

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2026**

The May meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on May 13, 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. Kathy Groninger, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Jason Kaiser, District Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2026, MEETING

The minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Kathy Groninger asked the Policy Board members if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There being none, she called for the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GINA LEICHTY AND SECONDED BY
BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2026.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

February and March 2026 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the months of February and March 2026. She reviewed the year-to-date total expenses, reported the cash balances at the end of each month, and the total amounts of disbursements.

The members were reminded that MACOG operates on the State Fiscal Year, July 1 through June 30. Dwight Fish asked about the regular payments of \$150,000 or more to Kaser Fleet. Gardner explained Kaser Fleet is the vendor that operates MACOG's Interurban Trolley services and they bill on the 15th day and the last day of each month. Hearing no additional questions, Gardner requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GINA LEICHTY AND SECONDED BY BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 State Board of Accounts (SBOA) Audit and Supplemental Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the FY 2024 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) State Board of Accounts Audit and Supplemental reports. She noted the members had each received the reports with their meeting packets in advance of the meeting. Printed copies were also available during the meeting.

Gardner reported the audit report was very good overall, receiving an unmodified opinion from the auditors. She indicated there were two audit findings that led to corrective actions.

- Audit Finding 1: This finding relates to how the liability of MACOG's six-year contract (Three flights, one flight every other year) with Pictometry is reported. The auditors instructed that the full two-year liability should be booked in the first year the service is performed, even if the second half is not invoiced until the following year; MACOG functionally agreed with this point and will comply accordingly.
- Audit Finding 2: The second finding was a delay in adding some fixed assets for FTA 5310 subrecipient vehicles to the separate fixed asset module, meaning they were not being depreciated monthly, though the assets were reflected in other reports. The issue was internally noticed, disclosed to the auditor, and corrected.

Gardner asked for any questions, hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement of the Fiscal Year 2025 State Board of Accounts Audit and Supplemental Reports.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JESSE BOHANNON AND SECONDED BY DWIGHT FISH TO APPROVE THE FY 2025 AUDIT REPORTS ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald noted that MACOG prefers the annual SBOA financial audit to occur earlier in the fall and requested a return to that timeline for the Fiscal Year 2026 audit.

Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget

Debbie Gardner also presented the FY 2027 proposed budget. She explained there are not a lot of changes, and the overall increase is 1.5% over FY 2026.

Dwight Fish asked about the Rolling Stock & Vehicles line item, pointing out there is no change from the FY 2026 budget. Gardner and Turnwald responded that last year's purchases were complicated by the expiration of the Indiana State Qualified Purchasing Agreement, which is now resolved, and they believe MACOG can stay within the budget for planned purchases despite higher prices.

Kathy Groninger asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARY GRONINGER AND SECONDED BY
BRYAN TANNER TO APPROVE THE FY 2027 BUDGET AS PROPOSED.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald thanked the Policy Board for approving the budget a month earlier than usual because he will be attending the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) annual conference in June and unable to attend the June Policy Board meeting.

Jesse Bohannon wanted to know what advised the 4.2% increase in salaries. Turnwald responded that one of the cost drivers for salaries is a new staff position (Land Bank Manager) that is funded by philanthropic dollars for the regional housing collaborative. The 20% increase in fringe benefits was due to a prior under-application of the cost allocation plan rate, approximately \$60,000, which needed to be recaptured, as well as an increase in medical insurance, and also factored-in sick and vacation time for the new position. Turnwald stated salary increases for existing staff are performance-based and not across the board, typically ranging between 1% and 4% for individuals.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jesse Bohannon reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the months of March and April. A correction was noted to DES # 2200003 correcting the county from Allen County to Various. No action is required. A list of modifications was provided to the members, and the information is available on the MACOG website.

OLD BUSINESS

Take Item A from Resolution 07-26 from the Table, Return to the Floor

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 07-26a		
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

James Turnwald indicated Resolution 07-26a (07-26 Item A) that was Tabled by the Policy Board during the March meeting would require Policy Board action to return the Amendment to the Floor for consideration.

The Chair called for a motion to return Resolution 07-26 Item A to the Floor.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MATT DEITCHLEY AND SECONDED BY ROBERT LISTENBERGER TO RETURN THE ITEM TO THE FLOOR. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Turnwald then presented Resolution 07-26a. Dwight Fish asked if any financial commitment had already been made by MACOG for the project. Turnwald responded that State and Federal funding would be involved. The project was previously presented but then paused for a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for both the US 30 and US 31 corridors so the project did not move forward and is new State project for consideration.

The Chair asked for additional questions. Hearing none, she called for a motion.

MATT DEITCHLEY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 07-26a.
BRYAN TANNER SECONDED.

Tim Harmon expressed safety concerns that the intersection at King Road is not well-marked and asked if low-cost options, such as more jarring rumble strips placed across the roadway, were fully explored to address driver alertness. Matt Deitchley confirmed that driver alertness is a major factor in the accidents, but these intersections present a systemic problem that would not be solved by "nominal fixes" like rumble strips alone, noting that where rumble strips have been used in similar locations, the accident rate has not significantly dropped. Rumble strips typically provide only a 5% to 10% reduction in accidents.

Jeff Grose thanked INDOT for the efforts to improve safety but stated he does not support the proposed reduced conflict intersections (RCIs), which often leads to J-turns, because he believes a larger investment in transportation solutions for the US 30 corridor is necessary. Matt Deitchley acknowledged his position but offered the perspective that J-turns are not necessarily the final solution and can serve as necessary, cost-effective, and life-saving short-term measures in locations that may never receive a full interchange.

Jesse Bohannon noted that he does not object to the current two intersection projects (Queen and King) because Marshall County sees less economic impact at these locations but urged INDOT to find more creative solutions for areas like Oak Road to prevent economic impact. INDOT indicated that RCI projects have been shown to reduce fatality and serious accidents by 80%.

David Wood confirmed with INDOT that community and stakeholder involvement and outreach has been done and considered.

A roll call vote was requested by Robert Listenberger for Resolution 07-26a.

THE MOTIONED CARRIED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION
WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Transportation Resolution 10-26

Locally InitiatedA. Marshall County
Resolution 10-26Amendment

Exempt Project in Marshall County

Des#: 2101698

Change in scope, Move RW phase from FY 26 to FY 28,
Move CN from FY 28 to FY 30

Contract#: B-44305

**Bridge No. 231 Carrying Center St. over Army Ditch in Bremen
Bridge Rehabilitation or Repair**

Phase: RW	Total: \$275,000	Federal: \$220,000 (STBG)	State: \$55,000	SFY 2028
Phase: CN	Total: \$2,365,000	Federal: \$1,892,000 (STBG)	State: \$473,000	SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,100,560		Miles: 0.06		

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 10-26 and asked for any questions.

Jesse Bohannon expressed the Marshall County Commissioners' frustration with this project due to the bridge being designated for rehabilitation instead of replacement because it is believed to be historical, which will significantly increase the cost. The bridge's historic designation is due to the type of construction used, though it is not visible to the public. It was noted for the record that Bohannon's preference for the project be replacement rather than a rehabilitation, reducing the overall project cost.

The Chair called for a motion to approve Resolution 10-26

GINA LIECHTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-26.

BRYAN TANNER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transportation Resolution 11-26**INDOT Initiated**A. INDOT
Resolution 11-26Amendment

Exempt Project in Kosciusko County

Des#: 2600063

Add Project

Contract#:

US 30 at SR 19**Intersection Improvement, Median U-Turn**

Phase: PE	Total: \$630,000	Federal: \$504,000 (NHS)	State: \$126,000	SFY 2027
Phase: UT	Total: \$10,000	Federal: \$8,000 (NHS)	State: \$2,000	SFY 2027
Phase: CN	Total: \$3,461,665	Federal: \$2,769,332 (NHS)	State: \$692,333	SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$4,101,665		Miles: TBD		

B. INDOT
Resolution 11-26Amendment

Exempt Project in Kosciusko County

Des#: 2600064

Add Project

Contract#:

US 30, 2.73 mi East of SR 19 (CR 800 W)**Intersection Improvement, Median U-Turn**

Phase: PE	Total: \$462,000	Federal: \$369,600 (NHS)	State: \$92,400	SFY 2027
Phase: UT	Total: \$20,000	Federal: \$16,000 (NHS)	State: \$4,000	SFY 2027
Phase: CN	Total: \$2,835,290	Federal: \$2,268,232 (NHS)	State: \$567,058	SFY 2030
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,317,290		Miles: TBD		

C. INDOT
Resolution 11-26Amendment

Exempt Project in Kosciusko County

Des#: 2600729 Add Project
Contract#: **US 30 from Fox Farm Rd. to CR 450 E – Engineering Scoping Report**
 Other Type Project (Miscellaneous)
Phase: PE Total: \$500,000 Federal: \$400,000 (NHS) State: \$100,000 SFY 2026
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$500,000 Miles: 8.65

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 11-26. Jason Kaiser explained that Item C was an Engineer Scoping Report with the intent to refine costs and impacts based on the prior Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) document. The study would examine higher-end alternatives and their associated costs and impacts, which would help determine the need for investment beyond the current \$30 million annual commitment for the US 30 and US 31 corridors.

James Turnwald noted that the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) recommended Item C favorably and provided unfavorable recommendations for Items A and B of Resolution 11-26. He said the board may choose to vote on those items separately. Jason Kaiser said INDOT views the Resolution as a package, including all items, and as a unified commitment to the Kosciusko County and Warsaw area, allowing for public consultation, design tweaks, or potential project cancellation if support is not garnered.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO SEPERATE ITEMS A AND B OF
RESOLUTION 11-26 FROM ITEM C. GINA LEICHTY SECONDED.
TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR. ONE (1) OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Cary Groninger reported meeting with local stakeholders, commissioners, the Town of Etna Green, and the Amish Safety Committee, finding no community support for the J-turn improvements at the two specified intersections. He said the Amish Safety Committee said a J-turn is the worst possible solution for horse-and-buggy navigation, which is a concern given the families who use those intersections to get to school and the expected tripling of the Amish population in the area over the next decade. Jeff Grose expressed concern that Item C would lead to a delay in getting what the community desires for that area.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO DENY ADDING ITEMS A AND B
OF RESOLUTION 11-26 TO THE TIP. JEFF GROSE SECONDED.
CARY GRONINGER REQUESTED A ROLL CALL VOTE. ELEVEN (11)
IN FAVOR TO DENY. TWO (2) OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Kathy Groninger then called for a motion for Item C.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM C OF RESOLUTION 11-26.
JESSE BOHANNON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 FTA Apportionments – South Bend IN/MI Urbanized Area

Resolution 12-26 – Bus / Rail Apportionment – Urbanized Area Formula Program
FY 2026 Bus / Rail Apportionment – FTA Section **5307** Funding
Total Apportionment – \$6,136,263
NICTD Rail – \$2,287,729 Transpo – \$3,528,534 Niles DART – \$320,000

Resolution 13-26 – Rail Apportionment – State of Good Repair
FY 2026 Rail Apportionment – FTA Section **5337** Funding

Total Apportionment – \$4,818,354
NICTD Rail – \$4,818,354

Resolution 14-26 – Bus Apportionment – Bus and Bus Facilities
FY 2026 Bus Apportionment – FTA Section 5339 Funding

Total Apportionment -- \$349,308
Transpo – \$274,308 Niles DART – \$75,000

James Turnwald presented Resolutions 12-26, 13-26, and 14-26 for apportionment of FY 2026 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds to transit providers in the South Bend urbanized area; Transpo, NICTD, and Niles DART. Turnwald explained the funding is provided to the urbanized area, not the individual transit providers. Through a process consistent with FTA Section 5307 requirements, MACOG meets with the transit providers and offers funding scenarios to generate conversation based on funding history and need. Turnwald stated all three transit providers agreed to the funding split presented.

Hearing no objections, the following action was taken.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 12-26, 13-26, AND 14-26. GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transit Resolution 15-26

Proposed Interurban Trolley Service Reduction

James Turnwald presented Transit Resolution 15-26. He explained the proposed service reductions for the Interurban Trolley aimed to align costs with the budget and local match requirements. The reductions targeted hours and routes with the lowest ridership. The operating changes are expected to take place starting June 1.

Dwight Fish noted that constituents in the fourth district of Elkhart heavily rely on public transportation, and he is opposed to such reductions in service. He expressed the need for a safe, central, and affordable transfer center in downtown Elkhart. The Board briefly discussed the 50/50 match requirements.

BRYAN TANNER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 15-26.
TONY VIOLI SECONDED. TWELVE (12) IN FAVOR. ONE (1)
OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

FTA 5310 Call for Projects - South Bend Urbanized Area

James Turnwald announced that the FTA 5310 Call for Projects in the South Bend Urbanized Area is set to open in June.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants – Due May 26

James stated the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants applications are due May 26.

Railroad Crossing Elimination (Crossing Safety) Program – Due June 8

James announced that the Railroad Crossing Elimination (Crossing Safety) Program applications are due June 8.

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI)

James said the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety Improvements Program applications are due June 22.

Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG)

James noted that the CCMG Call for Projects is moving the deadline to September 30. The CCMG Call for Projects, which was previously held in July, is anticipated to be held in September in the future as well.

Plans and Programs

Bike to Work Week

James highlighted different events for Bike to Work Month/Week.

Go574 Bike Month Challenge

James provided an update on the Go574 Bike Month Challenge and noted that postcards are available for distribution.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tim Harmon asked for clarification related to Marshall County's eligibility for the second pool of Community Crossings funding as the County does not have a wheel tax. James Turnwald committed to following up with state contacts to clarify if the lack of a wheel tax would impact on the County's eligibility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public commented on the cost of public transportation using various modes in several states.

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



Zach Dripps, Director of Operations



Phil Jenkins, Policy Board Chair