



Are you concerned that there is no real safe way to walk or exercise along Midland Road without being worried about on-coming traffic? Do you feel safe allowing your children to ride their bikes or rollerblade or simply go for a leisurely stroll with them along the same route?

Perhaps it's time we answered these questions! Attached is a letter from one of our residents who has made a point to address these issues by taking a very large first step by offering a lending hand. John Billette, P.E., President of Civil Engineering Consultants, is offering the services of his engineering firm at one half the costs normally charged. Williams Township, with assistance from our residents and others interested, is willing to provide a meeting place and possible "informational source" for anyone who may be willing to serve as a Committee Member for this long overdue project.

There are many sources of funding available for projects such as this. They may be close to our community or they may be as far away as Lansing or even the Federal Government in Washington, DC.

Are you interested in helping your community to grow and become a showcase for this area? If so, please contact the Williams Township office for further details.

www.williamstwp.com or
email, supervisor@williamstwp.com

**Williams Township
Proposed Midland Road West – Pedestrian
Pathway
February 1, 2011**

Williams Township is a rural community of approximately 35 square miles, located in Bay County, Michigan. The population is approximately 4700 people. It encompasses the City of Auburn, which is approximately one square mile.

Midland Road is a main east-west road through the township, and the city of Auburn.

In the past 20 years, numerous subdivisions have been constructed along Midland road, west of Garfield road. *These include; Country Estates, Fisherville, Briarwood, Zielinski Estates, Carter Ridge, Pear Grove, and Gray Hawk.* Subdivisions along this route previously developed are Myra Lee, Meadow, Court, Garfield, and

Bis. There are numerous other short streets connecting to Midland Road.

Midland Road, west of the city of Auburn, is a primary road, and within the area between Flajole Road and Garfield Road is; the Township Hall and Park, St. Anthony Church, Fruitland Market, Meiskes Market, and Forest Daycare.

In Auburn at Garfield Road is a shopping Plaza with among other stores, a grocery store and the Auburn Post Office.

In Auburn just east of Garfield Road is the Middle School, High School, and a little further east, is the Elementary School. There are doctors' offices, pizza parlors, laundromat, the City Park, hair salons, and convenience stores. There are sidewalks in Auburn from Garfield road east. Just south of Midland Road along Garfield Road there are also sidewalks connecting to two fast food restaurants, and a hotel.

It is estimated that over 90% of the growth of the township in the last 20 years has been along this Midland road west corridor.

Many residents use the shoulder of the existing roadway for walking, running, and/or biking. The road is very busy with trucks, buses, farm equipment, and vehicles. The main speed limit along this section is 50 miles per hour.

The two Dow Corning facilities have grown substantially, and during the lunch hour, employees can be seen walking and running around the facility, and along Midland Road.

Residents in the township are seeking recreational activities for exercise. Many residents have inquired about a pedestrian pathway connecting the subdivision areas with the downtown area. The pedestrian pathway could ultimately connect with the Bay City Railtrail, and the city of Midland pedestrian pathway system.

This pathway can connect the Dow Corning Facility with the Township Park and Community facilities, propel the use of non-motorized vehicles, and promote exercise and healthier living in the community.

An 8' wide asphalt pedestrian pathway could be constructed from Garfield Road west to Flajole Road for an estimated cost of \$500,000. The township is seeking grants to help pay for this important community project. The Township Engineer, Civil Engineering Consultants, is willing to donate 1/2 of their services for Design and Construction Administration for the completion of this project.

By: John Billette, P.E., Civil Engineering Consultants