

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2026**

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 8, 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
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
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
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
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2026, MEETING

The minutes of the June 10, 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 ROD ROBERSON AND SECONDED
BY BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

May 2026 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of May 2026. 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 asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement of the May 2026 financial reports.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROD ROBERSON AND SECONDED BY
SUZANNE WEIRICK TO APPROVE THE MAY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Gardner noted the State Board of Accounts has initiated scheduling for the fiscal year 2026 audit kickoff conference. The aim is to complete the audit process within the current calendar year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Jesse Bohannon, Phil Jenkins reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the months of June. 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 Program (TIP)

Transportation Resolution 17-26

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Non-Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 17-26		
Des#: 2000027	Modify Termini, Add RW Phase	
Contract#: R-45088	US 33 from 6.42 Miles North of US 6 West Jct. (CR 31) to 0.31 Miles West of SR 15 (Elkhart River Br)	
	Added Travel Lanes	
Phase: RW	Total: \$1,200,000	Federal: \$960,000 (NHS) State: \$240,000 SFY 2028
	Estimated Cost to Complete = \$58,801,000	Miles: 6.7

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 17-26 and asked for any questions.

Rod Roberson asked for clarification on what is specifically meant by "added travel lanes". James Turnwald responded that adding travel lanes refers to expanding the roadway to include additional through lanes, such as converting a two-lane road to a four or five-lane road. A center turn lane is

not considered a travel lane. Therefore, "added travel lanes," means additional through lanes, not the addition of a center turn lane.

Hearing no additional questions, the Chair called for a motion to approve the resolution.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-26.
ROD ROBERSON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MACOG has consulted with the Interagency Consultation Group and anticipates, subsequent to Policy Board approval, the USDOT will find that the proposed TIP amendment meets transportation conformity requirements under Section 176(C) of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR Parts 51.390 and 93.

Transportation Resolution 18-26

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 18-26		
Des#: 2600301	Add Project	
Contract#: R-46667	SR 106 from the West Jct. of US 6 to the East Jct. of US 6	
	Construct ADA Approved Sidewalk Ramps	
Phase: PE	Total: \$151,500	Federal: \$136,350 (HSIP) State: \$15,150 SFY 2027
Phase: CN	Total: \$500,000	Federal: \$450,000 (HSIP) State: \$50,000 SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$651,500		

Triebold then presented Resolution 18-26 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, the Chair called for a motion.

BRYAN TANNER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-26.
CARL BAXMEYER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MACOG has consulted with the Interagency Consultation Group and concluded on July 2, 2026, the proposed TIP amendment includes only exempt projects; no new conformity determination is required, and the amendment meets transportation conformity requirements under Section 179(C) of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR Parts 51.390 and 90.

Transit Resolution 19-26

A. Transpo	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 19-26	Add Project to TIP	
Des#: MAC-26-030	Fare Boxes	
	Transit Operating	
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2026
B. Transpo	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 19-26	Add Project to TIP	
Des#: MAC-26-031	Bus Route Signage	
	Transit Operating	
Total: \$125,000	Federal: \$100,000 (5307)	Local: \$25,000 SFY 2026

C. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-27-024	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fare Boxes Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2027
D. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-27-025	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Bus Route Signage Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$125,000	Federal: \$100,000 (5307)	Local: \$25,000 SFY 2027
E. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-27-026	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fixed Route Bus Replacement Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$200,000	Federal: \$160,000 (5339)	Local: \$40,000 SFY 2027
F. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-27-027	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fixed Route Bus Replacement Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2027
G. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-28-019	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fare Boxes Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2028
H. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-28-020	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fixed Route Bus Replacement Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$200,000	Federal: \$160,000 (5339)	Local: \$40,000 SFY 2028
I. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-28-021	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fixed Route Bus Replacement Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (5307)	Local: \$80,000 SFY 2028
J. Transpo Resolution 19-26 Des#: MAC-29-020	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Fixed Route Bus Replacement Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Total: \$200,000	Federal: \$160,000 (5339)	Local: \$40,000 SFY 2029
K. Transpo Resolution 19-26	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County

Des#: MAC-29-021

Fixed Route Bus Replacement

Transit Operating

Total: \$400,000

Federal: \$320,000 (5307)

Local: \$80,000

SFY 2029

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 19-26. Cox explained FTA Section 5339 funding is for bus and bus facilities, including bus replacement, rehabilitation and purchase of buses and related equipment, and construction of bus related facilities, and FTA Section 5307 funding is for transit capital and operating assistance. Cox indicated the items in this resolution program anticipated federal funding amounts through State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2029.

It was noted that Transpo last purchased buses in 2023, when they received a competitive federal funding award that enabled the acquisition of 11 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the resolution.

DOUGLAS GRAHAM MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-26.

CARL BAXMEYER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

INDOT FTA 5310 Call for Projects Awards

Gauri Mhatre reported that three organizations in the MACOG region were awarded FTA Section 5310 funding through INDOT's recent 5310 Call for Projects; Council on Aging of Elkhart County and Greencroft Communities each received an award to purchase two low floor minivans, and Marshall Starke Development Center received an award for two low floor minivans and two medium-transit vehicles. 5310 funding supports organizations in meeting the transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

Applications for MACOG's Section 5310 Call for Projects in St. Joseph County are due on July 10. Funding awards will be announced at the August 12 Policy Board meeting.

Plans and Programs

Quarterly Tracking and Review (QTR)

Kelsey Triebold stated the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, July 9.

Michiana on the Move: 2055 Transportation Plan

Caitlin Stevens reported that every four years, MACOG updates the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the region. The plan guides and prioritizes transportation investment and decision making over the next 20 years. Stevens indicated MACOG has initiated public engagement efforts, including an online survey with an interactive map. (<https://engage.macog.com/LRTP>) Community pop-up events will take place throughout the summer and fall. The objective is to present the updated plan by October 2027, with public input on vision, goals, and project priorities.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

James Turnwald announced that the next Policy Board meeting will be held on August 12 and will highlight the AmeriCorps Program, featuring members who have completed their service over the past program year.

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



Zach Dripps, Director of Operations &
Community Development



Phil Jenkins, Policy Board Chair