

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2026**

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 14, 2016. 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
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Jason Kaiser, District Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the December 10, 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 TONY VIOLI AND SECONDED BY
DWIGHT FISH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David Wood noted this was his final meeting serving as the Policy Board Chair and expressed gratitude for the staff and organization, stating that the organization functions well regardless of who is in the Chair position.

Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, (Douglas Graham, Phil Jenkins, and Suzanne Weirick)
Douglas Graham presented the Proposed Slate of Officers for calendar year 2026 as follows:

- Chair Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
- 1st Vice-Chair Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
- 2nd Vice-Chair Kathy Groninger, Councilwoman, Kosciusko County
- Secretary Jesse Bohannon, Commissioner, Marshall County
- Treasurer Carl Baxmeyer, Commissioner, St. Joseph 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 CARY GRONINGER AND SECONDED
BY CANNETH LEE TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS AND
ELECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

November 2025 Financial Reports

Deborah Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of November 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 then asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHY GRONINGER AND SECONDED BY BRYAN
TANNER TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 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 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

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

Transportation Resolution 01-26

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 01-26		
Des#: 2500049	Add Project and PE Phase to Contract	
Contract#: R-45065	SR 13, from 3.53 miles S of US 6 West Jct. (Orchard Hill) to 1.00 Miles South of US 6 West Jct. (CR 1400 N)	
	ADA Sidewalk Ramp Construction	
Phase: PE	Total: \$94,300	Federal: \$75,440 (STBG) State: \$18,860 SFY 2026
Phase: CN	Total: \$5,603,476	Federal: \$4,482,781 (STBG) State: \$1,120,695 SFY 2027
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$5,637,064		Miles: 1.01

Contract also includes: Lead DES: 2001854 (HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance); 1900073 (Small Structure Replacement); 2100203 (HMA Overlay Minor Structural)

Kelsey Triebold presented the item in Resolution 01-26 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, Triebold asked for the Policy Board's endorsement of the resolution.

CARL BAXMEYER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-26.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

INDOT Calendar Year (CY) 2026 FTA Section 5310 Grant Applications

Gauri Mhatre reported that INDOT's CY 2026 Section 5310 grant applications are available via the INDOT Office of Transit grants management system (BlackCat) and are due by March 6. She noted grants are available to not-for-profit corporations and eligible public bodies in Elkhart, Kosciusko, and Marshall Counties.

Mhatre stated MACOG administers the 5310 program in St. Joseph County and anticipates opening applications in March or April. She reminded the members that the section 5310 program supports transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

Caitlin Stevens discussed a newly released discretionary grant by the US Department of Transportation, the BUILD program. She noted it is a longstanding discretionary grant that has taken on a variety of names over the years; TIGER, BUILD, RAISE, and now back to BUILD. Stevens stated it is a \$1.5 Billion program that focuses on significant infrastructure projects, with applications due by February 24. She highlighted key shifts in the merit criteria under the new administration, including emphasis on technology for safety, domestic industrial policy for economic competitiveness, user experience for quality of life, and inclusion of roadway capacity improvements for mobility.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Awards Announcement

Dustin New reported that the City of Warsaw and the Town of Osceola were both awarded SS4A grants for planning and demonstration projects. He indicated he is looking forward to another round of funding potentially being announced fairly soon.

Plans and Programs

Rail Corridor Overpass and Improvement Study Request for Proposals (RFP)

Caitlin Stevens reported four proposals were received in response to MACOG's Rail Corridor Study RFP and the selection committee awarded the project to DLZ with support from the Lochmueller Group. Stevens noted they are finalizing the contract, and she looks forward to positive outcomes.

Quarterly Tracking and Review

Kelsey Triebold reported that the next Quarterly Tracking and Review (QTR) meeting will be held virtually on January 15. The Fort Wayne district will meet first, followed by the LaPorte District.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Test Drive

Triebold informed the members of the Electric Vehicle Test Drive event that will be held on January 21, at Tire Rack in South Bend. The event is held exclusively for local governments in the MACOG region and is open to all departments. Registration is required.

Purdue Road School

James Turnwald indicated the Purdue Road School will be held March 17 and 18. Many of MACOG's transportation staff will be attending.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

March/April Policy Board Meetings

James Turnwald brought up a scheduling conflict with the April Policy Board meeting coinciding with several local school spring breaks and suggested combining the March and April meetings, potentially on March 30, 31, or April 1, or maintaining the March 11 meeting as scheduled and cancelling the April meeting. Although there is nothing in the MACOG by-laws that requires a set number of meetings, Turnwald noted concern about potential delays in processing TIP amendments and the approval of the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) normally processed in April. An email poll will be sent out to gauge availability for a combined meeting or maintain the March 11 meeting.

State Road 10 and US 31 Intersection Safety Improvements

Matt Deitchley provided a detailed update on safety concerns at the State Road 10 and US 31 intersection, noting frequent serious accidents. INDOT is able to make short-term changes including lowering the speed limit from 60 to 50 MPH, adding striping in the median, and installing rumble strips. Deitchley announced an ambitious goal to install a J-turn at the intersection this summer, which would serve as a significant safety feature for the two years leading up to new interchange construction. Jesse Bohannon confirmed Marshall County's support and thanked INDOT for their responsiveness.

David Wood introduced Mason Hodges, a Senior at the University of Notre Dame who has been serving as an Intern in the Mayor's Office.

Canneth Lee made a comment regarding the upcoming opening of the Raclin Murphy Encore Center at the Morris Civic on February 5.

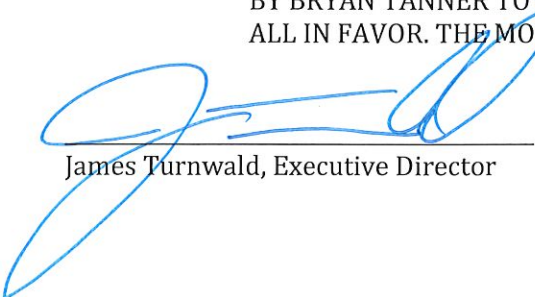
PUBLIC COMMENT

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



James Turnwald, Executive Director



Phil Jenkins, Policy Board Chair