

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 8, 2025**

The October meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on October 8, 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](mailto:macogdir@macog.com), in person, as well as by utilizing YouTube's live chat feature. David Wood, Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka  
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner  
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner  
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council  
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw  
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council  
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee  
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne  
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council  
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart  
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

**MEMBERS VIRTUAL:** Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner  
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte  
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council  
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council  
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen  
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend  
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council  
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, MEETING**

The minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. David Wood 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 ROD ROBERSON AND SECONDED BY  
CANNETH LEE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2025.  
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair had no report.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **August 2025 Financial Reports**

Deborah Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of August 2025. She reviewed the year-to-date total expenses, reported the cash balance at the end of the month, and the total amount of disbursements. Gardner then asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TONY VIOLI AND SECONDED BY PHIL JENKINS TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 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 September. 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**

Amendments to the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP)

### **Transportation Resolution 29-25**

#### **Locally Initiated**

|                                        |                                                       |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| A. Warsaw                              | Amendment                                             | Exempt Project in Kosciusko County                 |
| Resolution 29-25                       |                                                       |                                                    |
| Des#: 2401592                          | Delete Project                                        |                                                    |
| Contract#: T-45973                     | <b>Various Intersection within the City of Warsaw</b> |                                                    |
|                                        | <b>Traffic Signal Modernization</b>                   |                                                    |
| Phase: CN                              | Total: \$162,690                                      | Federal: \$146,421 (HSIP) Local: \$16,269 SFY 2026 |
| Estimated Cost to Complete = \$162,690 |                                                       |                                                    |

#### **INDOT Initiated**

|                                           |                                                          |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| B. INDOT                                  | Amendment                                                | Non-Exempt Project in Elkhart County                 |
| Resolution 29-25                          |                                                          |                                                      |
| Des#: 1900095                             | Add PE and RW phases                                     |                                                      |
| Contract#: R-42379                        | <b>US 20 from 2.13 miles W of SR 13 (CR 35) to SR 13</b> |                                                      |
|                                           | <b>Added Travel Lanes</b>                                |                                                      |
| Phase: PE                                 | Total: \$561,959                                         | Federal: \$449,567 (NHS) State: \$112,392 SFY 2026   |
| Phase: RW                                 | Total: \$3,791,150                                       | Federal: \$3,032,920 (NHS) State: \$758,230 SFY 2026 |
| Estimated Cost to Complete = \$59,041,725 |                                                          |                                                      |

Contract Also Includes: 2000038 – Small Structure Maintenance and Repair at US 20 0.43 miles W of SR 13; 2400128 – ADA Sidewalk Ramp Construction



Cary Groninger asked about the roundabout in Item C. Kaser responded that INDOT will go through an alternatives analysis as the project develops and work with stakeholders to figure out the final design, but a roundabout is the initial proposal due to a history of serious crashes at the intersection.

Kathy Groninger wanted to know why the project in Item A was being deleted. James Turnwald stated the timeline from project award to actual bid was very quick, less than two years. After evaluating, the city decided not to move forward.

Hearing no additional comments or questions, the Chair called for a motion.

ROD ROBERSON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 29-25.  
PHIL JENKINS SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### **Other Actions**

**Resolution 30-25** – A Resolution authorizing participation in the State of Ohio’s Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 30-25 requesting the Policy Board’s approval to participate in the State of Ohio’s cooperative purchasing program. Cox continued that MACOG normally purchases ADA vans for the Interurban Trolley Access Service through the State of Indiana’s Quantity Purchasing Agreement (QPA). Unfortunately, the purchasing agreement for transit vehicles is not currently open due to some administrative issues with the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA). Cox indicated the State is working to reissue a request for proposals but that will take some time, as well as the time needed for the evaluation and contracting process. Utilizing the Ohio purchasing program, MACOG can purchase vehicles sooner and may need to use it again for purchasing vehicles for the FTA 5310 Call for Projects.

James Turnwald explained that MACOG typically purchases one to two ADA vans per year through the State of Indiana’s QPA to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. Due to the State’s administrative difficulties, no vehicles have been procured in 2025. With the Ohio purchasing program, MACOG will receive price favorability from a larger contract that we cannot achieve by buying independently.

Following some discussion regarding FTA procurement rules and other cooperative purchasing sources, the Chair called for a motion.

KATHY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 30-25  
AUTHORIZING PATICIPATION IN THE STATE OF OHIO’S COOPERATIVE  
PURCHASING PROGRAM. PHIL JENKINS SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

### **Staff Update**

#### **New MACOG Staff**

James Turnwald introduced Lisa Slomka, the new Director of Regional Housing Collaborative who will lead efforts to implement the regional attainable housing fund and work to launch a regional land bank. Slomka shared her background in civic and municipal spaces and expressed excitement about her new role, inviting stakeholders to discuss housing initiatives with her. She will assist with

convening and managing the collaborative, particularly in setting up the initial phase with St. Joseph County and onboarding other counties going forward.

## **Grants and Funding**

### **Community Crossing Matching Grants (CCMG)**

David Harker reported applications for CCMG are open and are due by October 31. The statewide funding cap is now \$100 million, with individual awards limited to \$1 million. Applications are being accepted for fiscal year 2026, and then annually in July from fiscal year 2027 onward. The local match requirement for cities and towns under 10,000 population and counties under 55,000 has been reduced from 25% to 20%.

Harker let the members know that MACOG is available to assist with asset management plans and PASER ratings.

Mayor Wood inquired about the impact of municipal wheel taxes on CCMG funding, which James Turnwald clarified would affect formula distribution in fiscal year 2027 and could impact the amount communities apply for in discretionary programs.

### **Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Rural Federal-Aid Projects**

Caitlin Stevens announced that INDOT will be accepting applications for Rural Federal-aid projects beginning November 3 and the call for projects will close on December 5. The call is applicable to various transportation projects like roads, bridges, and sidewalks, for areas outside of MACOG's urbanized areas. Awards will be announced in the spring 2026.

## **Plans and Programs**

### **Title VI and ADA Requirements**

Caitlin Stevens provided an update on the increased emphasis on Title VI and ADA requirements for state and federal funding. Title VI implementation plans are due annually by October 1, while goals and accomplishments reports are due annually by November 1. Stevens stated ADA transition plans, which address accessibility in public right-of-ways, as well as services that communities provide, are due on November 1 every three years, and should be updated annually.

### **SFY 2025 Annual List of Obligated Projects (ALOP)**

Stevens gave a report on the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, noting a total of \$67.2 million obligated in the region across state, transit, and local governments. She detailed that local projects received \$35.5 million in federal funding, with St. Joseph and Elkhart County having the largest share at around \$14 million, largely due to the dedicated funding in the urbanized areas. Marshall County had 4.9 million in federal funding and Kosciusko County had 2.8 million in federal funding. Stevens noted that the funding covered all phases of projects, including construction, preliminary engineering, and right-of-way. The ALOP report can be found on the MACOG website.

[www.macog.com/docs/transportation/tip/alop/2025/quickview\\_alop.pdf](http://www.macog.com/docs/transportation/tip/alop/2025/quickview_alop.pdf)

### **Kosciusko County HELP Projects**

Zach Dripps and Donny Ritsema gave an overview of the HELP program in Kosciusko County. The Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) was a state initiative managed by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) which Kosciusko County and its participating towns were part of the first cohort of the program.

OCRA provided \$1,000,000 in CDBG with one-to-one matching funds. Kosciusko County committed \$1,200,000 in ARPA funds and worked with Mentone, Milford, and Pierceton to develop a strategic implementation plan and utilize the towns ARPA funds as well. More information about the projects completed through HELP Kosciusko County was detailed during the presentation and can be found beginning at 47 minutes into the YouTube recording of the meeting. (<https://www.youtube.com/@MACOGplan>)

Commissioner Cary Groninger expressed gratitude to the MACOG team for their dedication to the four-year project, emphasizing the critical role MACOG played in helping navigate complex grant programs and bringing federal dollars back to the region for investment. Groninger also noted the success of hiring a county community coordinator who built rapport with the towns, leading to increased collaboration and synergy on projects.

### **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 TONY VIOLI AND SECONDED BY  
JESSE BOHANNON TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.  
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

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James Turnwald, Executive Director

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Phil Jenkins, Policy Board 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair