

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2023**

The September meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on September 13, 2023. 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. Cary Groninger, 1st Vice-Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Mike Burroughs, Marshall County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Gregg Hixenbaugh, Mishawaka Common Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council
Joseph Thallemer, City of Warsaw
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:
(Virtually)** Todd Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Council
Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT LaPorte
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Lori Hamann, South Bend Common Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Mark Senter, Mayor, City of Plymouth

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2023 MEETING

The minutes of the August 9, 2023, meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Cary Groninger 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 CARL BAXMEYER AND SECONDED BY
MIKE BURROUGHS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 2023.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

July Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the month of July 2023, and noted it was the first month of the new fiscal year. She reviewed the fiscal year-to-date total expenses, the cash balance at the end of the month, and the total amount of disbursements. Gardner then asked for any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PHIL JENKINS AND SECONDED BY JOSEPH THALLEMER TO APPROVE THE JULY 2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Phil Jenkins reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the month of August. 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

James Turnwald let the members know that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Fiscal Year 2024-2028 was approved on September 1, 2023, and that MACOG, as well as other MPO's that have an approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are included in the STIP by reference.

Transportation Resolution 27-23

INDOT Initiated

A. INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 27-23	Change Scope	
Des#: 1900033	US 6 at CSX RR, 0.38 mi E of SR 106	
	Bridge Deck Overlay	
Phase: CN	Total: \$1,953,517	Federal: \$1,562,814 (NHPP) State: \$390,703 SFY 2024
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$2,441,924		

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 27-23 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 27-23.
KATHY GRONINGER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

Resolution 28-23

Endorsement of the 2023–2025 Interurban Trolley Title VI Program Update

Zach Dripps presented Resolution 28-23. Dripps explained the Title VI Plan for the Interurban Trolley has been updated to ensure the programs, policies, and activities comply with Title VI of the Civil Right Act of 1964 regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs. The Plan provides complaint procedures as well as a Limited English Proficiency Plan.

JOSEPH THALLEMER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 28-23.
PHIL JENKINS SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 29-23

County Membership Assessment

James Turnwald discussed Resolution 29-23. He explained the County Membership Assessment is calculated on census population multiplied by a specified amount per capita. Turnwald noted the assessment has been calculated using 35 cents as the multiplier since 2002. He stated conversations with member county governments have taken place over the last year and a half identifying the need to increase the rate to 50 cents.

Turnwald requested the Policy Board's endorsement raising the County Membership Assessment Rate from 35 cents to 50 cents per capita based on census population.

Suzanne Weirick indicated Elkhart County is able to move forward with the increase. Cary Groninger stated the Kosciusko County is Council is supportive as well. Mike Burroughs and Carl Baxmeyer indicated Marshall and St. Joseph Counties respectively, were also supportive of the new rate.

MIKE BURROUGHS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 29-23.
CARL BAXMEYER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Turnwald thanked the members for their continued support in the organization.

Presentation

EPA Brownfields Grant Update

Leah Thill presented an EPA Brownfields Grant update and reported on some of the work accomplished by the Brownfields Program since 2018. The presentation can be found on MACOG's YouTube channel and begins at 16 minutes and 15 seconds into the recorded meeting.
(<https://www.youtube.com/live/9PTen6DfG3Q?si=g7pFaW13Dy5rudUy>)

Staff Updates

Plans and Programs

Regional Safety Action Plan Update

Caitlin Stevens reminded the Policy Board that MACOG was awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program to complete a Regional Safety Action Plan. Stevens reported over the last month, MACOG was able to execute an agreement with the USDOT that will allow staff to move forward with the planning process and issue a Request for Proposals for a consultant who will assist with the plan.

Michiana on the Move: 2050 Transportation Plan

Stevens announced the Michiana on the Move: 2050 Transportation Plan is available for public comment and can be reviewed at www.move.macog.com. She stated the document serves as a guide for transportation investments, strategies, and policy over the next 20 years. Stevens noted MACOG will host a Public Open House on September 21 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the MACOG office and comments will be accepted through October 9. Staff plans to present the Plan to the Policy Board for approval during the October 11 meeting.

Quarterly Tracking and Review

Dana Weaver let the members know that the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting will be held virtually on October 5.

Grants and Funding

INDOT Rural Call for Projects

Weaver let the member know that INDOT announced an upcoming Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for local rural federal aid projects. The Call for Projects opens on November 1 and closes November 30. Future information will be available on INDOT's Local Public Agency program page. <https://www.in.gov/indot/doing-business-with-indot/local-public-agency-programs/>

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments

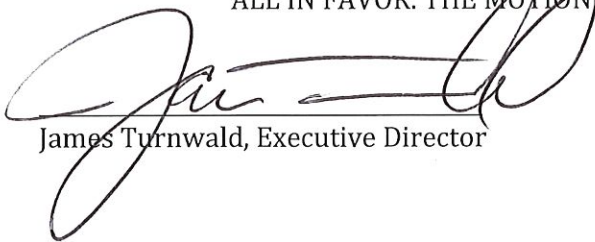
PUBLIC COMMENT

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 KATHY GRONINGER AND SECONDED
BY SUZANNE WEIRICK TO ADJOURN THE POLICY BOARD MEETING.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.



James Turnwald, Executive Director



Mark Senter, Policy Board Chair