



**West Michigan Trails – Spring Trail Summit, South Area**  
**March 20, 2024 9:00am – 11:30 am**  
**Kalamazoo Metro Transit**  
**520 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

## Attendance:

Matt Metzger, MDNR	Kathleen Hoyle, City of Portage
Pat Reid, FKHT	David Rachowicz, Kalamazoo County Parks
Sue Hodapp FKHT	Marc Irwin, KBC/KATS CAC
Jack Eisinger, Friends of the Blue Star Trail	Erie Wildon (via web)
Dan Patton, Barry County Parks	Leah Groya, Planning Consultant (via web)
Patrick McVerry, City of Kalamazoo	Norm Cox, The Greenway Collaborative
Kelly Linton, DNSWM	Carolyn Prudhomme, The Greenway Collaborative
Marcy Hamiton, SWMPC	Jennifer Antel, West Michigan Trails
Paul Sotherland, KATS CAC	John Morrison, West Michigan Trail
Tom Hottm, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo	Megan Motil, Parallel Solutions
Dana Wagner, City of Kalamazoo	
George Warhag, City of Kalamazoo	
Mike Garey, FC Berrien Cty Tr	
Ryan Minkus, RULL	
Vanessa Street, Oshtemo Township	
Steve Stepek, KATS	
Ali Townsend, KATS	
Megan Mickelson, KATS	

## Meeting Notes:

- **Existing Trail in Edwardsburg:** Add existing trail between the sports complex and the high school to the database.



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- **Fruit Belt Trail:** Identified as active planning. Add to map.
- **US-27 Route in Barry County:** Verify name/labeling of this segment.
- **Van Buren Trail:** High impact score mentioned, with low use possibly due to the trail's surface type.
- **Berrien and Cass County:** Underinvested trail areas that are currently undergoing development.
- **Blue Star Trail:** Secured a TAP grant for construction.
- **Resource/Playbook for Rallying Support:** Suggested as potentially beneficial.  
Route Update South of Kalamazoo: Revised to Three Rivers to align with current plans.
- **Challenges in St. Joseph County:** Historical difficulties noted due to political issues and local resistance, with a missed opportunity for a rail trail in the past.
- **Plainwell to Holland Connection:** Advised to remain conceptual.
- **Kalamazoo to Vicksburg and Three-Rivers:** Verify updated routing. South of Vicksburg, update route to connect to Three-Rivers instead of Sturgis.
- **Paul Henry's Efforts in Eaton County:** Collaborating with individual property owners for connections.
- **Updates to Life Stage Map:**
  - Changed New Buffalo to Sawyer to Adolescence Stage.
  - Kalamazoo River Trail updated to Adolescence.
  - Pursuing updated routing of Kalamazoo River Valley Trail to Vicksburg, nearing completion.
- **Follow-up Meeting with Marcy Hamilton:** TGC to arrange to ensure correct trail alignments.
- **Cost of Urban Sidepaths:** Estimated at \$1 million plus per mile for construction.



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- **MDOT Ped/Bike Meetings:** Cancelled; stressed the importance of sub-region meetings at least annually.
- **Frequency of Sub-region Meetings:** Proposed annually, in spring post-grant submissions, for sharing best practices and lessons learned.
- **The City of Portage Utilization of PASER Ratings:** Cited for trail maintenance prioritization.
- **Meeting Materials:** PowerPoint and recording to be distributed to participants.

## Meeting Survey Results:

What Trail Are You Most Closely Affiliated With?

20 responses

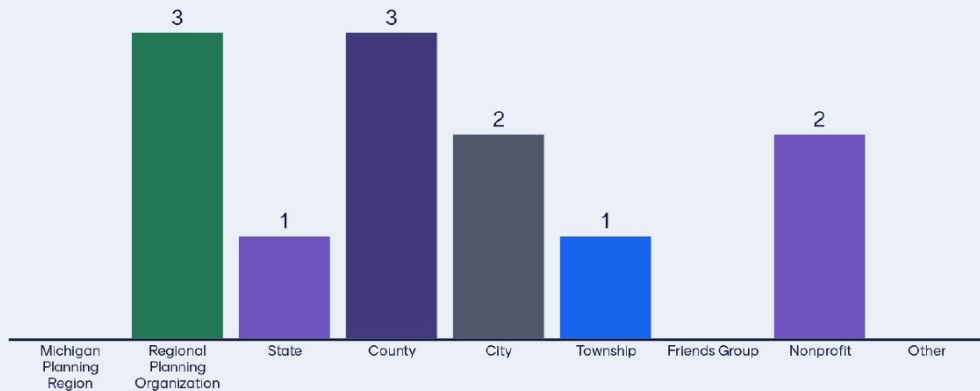




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## What Type of Organization Are You With?



## What three words best describe a world-class trail experience?

42 responses





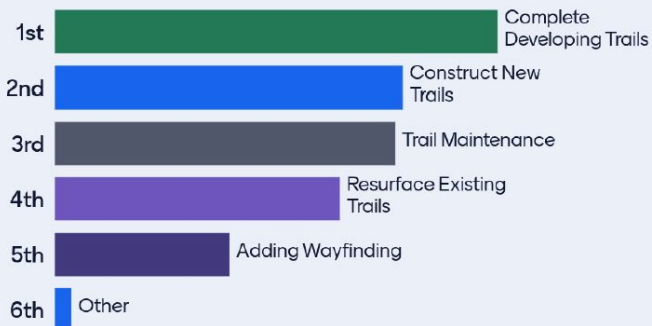
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### What three words best describe a regional trail system?

43 responses



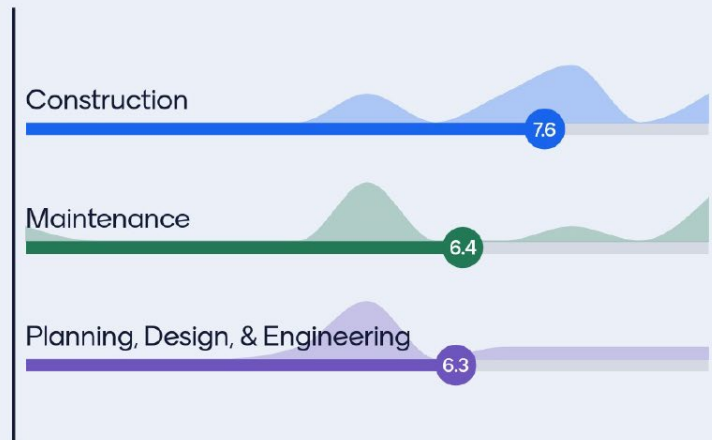
### How Would You Prioritize Spending Trail Dollars?





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## How Difficult is it to Obtain Funding For:



## What Is Your Biggest Non-Funding Related Roadblock in Developing Trails? 25 responses

