

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2026**

The August meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on August 12, 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 JULY 8, 2026, MEETING

The minutes of the July 8, 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 CARY GRONINGER AND SECONDED
BY ROD ROBERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget Revisions

Debbie Gardner proposed changes to the FY 2026 Budget. She requested \$1,000 be removed from the Conference/Training line item and added to the Travel & Mileage line item to address a projected budget shortage. The proposed budget amounts are \$46,500 for Conference/Training and \$56,000 for Travel & Mileage.

Gardner asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED BY
CARY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE FY 2026 BUDGET REVISION.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

June 2026 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of June 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 June 2026 financial reports.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARL BAXMEYER AND SECONDED BY
JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jesse Bohannon reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of July. 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 20-26

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT
Resolution 20-26
Des#: 2100013

Amendment

Add RW Phase

Exempt Project in Elkhart County

Contract#: R-46123

**SR 19 Intersection at CR 28, 1.55 miles South of US 20
Intersect. Improv. W/ Added Turn Lanes**

Phase: RW Total: \$25,000 Federal: \$20,000 (HSIP) State: \$5,000 SFY 2027
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$4,463,000 Miles: 0.49

B. INDOT

Amendment

Exempt Project in Elkhart County

Resolution 20-26

Des#: 2300698

Contract#: R-45095

Move CN funding from FY26 and FY29 to FY30, Increase Federal
Funding by \$467,585

**SR 19 at CR 6, 8.2 miles north of US 20 (2.49 miles south of
Indiana/Michigan Line)**

Intersect. Improv. W/ Added Turn Lanes

Phase: CN Total: \$1,632,000 Federal: \$1,305,600 (STBG) State: \$326,400 SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$2,390,000 Miles: 0.26

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 20-26 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-26.

ROD ROBERSON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MACOG has consulted with the Interagency Consultation Group and concluded on August 6, 2026, the proposed TIP amendments include only exempt projects; no new conformity determination is required, and the amendments meet transportation conformity requirements under Section 179(C) of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR Parts 51.390 and 90.

Presentation

AmeriCorps Program and Member Recognition

Zach Dripps introduced and recognized the AmeriCorps members who served with various site host organizations throughout the year. He reminded members that the MACOG AmeriCorps program, launched in 2022, focuses on economic and environmental resiliency by helping nonprofit organizations and local governments throughout the region build capacity and address needs. The full presentation can be viewed on MACOG's YouTube channel at 6 minutes and 10 seconds into the recorded meeting. (<https://www.youtube.com/live/Hm4NXghsfE0?si=kbJBisi1Vwpusc4K>)

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

South Bend Urbanized Area 5310 Grant Update

Gauri Mhatre noted MACOG's 5310 Call for Projects closed on July 10. Five organizations applied for funding and have requested nine vehicles. Staff are reviewing the applications, and funding awards are expected to be announced in September.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2033 MACOG Call for Projects

Kelsey Triebold announced that the MACOG federal transportation funding Call for Projects opens on August 26 for Fiscal Years 2031, 2032, and 2033. The call covers urbanized areas, including

South Bend, Mishawaka, and portions of St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties, with applications due on October 12.

Community Crossings Matching Grants Program

Triebold reported INDOT announced that the call for projects for the State FY 2027 Community Crossings Matching Grand Program will open on September 1 and close on September 30. Eligible projects include road and bridge preservation, ADA-compliant improvements associated with preservation projects, and material costs for chip sealing and crack filling operations.

Notice of Funding Availability for Rural Federal-Aid Projects

Triebold indicated INDOT has announced there will be a Rural Federal-Aid call for projects. Applications open on November 2 and will close on December 4.

Plans and Programs

Michiana on the Move: 2055 Transportation Plan

Dustin New gave an update on Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The plan guides and prioritizes transportation investment and decision making over the next 20 years. He stressed the importance of input from elected officials and LPA staff, as well as members of the public to assist in prioritizing projects. Members can participate in the online survey with an interactive map, by going to <https://engage.macog.com/LRTP>) Community pop-up events will continue to happen 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.

Data Bike Update

New shared Christina Camp, an AmeriCorps member serving at MACOG, has been utilizing the data bike to update the condition of the trails within the Crossway Trails network (<https://maps-macog.hub.arcgis.com/>) It was noted that, after coordination with Google to complete the process, MACOG's IT staff, Russ Ragimbekov, developed a program to convert the video from the data bike into the format required by Google. The resulting imagery provides a true street view experience.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jesse Bohannon gave an update regarding US 30 and 31 noting he met with the Indiana governor in July, and the governor communicated that the state is committed to funding existing road infrastructure and Community Crossings but stated there will be insufficient funds for US 30 and 31 in the immediate term.

PUBLIC COMMENT

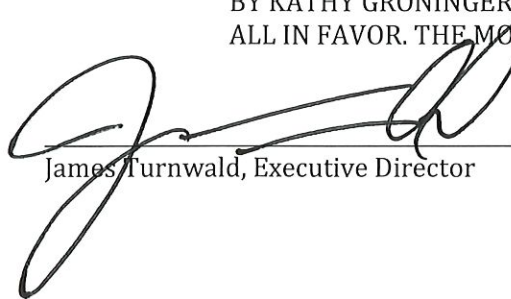
Cindi Hajicek, representing Purple for Parents United, addressed the Policy Board regarding an Access to Public Records Act request. James Turnwald and MACOG's attorney clarified that MACOG had previously responded to the request within the required timeframe and the requested documents would be provided by August 21.

Ralph Spelbring, a member of the public, made comments regarding income, property, and sales taxes.

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 KATHY GRONINGER TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.


James Turnwald, Executive Director
Phil Jenkins, Policy Board Chair