



## **Michiana Area Council of Governments Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Notice**

Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
2:00 PM (EDT)

Nappanee Chamber of Commerce  
302 W Market St, Nappanee, IN 46550

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### **Agenda**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Where We Are
3. Defining a Vision
4. Brainstorming Activity
5. Defining Goals
6. Next Steps
7. Meeting Adjournment



## Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

### Participants:

Amy Hill, Transpo  
Chris Vanden Bossch, Bike Michiana  
David Cangany, Transpo  
Deriek Spier, City of Mishawaka Planning  
Diana Lawson, Elkhart County CVB  
Greg Demopoulos, Kosciusko County Velo  
Gina Leitchty, Eyedart Creative Studio  
Jeff Kitson, Nappanee Chamber  
Jerry Chavez, Marshall County EDC

Jessica Brookshire, Notre Dame OPA  
Liz Gunden, Elkhart County Planning  
Ralph Booker, Marshall County  
Robin Vida, St. Joseph County Health Dept.  
Ron Robinson, Kosciusko County  
Steve Peterson, Bike Elkhart  
Therese Dorau, City of South Bend  
Tim Dombrosky, City of Warsaw  
Tim O'Donnell, South Bend Int'l. Airport

### MACOG Staff:

James Turnwald, Executive Director  
Zach Dripps, Principal Planner  
Caitlin Stevens, Regional Planner  
Bob Niezgodski, Planning Intern

### Pre-Meeting: Visioning Exercise

Steering committee members were asked to develop a draft active transportation vision statement between the first and second active transportation steering committee meetings. Below are a few draft active transportation vision statements developed by individual steering committee members.

- *“The Active Transportation Plan envisions a community where all residents and visitors can travel from place to place without the use of motorized vehicles. Such alternative forms of transportation as walking, biking and paddling will be safe and accessible to all. The Active Transportation Plan will create opportunities for recreation, commuting, and connecting with friends and neighbors.*

*By expanding the active transportation network and promoting its use, our residents will enjoy the benefits of better health, lower transportation costs and less negative impact on the environment. This is an important element of our vision of creating a more livable community.”*



- *“The Active Transportation Plan envisions an interconnected, safe, and viable multimodal transportation network where recreational and functional bicycling and walking are accessible to all residents, employees, and visitors across Northern Indiana.”*
- *“In 2040, we have a community connected and committed to active transportation. The collective support and recognition is validated with sustainable planning and an infrastructure that accommodates individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Improved health, safety, livability, and economic benefits for our vibrant community have been demonstrated.”*
- *“Progressive programs with events that support the transportation network.”*
- *“Comprehensive Plan that benefits all citizens by providing transportation and recreation options supported by policy and programs to increase safety, access, and mobility.”*
- *“Complete active transportation network that allows for safe, connected and efficient routes that are designed for healthy and active lifestyles. The network will not only be an asset to residents, but will draw visitors to the region as a destination.”*
- *“Active transportation will be fully integrated in the area transportation network and widely employed resulting in healthy, safe, economically and socially vibrant communities throughout the region.”*

## **Agenda & Summary**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Zach Dripps welcomed everyone to the meeting. All participants introduced themselves.

### **2. Where We Are**

Zach Dripps gave a brief presentation on the early status of the plan and what MACOG has been working on. He showed a map of the current active transportation network and provided figures on miles of facilities by county and the population served within a ¼ and ½ mile radius of the facilities.

### **3. Defining a Vision**

Caitlin Stevens described what a vision is and elements that should be included. A vision is a statement of desired outcomes for the future that include three elements: achievement, inspiration, and timeline. A well formed vision can lead to well defined goals and objectives.

### **4. Brainstorming Activity**

Steering committee members split into five groups of four to share each other’s individual vision statements and to develop a list of common themes between the vision statements. Each group then chose several words that would describe key components of each statement.



The groups reported out and discussed each word and the meaning behind them to the whole steering committee. Zach Dripps grouped the themes into larger focus group areas, which were discussed among the larger group. The focus group areas and the common themes among them were:

**Incentives/Encouragement – Community Commitment**

- Policy + Programs – Community Support/Buy-In
- Programs & Activities
- Second-nature
- Choice

**Connectivity**

- Regional Communities
- Connected
- Regional Network
- Inner Connected
- Integrated Network

**Safety**

- Safety
- Safe & Healthy
- Safe

**Quality of Life**

- Health
- Quality of Life
- Economic Development
- Livability
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- All – Encompassing

**Accessibility**

- Accessible
- Access
- Equitable
- Mobility

**Major Theme Discussion:**

- **The need to promote an active transportation culture in the region**

In America car culture has been widely promoted over the past several decades and it could be difficult to expand awareness of biking or alternative modes of transportation. An expansion of public awareness could help with many areas identified such as safety. A suggestion was made to



add community commitment to the Incentives/Encouragement focus group area, because the plan needs to be supported by the community in order to be successful.

- **The importance quality of life focus group area and how to include all themes into focus group meetings**

It was stated that this topic is important in attracting people to the region to visit and live. It is important in keeping and attracting current residents, their children, Millennials, and new talent to the region. There was discussion on how more thought needs to be put into whether quality of life is the appropriate terminology for a major theme or if it should be broken up into other themes or changed. There was a discussion on whether health should be a theme and different opinions on whether safety should be included in such a theme.

- **Items the steering committee would like to find out through the focus groups meeting, staff research, and public survey**

- The inclusion of design principles or best practices into the plan. MACOG has, and will continue to look at similar active transportation plans at the macro level.
- Where individuals are traveling to and from using active transportation? What key locations are being traveled to?
- How far individuals are willing to travel using active transportation within the Michiana Region? Will individuals travel from city to city or town to town or will they just travel within the same city or into a city or town?
- How far are individuals willing to travel to access a bike or pedestrian facility? Are there any differences between urban and rural individuals in regards to this?

## **5. Defining Goals**

Caitlin Stevens spoke about what goals are and how they relate to the vision of the plan as well as objectives and performance measures. Goals are broad in nature, describing a desired end state, and can be used as a basis for selecting performance measures and objectives in a plan which are more specific in nature.

## **6. Next Steps**

Zach Dripps described the next steps which are forming the focus group meetings, data gathering/analysis, the development of a project website, and a public survey. Zach asked if any of the members knew of any school or police representatives that would like to be on a focus group to email him those names.

## **7. Meeting Adjournment**