

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
January 11, 2017**

The January meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments' (MACOG) Policy Board was held on January 11, 2017, 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
Deborah Fleming, St. Joseph County Commissioner
Phil Jenkins, Mayor, City of Nappanee
Todd Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT Fort Wayne
John Letherman, Elkhart County Council
Kevin Overmyer, Marshall County Commissioner
Rick Powers, Deputy Commissioner, INDOT LaPorte
Mark Senter, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Judy Stone, Marshall County Council
Jeremy Stutsman, Mayor, City of Goshen
Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pete Buttigieg, Mayor, City of South Bend
(Policy Board) Joe Canarecci, Mishawaka City Council
Dwight Fish, Elkhart City Council
Tim Neese, Mayor, City of Elkhart
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council
Ron Truex, Kosciusko County Commissioner
Ernest Wiggins, Kosciusko County Council

OTHERS PRESENT: George Herendeen, MACOG Attorney
Matt Deitchley, INDOT
Ken Herceg, South Bend Regional Chamber
Frank Lucchese, Elkhart County Commissioner
Joyce Newland, FHWA (on the phone)
Hodge Patel, Senator Donnelly's Office
Whitney Pierle, Lochmuller Group
Brian Spaulding, Congresswoman Walorski's Office
Randy Strasser, VS Engineering
Lauren Varga, Senator Donnelly's Office
Jim Weingart, IDEM
James Turnwald, MACOG
Jeremiah Cox, MACOG
Zach Dripps, MACOG
Debbie Gardner, MACOG

Tierra Harris, MACOG
Carla Keirnan, MACOG
Matt Meersman, MACOG
Donny Ritsema, MACOG
Erin Roznik, MACOG
Caitlin Stevens, MACOG

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2016 MEETING

The minutes from December 14, 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 Chair asked for the Policy Boards approval of the minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JEREMY STUTSMAN AND
SECONDED BY JOHN LETHERMAN TO APPROVE THE
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2016. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Joseph Thallemer presented the proposed Slate of Policy Board officers to serve for calendar year 2017. The nominations were as follows:

Kevin Overmyer, Chair
David Wood, 1st Vice-Chair
Phil Jenkins, 2nd Vice-Chair
Ernest Wiggins, Kosciusko County Council
Mark Root, Treasurer

Joseph Thallemer asked for additional nominations from the floor. There being none, he closed the nominations and requested the Policy Board's approval of the Slate of Offices as presented and endorse their election as 2017 Officers of the Policy Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARK SENTER AND
SECONDED BY JUDY STONE TO APPROVE THE
2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbie Gardner presented the December 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 TODD JOHNSON AND
SECONDED BY PHIL JENKINS TO APPROVE THE

DECEMBER 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Phil Jenkins indicated the Administrative Modifications processed by the MACOG staff for January 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Contract Renewal - MACOG Attorney Calendar Year (CY) 2017

The Executive Director, James Turnwald, asked the Policy Board to approve the contract renewal with George Herendeen to continue his services as MACOG Attorney; General Council. The monthly fee will increase to \$1,500 each month for a contract term of one (1) year; January 2017 through December 2017. There being no questions, James requested the Policy Board’s approval of George Herendeen’s contract for CY 2017.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN OVERMYER AND
SECONDED BY DAVID WOOD TO APPROVE THE
CY 2017 CONTRACT FOR GEORGE HERENDEEN,
MACOG ATTORNEY. THE MOTION CARRIED.

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

Fort Wayne and LaPorte Districts

INDOT Initiated – Resolution 01-17

A.	INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	
	Exempt Project in Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties		
	Resolution 01-17	Add Project	Phase: PE
	Des#: 1600463	Location: Statewide; Various Locations	
		Pavement, Other	SFY: 2017
	Total: \$2,130,218	Federal: \$1,917,196 (ST STP)	State: \$213,022

B.	INDOT	<u>Amendment</u>	
	Exempt Project in Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties		
	Resolution 01-17	Add Project	Phase: PE
	Des#: 1600479	Location: Statewide; Various Locations	
		Pavement, Other	SFY: 2017
	Total: \$2,327,909	Federal: \$2,095,118 (ST STP)	State: \$232,791

Caitlin Stevens presented Resolution 01-17 containing INDOT initiated amendments and asked for any questions. There being none, Caitlin requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN LETHERMAN
AND SECONDED BY JUDY STONE TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 01-17. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Transit

Resolution 02-17

A. Elkhart/Goshen Initiated Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 02-17 Add Project Phase: PE
Des#: 1297271 **Location: Elkhart-Goshen Urbanized Area**
Transit Facilities SFY: 2017
Total: \$360,000 Federal: \$288,000 (5307) Local: \$72,000

B. Elkhart/Goshen Initiated Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County
Resolution 02-17 Add Project
Des#: 1700072 **Location: Elkhart-Goshen Urbanized Area**
ADA Paratransit Operating Assistance SFY: 2017
Total: \$243,019 Federal: \$194,415 (5307) Local: \$48,604

Jeremiah Cox presented Resolution 02-17 containing Transit initiated amendments and asked for any questions. There being none, Jeremiah requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PHIL JENKINS AND
SECONDED BY MARK SENTER TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION 02-17. THE MOTION CARRIED.

John Letherman asked if a location for the Transfer Center has been determined. James indicated there have been numerous discussions regarding the use of a municipal parking lot at Franklin and Third Streets in downtown Elkhart.

Presentation

2016 Transit Service Year in Review

Tierra Harris reviewed the service provided by the Interurban Trolley's five fixed routes and the Paratransit Service provided by Interurban Trolley Access; public transit for individuals who are unable to ride the fixed route trolley service.

Total trolley bus ridership for 2016 remained fairly flat with the total for 2015, at 422,928 rides with December's ridership numbers still to consider. The Access ridership continues to grow, providing over 30,000 rides in 2016 which is a 22% increase compared to 2015.

Jeremiah Cox explained three new trolleys were added to the fleet in 2016; bring the total to ten new low floor trolleys acquired over the past two years. Also in 2016, unlimited ride trolley bus passes for one, fourteen, and thirty-one days were introduced, as well as a ten-ride punch card to be used for the Access service. Passes can be purchased on line at: <http://interurbantrolley.com/>, from the service center at various Martin's Supermarket locations, or directly from the MACOG office. One-Day passes can also be purchased on board the Trolley. Four new Passenger Shelters were added; two at the Transfer Center in Elkhart and two at stops in Goshen. Advertising on the interior and exterior of the trolleys and on some of the Passenger Shelter began in 2016, providing additional local match to fund the service.

Looking ahead to 2017, initiatives include:

- The acquisition of two MV-1 paratransit vehicles through the State Quantity Purchase Agreement
- A partnership with Goshen College that will allow students, faculty, and staff to ride the Interurban Trolley at no cost
- Expand the services e-presence to Facebook and Twitter
- Launch the Interurban Trolley GPS tracking, "Ride Trolley", mobile application and web access to the public for real time tracking of the trolley system
- New signs will be installed at the trolley stops with codes that can be texted to receive information about the next trolley arrival
- Architecture and engineering will begin for a new downtown Elkhart Transfer Center

David Wood wanted additional information regarding the Interurban Trolley and Transpo transfer connection. James explained the current location where the Trolley connects to Transpo is at Twin Branch Park in Mishawaka. Planning and analysis are currently underway to move the connection off the street at the park to Transpo's downtown Mishawaka Transfer Center. A proposal between MACOG and Transpo would have to be considered.

Staff Updates

Argos Comprehensive Plan Update

MACOG is working with the Town of Argos on developing the final plan document that will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting. The public review process, which is included in the final plan, will begin at the end of the month.

Bourbon Comprehensive Plan Update

MACOG has been working with the Town of Bourbon to develop a comprehensive plan. The planning process kicked off in December 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. The data collection process will start this month, followed by the second Steering Committee meeting in February.

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. Alta Planning + Design (Alta) and Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group (TWS) were selected to assist in development of the plan. The planning process is anticipated to begin in January and conclude by July.

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. They have been scored and the selection has been approved by INDOT. Contract negotiations will begin with the selected firm.

Interurban Trolley “Can Do!” Food Drive

The Interurban Trolley concluded its 11th annual “Can Do!” food drive on December 17, 2016. In exchange for a non-perishable food item, trolley riders receive a free one-way trip. This year, 2,774 “Can Do” contributions were provided to Faith Mission in Elkhart and The Window in Goshen.

State Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) – Procurement of MV-1 Transit Mobility Vans

The State of Indiana has a Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) for various vehicles. Previously, there was only one option available for small passenger mobility vans. Several requests were made to the State to add the MV-1 to the QPA as an additional option which they did in 2016. MACOG is purchasing two (2) MV-1 Transit Mobility Vans for the Access Service.

US 31 Project Update

INDOT has hired CHA Consulting to conduct a Corridor Planning Study of the US 31 Corridor Project. A kickoff meeting was held last month between INDOT and CHA to discuss the schedule for the project. The initial priority is the selection of the Citizens Action Committee (CAC) team and developing and reviewing the existing conditions of the corridor. Public meetings will be scheduled in the first quarter of 2017 to collect information from citizens and community leaders. The Existing Conditions Report is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017 followed by the Problem Analysis Report in the summer of 2017. The final Corridor Planning Study is due in January 2018.

Kevin Overmyer stressed the importance of keeping INDOT informed regarding accident data on US 31 especially at US 31 and County Road 10 and other areas where traffic crosses US 31.

John Letherman indicated Governor Holcomb supports the project and feels there is an opportunity to move forward. House Bill 1002 proposes various ways to fund transportation infrastructure improvements.

James informed the Policy Board that the first meeting of the CAC will be on January 24 at the Milestone Event Center Grissom Air Force Base in Peru.

MACOG sent an email to the Project Manager for CHA Consulting, Dave Henkel, providing all of the crash data for the 92 intersections between US 30 and Kokomo over a three year period from 2013 through 2015. Additionally, MACOG sent the crash data for five years (2010 – 2016) from the US 31 and CR 10 intersection.

Funding Indiana’s Roads for a Stronger Safer Tomorrow (FIRSST) Task Force Recommendations and State Road Funding Legislation

House Bill 1002 contains the recommendations from the FIRSST Task Force that was set up to find a long-term funding plan to fix the state’s roads and bridges. James reviewed many of the bills key items including; increasing the gas tax by 10 cents, implementing an annual \$15 infrastructure improvement fee on all Indiana vehicle registrations, and \$150 annual infrastructure fee on electric vehicle registrations.

The Bill allows for the continuation of the Task Force through December 31, 2018, an increase in the percentage share of the gas tax collected that will go to road funding, changes to LOHUT (Local Highway User Tax) allowing it to be adopted by October 31 rather than June 30 and reducing the minimum population threshold to 5,000. It provides increases to various vehicle registrations, options for funding state highway and rail crossings, requires INDOT to further study tolling and submit a waiver to the federal government to allow tolling of existing interstates.

House Bill 1002 also provides local governments more options to provide matching funds for Community Crossings grants and implements a new federal fund exchange program.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform Final Rule (December 15, 2016)

On December 15, 2016 the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform Rule was finalized by the US Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Rule was developed to improve coordination between MPOs on transportation planning. MPOs commented on the proposed rulemaking last year and two changes were made in the final rule. First, USDOT may issue a waiver to MPOs and States that demonstrate the involved MPOs are already coordinating and it is not feasible to produce one planning document for all of them. The second change is that implementation will be pushed from 2018 to the release of the 2020 Census results, around 2022. If the reform final rule is not amended, modified, or rescinded, MACOG would be required to merge with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission or to produce joint work products.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Joseph Thallemer shared his appreciation for having the privilege to serve as the Chair of the Policy Board and participate in the Transportation for America Leadership Academy. He welcomed Kevin Overmyer as the Chair for 2017.

Mayor Thallemer thanked the US 31 Coalition for their efforts and reminded the Policy Board of the newly formed US 30 Coalition. The US 30 project runs through the MACOG region in Kosciusko and Marshall Counties.

Frank Lucchese indicated he would no longer be serving as the Policy Board representative from the Elkhart County Board of Commissioners and introduced Commissioner Suzie Weirick as his replacement. He thanked MACOG and the members of the Board for the years of service.

James Turnwald and the members of the Policy Board thanked Frank for his service on the Policy Board representing Elkhart County and provided him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

James also shared that Robert Sanders, Kosciusko County Council, will be leaving the Policy Board and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Sanders' service. Councilman Earnest Wiggins will be joining the Policy Board to represent Kosciusko County.

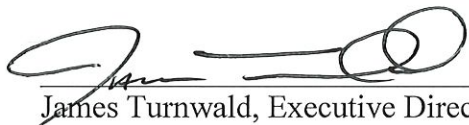
PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Herceg asked for clarification on House Bill 1002 regarding the use of exchange funds for engineering services during construction of a project. James stated the bill allows for construction inspection as an allowable expense.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID WOOD AND
SECONDED BY MARK SENTER TO ADJOURN
THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.


James Turnwald, Executive Director


Kevin Overmyer, Policy Board Chair