

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2026**

The March meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on March 11, 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. Rod Roberson, 1st Vice-Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
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
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Jason Kaiser, District Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2026, MEETING

The minutes of the February 11, 2026, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Rod Roberson 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 KATHY GRONINGER AND SECONDED BY
CARL BAXMEYER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

January 2026 Financial Reports

Deborah Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of January 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. The members were reminded that MACOG operates on the State Fiscal Year, July 1 through June 30. Hearing no questions, Gardner requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED BY
CARY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Jesse Bohannon, James Turnwald reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of February. 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 07-26

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 07-26		
Des#: 2600007, 2600006	Add Project to TIP	
Contract#: R-46547	US 30 at King Rd; US 30 at Queen Road	
	Other Intersection Improvement	
Phase: PE	Total: \$1,375,519	Federal: \$1,237,967 (HSIP) State: \$137,552 SFY 2027
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$10,083,978	Miles: 0	

B. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 07-26		
Des#: 2500924	Add RW Phase	
Contract#: R-46475	US 20 at Tulip Rd, 5.06 mi W of US 31	
	Other Intersection Improvement	
Phase: RW	Total: \$75,000	Federal: \$67,500 (HSIP) State: \$7,500 SFY 2027
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$1,823,303	Miles: 0.5	

C. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 07-26		

Des#: 2500925 Add RW Phase
 Contract#: R-46476 **US 20 at Smilax Rd, 5.8 mi W of US 31**
Other Intersection Improvement
 Phase: RW Total: \$105,000 Federal: \$94,500 (HSIP) State: \$10,500 SFY 2027
 Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,727,884 Miles: 0.5

Locally Initiated

D. Marshall County Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County
 Resolution 07-26

Des#: 2501452 Add Project
 Contract#: B-46611 **Bridge #254 on Michigan Road over CSX Railroad located .65 miles N. of US 6**
Replace Superstructure

Phase: PE	Total: \$807,000	Federal: \$645,600 (Bridge)	Local: \$161,400	SFY 2027
Phase: RR	Total: \$433,000	Federal: \$346,400 (Bridge)	Local: \$86,600	SFY 2032
Phase: CN/CE	Total: \$10,110,000	Federal: \$8,088,000 (Bridge)	Local: \$2,022,000	SFY 2032
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$11,350,000		Miles: 0.2		

E. City of Plymouth Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County
 Resolution 07-26

Des#: 2501432 Add Project
 Contract#: R-46620 **Oak Dr. from SR 17 (Lake Ave) to US 30**
Bike/Pedestrian Facilities

Phase: PE	Total: \$841,300	Federal: \$673,040 (TA)	Local: \$168,260	SFY 2027
Phase: RW	Total: \$246,000	Federal: \$196,800 (TA)	Local: \$49,200	SFY 2029
Phase: RR	Total: \$500,000	Federal: \$400,000 (TA)	Local: \$100,000	SFY 2029
Phase: CN/CE	Total: \$3,268,900	Federal: \$2,615,120 (TA)	Local: \$653,780	SFY 2032
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$4,856,200		Miles: 1.63		

F. City of Goshen Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
 Resolution 07-26

Des#: 2100020 Add Project
 Contract#: R-43582 **Blackport Dr from Monroe St to Lincoln Ave**
HMA Overlay, Structural

Phase: RW	Total: \$170,000	Federal: \$105,600 (STBG)	Local: \$64,400	SFY 2028
Phase: CN	Total: \$1,107,225	Federal: \$885,780 (STBG)	Local: \$221,445	SFY 2029
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$2,048,650		Miles: 0.7		

G. Elkhart County Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
 Resolution 07-26

Des#: 2501377 Add Project
 Contract#: TBD **Bridge #252 carrying CR 1 over Baugo Creek 0.5 miles north of CR 32**
Replace Superstructure

Phase: PE	Total: \$478,033	Federal: \$382,426 (Bridge)	Local: \$95,607	SFY 2027
Phase: RW	Total: \$344,509	Federal: \$275,607 (Bridge)	Local: \$68,902	SFY 2029
Phase: CN	Total: \$2,959,711	Federal: \$2,367,769 (Bridge)	Local: \$591,942	SFY 2031
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,782,213		Miles: 0.2		

H. Kosciusko County
Resolution 07-26

Amendment

Exempt Project in Kosciusko County

Des#: 2501385

Add Project

Contract#: TBD

**Bridge #145 on CR 600 W, 0.20 miles north of W Shilling Road
Replace Superstructure**

Phase: PE Total: \$467,000 Federal: \$373,600 (Bridge) Local: \$93,400 SFY 2027

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolutions 07-26 and asked for any questions.

James Turnwald congratulated local governments; Elkhart, Kosciusko, and Marshall Counties, and the City of Plymouth, that received funding through INDOT's recent rural call for projects.

Cary Groninger raised concerns about endorsing Item A of the resolution, which proposes Intersection Improvements/Reduced Conflict Intersection projects in Marshall County, noting that no Marshall County representatives were present at the meeting. He asked if the item could be tabled until they could participate in the discussion.

After some discussion, the following action was taken.

DOUGLAS GRAHAM MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ITEM A OF
RESOLUTION 07-26 TO A LATER MEETING. JEFF GROSS SECONDED.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS B THROUGH H
OF RESOLUTION 07-26. CANNETH LEE SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

Resolution 08-26

A Resolution Endorsing a 3-Year Partnership Planning Grant Application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) – For the period of performance beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Donald Ritsema presented Resolution 08-26 that authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Partnership Planning Program. Ritsema noted MACOG has served as the region's Economic Development District since 2011 and indicated the next 3-year grant application will be due in May. The grant application anticipates a 60/40 funding split from the EDA, requiring a local match commitment of up to \$140,000 for a total project cost of \$350,000

DOUGLAS GRAHAM MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 08-26.
SUZANNE WEIRICK SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 09-26

Endorsement of the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

James Turnwald presented Resolution 09-26. Turnwald explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), outlines activities funded by planning funds from US DOT for transportation planning,

such as the Transportation Improvement Program and the Long Range Plan. A lot of the UPWP outlines continuous recurring activity.

Turnwald reported notable activities in the new work program include updating the current 2050 transportation plan to the 2055 plan, which requires new modeling work that needs to be done with our transportation model, as well as Pictometry (aerial imagery) flights in 2027.

Turnwald also stated a placeholder was included in the UPWP for the Mishawaka-Elkhart Trail study, which has been stalled for more than a year, waiting on an \$800,000 federal (RAISE) grant. If the federal grant does not materialize, MACOG would like to begin basic steps for studying the 11-mile gap between Mishawaka and Elkhart.

The Chair continued to the Annual Certification Statements, to include them with Resolution 09-26 in the Board action.

Annual Certification Statements

Endorsement of the State Fiscal Year 2027 Self Certification Statement

Turnwald explained the Self Certification Statement certifies that MACOG's transportation planning process is addressing issues in the metropolitan planning area and complies with the requirements of 23 USC and 23 CFR.

Endorsement of the Statement Regarding MPO Certification Review by FHWA and INDOT

Continuing, Turnwald indicated that every four years the Federal Highway Administration and INDOT review MACOG's overall transportation planning process in relation to how it meets with federal code. MACOG's last review was held in July 2024. Three corrective actions were identified and have been resolved. The next review will be conducted in 2028.

With no objections, the following action was taken.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-26 AND BOTH OF THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS. DWIGHT FISH SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentation

Calendar Year 2025 MACOG Annual Review

MACOG Staff presented the Calendar Year 2025 MACOG Annual Review highlighting the projects, partnerships, and progress made possible through regional cooperation to improve transportation systems, securing grant funding, supporting housing development, protecting environmental resources, and helping communities grow responsibly.

The presentation can be found on MACOG's YouTube Channel at 32 minutes and 20 seconds into the recording (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7BzxKxnyel>). The Annual Review document can be found on the MACOG website (<https://www.macog.com/about.html>).

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

Health by Design - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Mini Grant

Health by Design is offering mini grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 to support SRTS activities. The program aims to support the development of initiatives that make it safer and easier for children to walk, bike, or roll to and from school and throughout their communities. Applications are due by March 13.

Indiana Office of Energy Development - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

Approximately \$1 million is available for Indiana's EECBG program. This program will fund efforts to increase energy efficiency and conservation to support energy affordability for units of local governments. Up to \$200,000 in federal grant funds per award. Total project cost shall not exceed \$250,000, including any match provided. Applications are due April 5.

Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act

Congress introduced the BASICS Act in February 2026. The legislation would improve federal transportation programs to provide better access to resources for local governments. It looks at what is next for federal surface transportation ahead of transportation funding reauthorization in September.

Plans and Programs

Quarterly Track & Review Meeting

The next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting to discuss federally funded transportation projects will take place virtually on April 2. The Fort Wayne District will meet in the morning followed by the LaPorte District.

Partners For Clean Air Award Luncheon

The annual Partners for Clean Air Award Luncheon will be held at the Matterhorn Conference Center in Elkhart on April 29. Please let Kelsey Triebold know if you have any award nominations. Registration will open soon.

Interurban Trolley Service Adjustments

The Interurban Trolley is currently evaluating potential service adjustments due to continued increases in operating costs and relatively flat funding levels. As part of this process, MACOG will be discussing these potential changes in the coming months and engaging with the public for input. Staff are considering targeted reductions during the least productive service periods.

Go574 Bike Month Challenge

The Go574 Bike Month Challenge is approaching and is scheduled for May 4 through May 31. Members of the Policy Board were asked to help promote the challenge as staff work with nonprofit partners to raise awareness of Bike to Work Week and Bike Month.

April 8 Policy Board Meeting Cancellation Reminder

Due to various scheduling conflicts and the potential lack of quorum, the April 8 Policy Board meeting has been canceled.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Suzanne Weirick announced that April 24 is the Women's Little 500, the largest collegiate bike race in the U.S. Her daughter's racing team is DGBT.

Canneth Lee discussed the groundbreaking for The Monreaux, an affordable housing apartment complex being built in downtown South Bend.

Carl Baxmeyer acknowledged the efforts of the St. Joseph County Council with the successful launch of MACOG's Regional Lank Bank Program.

Cary Groninger thank the MACOG staff for their efforts and accomplishments in Kosciusko County

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

James Turnwald, Executive Director

Kathy Groninger,
Policy Board 2nd Vice-Chair