

MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2020

The October meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments' (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the fourth floor of the St. Joseph County – South Bend City Building, as well as virtually utilizing Google Meet on October 14, 2020. Members of the public were invited to 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. Ernest Wiggins, Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
(Policy Board)

Ernest Wiggins, Kosciusko County Council
Mike Bellovich, Mishawaka Common Council
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT LaPorte
Deborah Fleming, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Lori Hamann, South Bend Common Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Todd Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Mark Senter, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Jeremy Stutsman, Mayor, City of Goshen
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:
(Policy Board)

Mandy Campbell, Marshall County Council
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
John Letherman, Elkhart County Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Kevin Overmyer, Marshall County Commissioner
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council
Joseph Thallemer, City of Warsaw
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jamie Woods, Thorne Grodnik, LLP
Michelle Allen, FHWA
Kari Carmany-George, FHWA
Joyce Newland, FHWA
Erica Tait, FHWA
James Turnwald, MACOG
Ryan DeLine, MACOG
Katie Dominquez, MACOG
Debbie Gardner, MACOG
Carla Herwarth, MACOG
Alaina Parrish, MACOG
Caitlin Stevens, MACOG
Leah Thill, MACOG

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING

The minutes from the September 9, 2020, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Ernest Wiggins asked the Policy Board 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
MIKE BELLOVICH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2020.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Report for August 2020. She reviewed the fiscal year-to-date total expenses, the cash balance, and the total disbursements for the month. Gardner asked if there were any questions, hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's approval of the August 2020 Financial Report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PHIL JENKINS AND SECONDED BY
CARY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2020 FINANCIAL
REPORT. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mark Senter noted there were Administrative Modifications made to the TIP by staff in during the month of September. James Turnwald stated the Administrative Modifications were provided to the members of the Policy Board by email in advance of the meeting. These items are available for review on the MACOG website.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments to the Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

La Porte District

INDOT Initiated – Resolution 38-20

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 38-20	Add Project to TIP	
Des#: 2001649	US20/US31 Bypass from Michigan State line to Fort Wayne District	
	Interchange Modification	

Phase: PE	Total: \$800,000	Federal: \$640,000 (ST NHS)	State: \$160,000	SFY 2021
Phase: CN	Total: \$5,020,000	Federal: \$4,016,000 (ST NHS)	State: \$1,004,000	SFY 22 & 23

- WB/EB exit and entrance between Toll Rd and Cleveland/Brick
- EB/SB exit and entrance between Nimtz and US 20/Lincolnway
- SE to NE loop weave at SR 2 interchange
- EB Exit Ramp Deceleration at Mayflower Rd
- SE to NE loop weave at US 31/Michigan Interchange
- WB Exit Ramp at SR 331/Elm Rd, WB to NB right-crash issue

B. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
 Resolution 38-20 Add Project to TIP
 Des#: 2001650 **US20/US31 Bypass from Michigan State line to Fort Wayne District Sign Modernization**

Phase: PE	Total: \$400,000	Federal: \$320,000 (ST NHS)	State: \$80,000	SFY 2021
Phase: CN	Total: \$3,010,000	Federal: \$2,408,000 (ST NHS)	State: \$602,000	SFY 22 & 23

Ryan DeLine presented Resolution 38-20. Asking for any questions and hearing none, he requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 38-20. MIKE BELLOVICH SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Fort Wayne District

INDOT Initiated – Resolution 39-20

A. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
 Resolution 39-20 Add Project to TIP
 Des#: 2001821 **SR 120, from rail line in East Bristol to SR 13 HMA Overlay, Preventative Maintenance**

Phase: PE	Total: \$441,000	Federal: \$352,800 (ST STBG)	State: \$88,200	SFY 2021
-----------	------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	----------

B. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart & Kosciusko County
 Resolution 39-20 Add Project to TIP
 Des#: 2001854 **SR 13, from E 1400 N to US 6 West Jct. HMA Overlay, Preventative Maintenance**

Phase: PE	Total: \$50,000	Federal: \$40,000 (ST STBG)	State: \$10,000	SFY 2021
-----------	-----------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	----------

C. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart & Kosciusko County
 Resolution 39-20 Add Project to TIP
 Des#: 2001737 **High Friction Surface Treatment at Various locations in the Fort Wayne District Other Type Project**

Phase: PE	Total: \$100,000	Federal: \$80,000 (ST STBG)	State: \$20,000	SFY 2021
-----------	------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	----------

DeLine also presented Resolution 39-20 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, he requested the Policy Board's endorsement.

MARK SENTER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 39-20. CARY GRONINGER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentation

MPO FTA/FHWA Certification Review Results

The Federal Review Team who conducted the certification review of the transportation planning process for the South Bend/Elkhart metropolitan planning area (MPO) consisted of Joyce Newland, Erica Tait, and Kari-Carmany-George with the Indiana Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Cecilia Crenshaw-Godfrey from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region V, and Andy Pickard, FHWA Michigan Division.

Several members of the Review Team provided a presentation to the Policy Board. They reported on the MACOG Certification Review that was conducted virtually on June 16 and 17, 2020 with two opportunities for virtual public involvement.

Joyce Newland stated MACOG's Planning Process was certified by FHWA and FTA on September 24, 2020. The certification report included six commendations, 10 recommendations, and no corrective actions. Overall, the Review Team concluded that the planning process for the South Bend/Elkhart metropolitan planning area complies with the spirit and intent of Federal metropolitan transportation planning laws and regulations under 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303.

Members of the Policy Board received a copy of the Federal Certification Review Report in advance of the meeting. A resolution requesting the Policy Board's acceptance of the Report will be presented at the December 9, 2020, meeting.

Staff Updates

November Policy Board Meeting Cancelled

Due to scheduling conflicts with Veterans Day, the November 11 Policy Board meeting is cancelled.

SFY 2020 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)

Ryan DeLine reported on the SFY 2020 Annual List of Obligated Projects (ALOP). He stated the total Federal obligation in the MACOG region was approximately \$72 million and included \$8.4 million for seven local road projects, \$2.6 million for nine bridge projects, \$3.37 million on three intersection, three safety projects total \$415,000, four bike and pedestrian projects were obligated at \$215,613, and \$19,302 for two transportation enhancement projects.

James Turnwald noted the full report is available on the MACOG website and it explains all of the obligated projects in detail.

http://www.macog.com/docs/transportation/tip/alop/2020/projectsummary_alop.pdf

Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG)

The CCMG second call for project applications opened on September 25. The deadline is October 23, at 5:00 pm (ET). Applicants who were eligible for the January 2020 call that have not reached the annual grant cap of \$1 million are eligible to apply for the remaining amount off the cap. MACOG is available to offer technical assistance to communities that are interested in applying for the grant.

INDOT Call for Rural Projects

The INDOT Rural (Federal aid) Call for Project opens November 2 and closes on December 11. MACOG staff is available to assist in the application process.

MACOG Call for Projects

MACOG's Call for Projects is now open for communities in the urbanized area. Applications for new transportation projects and existing projects are now available through an online form. (http://www.macog.com/tip.html#project_selection) The application deadline is November 2. Projects will be recommended for selection in January 2021.

Regional Brownfields Coalition Update

Leah Thill reported the first year of the three-year Brownfields grant period concluded in September. She will provide a breakdown of the funding expenditures by site at the next Policy Board meeting. Virtual public meetings were held in September with about 30 participants. The recording and slides are available at <http://www.macog.com/brownfields.html>.

IDEM DieselWise Indiana Grant Opportunity

Grants are available through IDEM for diesel emissions reduction technologies and for replacing non-road diesel vehicle and equipment with new diesel or alternative fuels. Applications are due November 25. Please contact Leah Thill for grant writing assistance.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Turnwald reported a comment was received from a member of the public, Ms. Reeves', regarding a request to support the need for Quadrant Gates at the Norfolk Southern railroad crossings at Ash and at Beech near Osceola.

Ms. Reeves' son was struck and killed when he drove around the existing gates at the crossing on September 5, 2018. Ms. Reeves and her family submitted a petition with 252 people signing in support of the Quadrant Gates at the location with the hope of preventing a similar tragedy in the future.

The MACOG Executive Director noted that between the Robert Young Yard and Capital Avenue there are seven railroad crossings (Ash, Apple, Beech Cottage Grove, Elder, Oakside, and Kline). All of the locations have active gates but with further study, they could be upgraded to Quadrant Gates. Turnwald stated St. Joseph County and the Town of Osceola could pursue funding for Quadrant Gates at these locations or other railroad safety improvements. Funding sources for possible consideration are:

1. Indiana's **Railroad Grade Crossing Fund** (RRGCF) (I.C. 8-6-7.7-6.1). It provides funding for railroad-highway crossing improvement projects and local governments are eligible to apply. The application cycle typically opens in late Spring (ie. May). More on the program can be found at <https://www.in.gov/indot/2394.htm>

2. **MACOG Call for Projects.** The annual MACOG call for projects opened October 6 and closes November 2. MACOG has funded safety improvements at railroad crossings in the past. More information can be found at http://www.macog.com/tip.html#project_selection

Additionally, Mayor Jenkins mentioned a third option for funding that Nappanee was recently successful in receiving, which is:

3. **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program.** This is a nationally competitive grant program that improves the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.


Turnwald concluded that at this point, this is mainly a decision for St. Joseph County and the Town of Osceola on how they might like to proceed with pursuing a railroad-crossing project to improve safety.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Policy Board meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARY GRONINGER AND SECONDED BY
DEBORAH FLEMING TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

James Turnwald, Executive Director



Jeremy Stutsman, Policy Board 1st Vice-Chair