

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2025**

The November meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on November 12, 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
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenberger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the October 8, 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 GINA LEICHTY AND SECONDED BY
CANNETH LEE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

September 2025 Financial Reports

Deborah Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of September 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 DOUGLAS GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY
CANNETH LEE TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Kathy Groninger, Phil Jenkins reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of October. 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 Programs (TIP)

Transportation Resolution 31-25

Locally Initiated

A. St. Joseph County	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 31-25		
Des#: 1702832	Modify Termini (Changing termini from Miami Hwy to Juniper Rd)	
Contract#: R-41176	Pierce Road from US 31 to Juniper Road	
	Road Reconstruction (3R/4R Standards)	
Phase: CN	Total: \$6,076,000	Federal: \$4,860,800 (STBG) Local: \$1,215,200 SFY 2026
	Estimated Cost to Complete = \$7,650,731	Miles: 0.7

INDOT Initiated

B. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 31-25		
Des#: 2000024	Add PE Phase	
Contract#: B-44526	SR 15 3.06 miles North of US 6 (SR 15 at CR 146)	
	Intersection Improvement with Added Turn Lanes	
Phase: PE	Total: \$193,600	Federal: \$154,880 (STBG) State: \$38,720 SFY 2026
	Estimated Cost to Complete = \$8,999,800	

Contract Also Includes: 2200557 – Bridge Deck Overlay, 2200558 – Bridge Replacement over CSX RR, 1.45 miles S of US 6 and over Whitehead Ditch, 2.80 miles N of US 6

Caitlin Stevens presented the items in Resolution 31-25 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, Stevens asked for the Policy Board's endorsement of the resolution.

BRIAN TANNER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 31-25.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transit Resolution 32-25

A. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-26-021	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Buy Fixed Route Vehicle Transit Vehicle	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$200,000	Federal: \$160,000 (5307)	Local: \$40,000 SFY 2026
B. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-26-021	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Rehab/Renovate Facilities Transit Facilities	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$82,000	Federal: \$65,233 (5307)	Local: \$16,767 SFY 2026
C. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-27-022	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Buy Fixed Route Vehicle Transit Vehicle	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$70,000	Federal: \$55,232 (5307)	Local: \$14,768 SFY 2027
D. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-27-023	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Rehab/Renovate Facilities Transit Facilities	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$200,000	Federal: \$160,000 (5307)	Local: \$40,000 SFY 2027
E. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-012	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Rehab/Renovate Facilities Transit Facilities	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$300,000	Federal: \$240,000 (5307)	Local: \$60,000 SFY 2028
F. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-013	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Buy Fixed Route Vehicle Transit Vehicle	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$600,000	Federal: \$480,000 (5307)	Local: \$120,000 SFY 2028
G. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-014	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Tire Lease Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$25,000	Federal: \$20,000 (5307)	Local: \$5,000 SFY 2028
H. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-015	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Acquire – ADP Software Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$30,000	Federal: \$24,000 (5307)	Local: \$6,000 SFY 2028

I. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-016	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Preventive Maintenance Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$1,300,000	Federal: \$1,040,000 (5307)	Local: \$260,000 SFY 2028
J. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-017	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Operating Assistance – Paratransit Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$625,000	Federal: \$500,000 (5307)	Local: \$125,000 SFY 2028
K. Transpo Resolution 32-25 Des#: MAC-28-018	<u>Amendment</u> Add Project to TIP Operating Assistance – Fixed Route Transit Operating	Exempt Project in St. Joseph
Total: \$2,500,000	Federal: \$1,250,000 (5307)	Local: \$1,250,000 SFY 2028

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 32-25. He noted the amendments are estimated placeholders in the TIP since the allocations for 2026-2028 are unknown. Modifications will take place when the actual allocation amounts are available, enabling a smoother grant process for Transpo. Cox then asked for any questions. Hearing none, he requested the Policy Boards endorsement of the resolution.

GINA LEICHTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 32-25.
BRYAN TANNER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants

Dustin New stated IDOH Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant applications are due by November 14. Plans are anticipated to start in late 2025 and are to be substantially completed by September 30, 2026. Matching funds will not be required for communities with populations fewer than 5,000. A dollar-for-dollar local match is required from communities with populations of more than 5,000.

INDOT Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Rural Federal-Aid Projects

Caitlin Stevens announced INDOT's NOFA for rural federal aid projects, open to municipalities and counties outside of the urbanized areas. The funding, which typically follows an 80/20 federal-local split covers various transportation projects like sidewalks, trails, roads, and intersections, with applications due by December 5. Stevens noted awards are anticipated in spring 2026. Jason Kaiser added that bridge and safety-oriented projects are often viewed favorably by INDOT.

Plans and Programs

Rail Crossing Elimination Study Request for Proposals (RFP)

Caitlin Stevens reported MACOG is seeking proposals from qualified consultants for a Rail Corridor Study on four at-grade railroad crossings in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties. The project is partially funded by the Federal Railroad Administration's Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. Proposals are due by 3:00 pm, December 4, 2025.

INDOT Long Range Transportation Plan

Caitlin Stevens informed the Policy Board that INDOT is updating its long-range transportation plan. She said they have a virtual room open through December 20 to share goals and collect insights on various priorities. INDOT's long range plan isn't necessarily project specific but it is policy based and this is an opportunity provide input.

Brownfields Update

Olivia Nix provided an update on MACOG's Regional Brownfields Program, established through an EPA assessment grant to provide funds for assessing brownfield sites in the four counties of the MACOG region. Brownfield sites are defined as having perceived or known contamination. MACOG assists municipalities and property owners by conducting assessments, collaborating with the Indiana Brownfields Program, and assisting with applications for cleanup grants. James Turnwald emphasized that the program is completely voluntary, 100% federally funded, and assessment dollars can be accessed quickly since the environmental consultants are already under contract.

Proposed Workforce Board Realignment

James Turnwald informed the board about the State of Indiana's proposal to streamline the state's workforce development boards from 12 to eight (8), aligning more with Indiana's READI (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative) Regions. The proposed map would shift Kosciusko County out of the Northern Indiana Workforce Board (Region 2) and add Cass, Miami, Howard, and Tipton counties, among others, increasing the geography of the region. A comment period is open until November 24, and a virtual town hall is scheduled for November 21 at 11:00 am for discussion

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments.

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

James Turnwald, Executive Director

David Wood, Policy Board Chair