THUMB REGION NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN - HARBOR BEACH

INTRODUCTION

The counties of Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron have joined to develop a regional non-motorized transportation plan. The focus of this project is M-25 corriodor and the waterfront communitites and destinations. The plan is very implementation oriented looking to identify realistic projects that will effect noticable improvements to bicycling and walking conditions in the region.

This document presents the recommendations for Harbor Beach. A complete report of the recommendations for the entire region is available for download at: www.greenwaycollab.com/ThumbNoMo

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARBOR BEACH

Harbor Beach is located on the west side of the region in Huron County. It has a population of 1,703 people with a modest increase in size in the summer months. There are 91 seasonal housing units representing about 9% of the total housing units in the city. This translates into about 180 additional residents who spend a considerable portion of the summer in the area. In addition to the seasonal homes there is North Park campground which has 184 sites of which a number are rented out on a seasonal or montly bases. There is also a 114 slip marina, the Maritime Festival and other events that bring in visitors for shorter stays. Five miles south of town is Wagener County park with 96 camsites and a boat launch.

There is an existing paved trail that currently connects North Park with the Murphy Museum downtown. There are plans to extend the trail in three directions. First, to the north on the abandoned railroad grade through the wooded area of North Beach Park. Second, to the northeast through Waterworks park to the City Marina. Third, east along Pack Street to the former coast guard facilty. Fourth to the south doing a loop through Bathing Beach Park. There are no existing bike lanes or bike routes.

Harbor Beach ranks 2nd out of 127 Michigan communities with a population between 1,000 and 2,000 in the total number of people who walk (15.8%), bike (0.4%), and take transit (1%) to work. Thus Harbor Beach is already has a large number of people walking on a daily basis.

Bike lanes can be added to S. Huron Avenue (M-25) just south of Broad Street via a 3 to 2 lane conversion. Bike lanes may also be added to State Street west of 1st street via lane narrowing. Due to the existing road width, bike lanes are not feasible on Huron Ave north of Broad Street and the first block of State Street. It is recommended that shared lane markings be placed along these routes until the roads are reconstructed and bike lanes can be implemented.

Curb extensions should be added in the downtown area along Huron Avenue and State Street to provide better visibility and shorter crossing distance at road crossings. Crossing islands are proposed by the Murphy Museum, Garden Street and Buell Street.

Neighborhood connector routes are recommended to provide an alternative route for M-25 in the Downtown area and to provide connection to local parks and schools in the community. Wayfinding signage, traffic calming and safe road crossings should be incorporated into the routes.





