

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2025**

The June meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on June 11, 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. 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
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenburger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the May 14, 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 GINA LEICHTY AND SECONDED BY
JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

April 2025 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of April 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 JESSE BOHANNON AND SECONDED BY TONY VIOLI TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Gardner then presented the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget. She stated the overall budget amount is \$12,967,488, a 3.8% decrease from the FY 2025 amount. Gardner indicated the biggest reason for the decrease is that MACOG will have fewer vehicle purchases for transit services, stating one 35-foot bus will be purchased for the fixed route service as well as smaller vehicles for MACOG's paratransit service and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funded sub recipient vehicles.

Gardner noted minor decreases in budgeted amounts for Publications, Ads & Marketing, Maintenance/Repairs, Materials/Supplies, and Printing/Reproduction. She reported budget increases in Salaries and Fringe Benefits to accommodate cost of living and/or merit increases as well as the salary for one new position: Director of Regional Housing Collaborative. There are also increases in Contractual Services, due to rising costs for the Transit Services provider, and Memberships/Subscriptions. MACOG is a member of key networks such as the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Associations (AMPO). Additionally, for transit services procurements, MACOG recently joined NEORide.

Zach Dripps noted funding for the AmeriCorps Program is anticipated to return in 2026 and is included in the proposed budget.

Following discussions related to compensation and staffing, the Chair called for a motion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUGLAS GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Kathy Groninger, Zach Dripps reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of April. 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 19-25

Locally Initiated

A. Elkhart County Resolution 19-25 Des#: 2401829 Contract#: B-46207	Amendment Add Project Bridge #143 carrying CR 3 over Baugo Creek, 0.9 miles North of CR 28 Bridge Replacement	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Phase: PE	Total: \$978,290	Federal: \$0
Phase: RW	Total: \$81,034	Federal: \$64,827 (Bridge)
		Local: \$978,290
		Local: \$16,207
		SFY 2029
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$5,407,000		

Kelsey Triebold presented Resolution 19-25 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-25.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transit Resolution 20-25

Transit Initiated A. MACOG Transit Resolution 20-25 Des#: MAC-26-020	Amendment Add Project Buy New 35' Transit Bus Transit Purchase Vehicles	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Total: \$625,000	Federal: \$500,000 (5339)	Local: \$125,000
		SFY 2026

Aidan McHugh presented Resolution 20-25. David Wood asked about the estimated time for delivery. McHugh responded after the funding is programmed into the TIP, MACOG will work with the manufacturer to begin the ordering process and hopefully receive the bus during the second half of 2026. With no further questions, the following action was taken.

BRYAN TANNER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-25.
JESSE BOHANNON SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 FTA Apportionments – South Bend IN/MI Urbanized Area

Resolution 22-25 – Bus / Rail Apportionment – Urbanized Area Formula Program
FY 2025 Bus / Rail Apportionment – FTA Section **5307** Funding
Total Apportionment – \$5,828,811
NICTD Rail – \$2,034,996 Transpo – \$3,485,234 Niles DART – \$308,581

Resolution 23-25 – Rail Apportionment – State of Good Repair
FY 2025 Rail Apportionment – FTA Section **5337** Funding
Total Apportionment – \$4,473,268
NICTD Rail – \$4,473,268

Resolution 24-25 – Bus Apportionment – Bus and Bus Facilities
FY 2025 Bus Apportionment – FTA Section **5339** Funding
Total Apportionment -- \$ 337,280
Transpo – \$233,280 Niles DART – \$104,000

Zach Dripps presented Resolutions 22-25, 23-25, and 24-25 for apportionment of FY 2025 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds to transit providers in the South Bend urbanized area; Transpo, NICTD, and Niles DART. Dripps 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. Dripps stated all three transit providers agreed to the funding split presented.

Hearing no objections, the following action was taken.

CARL BAXMEYER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 22-25, 23-25, AND 24-25. BRYAN TANNER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

Resolution 21-25

Endorsement of the Move Safe Michiana: Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 21-25 for the endorsement of the Move Safe Michiana: Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan, developed using a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. She explained the Plan aims for zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2050, emphasizing shared responsibility, a safe system approach, along with recommendations for how we can build a coalition and include those outside partners to move safety forward in the region. Through data analysis, key crash trends and high-risk networks were identified. The Plan outlines goals, strategies, and actions for improving safety, including infrastructure, education, policy, and evaluation.

Stevens noted the 30-day public comment period included open houses held in South Bend and Elkhart, as well as attending an Amish safety event in Nappanee. A summary sheet of comments received was provided to the members.

Additional information about the process and the Safety Action Plan can be found at <https://engage.macog.com/move-safe>.

With no objections to the Plan, the Chair called for a motion to endorse this Resolution.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-25.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 25-25

Endorsement of the Agreement for the Provision of General Services between MACOG and the St. Joseph River Basin Commission (SJRBC)

Zach Dripps presented Resolution 25-25. Dripps indicated MACOG has had a General Services Agreement with SJRBC to provide staffing services since the Commission was formed in the 1980's. He stated the agreement approved in June 2019 and amended in March 2022, is reaching its expiration which is why we are requesting the Policy Board's endorsement of a new agreement between MACOG and SJRBC. The agreement is for a one-year period and automatically renews for five successive one-year terms unless either party gives notice of intent not to renew. Dripps mentioned the only item in the agreement to increase is the cost of IT, from \$250 to \$300 per quarter.

Dripps asked for any questions and hearing none, the following action was taken.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-25.
BRYAN TANNER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Update

Grants and Funding

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Caitlin Stevens mentioned that the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funding is currently available, with applications due June 26. The endorsed Safety Action Plan makes jurisdictions eligible to apply for implementation funding.

Plans and Programs

MACOG Safe Streets Toolkit (Lending Library)

Stevens reminded the members that MACOG offers a safe street toolkit with materials for demonstration projects. The lending library (materials) is available to temporarily test projects prior to making a permanent investment.

Quarterly Tracking and Review Meeting

Stevens informed the Policy Board that the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting, to discuss federal aid projects in the region, will be held virtually on July 10.

Mobile Bike and Pedestrian Counting Program

David Harker discussed MACOG's ability to count bike and pedestrian traffic on trails throughout the region and reminded the members there are mobile counters available for temporary use that may lead to the installation of permanent counters.

Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Training Workshops

Harker stated the upcoming Indiana LTAP PASER training workshops and highlighted updates to the PASER program, including new quality control and validation procedures to be fully implemented next year. He noted MACOG is available to assist communities with PASER ratings as well as Asset Management Plans. Harker mentioned MACOG's upcoming dashboard for PASER ratings that will allow county-by-county comparisons.

Go574 Usage

Aidan McHugh announced the successful completion of the Go574 Bike Month Challenge, which ran from May 12 to June 8. The challenge saw approximately 1,600 logged trips totaling about 4,600 miles, resulting in an estimated removal of two tons of CO2 and regional savings of around \$3,200. McHugh indicated that gift card prizes had been awarded, and the grand prize eBike winner would be contacted soon.

South Shore Line Updates

Kelly Wenger provided updates on several NICTD projects including the completed double tracking, which has shown significant ridership improvements. She also mentioned the West Lake extension, expected to open by the end of the year or early next year, and the near completion of engineering for the South Bend reroute to the airport, for which they are seeking FRA grants. Wenger noted efforts to secure the local funding share for the South Bend project and the potential for increased shuttle service to and from the airport into LaPorte County.

Wenger stated NICTD is updating their 20-year strategic plan that includes discussions on improving the single rail line from Michigan City to South Bend. She noted a public survey opened on June 5 and will be available through June 19. Flyers with a QR-code and web address to participate in the survey or find more information were provided.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jesse Bohannon introduced Tim Harmon, Marshall County Councilman. Bohannon noted Harmon has been immersed in a project for the last several months but will be available to participate in Policy Board meetings going forward.

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 BRIAN TANNER AND SECONDED BY
ROBERT LISTENBERGER TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald, Executive Director

David Wood, Policy Board Chair