

## **Cycling**

A map of less-traveled, presumably safer routes is being prepared for Sylvania-area bicyclists.

Greg Huffman, a member of the Bikeways Committee, showed Sylvania Township trustees a draft map of the effort so far at the trustee's most recent meeting.

Mr. Huffman, a project coordinator for the township and its former public works manager, told the trustees that the effort is to show bicycle riders routes which can be taken to keep them off busier roadways.

For instance, a cyclist near Whiteford and Sylvania wanting to get to the Franklin Park Mall can avoid heavily-traveled Sylvania by going a short distance north on Whiteford and then head east through attractive residential neighborhoods. Eventually the cyclist will reach Talmadge Road, find a place to cross, and be at the mall.

Mr. Huffman said the goal of the committee is not to suggest road improvements, but to simply suggest alternate paths of travel which may be more pleasant for those on bicycles.

David Simko, township fiscal officer, asked if any grant money was available which might allow for some road widening.

Mr. Huffman said that would be something to be discussed after the pathway map had been completed.

Mr. Simko, in the past, has suggested the possibility of widening some township roads, particularly in the east for cyclists. He has noted that with the University-Parks Trail and a more rural setting, the western portion of the township has several routes available for cyclists.

The longer-established eastern portion of the township provides less in the way of opportunity for casual biking. Mr. Simko said he isn't necessarily advocating for large-scale change, but just widening some roads by a few feet to allow for safer bicycling.

Mr. Huffman said when the pathways map is complete it will be presented to the Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments.

Once approved, the goal will be to publicize the alternate routes.

There will likely be a push to have different jurisdictions install signs for cyclists to follow, he added.

Posted: 3/2/2015