

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2026**

The February meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on February 11, 2026. 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, 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
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Jason Kaiser, District Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2026, MEETING

The minutes of the January 14, 2026, 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 DOUGLAS GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY
CARL BAXMEYER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Phil Jenkins thanked David Wood for his leadership while serving as Chair of the Policy Board over the past year.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

December 2025 Financial Reports

Deborah Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of December 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 reminded the members that MACOG operates on the State Fiscal Year, July 1 through June 30. She then asked for any questions. Hearing none, Gardner requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

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

Gardner noted MACOG is undergoing its State Board of Accounts (SBOA) annual audit for Fiscal Year 2025.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jesse Bohannon reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of January. 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

Addendum to the Agenda

The Chair requested an Addendum to the meeting agenda. He asked the members to add Resolution 06-26 under Other Actions, following Resolution 05-26.

James Turnwald explained Resolution 06-26 is related to a funding exchange between MACOG and the Northern Indiana Transportation District (NICTD).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED
BY GINA LEICHTY TO ADD RESOLUTION 06-26 TO THE AGENDA.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

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

Transit

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 02-26

Endorsement of the Greencroft Communities Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

Two (2) Low Floor Mini Vans with ramp			
Calendar Year 2026	Total: \$180,000	Federal: \$153,000	Local: \$27,000

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 03-26

Endorsement of the Marshall-Starke Development Center Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

Two (2) Low Floor Mini Vans with ramp			
Calendar Year 2026	Total: \$180,000	Federal: \$153,000	Local: \$27,000
Two (2) Medium Transit Vehicles with lift			
Calendar Year 2026	Total: \$310,000	Federal: \$263,500	Local: \$46,500

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 04-26

Endorsement of the Council on Aging of Elkhart County Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

Two (2) Low Floor Mini Vans with ramp			
Calendar Year 2026	Total: \$180,000	Federal: \$153,000	Local: \$27,000

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 05-26

Endorsement of the Tolson Center for Community Excellence Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

One (1) Medium Transit Vehicle with lift			
Calendar Year 2026	Total: \$155,000	Federal: \$131,750	Local: \$23,250

Gauri Mhatre presented Resolutions 02-26, 03-26, 04-26, and 05-26. She noted the INDOT 5310 projects that receive awards will be added into the TIP at a later time.

Suzanne Weirick asked if the program funding was secure. James Turnwald responded that the 5310 Program is authorized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and being funded with prior year allocations and anticipates that award notifications will be made in June. Turnwald also indicated the program is competitive and there is no guarantee all of the grant applications will be funded.

Hearing no additional questions, the following action was taken.

DOUGLAS GRAHAM MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 02-26, 03-26, 04-26, AND 05-26. JESSE BOHANNON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

Resolution 06-26

Endorsement of an agreement between MACOG and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) for the exchange of transit funds

James Turnwald presented Resolution 06-26. He explained the agreement is for MACOG to exchange \$500,000 of its Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 funding with NICTD for \$250,000 in local funds.

Turnwald noted this type of funding exchange has happened multiple times over the years, once with NICTD and several times with CityBus in Lafayette. The exchange allows MACOG additional local funds that can be used to leverage State and Federal funding for operations of the Interurban Trolley public transit services. Turnwald indicated MACOG does not have sufficient local match to fully utilize the federal funds within the required amount of time but with additional local matching funds from NICTD, MACOG can more effectively access and use funding.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 06-26.

SUZANNE WEIRICK SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentation

US 30/31 Safety Projects – INDOT LaPorte and Fort Wayne District Staff

Alan Holderread and Dirk Schmidt, INDOT Traffic Engineers, gave a presentation related to some of the project locations that are in development for fiscal years 2030 and 2031 along US 30 and US 31. The presentation and subsequent discussion that followed can be found at 21:44 minutes into the recording of the meeting that is posted on MACOG's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4reHdvcN5MU&t=1375s>

Staff Update

New Staff

James Turnwald introduced Christiana Camp, an AmeriCorps member who will be serving with MACOG and the South Bend Bike Garage working on Safe Routes to School and similar projects. Camp introduced herself and greeted the Policy Board members.

Grants and Funding

Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) - Tactical Urbanism Demonstration Projects Grant Supporting Active Transportation

IDOH is providing funding for Indiana communities to assist in the design and implementation of low-cost pop-up, tactical urbanism demonstration projects that support active living in Indiana. This funding will assist grantees in the planning, preparation, and implementation of one or more tactical urbanism demonstration projects in their communities. Applications are due by 4:00 pm Thursday, February 26.

Health by Design - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Mini Grant

Health by Design is offering mini grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 to support SRTS activities. The program aims to support the development of initiatives that make it safer and easier for children to walk, bike, or roll to and from school and throughout their communities. Applications are due by March 13.

Indiana Office of Energy Development - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

Approximately \$1 million is available for Indiana's EECBG program. This program will fund efforts to increase energy efficiency and conservation to support energy affordability for units of local governments. Up to \$200,000 in federal grant funds per award. Total project cost shall not exceed \$250,000, including any match provided. Applications are due April 5.

Plans and Programs

Interurban Trolley Service Adjustments

Due to rising operational costs and impacts on local funding, the Interurban Trolley is currently studying potential service adjustments. These adjustments may include small reductions to morning and evening service.

MACOG will discuss the proposed changes with member communities and will provide information to the public as plans develop.

PASER/PCI (Pavement Condition Index) Dashboard

A new PASER/PCI dashboard has been added to the MACOG website that aggregates pavement condition data, providing information beginning in 2021. The data has been uploaded by local governments into LTAP as part of asset management plans. The dashboard allows filtering by county, city, year, function class, surface type, and condition rating, and includes treatment filters for prior years, serving as a useful tool for decision-making.

Bike and Pedestrian Count Dashboard Calendar Year 2025

The bike and pedestrian count dashboard has been updated to include data for calendar year 2025. Access to historical data back to 2020 is available for download. Based on all count data, the region's trails and trail systems had over 1.5 million users in calendar year 2025

Crash Data Review Calendar Year 2025

The crash data in the dashboard on the MACOG website, has now been updated to include all of 2025. This allows you to see the most current information related to crashes across the region.

In 2025, there were 440 life-altering crashes, which include crashes involving serious injuries or fatalities. In addition, there were approximately 20,000 other crashes that involved property damage only. MACOG's analysis tends to focus on the most serious crashes because those are the incidents where improved data cleaning and analysis can help us better understand where and why these events occur. Overall, life-altering crashes increased by about 3% compared to 2024.

There were also 70 fatal crashes in 2025. This number represents the total number of fatal collisions, not the total number of lives lost, as multiple people may be involved in a single crash. The dashboard also breaks down crashes involving vulnerable road users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and horse-and-buggy users, providing a clearer picture of how these groups are impacted and where those crashes are occurring.

Purdue Road School

The annual Purdue Road School will be held March 17 and 18. Many of MACOG's transportation staff will be attending.

April 8 Policy Board Meeting Cancelled

Due to various scheduling conflicts and the potential lack of quorum, the April 8 Policy Board meeting has been canceled.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

David Wood discussed House Bill 101. The proposed legislation would limit the type of vehicles municipalities could purchase to base models.

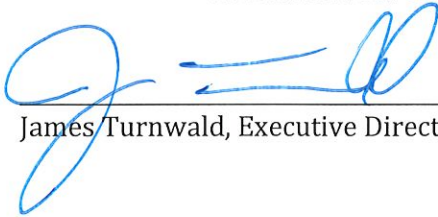
PUBLIC COMMENT

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 SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED
BY BRYAN TANNER TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.



James Turnwald, Executive Director

Rod Roberson, Policy Board 1st Vice Chair