

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2025**

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 9, 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. Phil Jenkins, 1st Vice-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
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the July 9, 2025, 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 BRYAN
TANNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 2025. THE MOTION CARRIED.
SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR, ZERO (0) OPPOSED, ONE (1) ABSTENTION.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget Revisions

Debbie Gardner presented proposed changes to line items in the FY 2025 Budget including an increase in Memberships and Subscriptions by \$5,400, Legal Services by \$2,100, and decreasing Maintenance & Repair by \$7,500 to balance the budget.

James Turnwald reminded the members that MACOG's Fiscal Year is July 1 through June 30, and the proposed revisions are to modify the budget in order to close fiscal year 2025.

Douglas Graham requested a notation in the header of the Comparison Statement of Expenditures indicating the percentage of the fiscal year that has been completed or the percentage that is remaining. Staff agreed to see how best to present the information.

It was noted MACOG completed the fiscal year \$1.5 million under budget largely due to not purchasing as many transit vehicles as initially planned.

Hearing no additional questions or comments, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARL BAXMEYER AND SECONDED BY
BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE FY 2025 BUDGET REVISIONS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

June 2025 Financial Reports

Gardner then presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of June 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
JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE JUNE 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 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

Transportation Resolution 27-25

Locally Initiated

A. Town of Argos
Resolution 27-25

Amendment

Exempt Project in Marshall County

Des#: 2101288 Delete Project
Contract#: R-44084 **New Sidewalk/Trail in the Town of Argos – Marshall Street, Walnut Street, Michigan Street
Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

Phase: CN Total: \$593,400 Federal: \$474,720 (TA) Local: \$118,680 SFY 2028
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$919,830

B. MACOG Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 27-25

Des#: RCE-1 Add Project
Contract#: TBD **St. Joseph County and Elkhart County, Indiana Rail Corridor Overpass and Improvements Study
Other Type Project (Miscellaneous)**

Phase: PE Total: \$1,250,000 Federal: \$1,000,000 (RCE) Local: \$250,000 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = 1,250,000

C. Elkhart Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 27-25

Des#: 1801933, 1900821 Increase funding and move from FY25 to FY26 & FY27
Contract#: B-41845 **Hively Avenue, East of Main St., crossing the NS Railroad
Major Bridge Project (New Bridge/Grade Separation)**

Phase: CN Total: \$48,434,571 Federal: \$11,175,750 (STBG) Local/State: \$37,258,821 SFY 26/27

Phase: CN Total: \$19,818,219 Federal: \$19,818,219 (RCE) SFY 26/27
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$64,262,765

INDOT Initiated

D. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 27-25

Des#: 2500712, 2500764 Add Project
Contract#: B-46253 **US 20 over Clover Rd, 1.25 mi E of SR 331; US 20 over Phillips Ditch,
0.36 mi W of E Junction of US 31
Replace Superstructure, Small Structure Pipe Lining**

Phase: PE Total: \$1,989,797 Federal: \$1,591,838 (NHPP) State: \$397,959 SFY 2026

Phase: RW Total: \$20,000 Federal: \$16,000 (NHPP) State: \$4,000 SFY 2028

Phase: CN Total: \$6,632,483 Federal: \$5,305,987 (NHPP) State: \$1,326,496 SFY 2030

Estimated Cost to Complete = \$8,642,228

E. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 27-25

Des#: 2001886, 1702997 Increase funding by \$13,955,961 and change work type
Contract#: R-43381 **US 6 from the East Junction of SR 106 to 2.03 miles West of SR 19
(Shawnee Dr.)
Unbonded Concrete Overlay**

Phase: CN Total: \$30,505,714 Federal: \$24,404,571 (NHPP) State: \$6,101,143 SFY 2026

Estimated Cost to Complete = \$34,601,879

F. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 27-25

Des#: 2100558, 2100237, 2301585 Increase funding by \$5,711,153 and Modify Termini
Contract#: R-43930 **SR 933, Elkhart Co Line (Ash Rd) to 0.16 mi W of SR 331 (Brooke Ave)**
HMA Overlay, Preventative Maintenance
Phase: CN Total: \$12,346,886 Federal: \$9,877,509 (NHPP) State: \$2,469,377 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$14,688,637

G. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 27-25
Des#: 2200824, 2500477 Increase funding by \$2,526,890
Contract#: R-44668 **US 6 from SR 104 to E. Jct. of SR 23 (Georgia St.)**
HMA Overlay Minor Structural, Small Structures & Drains Construction
Phase: CN Total: \$5,384,825 Federal: \$4,307,860 (NHPP) State: \$1,076,965 SFY 2029
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$6,250,691

H. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 27-25
Des#: 2500806 Add Project
Contract#: R-46272 **US 6 at Dogwood Rd**
Intersection Improvement
Phase: PE Total: \$1,157,516 Federal: \$1,041,764 (Safety) State: \$115,752 SFY 2026
Phase: RW Total: \$54,000 Federal: \$48,600 (Safety) State: \$5,400 SFY 2028
Phase: CN Total: \$3,858,387 Federal: \$3,472,548 (Safety) State: \$385,839 SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$5,069,903

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 27-25. Following some discussion regarding the potential alternatives as well as the safety concerns related to Item H and the Indiana Rail Corridor Overpass and Improvements study in Item B, the following action was taken.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 27-25.
CARL BAXMEYER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

Indiana Trails Grant Program

Dustin New let the members know the Indiana Trails Program (ITP) grant application period opens on September 1, with applications due electronically by October 1. The grant request minimum is \$100,000, and the maximum is \$400,000. The ITP will provide a maximum of 80% reimbursement for eligible projects with at least 20% match from the applicant. Please reach out to New if you have a project in mind.

Safe Routes to Schools Mini-Grants

New reported applications are due by August 22 for Health by Design's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) mini grants. The grants range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The assistance is intended to support the development of initiatives that make it safer and easier for children to walk, bike, and roll to and from school and throughout their communities.

Community Crossing Matching Grants (CCMG)

David Harker announced the return of the CCMG program, although in a modified form. The statewide

cap is now \$100 million, with individual awards limited to \$1 million. Applications will be accepted by October 31 for fiscal year 2026, and then annually in July from fiscal year 2027 onward. The local match requirement for cities and towns under 10,000 population and counties under 55,000 has been reduced from 25% to 20%.

An asset management plan is required by December 1 to apply for CCMG funds. MACOG is available to assist communities with their plans.

Plans and Programs

New KABS deviated fixed-route bus service in Warsaw

Turnwald stated that MACOG has been assisting Kosciusko Area Bus Service (KABS) in planning a new deviated fixed-route service in Warsaw, set to launch in September. This new service aims to improve operational efficiency and expand transportation access by combining fixed routes with on-demand pickups.

Travel Demand Model and LOCUS Big Data Update

Raj Parikh shared that the travel demand model is being updated with base year data from 2023, and projections will be made every five years up to 2055 for development of the long-range plan. MACOG has purchased big data from LOCUS (created by Cambridge Systematics), which will help calibrate the travel demand model, along with traditional transportation data sources, by providing anonymized information on movement, origins, and destinations for regional travel analysis.

INDOT Freight Plan

James Turnwald stated INDOT is updating the statewide Freight Plan. The current plan was adopted in 2023, and they are working toward adopting the new plan in 2027. An initial survey for stakeholders regarding goals, objectives, and preferred freight corridors has just closed, but there will be many more opportunities for public interaction and feedback as the plan progresses.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Douglas Graham stated he has received requests from citizens related to providing Interurban Trolley services to the new Amazon facility in Elkhart County; being able to utilize public transportation would allow citizens to apply for employment with Amazon and have transportation to and from the facility. Turnwald indicated that MACOG's vanpool program may be an option for both Amazon facilities in the region. MACOG will be meeting with the Amazon team to discuss their needs.

Phil Jenkins discussed an issue with recalled ADA Chrysler minivans purchased through INDOT rural 5310 program. The vehicles are currently unusable due to a lack of a fix from the manufacturer.

Jesse Bohannon announced that Marshall County will be having a ribbon cutting and officially dedicating a portion of Old US Highway 31 to honor the late Congresswoman Jackie Walorski. The roadway, now named Jackie Walorski Road, stretches from the St. Joseph County line to the Fulton County Line.

Bohannon then mentioned a video from Ohio LTAP that discusses studies on how to mitigate horse and buggy damage on roadways. It was discussed that the region would benefit from a collaborative effort to address this issue, possibly by sourcing alternative paving materials or promoting composite horseshoes, as current local fees are insufficient to cover the damage.

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

James Turnwald, Executive Director

David Wood, Policy Board Chair