

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

The March meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) Policy Board was held on the second floor of the Mishawaka City Hall, on March 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
Carl Baxmeyer, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Jesse Bohannon, Marshall County Commissioner
Douglas Graham, Elkhart County Council
Cary Groninger, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Kathy Groninger, Kosciusko County Council
Jeff Grose, City of Warsaw
Jason Kaiser, Interim Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Canneth Lee, South Bend Common Council
Gina Leichty, Mayor, City of Goshen
Robert Listenburger, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner

MEMBERS VIRTUAL: Tony Violi, Mishawaka Common Council

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Deitchley, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT La Porte
Dwight Fish, Elkhart Common Council
Tim Harman, Marshall County Council
James Mueller, Mayor, City of South Bend
Rod Roberson, Mayor, City of Elkhart
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2025, MEETING

The minutes of the January 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
JESSE BOHANNON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 2025.
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair had no report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

December 2024 and January 2025 Financial Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the MACOG Financial Reports for the months of December 2024 and January 2025. Gardner indicated she would review the reports together because they are cumulative but did note a disbursement to New Flyer in December for a fixed-route bus and to Midwest Transit Equipment in January for FTA 5310 Sub-recipient vehicles. She then reviewed the year-to-date total expenses and reported the cash balance at the end of January. Gardner asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, the following action was taken.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUZANNE WEIRICK AND SECONDED BY
CARY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY
2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State Board of Accounts (SBOA) Audit and Supplemental Reports

Debbie Gardner presented the FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) 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. Gardner stated there were no issues or findings to report.

With no concerns or questions heard related to the Fiscal Year 2024 SBOA Audit, Gardner requested the Policy Board's endorsement of the SBOA Audit and Supplemental reports.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUGLAS GRAHAM AND SECONDED
BY KATHY GRONINGER TO APPROVE THE FY 2024 AUDIT REPORTS
ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kathy Groninger reported that MACOG staff made Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the months of January and February. 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 03-25

Locally Initiated

A. Elkhart County	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 03-25	Add Project	
Des#: 2500469	Bridge #126 on CR 6 crossing Christiana Creek	
	Bridge Replacement	
Phase: PE	Total: \$977,717	Federal: \$782,174 (STBG) State: \$195,543 SFY 2026/27
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$8,989,441		

B. City of South Bend	<u>Amendment</u>	Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 03-25	Add Project	
Des#: 2500054	Traffic Signal Central Management System	
	ITS Traffic Management Systems	

Phase: PE Total: \$375,000 Federal: \$300,000 (STBG) State: \$75,000 SFY 2026/27
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$2,300,000

C. City of South Bend Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 03-25 Add Project

Des#: 2500053 **Ewing Avenue Trail from Olive St. to Gertrude St.
Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

Phase: PE Total: \$408,000 Federal: \$326,400 (TA) State: \$81,600 SFY 2026/27
Estimated Cost to Complete = \$3,886,000

D. City of Goshen Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 03-25 Delete Project

Des#: 2201240 **EV Charging in Downtown Goshen
EV Infrastructure**

Phase: PE Total: \$12,500 Federal: \$10,000(CRP) Local: \$2,500 SFY 2026

Phase: CN Total: \$248,200 Federal: \$198,560 (CRP) Local: \$49,640 SFY 2027

Estimated Cost to Complete = \$260,700

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 03-25. Hearing no questions, Stevens requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

GINA LEICHTY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 03-25. CARL
BAXMEYER SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transit

Transit Initiated – Resolution 04-25

A. Transpo Amendment Exempt Project in St. Joseph County
Resolution 04-25 Add Project

Des#: MAC-25-030 **Bus Route Signage
Transit Operating**

Total: \$125,000 Federal: \$100,000 (5307) Local: \$25,000 SFY 2025

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 04-25 and asked for any questions. Hearing none, he requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

JESSE BOHANNON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 04-25.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 05-25

Endorsement of the Marshall-Starke Development Center Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

Five (5) Low Floor Mini Vans with ramps

Calendar Year 2025 Total: \$375,000 Federal: \$318,750 Local: \$56,250

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 06-25

Endorsement of the Cardinal Services, Inc. Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

Two (2) Low Floor Mini Vans with ramps
Calendar Year 2025 Total: \$150,000 Federal: \$127,500 Local: \$22,500

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 07-25

Endorsement of the Greencroft Communities Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

One (1) Small 8 Passenger Transit Vehicle with lift
Calendar Year 2025 Total: \$130,000 Federal: \$110,500 Local: \$19,500

FTA Section 5310 – Resolution 08-25

Endorsement of the Council on Aging of Elkhart County Section 5310 Grant Application for the procurement of the following:

One (1) Low Floor Mini Van with ramp
Calendar Year 2025 Total: \$75,000 Federal: \$63,750 Local: \$11,250

Gauri Mhatre presented Resolutions 05-25, 06-25, 07-25, and 08-25 endorsing applications to INDOT's FTA Section 5310 grant program. INDOT grants are available to non-profit corporations and eligible public bodies in small urban or rural areas. Mhatre asked for any questions. Hearing none, she requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

SUZANNE WEIRICK MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 05-25, 06-25, 07-25,
AND 08-25. GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Other Actions

2050 Transportation Plan Amendment - Resolution 09-25

Amendment to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and corresponding Transportation Conformity Determination Report. The amendment updates the work type of an existing project at State Road 2 and Larrison Blvd. in St. Joseph County from intersection improvement to new interchange construction, and updates phasing and open to traffic dates for added travel lanes on Union Street/Bremen Highway in the City of Mishawaka and St. Joseph County.

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 09-25. Hearing no questions, Stevens requested the Policy Board's endorsement of this Resolution.

CARL BAXMEYER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-25.
GINA LEICHTY SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

NEORide Council of Governments Membership – Resolution 10-25

Request to execute a membership agreement with NEORide Council of Governments and acceptance of the NEORide Council of Governments By-Laws

James Turnwald presented Resolution 10-25. Turnwald explained Neoride is formed as a council of governments with the purpose to plan, promote, further, and enhance transportation options within the jurisdictions of NEORide members by encouraging cooperative arrangements and coordinating action among the members. Membership in the NEORide Council of Governments will improve

coordination among governmental bodies and transit agencies and expand procurement options with potential cost savings on procurements like paratransit software and fareboxes.

The NEORide membership agreement and by-laws were distributed to the Policy Board members for review prior to the days meeting. Turnwald noted MACOG's annual membership cost would be \$1,000 and MACOG would have a seat on NEORide's governing board, as well as access to efficient and cost-effective procurement opportunities to improve transit services.

Hearing no objections, the following action was taken

CARY GRONINGER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-25.
SUZANNE WEIRICK SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Endorsement of the State Fiscal Year 2025 Self Certification Statement and the Statement Regarding MPO Certification Review by FHWA and INDOT

James Turnwald explained that both certification items offered for endorsement are annual action items requested from the Policy Board.

The Self Certification Statement is part of the Unified Planning of Work Program (UPWP). It certifies that MACOG's transportation planning process addresses the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is conducted according to all federal requirements.

The Statement Regarding MPO Certification Review refers to a planning process review conducted every four years by FHWA and INDOT. MACOG's last review was conducted July 8-10, 2025. Three areas of improvement were identified. One has already been resolved and MACOG has 180 days to address the last two. MACOG's next review is scheduled to take place in 2028.

Hearing no questions, Turnwald requested the Policy Board's endorsement of the SFY 2025 Self Certification Statement and the Statement Regarding MPO Certification Review.

GINA LEICHTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SFY 2025 SELF CERTIFICATION STATEMENT AND THE STATEMENT REGARDING MPO CERTIFICATION REVIEW.
SUZANNE WEIRICK SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentation

Calendar Year 2024 MACOG Annual Review

Members of the MACOG staff gave a year-in-review presentation highlighting significant accomplishments across transportation planning, transit, sustainability, and community development. This included substantial investments in transportation projects, transit services, sustainability initiatives, and community development projects, resulting in a total regional impact of approximately \$168 million. The report will be posted on the MACOG website (https://www.macog.com/docs/about/ar/annualreview_2024.pdf).

Staff Update

Plans and Programs

Warsaw-Winona Lake Fixed Route Transit Service

Jeremiah Cox mentioned that the MACOG transit department is assisting Cardinal Services in Warsaw regarding the potential of a deviated fixed route service that will serve the City of Warsaw and Town of Winona Lake. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at the Warsaw Public Library.

Partners for Clean Air Award Luncheon

Leah Thill announced the Annual Partners for Clean Air Luncheon will be held on April 16 at the Matterhorn Conference Center in Elkhart. There will be presentations on various topics including MACOG's recently launched vanpool program and IDEM's regional air quality update. Thill noted the event recognizes special awardees who have made notable efforts to contribute to cleaner air in the region. Please register in advance.

2025 – 2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Zach Dripps reported the CEDS, serves as a five-year plan, analyzing regional assets and challenges, and details specific strategies to achieve regional goals. These strategies focus on key areas such as fostering higher education and community partnerships, improving access and connectivity (including infrastructure and broadband), and cultivating high-performing communities characterized by economic vitality and quality of life. A draft of the proposed plan is out for public comment through April 4 and will be brought to the Board for approval on April 9. More information can be found at <https://engage.macog.com/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy>

SFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Public Comment

Kelsey Triebold stated the draft SFY 2026-2030 TIP is out for public comment through April 4 and will be presented to the Policy Board on April 9 for endorsement. She explained the TIP is a federally required short-range plan that outlines the schedule of transportation projects in the MACOG region. More information can be found at <https://engage.macog.com/sfy-2026-2030-transportation-improvement-program>

2024 Crash Data Review

David Harker reviewed the regional crash data from 2024. He stated there were 81 fatal crashes with 84 fatalities and 344 serious injury crashes, that included 430 incapacitating injuries. Harker noted a decrease in serious injury and fatal crashes since 2021, due to a change in the way they are reported into the system. He also highlighted the need for further data analysis to correlate crash statistics with factors like population growth and vehicle miles traveled.

Crossway Trails Condition Report

Anton Getz provided an update on the condition of the Crossway Trails network. He indicated in 2024, MACOG surveyed the surface condition of the 123-mile network. Getz reported that the majority of the trails are in good condition and only about 10% need improvement. The information was compiled into a map which is available on the MACOG website. Local governments can use the data to develop maintenance plans for their trail networks.

Quarterly Tracking and Review Meeting

Kelsey Triebold let the members know the next Quarterly Tracking and Review meeting will be held virtually on January 15. The Fort Wayne district will meet in the morning and the La Porte District will meet in the afternoon.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jesse Bohanon indicated that Marshall County is interested in putting together a frequently asked questions (FAQ) constituent resource related to practices used by the highway department. He asked if others would be interested in participating. Turnwald mentioned that the City of South Bend has

branded their annual paving program and provides information on their website about their annual paving program. He may be able to get some resources there from what South Bend has done.


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



Zach Dripps, Director of Operations
& Community Development

David Wood, Policy Board Chair