the initial stages but lacks funding, like the trails millage, for a feasibility study, and Clinton is seeking to establish interior and exterior connections. He observed that it is necessary to overcome NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitudes, particularly in Clinton and Eaton. He also thought that bringing in townships that have been able to do a lot with trails might be helpful. Jeanne Wright added that all TIP plans had to be in order by 2024 with all funds spent by 2026.

1. Lake Lansing Rd/Towar Ave/Birch Row Dr

Dan Opsommer, Meridian Township Board Trustee, attended to discuss this project. Tim Potter shared that he had asked East Lansing Safe Routes to Schools about their plans for the area and found that they are planning a path from Whitehills Elementary School north to Whitehills Park. Discussion occurred regarding having a meeting at the Towar Gardens Community Center with community members and political leaders to discuss the projects impact for pedestrians/cyclists in the area.

1. Next Meeting – November 10, 2021