

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2025**

The July meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on July 9, 2025. Members of the public were invited to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting on YouTube. Public comments and questions were accepted in advance of the meeting by email sent to macogdir@macog.com, in person, as well as by utilizing YouTube's live chat feature. Phil Jenkins, 1st Vice-Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the June 11, 2025, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Phil Jenkins asked the Policy Board members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none, he called for the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED BY
JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

May 2025 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of May 2025. Gardner reviewed the year-to-date total expenses, reported the cash balance at the end of the month, and the total amount of disbursements. She then asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED
BY TONY VIOLI TO APPROVE THE MAY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kathy Groninger reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of May. No action is required. A list of modifications was provided to the members, and the information is available on the MACOG website.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation Resolution 26-25

INDOT Initiated

A. St. Joseph County Resolution 26-25	Amendment	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Des#: 2500924	Add Project	
Contract#: TBD	US 20 at Tulip Rd, 5.06 mi W of US 31 Intersection Improvement	
Phase: PE	Total: \$384,811	Federal: \$346,330 (Safety) State: \$38,481 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,410,000		

B. St. Joseph County Resolution 26-25	Amendment	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Des#: 2500925	Add Project	
Contract#: TBD	US 20 at Smilax Rd, 5.8 mi W of US 31 Intersection Improvement	
Phase: PE	Total: \$438,222	Federal: \$394,400 (Safety) State: \$43,822 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,438,222		

C. St. Joseph County Resolution 26-25	Amendment	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Des#: 2500920	Add Project	
Contract#: R-46412	SR 2 at Timothy Rd, 4.25 miles E of US 20 Other Intersection Improvement	
Phase: PE	Total: \$486,755	Federal: \$438,080 (Safety) State: \$48,676 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$4,699,755		

D. St. Joseph County Resolution 26-25	Amendment	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Des#: 2500921	Add Project	

Contract#: R-46413 **SR 2 at Tulip Rd, 8.0 miles E of US 20
Other Intersection Improvement**

Phase: PE Total: \$493,587 Federal: \$444,228 (Safety) State: \$49,359 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$5,072,587

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 26-25. She explained the amendments are driven by developments in St. Joseph County near New Carlise, including a large Amazon project and a GM/Samsung project. Items A through D will add preliminary engineering in SFY 2026. Following some discussion and hearing no objections, Triebold requested the Policy Board's endorsement of the resolution.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 26-25.
TONY VIOLI SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Plans and Programs

Final ProPEL US 30 and US 31 Study Reports

Caitlin Stevens reported INDOT has released the final study reports for the ProPEL US 30 and US 31 corridors, concluding a three-year study period. The reports provide a foundation for future infrastructure improvements, though no definitive project list has been established and the level of investment will depend on future funding amounts. Members discussed the need for signification investment to support the region's economy, especially in manufacturing as well as the orthopedic industry. The reports and additional information can be found at <https://propelus30.com/> and <https://propelus31.com/>.

LOCUS: Location-based Services Data

Raj Parikh discussed the development of a travel demand model with Cambridge Systematics, which requires acquiring "big data" for calibration and validation of the model. The data provided by LOCUS (created by Cambridge Systematics) offers insights into origin-destination patterns for both person (vehicle) and truck trips, including travel mode, time of day, trip length, community type, and residency status. LOCUS can be used with traditional transportation data sources to inform and help forecast future traffic and aids in planning infrastructure investments.

Quarterly Tracking and Review Meeting

Stevens informed the Policy Board that the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting, to discuss federal aid projects in the region, will be held virtually on July 10.

INDOT Statewide Corridor Planning Study

Stevens noted that INDOT is undertaking a Statewide Corridor Planning Study. They are requesting information on imminent development areas within three miles of specified corridors to inform their planning. INDOT wants to be informed on new, large-scale development, residential development, as well as major development in commercial, office, or industrial areas.

INDOT Freight Plan

James Turnwald stated INDOT is updating the statewide Freight Plan. The current plan was adopted in 2023 and they are working toward adopting the new plan in 2027. INDOT would like to engage stakeholders from the freight industry and will have a public survey available soon to collect initial feedback.

Vanpool Program – Free Lunch and Learn

Jermiah Cox announced that on Wednesday, July 30, MACOG is hosting a free Lunch and Learn with Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County on MACOG's new Vanpool Program to help get the word out to local businesses. Vanpool is an affordable way to address a workforce challenge that a lot of employers' face, which is reliable transportation.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or items of business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Policy Board meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JESSE BOHANNON AND SECONDED
BY GINA LEICHTY TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald, Executive Director

Phil Jenkins, Policy Board 1st Vice-Chair