

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025**

The May meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on May 14, 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. 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
Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Robert Listenburger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the April 9, 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 BRYAN TANNER AND SECONDED BY
CARY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair reported the Indiana General Assembly 2025 legislative session has ended and he noted there are some items for local governments to deal with including some changes to the Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) Program.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March 2025 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of March 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 KATHY GRONINGER AND SECONDED BY
CANNETH LEE TO APPROVE THE MARCH 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 April. 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 16-25

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	Amendment	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 16-25	Move CN funding to FY 30, Increase Federal Funding by \$249,279, Update	
Des#: 2200482	US 31, 1.47 mi S of SR 110 to 0.31 mi S of SR 10	
Contract#: T-46027	Access Control	
Phase: CN	Total: \$2,892,789	Federal: \$2,603,510 (Safety) State: \$289,279 SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$37,273,842		

B. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 16-25	Add Project	
Des#: 2200483	US 31 at SR 110	
Contract#: T-46027	New Interchange Construction	
Phase: PE	Total: \$3,163,900	Federal: \$2,531,120 (Safety) State: \$632,780 SFY 2026
Phase: RW	Total: \$1,250,000	Federal: \$1,000,000 (Safety) State: \$250,000 SFY 2026
Phase: CN	Total: \$15,000,000	Federal: \$12,000,000 (Safety) State: \$3,000,000 SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$31,762,468		

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 16-25 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

MATT DEITCHLEY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 16-25.
BRIAN TANNER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

There was follow-up discussion related to the type of interchange planned for US 31 at SR 110 and if any of the businesses would be removed. Matt Deitchley indicated the final design has not been

determined and with all of the alternatives he has seen, the intention is to keep the businesses where they are.

Transit Resolution 17-25

Transit Initiated

A. Transpo	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 17-25	Add Project	
Des#: MAC-25-31	Fare Boxes	
	Transit Operating	
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2025

Aidan McHugh presented Resolution 17-25 and asked for any questions.

Suzanne Weirick asked if there will be discussions about changes to transit fares. James Turnwald responded that the farebox provider has ceased making the model of farebox currently used on board the Transpo and Interurban Trolley buses. He stated this is affecting the entire transit industry and that our units are starting to age and have mechanical challenges so the farebox system needs to be upgraded. MACOG and Transpo are looking at different options related to software and technology to establish a regional structure for transit fares and the ways in which riders will be able to pay, not necessarily how much they pay.

With no further questions or discussion, the following action was taken.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-25.
CANNETH LESS SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

Resolution 18-25

Endorsement of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2028 Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 18-25. He explained that every three years, MACOG is required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to update its DBE goal. The goal is primarily used for FTA funded procurements. Cox stated the goal for FY 2025-2028 is zero percent (0%), unfortunately, the last goal was also set at 0%. He indicated the vast majority of MACOG FTA funding is paid to the third-party contractor that operates the Interurban Trolley transit services and DBE goals do not include vehicle purchases.

James Turnwald clarified that DBE goals for vehicle procurements are negotiated by the equipment manufacturers directly with FTA.

Cox noted DBE participation is sought and taken into considered as part of MACOG’s procurement process. Hearing no questions, Cox requested the Policy Board’s endorsement of the FY 2025-2028 DBE program goal.

BRYAN TANNER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-25.
SUZANNE WEIRICK SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Plans and Programs

Go574 Bike Month Challenge

Dustin New stated that MACOG is kicking off the new Go574 app with Bike to Work Week and the Crossway Trails Bike Month Challenge. New said the Go574 app is a great tool for tracking bike miles and alternative transportation trips while earning rewards and opportunities to win prizes during the Crossway Trails Bike Month Challenge. The Challenge will begin on May 12 and end on June 8.

Move Safe: Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan

New reported the Move Safe: Regional Safety Plan, a Regional Safety Action Plan, funded by a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, is available for public comment until June 9. Two public open houses will be held; the first on May 28 in South Bend and the second in Elkhart on May 29. He noted printed copies were available for members to review or the plan could be reviewed online at <https://engage.macog.com/move-safe>. The plan will be presented to the Policy Board for final approval on June 11.

Once the Plan is approved, New explained LPAs in the region will be eligible to apply for competitive SS4A grant funds. The current Notice of Funding Opportunity closes on June 26.

2025 PASER Rating/Asset Management Plans

David Harker reported that MACOG completes approximately 23 asset management plans every year but additionally, MACOG does Pavement Surface Evaluation and Ratings (PASER) for LPAs in the MACOG region. He indicated he will be in contact with 15 communities this year to schedule pavement rating. PASER data is utilized in asset management plans, and those plans will be completed in October and November.

CONNECT Transit Plan

Adian McHugh announced the CONNECT Transit Plan short-term network changes will be implemented beginning June 2. McHugh stated the aim is to streamline and improve the transit network. He said one of the biggest changes is a one-seat ride from Downtown South Bend to Downtown Elkhart and vice versa on the new-look Route 30, which will continue to be jointly operated by Transpo and Interurban Trolley. The connection between Transpo Route 5 and Niles DART Route 2 will be timed for faster regional travel. Transpo will also be adding a new Route 2, extended Route 7, and many other alignment changes to streamline service. The Trolley will be implementing an updated Route 35 to improve service to the east side of Elkhart, and changes to Route 32 are planned for later this year.

AmeriCorps

James Turnwald reported on Friday evening, April 25, MACOG was informed by Serve Indiana that they were told by the federal government that MACOG's AmeriCorps program, with an active grant that was open through August of 2025, was being closed and canceled. Turnwald said there were 15 members in service at 10 different service sites and fortunately, some members were offered an internship to maintain the employment relationship and complete their service projects. Kelsey Triebold and Anton Getz served MACOG as AmeriCorps members. Triebold was offered a full-time role as a Transportation Planner and will be working closely with Caitlin Stevens. Getz was hired as an Active Transportation Intern for the summer.

Turnwald indicated MACOG has a grant award for next fiscal year so it is possible there will be an

AmeriCorps program again in September. MACOG will continue to monitor and prepare for next fiscal year.

Staffing Changes

Leah Thill announced that after eight years, she will be leaving her position with MACOG. Her last day will be May 23. She has accepted a fully remote position with a national non-profit in the field of clean transportation. Turnwald thanked Thill for her service and positive impact in the region.

Going forward, Kelsey Triebold will handle clean transportation items and brownfields will be managed by Olivia Nix.

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 BRYAN TANNER TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Zach Dripps, Director of Operations &
Community Development

David Wood, Policy Board Chair