

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

The January meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on January 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, in person, as well as by utilizing YouTube's live chat feature. Cary Groninger, Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Robert Listenburger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Vacant, Marshall County Council

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING

The minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Cary Groninger 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 JESSE BOHANNON AND SECONDED BY
BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2024.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee; Carl Baxmeyer, Jesse Bohannon, Douglas Graham, and David Wood, James Turnwald presented the proposed Slate of Officers to serve as the Policy Board's Executive Committee for calendar year 2025 as follows:

- Chair David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka
- 1st Vice-Chair Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
- 2nd Vice-Chair Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
- Secretary Kathy Groninger, Councilwoman, Kosciusko County
- Treasurer Jesse Bohannon, Commissioner, Marshall County

Hearing no additional nominations, the Chair called for a motion to accept the Slate of Officers as presented and elect the Policy Board Executive Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED BY BRYAN TANNER TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS AND ELECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

November Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of November 2024. She noted a significant increase in the Rolling Stock & Vehicles line item due to the recent receipt of three new buses for the Interurban Trolley fixed route service. Gardner then 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, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID WOOD AND SECONDED BY SUZANNE WEIRICK TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Rod Roberson, James Turnwald reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of December. 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 01-25

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT		<u>Amendment</u>	Non-Exempt Project in St. Joseph County		
Resolution 01-25	Add project				
Des#: 2401424	SR 2 & Larrison Blvd.				
	New Interchange Construction				
Phase: PE	Total: \$1,500,000	Federal: \$1,200,000 (NHPP)	State: \$300,000	SFY 2025	
Phase: RW	Total: \$2,300,000	Federal: \$1,840,000 (NHPP)	State: \$460,000	SFY 2025	

Phase: CN/CE Total: \$43,000,000 Federal: \$34,400,000 (NHPP) State: \$8,600,000 SFY 26/27/28
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$46,800,000

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 01-25. She noted the project is non-exempt and requires air quality conformity consultation therefore, it will not be added into the TIP until after the process has been completed. Hearing no questions, Stevens requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-25.
DAVID WOOD SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transportation Resolution 02-25

Locally Initiated

A. City of Goshen	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 02-25	Change in Scope - Remove Nappanee location project from TIP	
Des#: 2201240	EV Charging Infrastructure in Downtown Goshen and Downtown Nappanee	
	EV Infrastructure	
Phase: PE	Total: \$12,500	Federal: \$10,000 (CRP) State: \$2,500 SFY 2025
Phase: CN	Total: \$248,200	Federal: \$198,560 (CRP) State: \$49,640 SFY 2027
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$260,700		

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 02-25 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 02-25.
JESSE BOHANNON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentations

MACOG Certification Review – FHWA

Erica Tait, from the Indiana Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reported the results from MACOG's recent Certification Review as required by Congress. Tait's presentation, related to the FHWA report issued on October 11, 2024, begins at 8 minutes (8:00) into the YouTube recording that can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mY7iOhphPk>

MACOG Call for Projects Staff Recommendations

Caitlin Stevens discussed MACOG's Call for Projects in the South Bend, Elkhart, and Goshen urbanized areas. She noted the call closed on November 15, 2024, and staff has scored new project requests and reviewed additional funding requests. The projects selected were put into the planning program and will be presented at the March Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Policy Board meetings for approval. The presentation includes details of the selected projects and can be found on the YouTube recording of the Policy Board meeting at 19 minutes and 31 seconds (19:31) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mY7iOhphPk>

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Caitlin Stevens reminded the members that USDOT RAISE Grant applications close on January 30.

2024-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG)

Stevens noted INDOT's CCMG Call for Projects is currently open and will close on January 31. She stated INDOT will continue the \$1.5 million dollar maximum award for this call.

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Stevens highlighted the USDOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The NOFO offers \$27 million in technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for the planning and design phase development of transportation projects. There is no local funding match required to participate in this program. Stevens stated grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis, with applications accepted beginning March 4, at 2:00 PM (ET) and ending on April 3 at 4:50 PM (ET). Interested applications can find more information at <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/357673>

Lilly Endowment GIFT VIII Phase 2 Regional Collaboration Grant

James Turnwald announced a Lilly Endowment grant has been awarded for various regional housing strategies in the MACOG region. He explained two major components are for development of a Land Bank that will be staffed by and MACOG, as well as a Regional Housing Investment Fund. Turnwald stated the primary recipient of funds from the joint application is the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. He let the members know various actions will need to be taken by the Policy Board to operationalize the programs. More information can be found at <https://cfsjc.org/gift-viii-announcement/>

Plans and Programs

Move Safe Regional Safety Action Plan

Caitlin Stevens reported MACOG is moving into the final stages of the Move Safe Regional Safety Action Plan that will be brought to the Policy Board for endorsement in March. She provided a review of the Plan timeline, efforts, and development over the past 10 months.

David Harker gave an overview of the data analysis, safety data, and infrastructure recommendations. Followed by Dustin New who discussed proven safety countermeasures, goals, strategies, and recommendations. Details of the Plan can be found at <https://engage.macog.com/move-safe>

SFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Development

Caitlin Stevens provided a timeline on the development of the SFY 2026-2030 TIP document. She stated staff is currently working on the draft project listing. Stevens continued noting the narrative will be drafted in February, the air quality conformity process will start in late February, and the document will go out for public comment in March. She indicated the TIP will be presented for endorsement at the April 9 Policy Board meeting.

Quarterly Tracking and Review Meeting

Kelsey Triebold let the members know the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting will be held virtually on January 15.

Purdue Road School

James Turnwald reported Purdue Road School will be held on March 18 and 19 in West Lafayette.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Cary Groninger expressed it has been an honor to serve as the Policy Board Chair and as an officer of the organization. Various members thank Groninger for his service.

Jason Kaiser, Interim District Deputy Commission, in the Fort Wayne District of INDOT, passed along appreciation and gratitude from Todd Johnson, former District Deputy Director, who recently retired. Kaiser stated he looks forward to serving on the Policy Board.

James Turnwald indicated the February 12 Policy Board meeting is canceled due to a scheduling conflict with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Annual Conference of Regions in Washington DC. Turnwald and three members of the Executive Committee will be attending the conference.

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 JESSE BOHANNON TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald, Executive Director

Phil Jenkins, Policy Board 1st Vice-Chair

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