

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
December 14, 2016**

The December meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments' (MACOG) Policy Board was held on December 14, 2016, in The MACOG Conference Room, on the 11th floor of the County-City Building in South Bend, Indiana. Joseph Thallemer, Chair of the Policy Board, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Thallemer, City of Warsaw
(Policy Board) Jo M. Broden, South Bend Common Council
Dwight Fish, Elkhart City Council
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
John Letherman, Elkhart County Council
Frank Lucchese, Elkhart County Commissioner
Kevin Overmyer, Marshall County Commissioner
Rick Powers, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT LaPorte
Judy Stone, Marshall County Council
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pete Buttigieg, Mayor, City of South Bend
(Policy Board) Joe Canarecci, Mishawaka City Council
Deborah Fleming, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Todd Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
Tim Neese, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council
Robert Sanders, Kosciusko County Council
Mark Senter, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Jeremy Stutsman, Mayor, City of Goshen
Ron Truex, Kosciusko County Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT: George Herendeen, MACOG Attorney
Nicole Barker, South Shore Line (NICTD)
Suzanna Fritzberg, City of South Bend
Jared Huss, Lawson Fisher Associates
John Parsons, South Shore Line (NICTD)
Lauren Varga, Senator Donnelly's Office
Jim Weingart, IDEM
James Turnwald, MACOG
Debbie Gardner, MACOG
Tierra Harris, MACOG
Carla Keirnan, MACOG
Donny Ritsema, MACOG
Erin Roznik, MACOG
Caitlin Stevens, MACOG

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING

The minutes from November 9, 2016, were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Joseph Thallemer asked the Policy Board if there were any additions or corrections. There being none, the Chairman asked for the Policy Boards approval of the minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PHIL JENKINS AND
SECONDED BY FRANK LUCCHESE TO APPROVE THE
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2016. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Joseph Thallemer requested volunteers from the Policy Board to form a Nominating Committee. The Committee will provide a proposed Slate of Officers to serve as Policy Board officers for calendar year 2017. Jo Broden, Judy Stone, and Joseph Thallemer volunteered to serve as the Nominating Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbie Gardner presented the November 2016 MACOG Financial Report and reviewed the amounts for total current assets, fiscal year to date expenditures, and the cash balance. She then asked the Policy Board for any questions. There being no questions, Debbie asked for the Policy Board's approval of the Financial Report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN OVERMYER AND
SECONDED BY FRANK LUCCHESE TO APPROVE THE
NOVEMBER 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Phil Jenkins indicated the Administrative Modifications processed by the MACOG staff for November were provided to the Policy Board for review prior to the meeting and are available on the MACOG website. There were no questions or concerns.

Additionally, Mayor Jenkins noted the 2017 Policy Board meeting schedule was provided to the Policy Board in their meeting materials. All of the 2017 meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of the March meeting. It will be held on the third Wednesday, March 15, 2017, due to a schedule conflict with Purdue Road School.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

LaPorte District

INDOT Initiated – Resolution 44-16

A. INDOT Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County
Resolution 44-16 Add Project Phase: PE, CN
Des#: 1601849 **Location: ADA Curb Ramps Along SR 10 in North Judson (Starke Co) & Argos (Marshall Co)**

Construct ADA Approved Sidewalk Ramps

PE: Total: \$35,000	Federal: \$28,000 (NHPP)	State: \$7,000	SFY: 2018
CN: Total: \$416,000	Federal: \$332,800 (NHPP)	State: \$83,200	SFY: 2019

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 44-16 containing an INODT initiated amendment and asked for any questions. There being none, Caitlin requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RICK POWERS AND
SECONDED BY JO BRODEN TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 44-16. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Presentation

Nicole Barker and John Parson from the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) provided a presentation on the benefits of the proposed South Shore Line double tracking project, as well as the system improvements and changes that would be included. The South Shore Line is a 90 mile commuter railroad serving four counties that provides public transportation between the South Bend International Airport and Millennium Station in downtown Chicago. The project timeline, environmental considerations, and economic benefits were also discussed.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.doubletrack-nwi.com/>. Information can be requested by emailing: DoubleTrackNWI@nictd.com or sending mail to: Attn: Double Track NWI, 33 East Highway 12, Chesterton, Indiana 46304.

Staff Updates

New River Basin Director

Matt Meersman has joined the MACOG staff as the new, River Basin Director. Matt has 16 years of experience in natural resources management, having most recently worked as the Watershed Coordinator at the Van Buren Conservation District since 2008.

Argos Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town of Argos held its fifth Steering Committee meeting on November 29. Some of the items the Town would like to focus on are; preserving their small town character, continuing to provide

public schools, parks, and public services. They would also like to focus on the core values of enhancing quality of life, promoting economic prosperity, balancing growth and expanding bicycle and pedestrian transportation options. The Town has identified future land use concepts, with the first priority focusing on growth inside the town's corporate limits. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in January.

Bourbon Comprehensive Plan Kickoff

MACOG will be working with the Town of Bourbon to develop a comprehensive plan. The planning process kicked off on December 6 at the Town's first Steering Committee meeting. MACOG guided the Committee through a visioning process to help identify core values and building blocks for the community. Developing a comprehensive plan is important as the State looks to distribute competitive grant funds and to help foster future economic development.

Elkhart and Goshen Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Request for Qualifications Update

MACOG and the Cities of Elkhart and Goshen were awarded a grant through the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) to pay for consulting services to assist with the development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. In response to a Request for Qualifications issued by MACOG on October 14, 2016, five consulting firms submitted proposals. The selected proposal is currently under review by MACOG's attorney.

County Road (CR) 13 and/or CR 20 Grade Separation at Norfolk Southern Railroad Study

MACOG and Elkhart County are working to secure consulting services for a feasibility study to separate highway and railroad traffic in the area of CR 13, around CR 45. The study is to evaluate the possibility of a grade separation at the railroad and develop alternatives. In response to an INDOT issued Request for Proposals, four letters of interest were received and are currently being scored. A firm will be selected by the end of the month.

Interurban Trolley "Can Do!" Food Drive – December 5 through December 17

The Interurban Trolley sponsored its 11th annual "Can Do!" food drive. The drive began on December 5 and will run through December 17. Riders can get a free one-way trip on the Trolley by donating a non-perishable food item. After the first week of collection, over 1,300 items have been donated. At the conclusion of "Can Do!", all donations will be delivered to Faith Mission of Elkhart and The Window in Goshen.

Call for Projects Update

MACOG's annual call for projects has concluded. The call was for Group I, Group II, TAP, HSIP, and CMAQ projects; for both additional funds up to a 30% increase of current costs and new project requests. Project requests are currently under review. Items will be presented to the Policy Board for consideration in January.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

John Letherman reported the US 31 Coalition Board met with Governor Elect, Eric Holcomb. John shared the Governor Elect was very supportive of the work needed to complete the US 31 Corridor from South Bend to Indianapolis. John indicated the importance of continuing to communicate the projects' importance to the State Legislature.

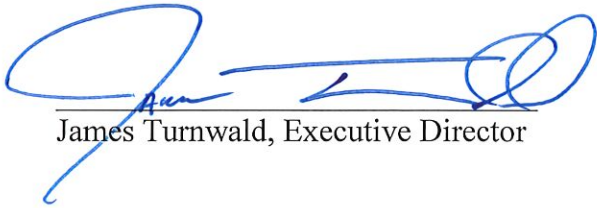
PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

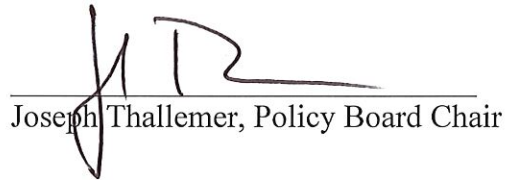
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JUDY STONE AND
SECONDED BY FRANK LUCCHESE TO ADJOURN
THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.



James Turnwald, Executive Director



Joseph Thallemer, Policy Board Chair