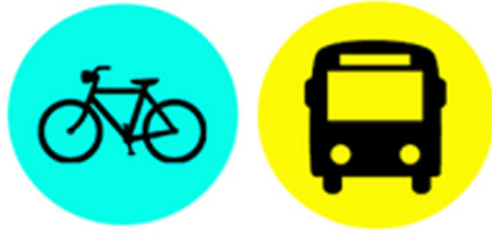


# KBC Bike/Bus Safety



## **KBC provides Cycle Safety Training to Area Bus Drivers**

On August 28 and 29, Kalamazoo Bicycle Club (KBC) conducted three bus-bicycle training sessions for Kalamazoo Public School bus drivers. The training was aimed at educating bus drivers on how to safely interact with cyclists on the roadways.

David Rank, Transportation Supervisor for Kalamazoo Public Schools, contacted KBC to inquire about the club doing a bus-bicycle training for school bus drivers. This was to be one topic in a daylong training event for the drivers. Rank, an experienced bike commuter himself, wanted Kalamazoo's school bus drivers to have a better understanding of the laws that apply to cyclists, and what their rights are on the road. The KBC Education Committee put together a program that included a combination of classroom education as well as on-the-bike and behind-the-wheel demonstrations.

The training took place at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Each session was 90 minutes in length with about 45 participants in each session. The classroom portion of the training included an overview of bicycling culture and infrastructure in the Kalamazoo area, concerns bicyclists face on the road when interacting with motorists, and a review of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code "Rules of the Road."

The demonstration portion of the training took place in the parking lot and included five-foot passing, correct turn positions for bikes in intersections, and how to avoid "dooring" a cyclist (which happens when the driver of a parked vehicle opens their door into a bike lane as a cycle is approaching). The demonstrations got more intense when several of the bus drivers got on bikes while the buses passed them, first at 10 mph, and then at 40 mph. The bus drivers on the bicycles were able to experience for themselves what it feels like to be on a bike getting passed by a vehicle of that size.

The demonstration also allowed the bus drivers to put the KBC trainers in the drivers seat and point out where their blind spots are and how cyclists can be more aware of these hazards. The training produced a healthy discussion of what bus drivers encounter with cyclists as well as what cyclists are experiencing from bus drivers and other motorists. The KBC trainers were impressed with the bus drivers' interest and attentiveness to the training. Paul Wells, KBC Education Committee Chair said, "The drivers were very receptive to our explanations. They are very invested in the job of bus driving and realize the high level of responsibility they have, both to kids on the bus, and other road users."