

Bridge sidewalk is unsafe substitute

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To the editor,

Saugatuck City Council should approve either of the two plans presented by the City's engineer at Council's July 18 workshop for completion of the Blue Star Trail. The reason is simple: It will be safer than leaving it as is.

The Blue Star Bridge sidewalk is raised some 9.5 inches above the level of the vehicular roadway. At present, a cyclist crossing the bridge heading south has two options: he can either stay on the roadway and risk being struck by a vehicle from behind, or ride on the sidewalk and risk colliding with other cyclists, walkers or joggers who may be using the sidewalk.

There is another danger too. A friend told me that on one occasion he was riding his bicycle across the bridge on the sidewalk. His attention was diverted to a high-speed boat on the river and, in a split second, his bike went over the sidewalk drop-off and crashed on to the highway. "Had a car been coming, I could have been killed," he told me.

There is good reason the Michigan Department of Transportation won't consent to the existing raised sidewalk being used as the "bike trail." It is not safe!

Mike McGuigan

Saugatuck