

## Public Hearing for Proposed United States Bicycle Route 35 to be held Holland

A public hearing will be held to take comment on a proposed bicycle route along the coast of Lake Michigan, which would be the Michigan section of United States Bicycle Route 35 (USBR 35). In Michigan, the route would run approximately 500 miles, from New Buffalo to Sault Ste. Marie. In West Michigan this bicycle route would connect West Michigan cities (South Haven, Saugatuck/Douglas, Holland, and Grand Haven/Ferrysburg).

The Public Hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00pm at the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council's offices, located at 301 Douglas Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49424. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the West Michigan Route traveling from South Haven to Grand Haven/Ferrysburg.

The proposed southwest Michigan route is mapped and can be viewed by going to [www.south-haven.com/pages/parks/pdf/Draft\\_USBR35\\_Michigan\\_Jul\\_15\\_2010.pdf](http://www.south-haven.com/pages/parks/pdf/Draft_USBR35_Michigan_Jul_15_2010.pdf). The route is a recommendation as to the most suitable roads and trails for a touring bicyclist. There is no proposed construction, and the route takes advantage of existing road and trail facilities. In the future there may be signage along the route.

The proposed route was developed by a Corridor Committee which is made up of representatives of the Cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Petoskey, Traverse City, Manistee, Ludington, Muskegon, Holland, South Haven and Saint Joseph. The role of the Corridor Committee is to develop a route with public input and then proposal the route to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT will consider the route, and if acceptable, will apply for national recognition as a United States Bicycle Route.

The route is being developed with input from county road commissions, municipal officials and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Input has been requested from state and local bicycle clubs, as well as bicycle enthusiasts. More information on the U.S. Bike Route system is available from the Adventure Cycling Association website at <http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes/nbrn/usbikewaysystem.cfm>.

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC), the regional planning agency for Allegan and Ottawa counties and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Holland Area was asked by the USBR-35 Corridor Committee to host a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed route. Any comments on the proposed route can be directed to Dave Bee, Director of the WMRPC, by email at [dbee@wmrpc.org](mailto:dbee@wmrpc.org), by phone 616-774-8400 or by mail to the WMRPC, 820 Monroe NW, Suite 214, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.

### CONTACT

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