

# MEETING MINUTES OF PRAIRIE TRAILS CLUB INC.

BLPOA Community Center  
6996 South SR 10  
Bass Lake (Knox), Indiana

February 22, 2024

## MEMBERS

Diane Blais  
Russ Blais  
Linda Byer  
Paul Byer  
Randy Glass  
Joan Hardesty  
Kathy Lucas  
Steve Lucas  
Anita McMillin  
Brian McMillin  
Rich Vallicelli

## GUEST

Bob Albert, Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum

## Call to Order by Vice President

On February 22, 2024, Russ Blais, Vice President, called to order a membership meeting of the Prairie Trails Club Inc. ("PTC") at the BLPOA Community Center, 6996 South SR 10, Knox at 5:35 pm, CST (6:35 pm, EST). Introductions were made around the table.

## Review and Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2023

Linda Byer moved for approval of the minutes of December 7, 2023 without amendment. Joan Hardesty seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## Election of Membership Officers

Russ called for the Election of Officers. He said currently, Rhonda Milner was President; he was Vice President; Steve Lucas was Secretary; Kathy Lucas was Treasurer; Linda Byer was Liaison to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. He added that Officers serve for one-year terms. Russ asked if any other PTC member wished to be an Officer or wished to nominate another person as an Officer. There were no responses. Diane Blais moved to re-elect all current officers by acclamation. Joan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **Review and Approval of Treasurer’s Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds**

**Review and Approval of Treasurer’s Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds**



**Kathy Lucas distributed written copies of the Treasurer’s Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds as follows:**

### **Treasurer’s Report February 22, 2024**

**FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST (FFBT)**  
**Balance on December 7, 2023**

**\$111,719.35**

#### **INCOME**

12/11/23	Donation from Kay & Jack Reibold	\$100.00
12/11//23	Grant from Convention & Visitors Center for 5K/3K	2,000.00
12/27/23	Proceeds from post-bazaar sales (Peggy Stalbrink)	75.00
02/14/24	RunSignup Participant	<u>25.00</u>

**Total Income** **\$2,200.00**

#### **EXPENSES**

01/23/24	Check #1147 to Precept Partners, Webmaster	\$270.00
02/08/24	Check #1148 to Ace Hardware (broom and rasp)	<u>58.00</u>

**Total Expenses** **\$328.00**

**ENDING FFBT BALANCE AS OF 12/07/23**

**\$113,591.35**

**RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICTED FUNDS****TOTAL AMOUNTS  
PER CATEGORY****Benches**

Blais-Vlaming and McMillin Bench	\$350 each; awaiting placement	\$700.00	\$700.00
----------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------	----------

**Signage/Web**

Luminous Fund Grant #2 (2018)	Signs Bass Lake (incl. UR Here)	960.64	
Hardesty Memorial Grant	Wayfinding or historic signage	3,198.32	
Lucas Lakehouse Guest Donations	Future Vision/Website	662.50	
			\$4,821.46

**Northwest Extension**

Luminous Fund Grant #4 (2020)	NW Extension (or operations)	5,000.00	
Luminous Fund Grant #5 (2021)	NW Extension (or operations)	5,000.00	
Luminous Fund Grant #6 (2022)	NW Extension (or operations)	10,000.00	
Mitchel-Kane Charitable Fund	NW Extension (or operations)	6,000.00	
VFW Grant	For "trail improvements"	5,000.00	
PTC Contribution to ITP Match	Trail Extension	10,000.00	
Gene Novello	Trail Extension	1,200.00	
Naylor Pipe	Trail Extension	400.00	
NICF Grant	Trail Extension	25,600.00	
Rails to Trails Conservancy	Trail Extension	7,500.00	
			\$75,700.00

**Maintenance**

Mower Sale Funding	General maintenance	1,368.42	
Hardesty Memorial Fund (Joan)	Trail maintenance	1,668.52	
HVRM (and Buckeye Pipeline)	Trail maintenance	2,368.42	
Rich Stalbrink Mem, Donations	Maintenance or Most Needed	2,699.11	
Doral Solar Contribution	Bridge/Trailside Clearing	7,269.48	
CVC Grant for 5K3K trail event	Featured Event	2,000.00	
			\$17,373.95

**TOTAL RESTRICTED \$98,595.41****FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST**

<b>TOTAL IN BANK</b>	<b>\$113,591.35</b>
<b>— RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$98,595.41</u></b>
<b>== UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$14,995.94</b>

Kathy reported that Kay and Jack Reimbold sent a donation of \$100 along with a very nice note of appreciation to PTC membership and friends for their work to maintain the trail. "If you know Kay or Jack personally, please pass along a hearty thanks."

Kathy added the PTC also received \$2,000 from the Starke County Convention & Visitors Center (CVC) to help support our 5K Run/3K walk on May 22. She said that rather than add a new category, she included this item under the category maintenance, even though the intent is to make improvements at the trailhead on Starke County Road 700 East as well as to support trail maintenance.

She said the donation from Peggy Stalbrink was a follow-up on her efforts with two bazaars during the Holiday Season. "Peg has been a tremendous source of income and goodwill for the PTC, and I hope you'll give her a nice pat on the back for being such a dedicated member."

Kathy said income included the first RunSignup participant in the 5K Run/3K Walk. Our online bank account also reflects \$35 more from her \$25 “entry” in the race plus a \$10 donation. She said that income would be reflected in next month’s report.

“As for expenses, we paid \$270 to our Webmaster for 24/7 monitoring of malware and spyware and for communications and updates.” The Webmaster has recently updated our website to feature our 5K Run/Walk and to update information regarding the one-mile northwest extension of the trail. These expenses would be reflected in her March report.

Testing our preparedness for implementing new Indiana State Department of Revenue requirements to exercise the PTC’s tax exempt status, Kathy purchased another broom for the trail as well as a rasp to smooth edges on the wooden gates. “The Indiana State Department of Revenue has totally changed its program of authorizing NFPs to exercise an exemption from sales tax.” We used to print-out one ST-105 form and then present it to numerous vendors or give it to them for their files. Now we are required to have a separate NP-1 Exemption Certificate for each transaction. For an NP-1, an authorized person must submit to DOR online the name and nine-digit zip code of the vendor, wait 24-48 hours for an NP-1, and then print it out. Members will need to let us know well in advance when planning to make a trail purchase. Diane has agreed to serve as “NFP backup” when Kathy is unavailable. The process requires a password, and the State’s website can become overloaded.

Paul Byer moved for approval of the Treasurer’s Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. Anita McMillin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **Maintenance Workgroup Report**

### **Vegetation Management Between US Highway 35 and Starke County Road 400 East**

Paul provided four estimates to contract for mowing between US Highway 35 and Starke County Road 400 East. After extended discussion, the estimate membership approved by consensus was for J&K Excavating at \$200 per hour for ten hours or a total of \$2,000. J&K would use a side-mount mower on the equestrian trail as it also had successfully for the section between Starke County Road 300 East and 400 East. Kathy reflected she would apply the Doral Solar Contribution for funding.

### **Consideration of Purchase of Sabre Samurai Cutter**

Paul and Linda suggested the possibility of PTC purchase of a Sabre Samurai Cutter. According to its online description, the Samurai Cutter was developed in conjunction with the “Canadian Research Council’s Industrial Technology Centre” and tested by the “Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute”. A hydraulic motor powers an oscillating cam that connects two cutting blades. Varying the hydraulic flow using the engine throttle changes the speed of the blades. Two-inch opposing sickle sections allows the cutter to cut material up to 1 1/2” inches in diameter. Linda said the cutter has been advertised as costing \$2,249.

Paul said that to use a Sabre Samurai Cutter, the operator would need a tractor with the capacity to power hydraulic hoses, and the hoses would be an additional expense. Linda said a major advantage is that this equipment could be used along much of the length of

the trail. In addition to the Byers' tractor, the Lisses and Larry Wickert may have a tractor capable of operating the Sabre Samurai Cutter if they are willing to allow the use of their equipment. Rich Vallicelli suggested that if the PTC determines to purchase the needed equipment, it should be with the understanding that the owner of a tractor would be compensated for wear-and-tear and not merely reimbursed for gasoline. A decision on purchase of a Sabre Samurai Cutter was tabled to allow consultation with the Lisses and Larry Wickert.

#### Widening Intersection Gate Clearances

Paul reported that he has widened the wooden gate clearances between US 35 and Starke County Road 100 West. The adjustment will allow passage of recumbent bikes and strollers without lifting the gates. Since the opening of this section of the Erie Trail, the PTC has received requests to widen the gate clearances. West of County Road 100 West clearances were wider, and gates east of US 35 are steel with a different design. At the crossing of Starke County Road 125 East in Aldine, Paul placed hinges on the gate to keep it from touching the ground. This effort is temporary until timbers can be bought and designed to repair or replace the gate there. Members thanked Paul for his work on this project.

#### Vegetation Management Between Main Street in North Judson and Bogus Run Bridge

An informal group calling themselves the "Erie Trail Travelers" (the "ETT") performed or have directed vegetation management at locations between Main Street in North Judson and Bogus Run Bridge. The HVRM advanced \$1,000 to assist the ETT with opening a bank account. Members of the ETT have placed structures within the area—particularly at the former State Road 10 Rest Park and adjacent to the trailhead at Main Street. The indication during the meeting was that the bank account has been closed, and the HVRM has terminated any arrangement for future ETT actions.

Kirt Verhagen sent an email to Steve on February 10 which stated in part: "I think it would be important at this point in the year to solidify what role the PTC would like to take on in the maintenance of the trail from Main St to the former rest park. The last season's cost for this was around \$1800 +/- . The Erie Trail Travelers has some funds deposited with the HVRM earmarked for this maintenance in 2024. I can cover thru a donation to the PTC whatever balance above that amount that's needed to do the maintenance. So while there would be no financial outlay by the PTC asked, there would still be a matter of engaging a service and ensuring proper work is done to include cutting back from and cutting above the trail."

During the meeting it was reported that the ETT fund has been dissolved, and there is no HVRM earmarked funding. Linda emphasized Kirt probably had not previously received this information.

In a February 23 email, PTC member Randy Glass volunteered "to tidy up a section of trail" from Main Street to Indiana Highway 10. "The weeds on east side had grown and now falling on the trail and I would volunteer to mow that side back some and trim the over hanging tree limbs.... I have a walk behind brush mower I would use. Please let me know if this is ok to do. I would have to drive my truck along trail to haul out the brush." By email Linda and Steve both thanked Randy for volunteering.

During the meeting, members discussed challenges with effective management of the area. Included was a discussion of trash receptacles located along the Erie Trail near Main Street and at the former State Road 10 Rest Park. Linda stated the general PTC model for trash management is the one applied by Indiana DNR and similar park systems regarding trash. A patron who brings items into a park is responsible for their removal—a practice sometimes called “carry in, carry out”. Members observed that the two trash receptacles within the corridor are often filled or overflowing and have irregular service. In light of irregular trash pick-up, the PTC Membership recommended removal of the trash receptacles.

Members also discussed commercial signage placed by the ETT within the former State Road 10 Rest Park. The membership determined to make no recommendation regarding the signage.

Linda reported she has contacted "Brothers with Mowers Lawn Care" for a quote on a possible mowing contract within the corridor for 2024. She said she has yet to receive a quote. "Brothers with Mowers Lawn Care" has previously provided its services between Main Street and Starke County Road 250 West.

The membership directed Steve to email Linda, Paul, Kirt, Randy, Bob Albert and Bob Barcus to summarize the PTC's discussion and recommendations. The hope is that this group will collaborate on a consensus proposal for addressing vegetation management between Main Street in North Judson and Bogus Run Bridge.

### Northwest Trail Extension Workgroup Report

Steve said on Ground Hog's Day, Erica Gummere, Grants Coordinator for the Indiana DNR's Division of State Parks, emailed that the State Grant Agreement for the Erie Trail and Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail through North Judson was complete and forwarded a copy of the Grant Agreement. Kathy and Bob Aloï, President of Territorial Engineering, finalized negotiations for the entry of a “Short Form of Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services” by which Territorial Engineering will serve as the PTC's consultant for grant implementation. On February 9, Bob Aloï and Rhonda as President of the PTC, met in person and signed the professional services contract.

On February 16 at the request of Bob Aloï, an onsite meeting was held to discuss the trail extension. In attendance were Bob; Larry and Steve on behalf of the PTC; Andrew Rowe as North Judson Clerk-Treasurer; and Joe Leszek as North Judson Town Manager. The discussion focused primarily on the trail route where it parallels Main Street, and at what is sometimes called “the Triangle”, across the tracks from HVRM's Grasselli Tower, where the Town and the PTC hope to partner development of a trailhead and pocket park.

### Next Level Trails Round 4 Grant to Town of LaCrosse for Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail (“GKM Trail”)

On December 20, 2023, Governor Holcomb announced Next Level Trails Awards for Round 4. Among successful applicants was the Town of LaCrosse for a 3.1-mile paved trail from its public library to LaPorte County Road 2200 South. When completed the LaCrosse project for the Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail (“GKM Trail) will be part of the

Great American Rail Trail. Partners on the project include LaPorte County and the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte.

On January 17, 2024, Justin Kiel, a trail proponent and Vice President of the LaPorte County Council, participated in the DNR's Grantee Orientation Webinar. The plan is for the LaPorte County GKM Trail to eventually connect with the Starke County GKM Trail. In addition, there are discussions underway to extend this trail system farther west toward Hebron as a part of the Great American Rail-Trail and American Discovery Trail.

## **Report of Workgroup for May 25 5K Run/3K Walk and Bike Ride on the Great American Rail Trail**

Brian and Anita are chairing a workgroup to help prepare for the 5K Run/3K Walk. Other members of the workgroup are Rich, Diane, Russ, Kathy and Steve. On December 14, 2023, Brian and Anita hosted the first workgroup meeting at their home. Since then he members have been putting pieces together for the inaugural event.

Brian emphasized during the meeting that volunteers are needed to work on the day of the event. He brought temporary black-on-white signs that would be strategically placed shortly before the event to help participants get to the trailhead.

An initial challenge was identifying the event location in a way that could be entered in motor vehicle navigation systems. Without a US Postal Service address, navigational systems will not typically recognize a site. The problem was exacerbated because the remote location of the trailhead on Starke County Road 700 East is shown on websites as having a Knox, Ora, or Monterey address. After searching the workgroup determined the site has a Monterey address under the management of Winamac. Rich sought to have the Winamac Post Office allow the assignment of an address, but the request was not approved because the PTC does not have a building at this location.

Google Maps has recently identified as a "place of interest" the "Erie Trail end". This site is also the beginning point for the 5K Run/3K Walk. The "Erie Trail end" is identified as being at: **8759 N 700 E, Monterey, IN US 46960** Typing or sweeping this address can now be Googled for locating the scheduled event or by anyone who wishes to use the trail. The Googled address provides a site view from the four cardinal directions, with one view of our yellow gates.

The workgroup has contracted with T&H Timing, LLC, to time and help stage the event and with [RunSignup.com](https://www.runsignup.com) to provide a platform for participants to register in the event.

The core elements of the event are the 5K Run and the 3K Walk. Anita asked about the Bike Ride status. Steve responded he is consulting with John Bawcum, President of Friends of the Panhandle Pathway, and Nathan Origer, Pulaski County Executive Director of the Department of Economic Development, to seek consensus on a route for a Bike Ride. This element would begin at the trailhead and go south on Starke County Road 700 East. The Bike Ride would not use the trail. He does not anticipate there would be a formal start or be timed. There would be no fee for participation. The intended result of any Bike Ride would be to underline the growth of the PTC's partnership with the Friends of the Panhandle Pathway.

Paul obtained a quote from J&K Excavating for parking lot stone on the east side of Starke County Road 700 East. For 70 cubic yards of stone and finish work, the cost

would be between \$3,500 and \$4,000, depending on the amount required for finishing. The surface coverage would be approximately 50 feet by 80 feet. Bob Albert, the HVRM's Liaison to the PTC, reiterated that the HVRM has previously approved upgrading the CR 700 E trailhead, including the placement of gravel.

### **Update on 2024 Warrior Expeditions Bicycle Trek**

Sarah Zeller of Warrior Expeditions informed Steve that seven veterans will participate in its Bike Trek on the Great American Rail-Trail. The event is being coordinated with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to begin on its "May 8 Celebrate Trails Day". That's one more participant than last year, and if the timing required to arrive in Starke County is similar to last year, would mean the veterans will get here about the time of our 5K Run/3K Walk.

At the PTC meeting last June, members agreed to listing on the *2024 Warrior Expeditions Bike Program* and to again host the trekkers this year. As was reflected in the Minutes, the "Members expressed enthusiasm for the program and for the ability to give back in a small way to our veterans." That was when we anticipated their arrival about like last year—between June 2 and June 5. In the interim the PTC committed to the 5K Run/3K Walk on May 25.



Sarah Zeller sent a follow-up email to confirm that the PTC would again host the trekkers this year. She was informed of the potential conflict with the 5K Run and 3K Walk. Sarah responded she could "mark on the support sheet that" the PTC "will be unavailable" to provide support "on the 24th- 25th, if that helps". Following membership discussion the determination was to confirm PTC support this year, but with veterans informed support would be unavailable on May 24 and May 25. The Warrior Expeditions convention is that veterans are to text or phone the local support representatives (Steve and Kathy) 48 hours prior to anticipated arrival. Members agreed that the PTC should offer availability on the afternoon of May 25, if sufficient notice is given. Kathy reflected there will be a need for members to assist with hosting, particularly for offering an evening or morning meal.

### **BIC Committee Report with Gold-on-Black Erie Trail Sign Purchase Action**

As of Valentine's Day, Russ, Brian and Steve placed all 26 red signs purchased last fall to emphasize that unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited on the trail. Russ and Brian also removed obsolete black-on-white signs that reference the "North Judson Trail" or the "North Judson Erie Trail".





At most trail intersections with public roads, the PTC had already placed gold-on-black “Erie Trail” signs, but more were needed to replace removed signs and a few more will be needed on the one-mile trail extension in North Judson. The Branding, Identification and Continuity (“BIC”) Committee recommended the purchase of ten—particularly if there is a quantity discount. Existing gold-on-black signs were manufactured by and bought from Traffic Control Specialists (“TCS”) in Knox.

Diane moved to approve the BIC Committee recommendation for the purchase of ten new black-on-gold Erie Trail signs and that their purchase from TCS also be authorized. Paul seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Linda reflected that the wooden “Rules of the Trail” signs, developed for the first three-mile trail segment west of Starke County Road 100 West, need to be updated. She said that paragraph 10 needs to be changed. This paragraph now states: “Report problems to: Starke County Sheriff’s Department 574.772.3771. Use 911 for emergencies. General questions or concerns contact [blacked out on most signs].” Linda recommended the PTC modify the “Rules of the Trails” signage to instead reference its website. Russ and Kathy agreed this signage needs to be changed. Kathy added that the PTC’s current brochure has a rule #10 that says: “Ride horses on the sand horse trail and not on the pavement.” Also it has a rule about Class 1 and 2 e-bikes. She reflected “we probably need to discuss updating these signs. BIC Committee issue?” The item was referred to the BIC Committee for its review and recommendations for action to the membership.

## Great American Rail-Trail Signage

On January 17, 2023, Kathy and Steve represented the PTC in a Zoom call for the annual Great American Rail-Trail Stakeholders Meeting. One of the announcements during the call was for the development of 4” by 4” white-on-green signs to identify trails that are part of the Great American system. They later received by mail a model sign which was passed around the table. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy reports the Great American is now 55% complete with 120 miles in development—nearly 7% of the remaining mileage.

With the mailing that included the sign, the Conservancy included a letter: “We are eager to send more of these signs your way, free of charge, to install along your portion of the Great American Rail-Trail in advance of the 5-year anniversary [of the Great American] on May 8, 2024. If you would like to order more for your trail(s), please complete the request form at this link: [bit.ly?GRTSigns](https://bit.ly/GRTSigns).”

Making the signage request at [bit.ly](https://bit.ly) proved difficult. Following email exchanges with Kevin Belle, Property Manager for the Great American, the sign request was completed on February 20. Completion of the online process included how many of the 4” by 4” free signs the PTC wanted. Steve requested 15.

Also, although not mentioned in our communications with Kevin or during the Zoom call, there was reference online to an opportunity to request larger signs of a different style. These are to be used at high-traffic areas with those areas referenced in the request. Steve asked for one at the trailhead on Starke County Road 700 East, one at US Highway 35, one at the former Rest Park on Indiana Highway 10, and one at Main Street in North Judson—so four altogether. The online reference to these larger signs did not indicate whether they would also be free, so he did not commit the PTC to their purchase.

Near the end of the meeting, Kathy and Steve took part in the Indiana break-out session chaired by Ken Bryan, the Conservancy's Senior Strategist for External Relations. Ken had attended the Grand Opening of the two-mile extension southeast of US 35 and was instrumental in our receipt of \$7,500 toward match for the North Judson extension.

### **Trail Counters Report**

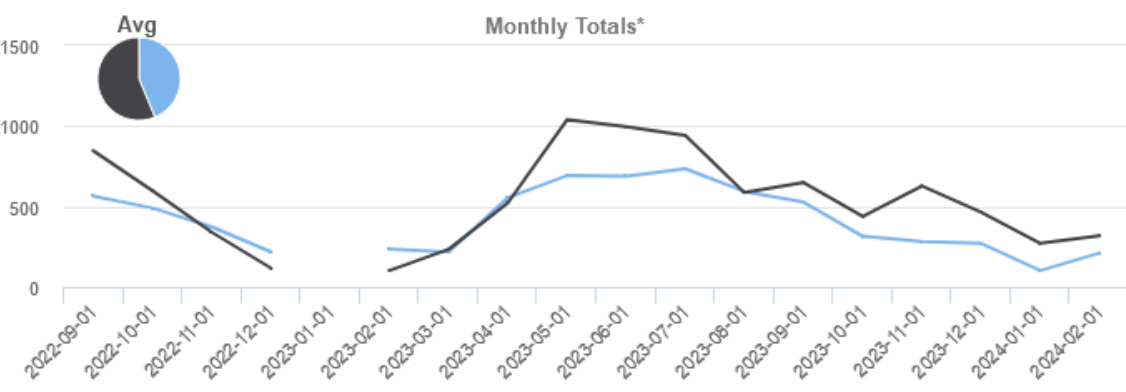
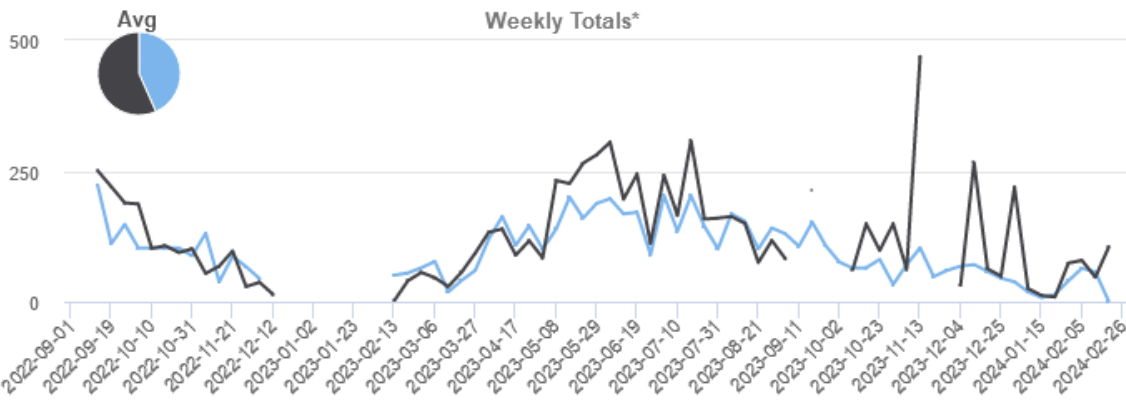
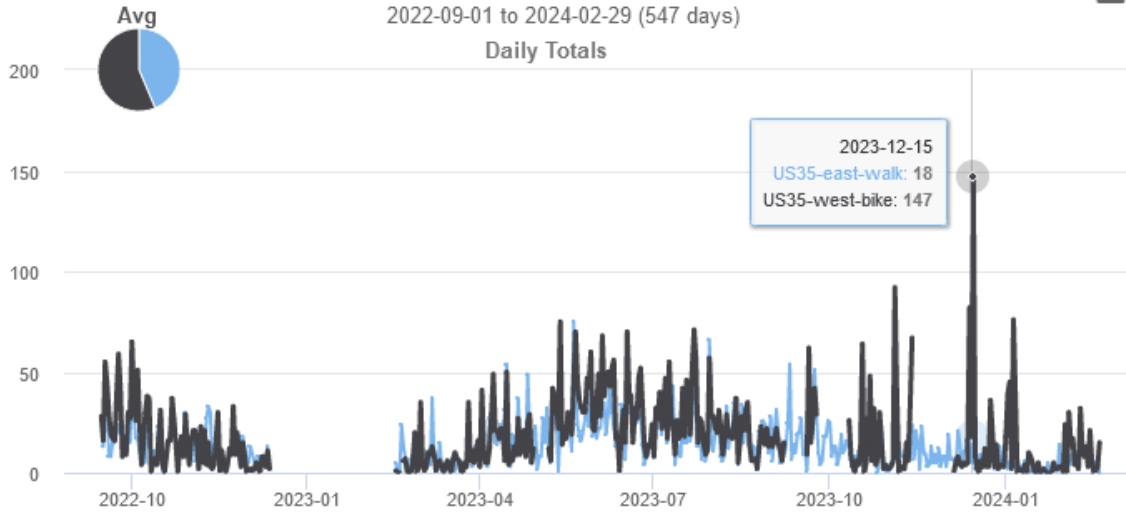
Joan Hardesty provided a cumulative trail counters report for 2023 with a glimpse into 2024. The report is the first that provides mid-winter numbers—which are predictably small. She said the batteries that power the trail counters are strained by cold winter temperatures, but they managed to function without mishap. Joan reflected that snow could block the counters' view to the trail and cause sporadic undercounting of users.

Rich expressed interest in having counters at locations which seem likely to have higher counts, such as near the former State Road 10 Rest Park. The current counters were funded as part of the DNR's Next Level Trails Round 1 Grant to extend the trail southeast of US Highway 35. They were expensive. Joan indicated that a third counter placed on the northwestern part of the trail would not be as expensive because the PTC now has elements of the system that would not have to be duplicated.

Members expressed their great appreciation for Joan's dedication to this project. The "Trail Counters Report" is an element of the minutes which draws considerable public interest and comment. Her full counter print-out follows:

# Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2022-09-01 to 2024-02-29 (547 days)



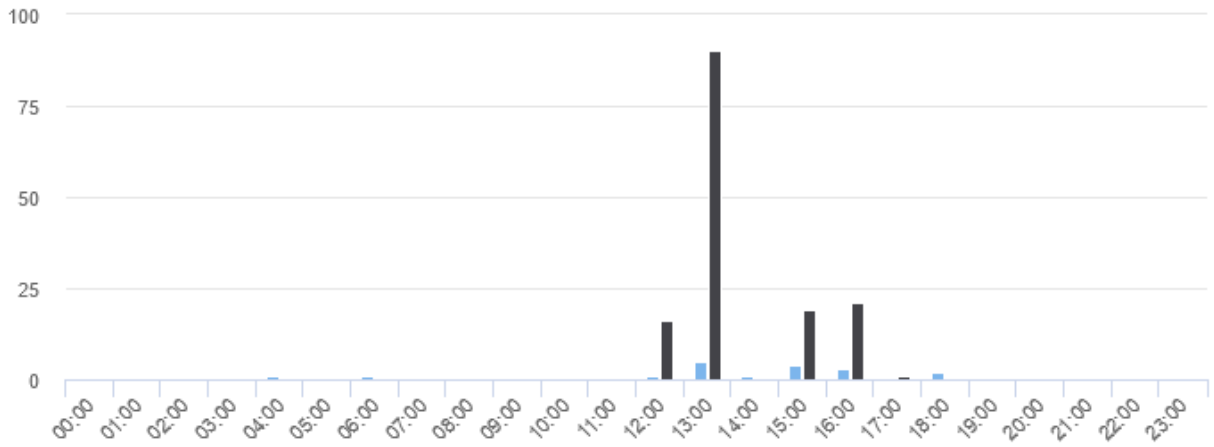
■ US35-east-walk ■ US35-west-bike

\* Based on Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

# Hours of the day



2023-12-15 to 2023-12-15  
Hourly averages

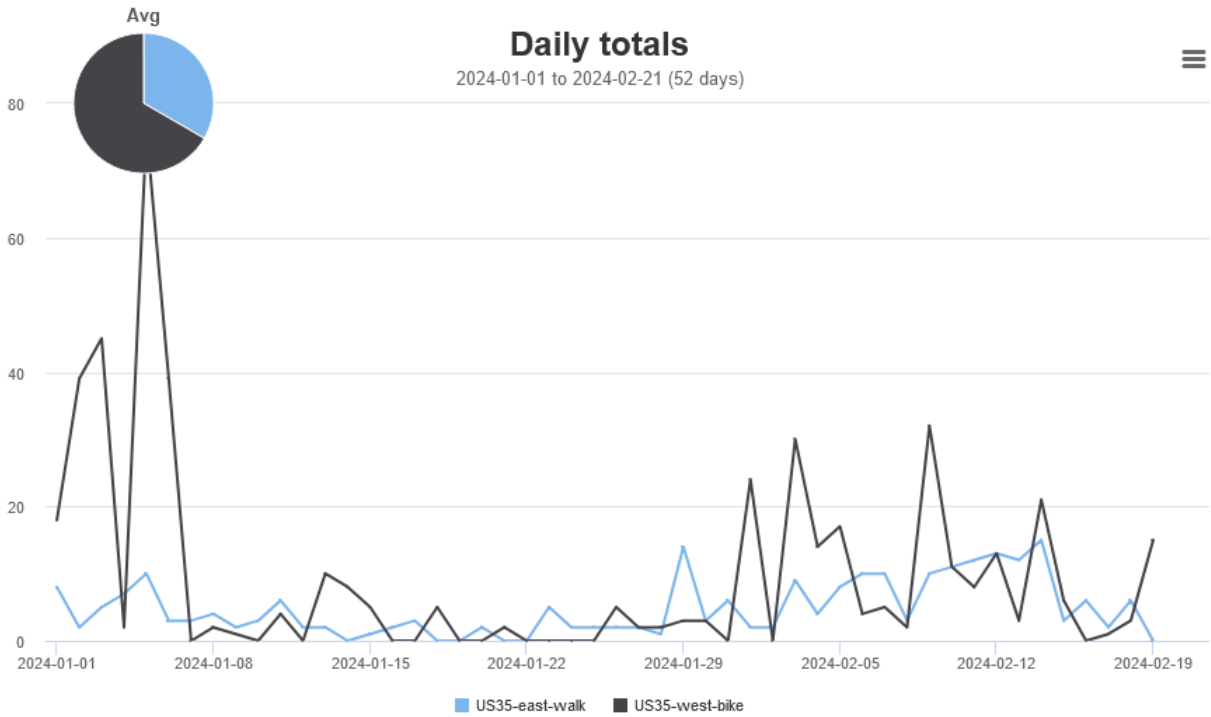


Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
US35-east-walk	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.0	5.0
US35-west-bike	29.4	19.0	31.1	1.0	90.0

# Daily totals

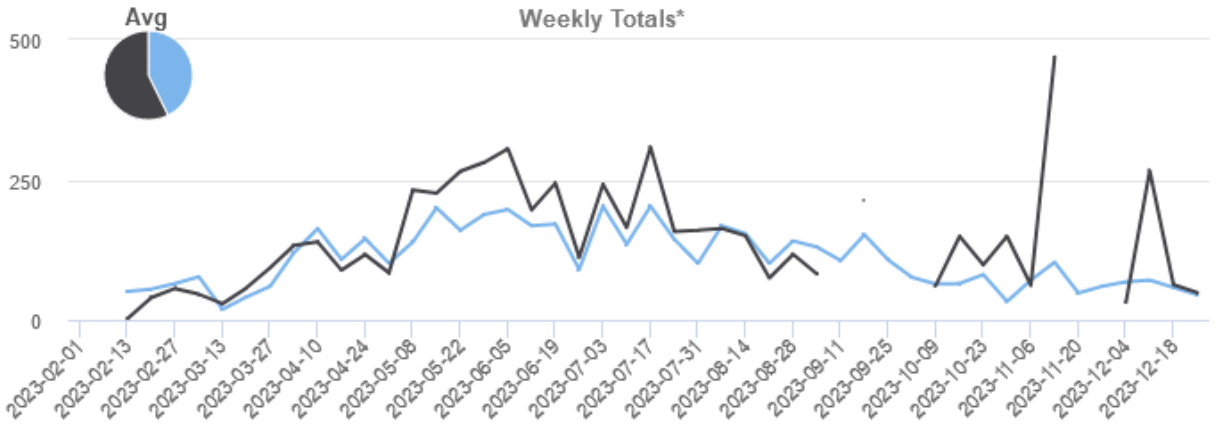
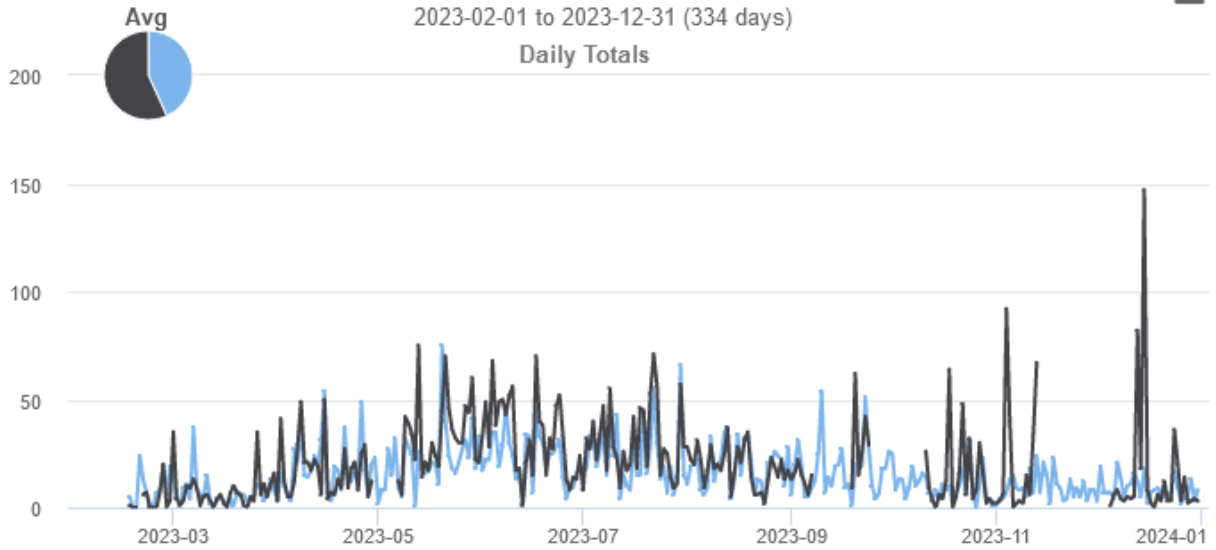


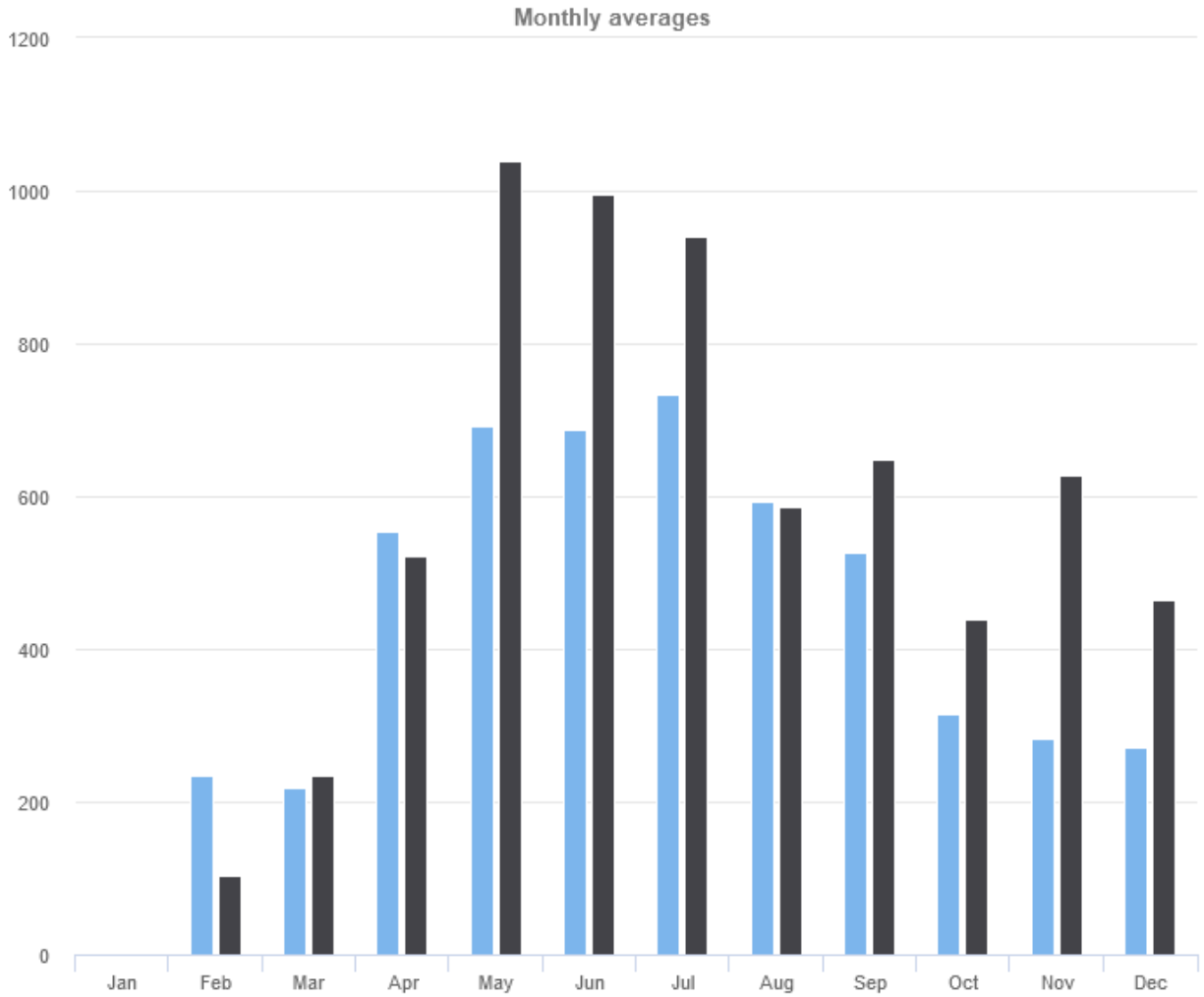
2024-01-01 to 2024-02-21 (52 days)



# Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2023-02-01 to 2023-12-31 (334 days)

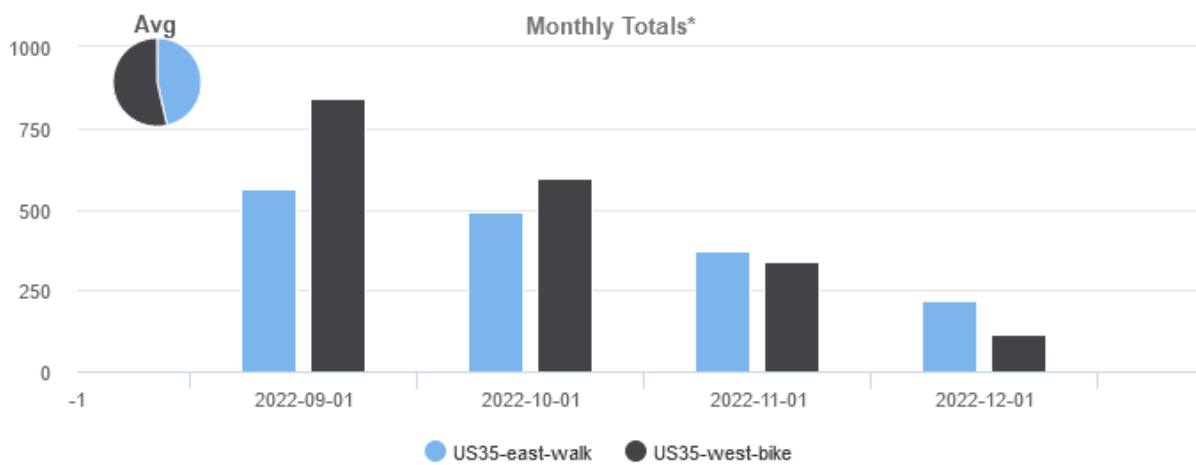
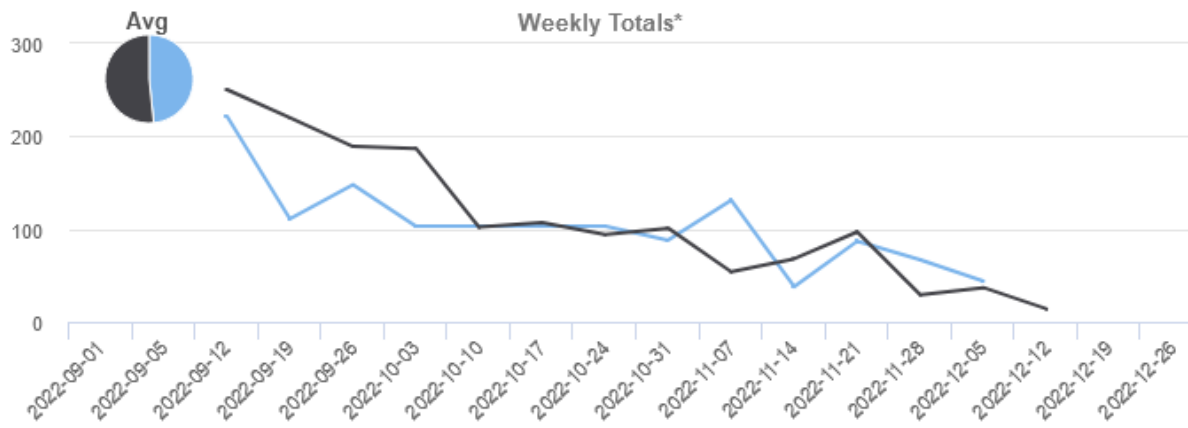
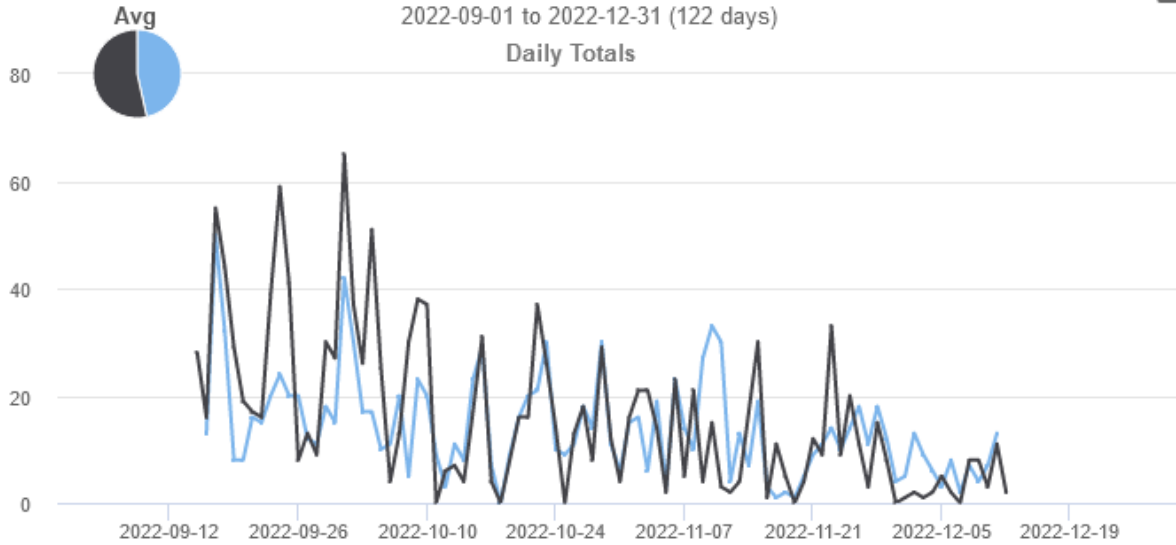




Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
US35-east-walk	464.5	527.0	193.0	218.0	734.0
US35-west-bike	600.0	586.0	286.1	102.7	1,039.1

# Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

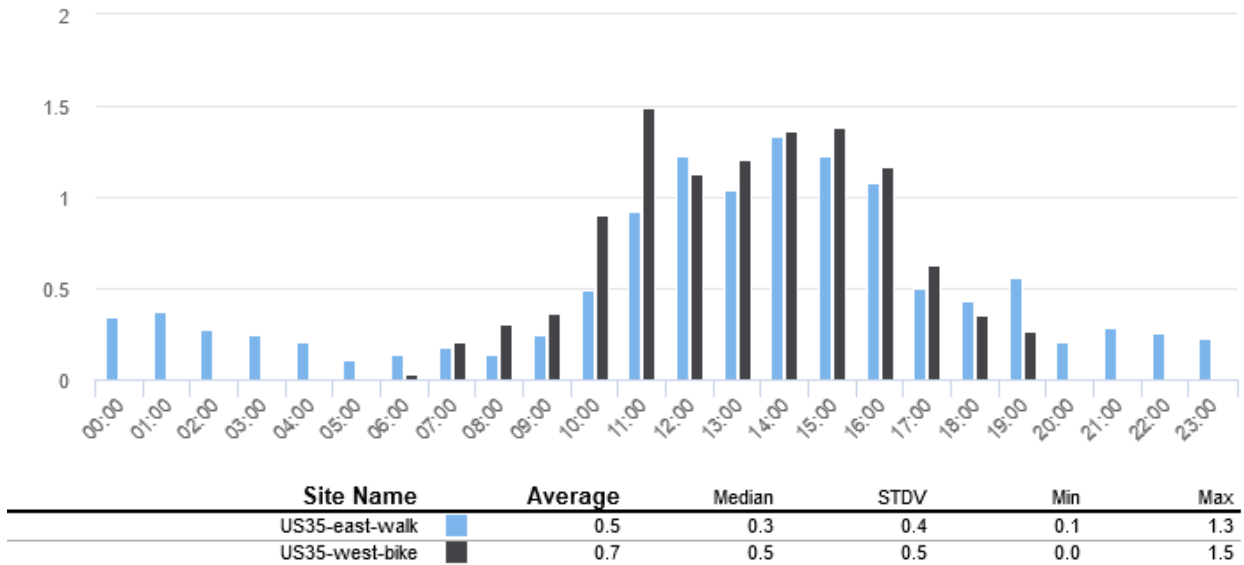
2022-09-01 to 2022-12-31 (122 days)



\* Based on Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

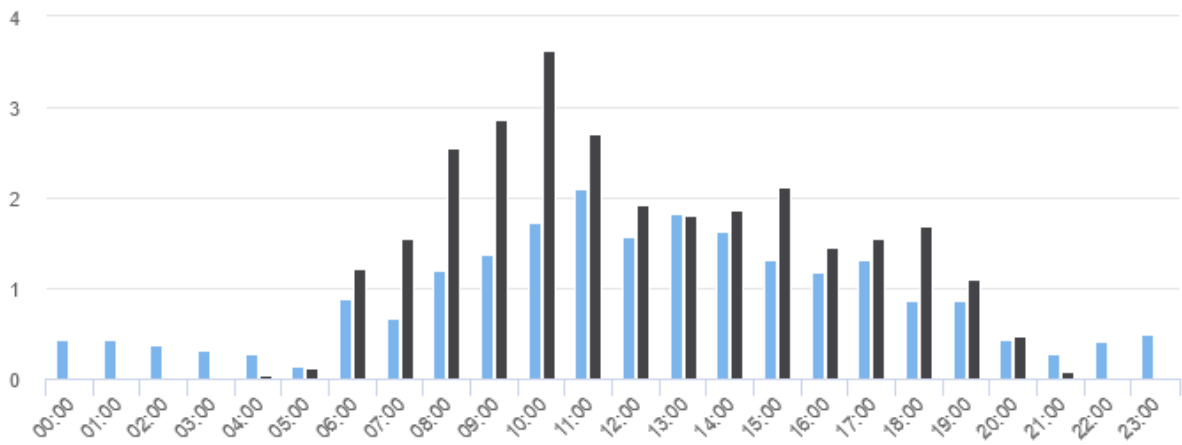
## Hours of the day

2023-02-14 to 2023-04-29  
Hourly averages



## Hours of the day

2023-05-01 to 2023-08-31  
Hourly averages





Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
US35-east-walk	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.1	2.1
US35-west-bike	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.0	3.6

### Master Summary

Download as  Excel  CSV

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2022	US35-east-walk									564*	490	372	217*	14.034	5,123	87
	US35-west-bike									844*	596	339	116*	16.067	5,865	89
2023	US35-east-walk		235*	218	555	692	688	734	593	527	315	282	271	15.624	5,703	319
	US35-west-bike		103*	234	522*	1,039*	995	941	586	648*	438*	628*	465*	20.525	7,492	263
2024	US35-east-walk	102	211*											4.800	1,757	50
	US35-west-bike	271	319*											9.600	3,514	50

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

\* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

## Consideration of Bass Lake Festival 5 Walk and 3K Run on July 27, 2024

Diane outlined the conditions for possible PTC management of the Bass Lake Festival 5K Walk and 3K Run scheduled for July 27. The PTC served in this capacity in 2021, 2022, and 2023. After thorough discussion, members decided expanded PTC responsibilities this year would make excessive another commitment for the 2024 Bass Lake Festival. They requested that Diane share the PTC's decision with Festival Treasurer, Mary Topelian. Members also asked that she pass along our appreciation for having had the opportunity during the past three years to assist with this worthy Festival event.

## Review of Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum Activities

Bob Albert reported that HVRM members are already getting ready for the Easter Trains. Passengers will board the train at the North Judson Depot and take a trip across the Kankakee River bridge at English Lake before returning. In response to a question, Bob said passengers ages two to twelve will again participated in an Easter Egg Hunt next to the Grasselli Tower.

## Friends of the Panhandle Pathway Activities

John Bawcum wrote that he anticipates joining a group of bicyclists for a trek on the Great American Rail-Trail, from June 9 through June 16, between Carroll and Davenport, Iowa. The trip is 333 miles long with the longest single-day ride being 65 miles.

John wrote the 20-mile evening bike ride "Moonlight Over the Tippy 2024" is scheduled for Friday, June 7, with a starting time of 7:00 p.m., CDT (6:00 p.m., EDT). The starting time and same-day registration is at the intersections of Logan Street and Main Street in Winamac.

## **Support for Starke County Economic Development Foundation Yellow River Kayak Project**

On the PTC's behalf, on January 19, 2023 Steve wrote a letter of support for the Yellow River Kayak Launches initiative pursued by the Starke County Economic Development Foundation.

## **Next Membership Meeting**

The next Membership Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) in the BLPOA Community Center, Bass Lake (Knox).

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m., CST (8:28 p.m., EST).