



DISCOVER
Northwest Michigan
EAST OF EXPECTED

Northwest Michigan Council of Governments



Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

Ogemaw County 4/18/2017





Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of IBT concept, progress and resources for funding
- Break
- Evaluate routes – discuss pros and cons
- Establish next steps and stakeholder “Trails Team” group



National Leader in Trails



MICHIGAN
OFFERS MORE THAN 
 **12,000 MILES**
OF RECREATIONAL
TRAILS 





560 MILES
OF FOREST LOOPED TRAILS

1,402 MILES
OF WATER TRAILS ALONG
MICHIGAN'S GREAT LAKES




900 MILES
of state park trails



905 MILES
OF BIKE TRAILS
ACROSS THE STATE

2,623 MILES of rail trails—the most
in the nation



590 MILES

3,627 MILES
of off-road-vehicle trails




6,407 MILES
of snowmobile trails



OF DESIGNATED
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS
INCLUDING THE
300 MILES OF
SHORE TO SHORE
RIDING TRAIL

1,150 MILES OF THE
NORTH COUNTRY SCENIC TRAIL





Two routes, one great trail.



PURE MICHIGAN



www.michigan.gov/dnrtrails

The Hiking Route

- Hiking - Existing Route
- Hiking - Proposed Route

The Bicycle Route

- Bicycle - Existing Route
- Bicycle - Proposed Route

- Highway
- Lakes and Rivers
- City
- County Boundary
- State Park Boundary
- State Land
- Federal Land

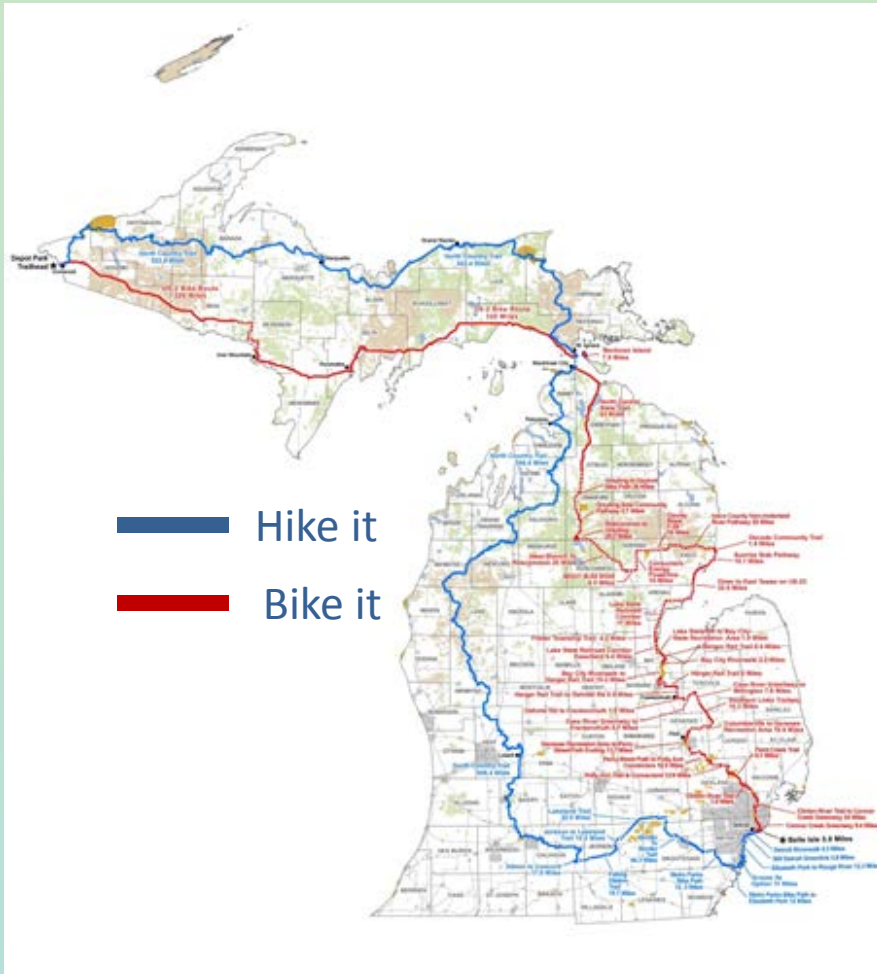
**** The illustrated hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities.**





Iron Belle Trail

Two Routes, one great trail



- Longest State-designated trail in the nation (2,064 mi)
 - 48 Counties
 - 240 Townships
 - 83 Towns/villages
- Links numerous existing trails
- “Pure MI” experience
- Provides recreation, transportation and economic opportunities (+health benefits!)



The Hiking Route



- Follows the North Country National Scenic Trail, starting in Bridges Park, Calhoun County
- Traverses the west side of Lower Peninsula
- Borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula
- 1,273 miles
- 72% Existing trails/completed
- 28% to be developed





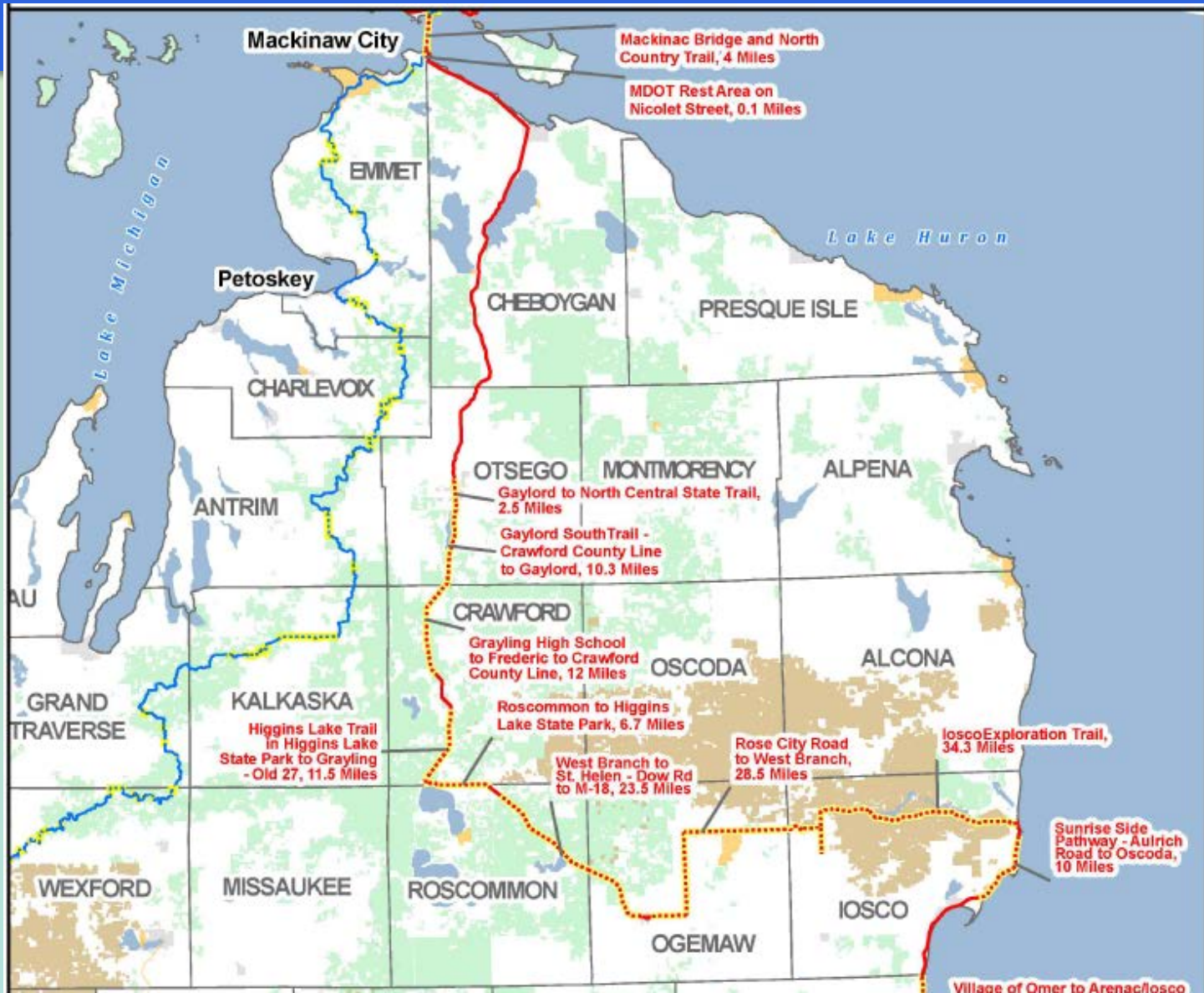
Biking Route



- Uses existing multi-use trails
- Follows US-2 (federal bike route 10 in the U.P.)
- 791 miles
- 60% completed
- 40% to be developed

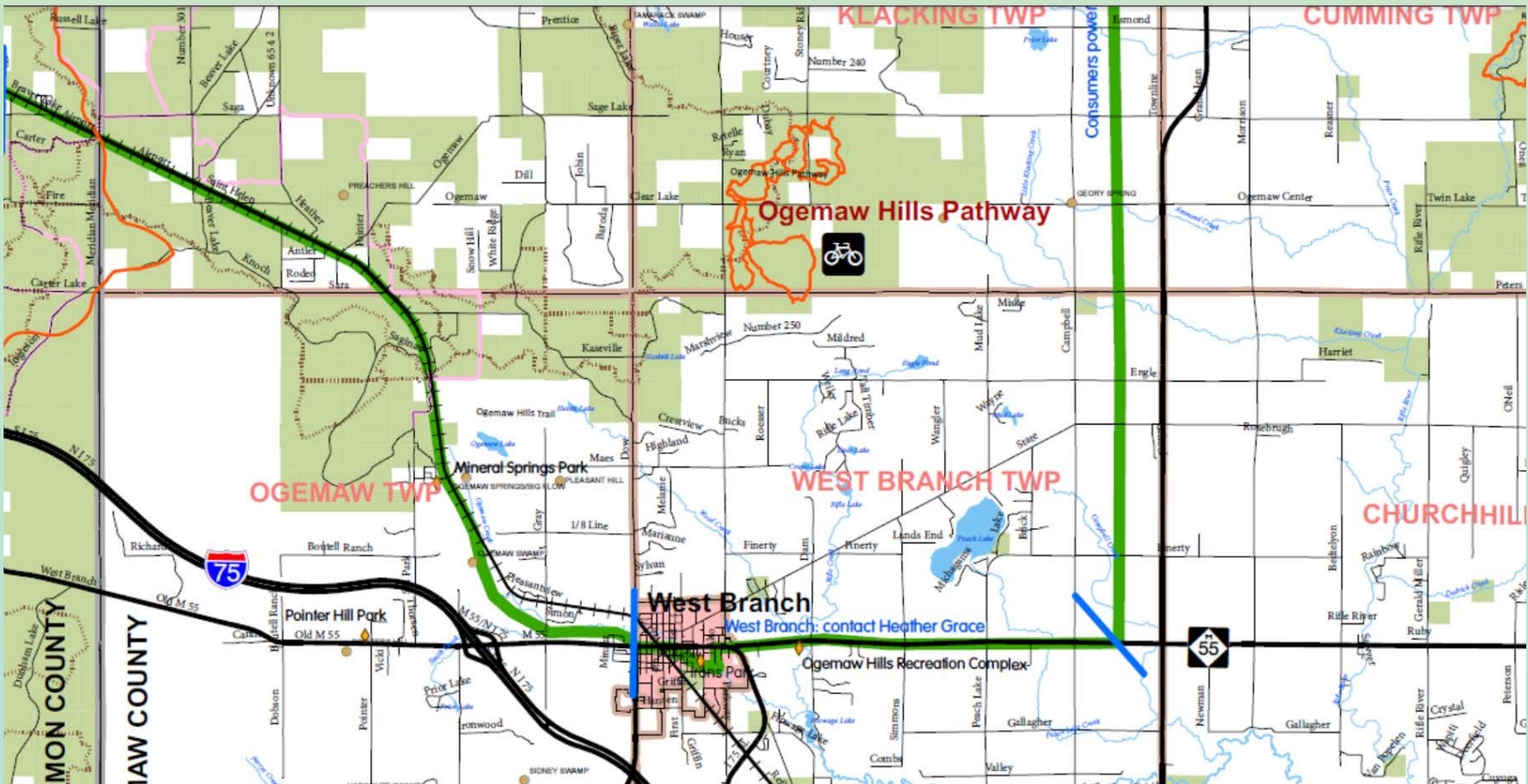


Northern Lower Peninsula



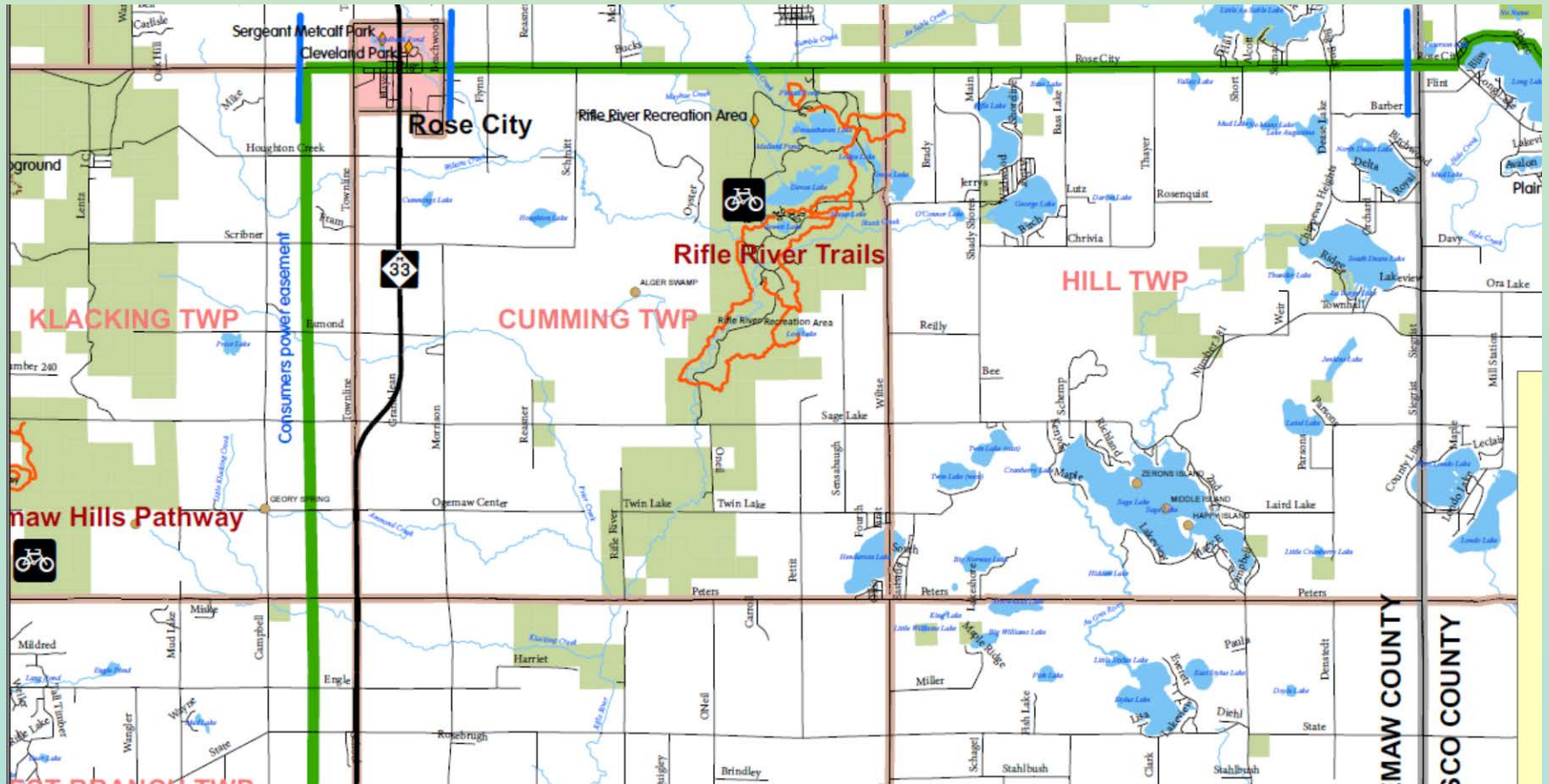


Proposed Ogemaw County Route (approx. 37 miles)





Proposed Ogemaw County Route (approx. 37 miles)





Cost Estimates for Ogemaw County

- Ogemaw County: +/- 37 miles
- Est. approx. \$440,000/mile to design, engineer and construct
- 37 miles x \$440K = **\$16,280,000** (possibly cheaper if not paved)
- Local establishment of maintenance plan and funding for regular operations and maintenance



How is it going to happen?



- State wide vision
- Locally implemented in phases with DNR support:
 - Regional IBT facilitators (NEMCOG)
 - Identifying regional priorities*
 - DNR IBT grant funding available for initial route planning
 - Grant writing and Fundraising
 - Public exposure / Marketing



Challenges






- Secure land by license, easement or purchase for public rec. use
- Capacity – use local partners
- Secure and coordinate multiple funding sources
- Consistency of experience
 - Maintenance
 - Signage
 - **Bicycling facilities** – goal is to have separate path, off of the road; minimize driveway crossings and trail/road crossings on roads when possible





Funding Strategy



|  Michigan's Iron Belle Trail | Hiking  | Bicycling  | Contingency (5%) | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| Trust Fund | \$10 million | \$10 million | \$4 million | \$24 million |
| Federal Funds | \$20 million | \$40 million | \$4 million | \$64 million |
| Private / Foundations | \$56.2 million | \$100 million | \$3.8 million | \$160 million |
| Total | \$86.2 million | \$150 million | \$11.8 Million | \$248 million (236.2) |



Key Funding Source #1



Iron Belle Trail Mini-Grants

- Annual (this year was round 3) money from DNR general fund; any entity can apply
- Up to \$30,000
 - * Engineering and design assistance
 - * Construction project assistance
 - * Purchase and installation of Iron Belle signs
- Suggested 5-10% match
- November 2017 application available; due early January 2018



Key Funding Source #2



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

- For land acquisition (no minimum request) or development (max \$300,000) of lands to be open for public recreation
- Only local units of government, school districts, or a local recreation authority with a current, approved MDNR 5-Year Recreation Plan on file may apply
- Minimum 25% match
- Due annually on April 1





Key Funding Source #3



MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants

- For construction of ped/bike facilities that are regional transportation connectors, and streetscape projects.
- Eligible applicant could be the County Road Commission, City, Village or DNR. MDOT may also partner with a local agency to apply for funding and implement the project.
- Ideal 35-40% match; reimbursement program
- Applications accepted year round





Other Funding Sources



For match \$:

- Local government funds (including adjacent communities)
- Cash, labor or material donations
- Grants that the MDNR can only apply for (Recreational Trails Program)
- Private foundations
 - i.e., DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, ITC \$1K to \$10K
 - Most will only award to a 501(c)3 non-profit (need to establish?)
- Consider creating an account with local Community Foundation to receive funds
- Local fundraising efforts



Trails are good for communities



- Sense of place; people want to live near trails and in walkable communities
- Increased land values
- Healthy recreation and transportation options
- Connected communities and community centers
- Highlight local history and environment
- Public exposure to stewardship





If you build it. . .



- Communities invest locally with trail support facilities and trail connections to town.
- Economic development follows
- Locals take ownership
 - Friends groups developed
 - Local maintenance and policing
- Non-motorized facilities become part of the transportation solution
- Safe bike and pedestrian connections are found/developed





Questions?

IBT Contracted Facilitator for Northeast MI:

Stephanie Loria, Associate Planner

Northeast MI Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

sloria@nemcog.org

989-705-3722



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

More information on Iron Belle Trail including an interactive map: <http://www.michigan.gov/ironbelle>



Route Evaluation – Supporting Docs

- **2016 Ogemaw County Master Plan**
 - Cooperate with the MDNR to guide trail improvement and development within the county
 - Consider development and linkage of no-mo pedestrian trails
- **2014 Ogemaw County Recreation Plan**
 - Create a trail system connecting State parks, local parks, public places and other community resources...
 - Develop a walking pathway to promote outdoor exercise and benefits of non-motorized forms of locomotion and provide an opportunity to view wildlife and experience natural resources
- **City of Rose City 2016 Rec Plan**
 - Promote...improvement of connected recreational opportunities
 - Develop a system of non-mo paths within and outside the City
- **City of West Branch 2014 Master Plan**
 - Market the City and the region to attract commercial and industrial enterprises; and to draw visitors and tourists to support local businesses and local economy
- **West Branch Twp 2011 Rec Plan**
 - Promote non-motorized connections

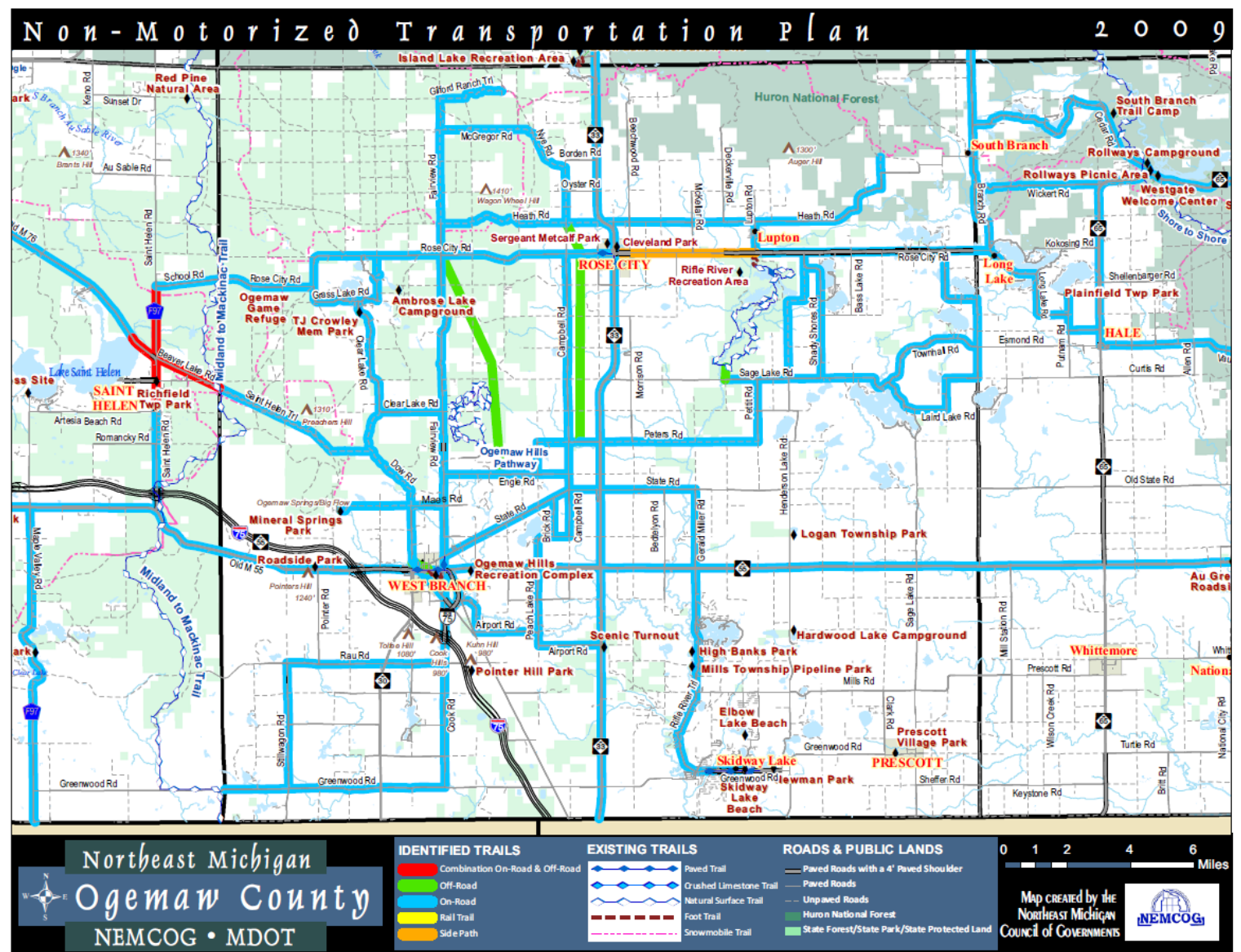


Route Evaluation – Previous Work

- 2009 NE MI Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
 - Side path connecting Rose City to RRRA
 - On-Road facilities and side paths connecting West Branch to Rose City and other communities in and adjoining the County



Route Evaluation Tool



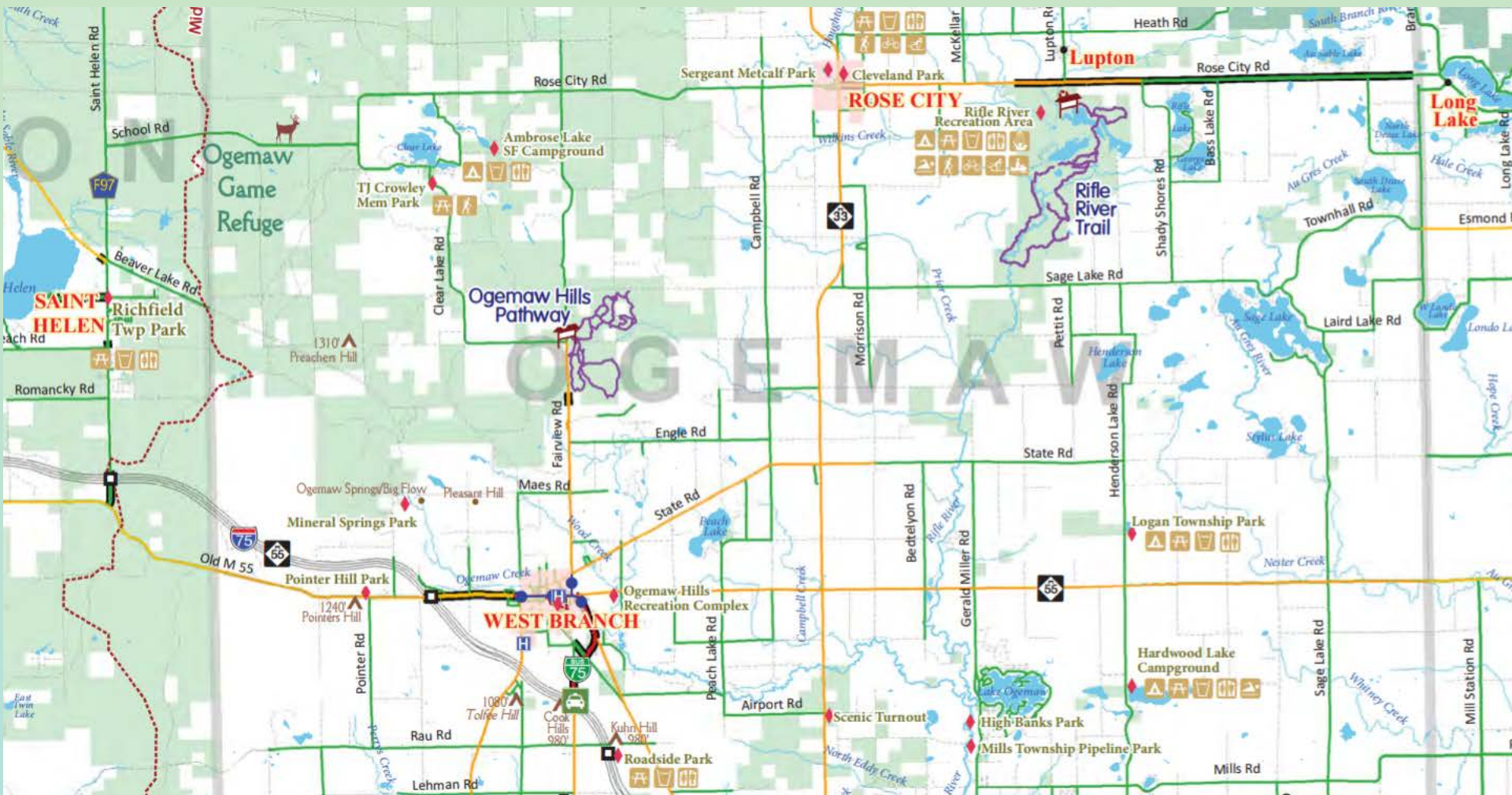


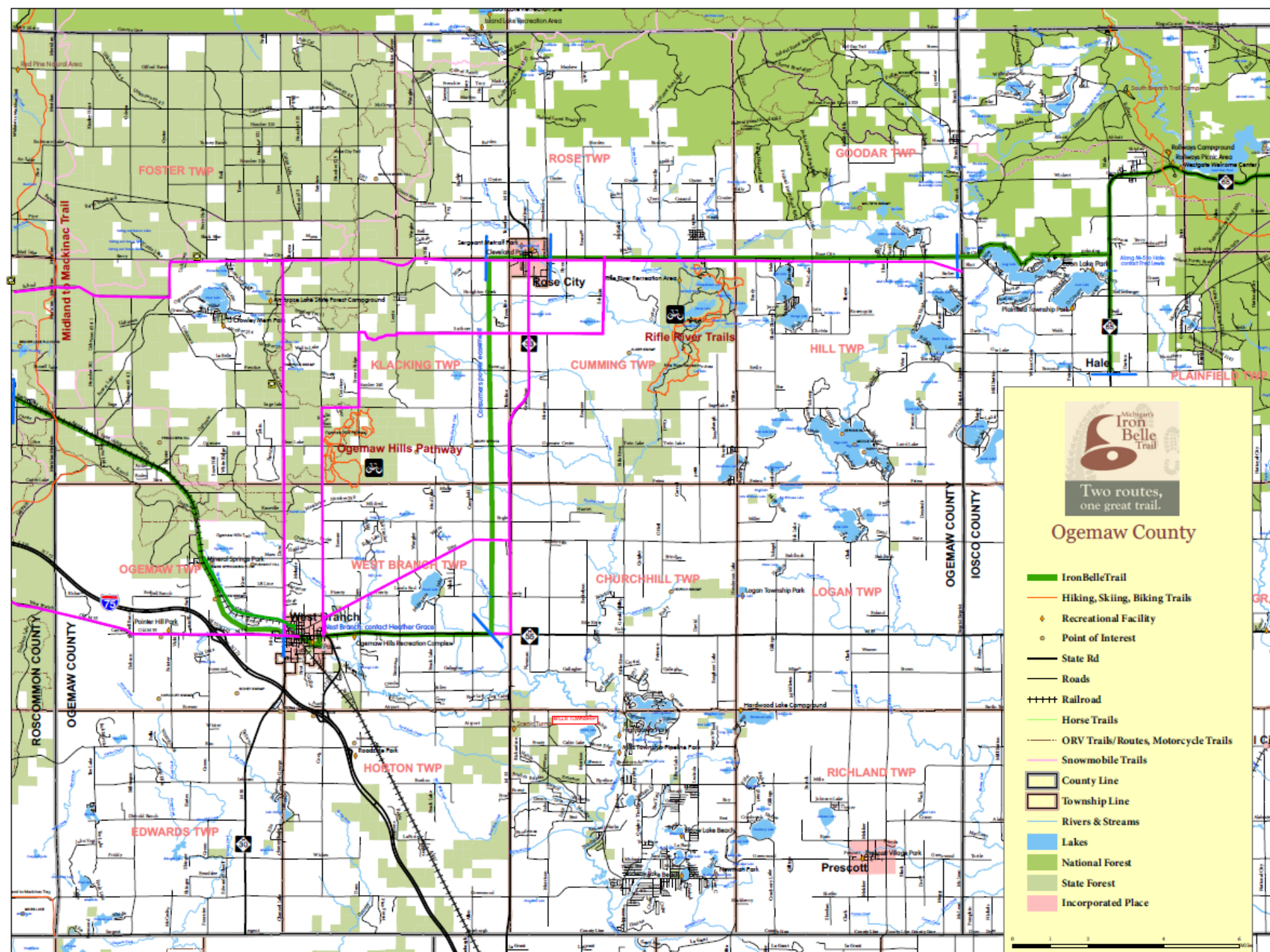
Route Evaluation Tool

- MDOT NE Region Road and Trail Bicycling Guide, 3rd Edition
- Avg. Vehicle Traffic counts per day
 - Heavy, Med, Low volumes
 - If road includes 4' or greater paved shoulder or bike lane



MDOT Road & Trail Cycling Guide





Two routes,
one great trail.

Ogemaw County

- Iron Belle Trail
- Hiking, Skiing, Biking Trails
- Recreational Facility
- Point of Interest
- State Rd
- Roads
- Railroad
- Horse Trails
- ORV Trails/Routes, Motorcycle Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- County Line
- Township Line
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- National Forest
- State Forest
- Incorporated Place