



# 2018 ANNUAL REVIEW

Michiana Area Council of Governments





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## VISION

The Michiana Area Council of Governments contributes to the advancement of the Region's economic vitality, enhanced quality of life, strong sense of place, and expanded opportunities that attract and retain talented individuals and organizations to the Michiana Region.



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## MISSION

The Michiana Area Council of Governments is a voluntary organization of local governments that studies and attempts to resolve, for the benefit of each member and the region, areas of inter-local issues, which includes but is not limited to transportation, transit, economic development, environment, and other issues that impact the region.





# CONTENTS

## **ANNUAL REVIEW**

This is an opportunity for MACOG to reflect on our activities throughout the preceding year and to inform our Policy Board, community partners, and other stakeholders about our work and accomplishments.

The annual review is organized into six (6) sections:

- 4    Transportation**
- 13   Transit**
- 17   Sustainability**
- 21   Community Development**
- 24   Public Engagement**
- 29   Administration**



# TRANSPORTATION

Serving as a Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organization, MACOG has a long-standing record of contributing to transportation planning in northern Indiana. All modes of transportation are essential for the movement of goods and people through the region and beyond. Through data collection and development of our Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan, MACOG strives to establish priorities and guide investments to implementing a transportation network that is safe, efficient, connected, equitable, and accessible.

MACOG assists and coordinates with our communities to ensure that priority transportation projects are implemented efficiently and effectively. MACOG shares various data including traffic counts and crash data to ensure that our communities have the best information to make the most informed decisions for improvements to the transportation network.

## 2045 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

This last year, MACOG began updating the Michiana on the Move: 2045 Transportation Plan. This is updated every five years to continue looking ahead to determine future transportation needs. The long-range transportation plan includes a list of proposed projects based on data analysis and stakeholder and public input. Development of the plan will continue into this year, with an anticipated adoption in June 2019.

To facilitate the planning process, MACOG is using various sets of development scenarios to forecast and model potential impacts to the transportation networks. Meeting with key stakeholders, MACOG utilized a creative, hands-on activity for participants to visualize where growth is likely to go in the future. Using socioeconomic data, historic trends, and input from stakeholders, MACOG is able to use a computer model to evaluate proposed future transportation projects.

MACOG sought to better understand future growth and transportation decisions by engaging the public to provide input in developing scenarios and project needs.

Through multiple phases, MACOG promoted two different online surveys, an interactive map, and pop-up events to reach interested public where they are at. The engagement emphasized the public's view on development types, housing needs, quality of life amenities, and transportation preferences. Through MACOG's efforts, nearly 700 participants provided input into the development of the Transportation Plan.

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# 2018 Construction Awards

2018  
12 PROJECTS  
\$23.9 million



**URBAN**  
\$19 million



**RURAL**  
\$4.9 million

## FEBRUARY 2018

- Bridge No. 81 carrying Hickory Rd. over Yellow River & Mitigation Site  
*Marshall Co.*
- Greenway Trail Phase II between Jefferson & Garro St. Near the Yellow River  
*Plymouth*
- Kercher Rd. from NS RRXing to Diedorff Rd  
*Goshen*

## APRIL 2018

- Pumpkinvine Trail: from CR 33 to CR 20  
*Elkhart Co.*

## JULY 2018

- Twelfth St. from Downey to Byrkit  
*Mishawaka*
- East Market St. between Hickory St. and Bronson St.  
*Warsaw*

## MARCH 2018

- Bridge No. 58 carrying Underwood over Pine Creek St.  
*Joseph Co.*
- Northwest Bike and Pedestrian Walkway  
*Goshen*
- Edison Rd. @ Ash Rd. Roundabout  
*St. Joseph Co.*
- Tamarck Multi-Use Trail  
*North Liberty*

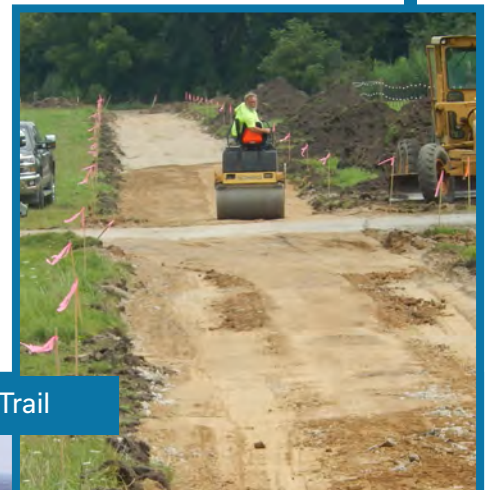
## DECEMBER 2018

- Kercher Rd. from Dierdorff Rd. to US 33  
*Goshen*
- LaSalle Intermediate Academy & Marquette Primary Montessori - SRTS  
*South Bend*

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A primary function of MACOG is to allocate federal funding, created from the federal gas tax and other sources, to improve our region's transportation system. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the short-range plan that provides information regarding the schedule of multi-modal transportation federally funded projects in the next four (4) years for our region. MACOG creates a new TIP every two years. The current TIP includes the State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2018 to SFY 2021, which was adopted by the Policy Board in May 2017.

The MACOG region had 12 federally funded local transportation projects let (awarded for construction) representing \$23.9 million in transportation investments in calendar year 2018. MACOG allocated \$19 million for the construction of these transportation projects in the MPO Urbanized Area. Additionally, \$4.9 million was allocated by the state for rural transportation projects.

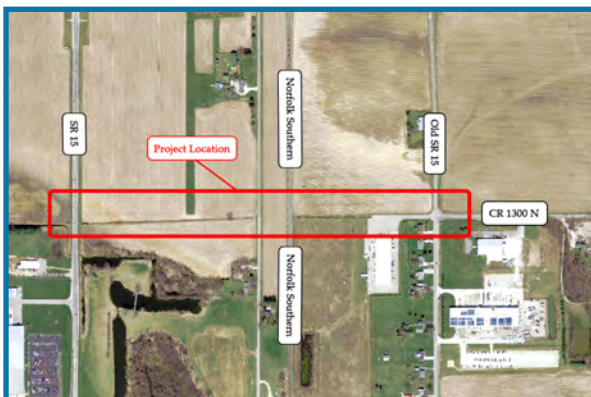




**City of Elkhart** – received nearly \$16 million in State funds to construct a grade separation at Hively Avenue and the Norfolk Southern triple tracked rail crossing.



**Elkhart County** – received \$20 million to construct an overpass at Sunnyside/Mall Dr. over the Norfolk Southern line and US 33.



**Kosciusko County** – received nearly \$8 million for the construction of the CR 1300 N extension with a rail overpass at the Norfolk Southern line in Milford.

## LOCAL TRAX

In April, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announced a new state grant opportunity to address safety issues at railroad crossings. The Local Trax program is designed to provide grants to local governments to build grade separations for local roads at rail crossings.

MACOG assisted several local communities in completing applications for this program. In December, Governor Holcomb announced awards for more than \$121 million in State matching funds.

The MACOG region was able to secure **three LOCAL TRAX grants for nearly**

**\$44 million**



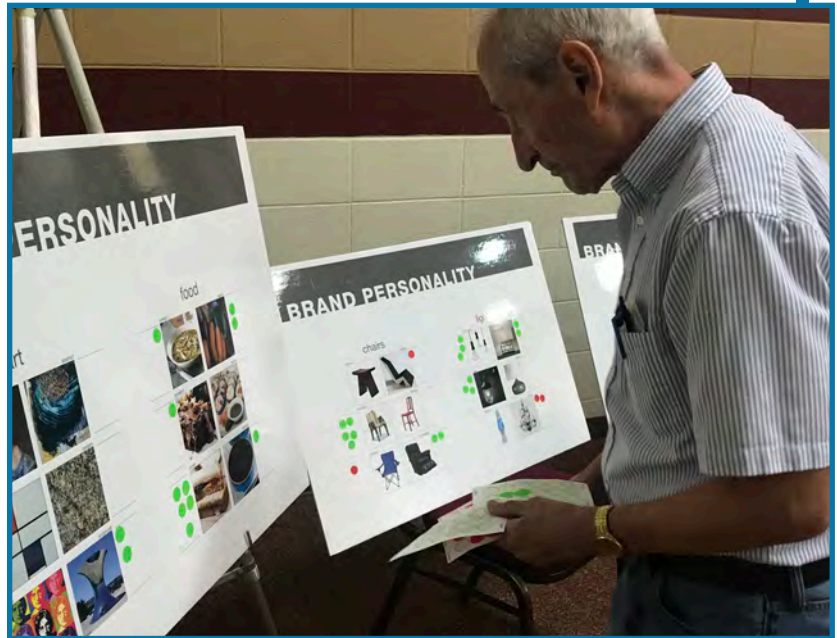
## TRAIL BRANDING & WAYFINDING

The MACOG region boasts of nearly 800 miles of bike lanes, routes, and trails that offer transportation and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. While this is remarkable, it is getting increasingly difficult to promote and advertise the collection of individual trails across the region. It became a priority to develop a Regional Trail System name and brand that can be promoted and unify individual efforts. Additionally, with the variety of local trails, there was no consistent set of signs to help users navigate to and from the system.

Working with the local Convention and Visitor Bureaus from the region, MACOG was able to hire a design and wayfinding consultant to facilitate the branding and wayfinding process. MERJE Design has experience across the country assisting communities and regions with developing comprehensive branding and wayfinding strategies.

In October, the consultants visited the region, touring the trails and hosting several stakeholder and public meetings throughout the region. Participants were asked to provide information about current trails and wayfinding programs. They also completed a survey explaining why they use the trails and, using images, what styles and images best express their experience of the system.

The consultants will use this information to develop preliminary designs that will be reviewed by stakeholders and the public. The trail branding process will provide the region's trail network a marketable name and logo to attract trail users while the wayfinding will help users navigate the vast system. The process is expected to wrap up in the spring of 2019.



## PLYMOUTH COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

In 2017, three cities, Plymouth, Goshen, and Warsaw and Winona Lake, were awarded technical assistance from MACOG and the National Complete Streets Coalition in drafting and passing their own Complete Streets Policy. Complete Streets Policies guide planners and developers to consider all users when designing new street projects, ensuring that they are safe and walkable when possible.

After the workshop, a group of Plymouth city staff and community volunteers formed the Complete Streets Committee. This committee and MACOG met regularly throughout the year to develop and draft their Complete Streets Policy. In November 2018, the policy was presented to the Plymouth Board of Public Works and Safety and was adopted through resolution. The committee is currently collaborating with the Plymouth Department of Public Works to review the 2019 schedule of street and sidewalk projects to make sure they meet the policy requirements.

With this, Plymouth became the 20th Indiana community to adopt a Complete Streets Policy, taking a big step towards becoming a more walkable and healthy community.

## TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

MACOG began collaborating with the Indiana Toll Road (ITR) in 2018 to provide Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training to first responders throughout the MACOG region. This training provides the opportunity of a cross discipline platform that gives various responders the chance to learn the policies of how counterpart disciplines respond to traffic incidents and how to best clear traffic incidents through effective teamwork. MACOG envisions quarterly trainings throughout the upcoming years. This will help lead to the formation of TIM Teams in the region where cross discipline partnerships are built and sustained for more effective traffic incident response.

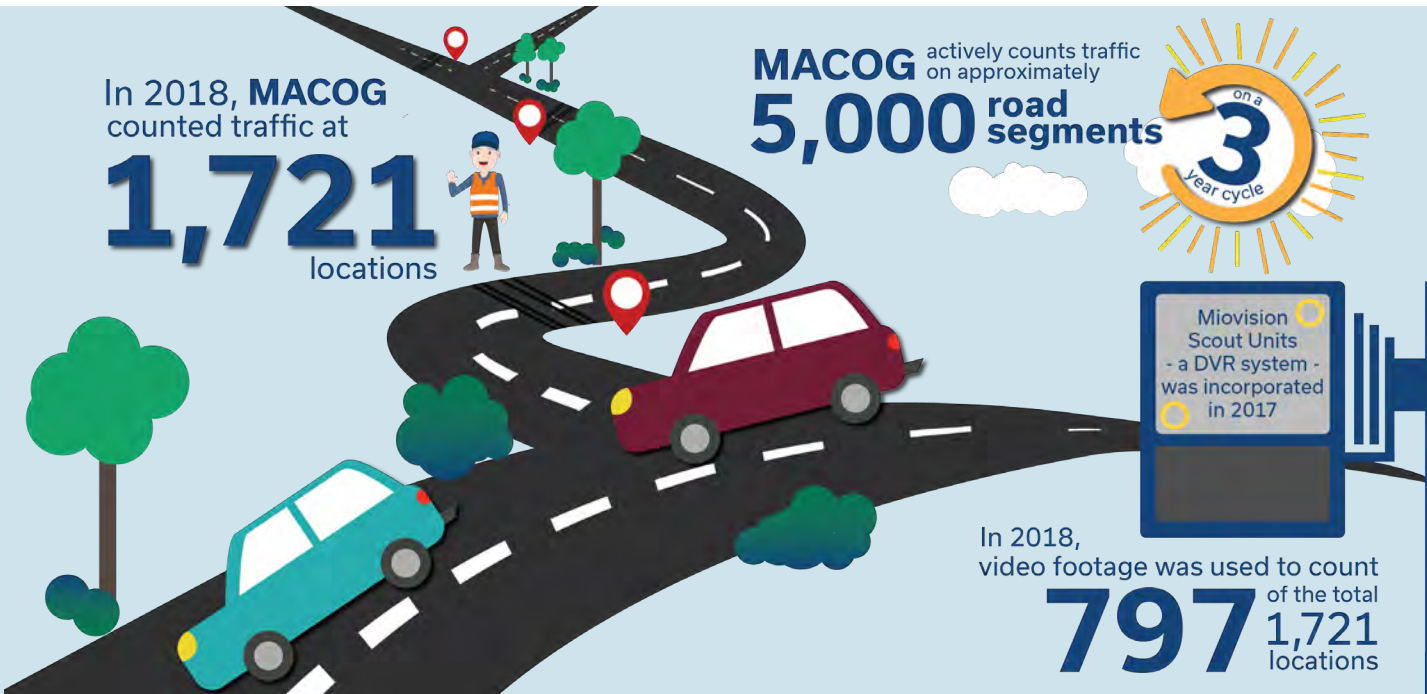


Our first joint training was held at the Middlebury Fire Department in August of 2018. It included 19 first responders representing police, fire, EMT, wreckers and the ITR emergency response teams.



The second Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training in our region was held at the New Carlisle Fire Department in November of 2018. Five responder were represented including, Fire, EMT, Hazmat, Tow Operators and an ITR emergency response employee.

## TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM



## SAFE STREETS ACADEMY

South Bend, along with two other cities, Orlando, FL and Lexington, KY, was chosen to participate in the Safe Streets Academy hosted by the National Complete Streets Coalition. The South Bend team, which included MACOG Staff members, used the strategies they learned to work with community members to implement temporary demonstrations to calm neighborhood streets in five different locations of the Near Northwest Neighborhood. Using materials such as straw logs, cones, and rubber curbing, neighborhood streets were redesigned to slow drivers and increase pedestrian safety.

Throughout the project, MACOG collected speed and traffic volume data to measure the impact. The results showed that the share of drivers traveling 25mph or less had increased at all demonstration locations. For their success in engaging the public and using creative placemaking with the help of a local artist and community members, MACOG in conjunction with the City of South Bend received an award at the 2018 MPO Conference.





## MISHAWAKA WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

In early Fall, MACOG staff met with members of the Wellness Committee for School City of Mishawaka to introduce ways their schools could celebrate the National Walk to School Day on October 10th. As a result of that initial conversation, three Mishawaka Elementary Schools – LaSalle, Hums, and Emmons – participated with a turnout of around 85 total students, staff, and parents. Students who participated in the walk enjoyed quality time with parents and friends, a visit from the Kroc Center mascot RJ at LaSalle Elementary, and a

free breakfast. Discussions are continuing on organizing Bike to School Day events in May 2019 and future Walk to School Days.



## LIME

Lime Bike celebrated its first anniversary in South Bend in July. Through the end of 2018, since its launch, South Bend saw 280,048 total trips by 42,586 unique riders. Those trips amounted to 6,345,169 total miles- enough to make five trips around the world.

MACOG assisted the City of Elkhart in launching its partnership with Lime Bike, introducing 34 bikes across the city. On June 13, 2018, residents enjoyed free rides at the kick-off event. The Elkhart Lime Bike end of year report showed that 30% of riders replaced a car trip with their last Lime Bike trip.



**28,048**  
total trips

**6,345,169**  
total miles

**THAT'S 5 TRIPS  
AROUND THE WORLD!**





# TRANSIT

**MACOG is committed to providing a multi-modal transportation system that is efficient and accessible for all users and needs. Through coordination and planning with other regional public transit providers, MACOG strives to ensure the region's transportation system is safe, reliable, accessible, and supportive for a greater economy, better environment, and higher quality of life for northern Indiana residents and visitors.**

For nearly two decades, MACOG has administered public transit services in Elkhart, Goshen, and surrounding areas through the Interurban Trolley and the paratransit Access service. This has ensured all populations have safe, efficient, equitable, and accessible means of transportation to businesses, healthcare, employment, and other opportunities. MACOG has successfully operated the Interurban Trolley by acquiring and allocating various local, state, and federal funding opportunities and through the issuance of passenger fares.

Total system ridership was at  
**442,919**  
 ...this is a  
**4% increase**  
 over 2017's total  
 The first increase in ridership since 2014!

**FIXED ROUTE RIDERSHIP**

The Interurban Trolley, operating five fixed-routes, provides bus service to the public throughout Elkhart and Goshen and to Mishawaka. In 2018, the Trolley had over 442,000 passenger trips. This is a 4% increase over 2017's total. This is the first increase in ridership since 2014!

In 2017, the Interurban Trolley began offering passengers the ability to purchase 1-Day, 14-Day, and 31-Day passes. In the past year, over 3,300 passes were sold, which is approximately a 40% increase over the previous year, and they were used almost 25,000 times.

**REDESIGNED ROUTE BROCHURES**

With various improvements and modifications to the Trolley service in 2018, MACOG wanted to redesign the route brochures to make them easier to read and produce. The last time the brochures were updated was in 2010.



The new brochures were designed to fit in standard brochure holders and now have all information in English and Spanish. This allows us to supply locations with brochures, especially if they needed both English and Spanish translations. Additionally, as part of this process, staff analyzed on time performance data for the Red, Blue, and Orange Lines and changed the scheduled stop times by up to five minutes to better replicate on-route performance.

## NEW YELLOW LINE ELKHART/MISHAWAKA ROUTE

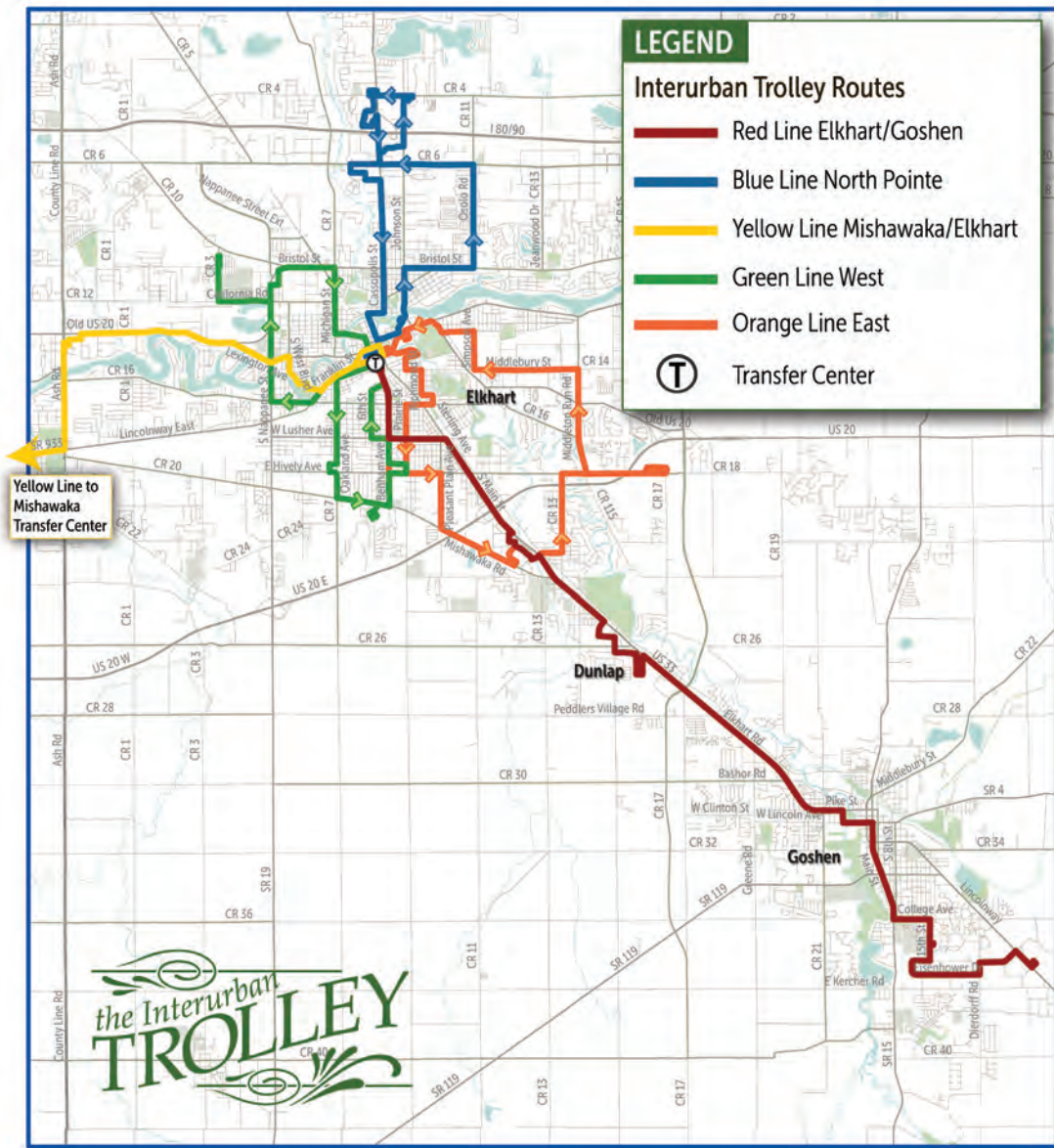
On August 20th, the Interurban Trolley and Transpo launched a new Yellow Line Route between Downtown Elkhart and Downtown Mishawaka. This was the result of a study to relocated the previous connection point between Interurban Trolley and Transpo routes at Twin Branch Park in Mishawaka. The new route increases frequency from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes during weekdays.

Since the new line launch, ridership on the Route 9-Yellow Line corridor between Elkhart and South Bend has increased 21% during the first four full calendar months of operation to a total of 74,379 passenger trips as compared to a total of 61,415 passenger trips from September to December 2017.

**Ridership**  
from Sept. - Dec.  
**increased**

**21%**

from **61,415** in 2017 to **74,379** in 2018



## ACCESS RIDERSHIP

The Interurban Trolley Access provides door-to-door paratransit service to riders unable to use fixed-route transit in compliance with the American with Disability Act (ADA).

Access provided

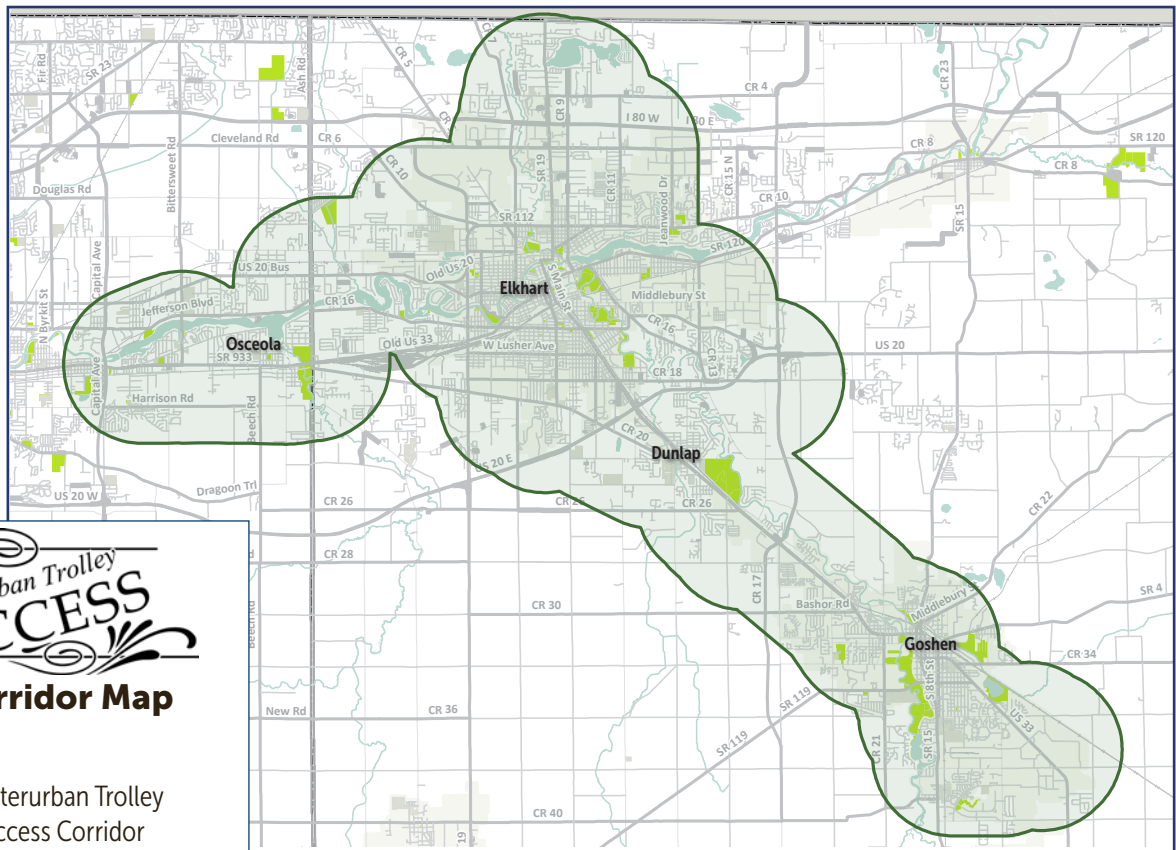
**37,874**

trips for 562  
unique riders

This is a **16% increase**  
over the previous year!

Individuals found eligible for the Interurban Trolley Access service may schedule rides for \$2 within the Interurban Trolley's ADA corridor. The corridor, shown below, is a 1.5 mile area surrounding the Interurban Trolleys five (5) fixed routes. Eligibility is determined through an application process and can range from physical to cognitive reasons for not being able to access the fixed route Trolley.

Over 37,800 passenger trips were provided in 2018. This is a 16% increase over the previous year.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Ivy Tech Community College has been a partner with the Interurban Trolley since 2015. This last year, over 3,500 trips were provided free for students, faculty, and staff. This is an 18% increase of 2017.

2018 marked the first full year calendar of the Interurban Trolley's partnership with Goshen College where all students, faculty, and staff ride the trolley for free. A total of over 1,900 rides were taken by 114 unique riders.





# SUSTAINABILITY

**Across our region, we breathe the same air, share water resources, and contribute to impacts on our landscape. Our region benefits economically when contaminated land is put back to productive use and the benefits of renewable energy and clean energy jobs are harnessed locally. Quality of life for all residents is enhanced by access to healthier, safer, and cleaner transportation options.**

MACOG strives to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of communities in north central Indiana by identifying ways to make a larger collective impact, access funding, support the work of local government staff, and plan for future environmental changes and infrastructure needs. MACOG seeks to improve the quality of air, water, land, energy, and transportation through collaboration, education, and implementation.

## SOLARIZE INSTALLATIONS WRAP UP

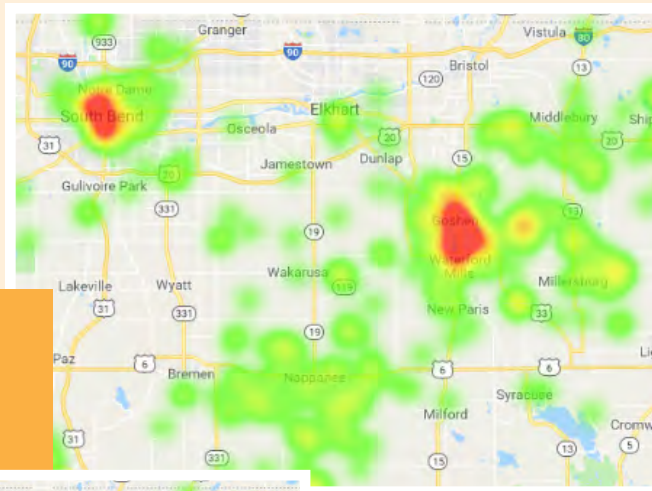
In July 2017, a team of volunteers from Goshen, South Bend, and Elkhart launched a local Solarize initiative, a community-powered model based on a group discount for solar panels and education. The Northern Indiana

Solarize team was able to secure a discount and post-program rebate through a competitive bidding process by leveraging collective buying power.

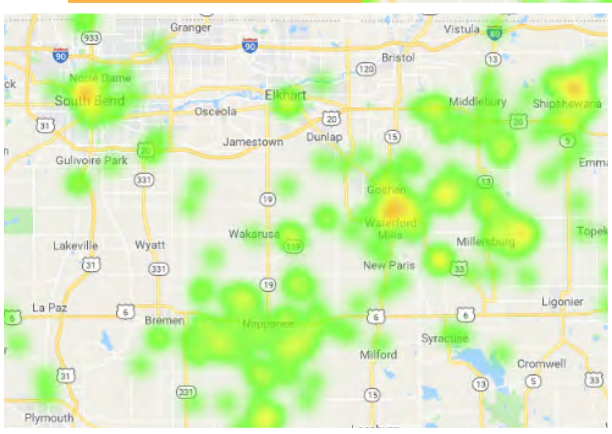
This spring, the last of the 97 Solarize installations wrapped up, with 21 projects completed in 2018 and 76 in 2017, surpassing the goal of 60 new solar homes in the region. The homeowners, two churches and local business have

brought 706 kW of solar energy to the MACOG region, enough to power 78 average Hoosier households.

The initiative also led to more awareness about solar energy. More than 370 people attended workshops to learn about whether their home or business might be suitable and to identify barriers like shading, roof orientation, roof condition, cost, or extra approval steps required by Homeowners Associations or local Historic Districts. Many people were not aware that the cost had fallen nearly 70 percent in the last seven years.



The maps contrast the concentration of solar projects at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2018.



Solarize participants celebrate the initiative's accomplishments



## GOSHEN RECEIVES AIM'S FIRST "GREEN PROJECT OF THE YEAR" AWARD FOR SOLAR LEADERSHIP

At the annual Aim (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities) Summit in October, the City of Goshen was awarded Aim's first "Green Project of the Year" award for the city's solar leadership. Goshen earned "solar-ready, solar-friendly" SolSmart Gold Designation through the Department of Energy, which included leasing underutilized property at the wastewater treatment plant for a solar field, clarifying zoning code language, and training inspectors and the fire department. Goshen also supported the local Solarize initiative, which resulted in 67 new solar projects in the area, more than quadrupling the number of solar homes in several months.



Goshen Mayor Jeremy Stutsman accepts the Aim "Green Project of the Year" award.



Looking Ahead to 2019 MACOG received funding from The Solar Foundation to assist additional cities and counties in our region in earning SolSmart designation by making it easier to go solar. SolSmart is funded by the U.S. Department of Solar Energy Technologies Office.

## CREATING CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

MACOG staff supporting the St. Joseph River Basin Commission have been working with local drainage officials to test a new method for determining the benefit of public drains to each landowner. This innovative drain taxing approach creates a financial incentive for landowners to use and manage their land in ways that reduce soil erosion and runoff. If successful, drainage officials throughout the region could adopt the process as part of their effort to improve water quality and reduce drain maintenance costs.



## BROWNFIELDS

Brownfields are properties whose redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Many such blighted properties are located near core areas or residential neighborhoods and present opportunities for green space, affordable housing, and new jobs. If a property is not actually contaminated, environmental assessments can remove the uncertainty and barrier to development. The cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields can put properties back to productive use and utilize existing infrastructure.

Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce invited working group members to discuss brownfields.



MACOG convened a Regional Brownfield Working group to attract funding and increase the knowledge of local government staff through discussions between communities with varying levels of experience and a technical training with the Indiana Brownfields Program. MACOG prepared an application for an EPA Coalition Assessment grant, to be submitted in January 2019, which would fund environmental assessments and site-specific reuse planning to put potentially contaminated properties back to productive use throughout the region.

## NORTHERN INDIANA GREEN FLEET PROGRAM

MACOG partnered for a second year with South Shore Clean Cities on the Northern Indiana Green Fleet Program. This year the program focused on completing Fleet Audits and Alternative Fuel Feasibility Analyses for municipalities, schools, and other members such as the City of Plymouth, Elkhart County Highway Department, Town of Lakeville, and City of Warsaw Wastewater Department. The reports evaluated vehicle-specific fuel use and emissions to identify and apply for funding opportunities to help replace dirtier vehicles with new diesel or alternative fuels where cost-effective.



To promote cleaner vehicles to the public, MACOG and South Shore Clean Cities collaborated with Downtown South Bend, the South Bend Office of Sustainability, and the City of Goshen to host two electric vehicle (EV) test drive and education events. These Ride & Drive events reached several hundred people and raised awareness about the availability of plug-in vehicles and infrastructure. Many local EV owners brought their vehicles to share candidly about their experience.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**As a regional planning organization, MACOG seeks to engage communities to think about the synergies between community programs, projects, and assets, and how each can have a great impact on the entire community and region. MACOG strives to create community plans that are holistic in design, realistic to the community, strategic, and feasible for implementation. MACOG has a strong history of regional planning and is committed to providing exceptional and innovative community planning in northern Indiana.**

Planning is a collaborative process that empowers communities to envision the future, address the challenges, and create solutions that offer better choices for where people live, work, and play, and how they move through the region. MACOG provides technical services to empower communities to establish a vision, define core values, and formulate strategic solutions. This is accomplished through the development of community plans and/or conducting various studies.



## TOWN OF WINONA LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Town of Winona Lake selected MACOG to develop their first comprehensive plan. This plan is needed to establish a vision for the Town to guide decisions on land development over the next 10 to 15 years.

The planning process kicked off in June 2018 by holding the first Steering Committee meeting. The process began by developing a unique brand and communication guide for the plan including a plan logo and name. The committee decided on “Imagine Winona Lake” to inspire residents to imagine what Winona Lake could be like in 15 years. This became the primary theme of the process.



The Town wanted the public to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the vision, values, and goals for the plan. Nearly 160 residents participated in an online survey. To better reach residents, the Town held pop-up events at various locations. MACOG created polaroid frames that asked people to share what they love about Winona Lake or what they imagine Winona Lake to be like in 2030. This drew in over 640 residents!

Using unique and creative feedback frames, residents were able to share what they love about Winona Lake and what they imagine Winona Lake will be in 2030.

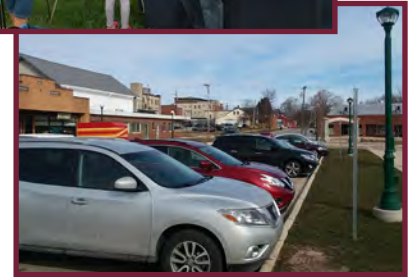
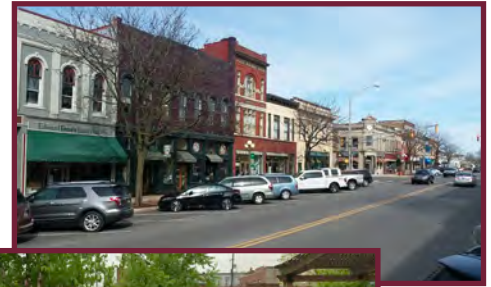


MACOG is working with the Steering Committee to develop the vision, goals, and strategies. It is anticipated the plan will seek adoption by the Town’s Plan Commission and Town Council in summer 2019.

## DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH PARKING STUDY – PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

The City of Plymouth, in partnership with Discover Plymouth, asked MACOG to conduct a parking study to better understand their parking needs in downtown. This study also addressed the concerns from downtown businesses and their customers on the perception there was not enough parking in downtown. The Parking Study supported a data-driven process to systematically develop a comprehensive parking database of the current parking and land use conditions, inventory of spaces, restrictions, and utilization. MACOG also examined the use and adequacy of the existing parking facilities to document the parking activity and issues. This allowed MACOG to conduct a future parking demand analysis.

Engaging community stakeholders (City officials and staff, business owners, their employees and customers, and downtown residents) was central through the process and held as the foundation for this Study in order to understand their issues and needs with parking, as well as to identify the parking management strategies. MACOG created two unique online surveys to garner public feedback on parking influences and engaged the public at several locations in downtown to indicate their top three strategies. Nearly 240 participants completed the surveys and over 140 individuals indicated their top three strategies. The City is now working on implementing the identified short-term strategies.



## MARSHALL COUNTY CROSSROADS – REGIONAL STELLAR INITIATIVE

In May 2018, the Marshall County Crossroads was selected as a finalist to compete for the first Regional Stellar Communities Program. MACOG assisted the Stellar Team to develop their Regional Development Plan, solicit public input through an online survey, and facilitate two community engagement workshops. In two weeks of issuing the online survey, we received over 700 responses from residents. Over 100 county leaders attended each of the two community workshops. These engagement efforts led the Team to establish a regional vision and goals, and to create strategic solutions to increase the population and school enrollment, enhance quality of life, attract and retain a talented workforce, and increase access to health and wellness services.

Unfortunately, the Marshall County Crossroads team was not selected as one of the 2018 Regional Stellar designees. However, momentum was created through the process and community leaders plan to continue to connect, collaborate, and create Marshall County into a great place to live, work, and play.





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**Public participation is integral to good planning policies, programs, and projects. Without meaningful public involvement, there is a risk of making poor decisions or decisions that have unintended consequences. More than a requirement, meaningful public participation is central to good decision-making. MACOG is responsible for actively involving all affected parties in an open, cooperative and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities to influence decisions.**

MACOG recognizes that effective public participation is a vital element in the development and implementation of plans, programs, and projects. In any plan, program, or project, MACOG strives to include stakeholders and the public throughout the process. The primary ways this is done is through the dissemination of information, the gathering of insights or public opinion, and educating decision makers, stakeholders, and the public about best practices.



## MACOG EVENTS

As a regional planning organization that serves as an inter-governmental forum, MACOG annually hosts regional events that seek to educate, inform, and collaborate with community partners on ways to improve and maintain a high level of service for our region's air and water quality, as well as the quality of life and place. MACOG works to ensure future generations have access to the same benefits we enjoy today. Below are images highlighting these showcased events.

### Partners for Clean Air Winners, April 25



MACOG recognized organizations that have taken voluntary steps to protect our air.

### Annual St. Joseph River Basin Symposium, May 11



Matt Meersman stands ready to welcome everyone to the 18th annual St. Joseph River Basin Symposium.

### MREDD, May 16



The participants at the Regional Economic Development District Board Meeting mingled in between the discussions

### Livable Communities, July 11



AARP representatives joined us in Plymouth to share livable communities initiatives and age-friendly communities.



### MREDD, Nov. 14

The Goshen Mayor, Jeremy Stutsman, shares an update at the board meeting.

## OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Additionally, MACOG is involved in many community planning initiatives, either by directly leading or in partnership with community leaders and organizations, to actively engage the community to ensure planning outcomes reflect their vision and desires. From educating community leaders and residents on the importance of Complete Streets and sustainability to plan development meetings, this was a banner year for MACOG. Below are images from public events MACOG presented in or helped organize in 2018.

### Purdue Road School, March 5-8



Caitlin and Zach presented on LimeBike

### National Shared Mobility Summit, March 12-14



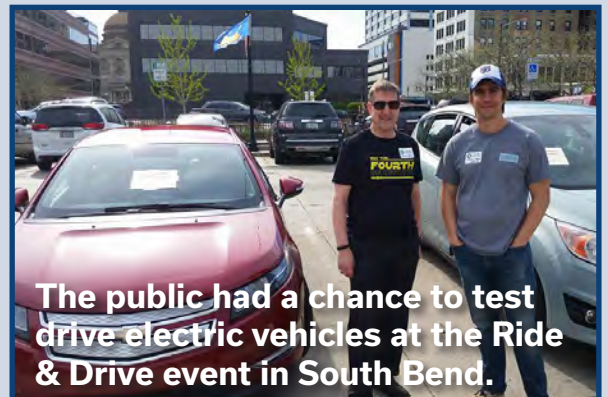
Zach shared with many leaders who gathered in Chicago about regional and local shared mobility efforts.

### Solar and Fire Safety Training, April 16



The Goshen Fire Department visited the solar photovoltaic array at the city wastewater treatment plant to learn how to safely respond to a fire involving solar panels.

### Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive, May 4



The public had a chance to test drive electric vehicles at the Ride & Drive event in South Bend.

### MPO Conference, Sept. 5-7



Caitlin and Donny shared our approach to Public Engagement and Complete Streets Policies.



### National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 8



Electric vehicle owners gathered in Goshen to celebrate National Drive Electric Week and raise awareness about the growing adoption of cleaner vehicles.



### Sustainable Operations Workshop, Oct. 23

The workshop featured a dynamic lineup of local and regional sustainability experts.

### Michiana on the Move Pop-ups, Oct. - Nov.



Participants engage in sharing their thoughts on the 2045 Transportation Plan

### Elkhart County Transportation Breakfast, Dec. 7

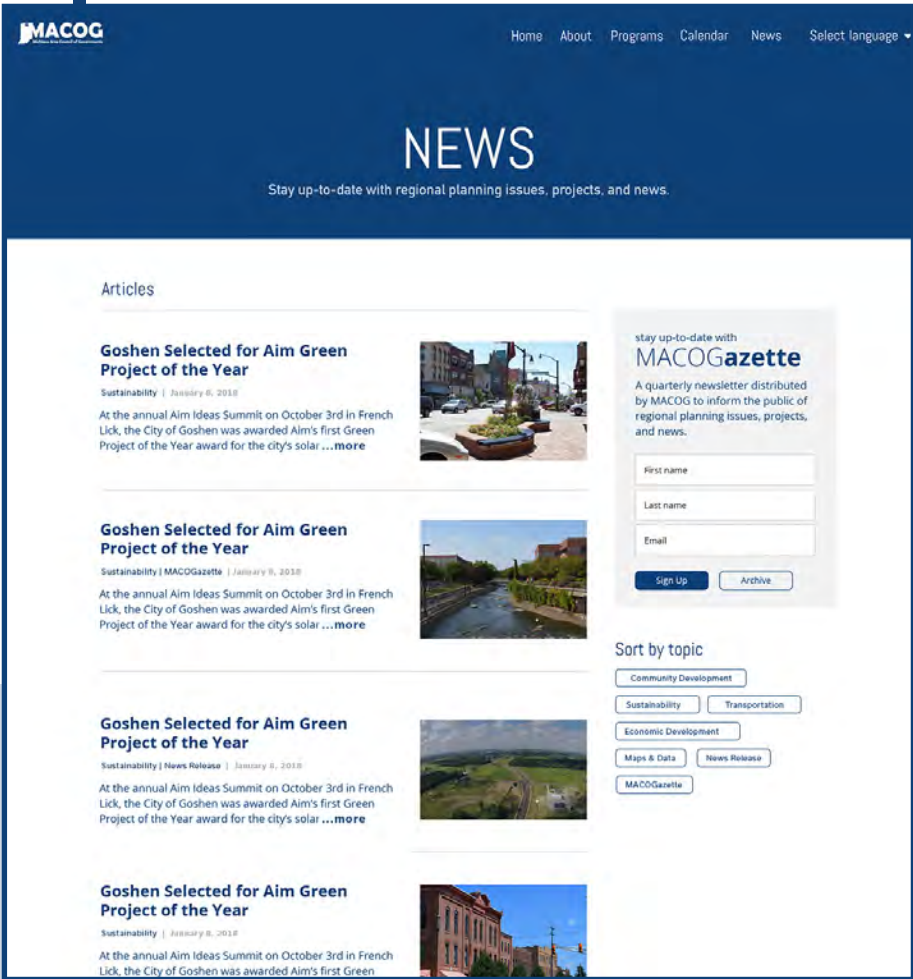


"Bike Trails - Connecting Our Communities" was the topic of the event. Zach was able to share and discuss the future plan of bike trails in our local areas.



### IARC Conference, Nov. 9

Zach and Donny shared our approach to Public Engagment with Regional Councils in Indiana.

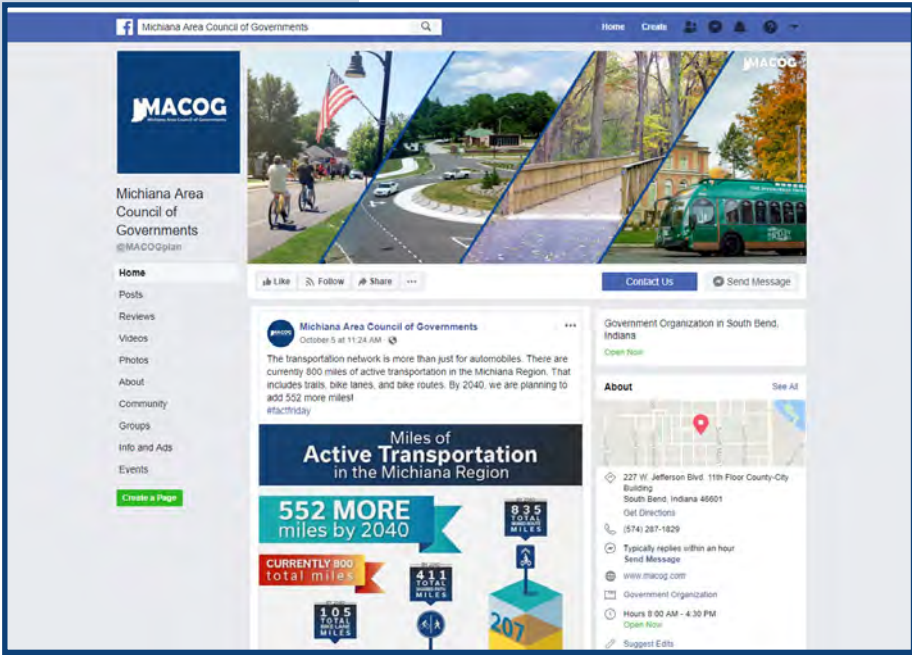


## “NEWS” MENU TAB

MACOG worked with the South Bend Code School to add a “News” menu tab to our MACOG website. This additional “News” menu tab is a hub for MACOGazette articles, news releases and recent MACOG news. The MACOG website had 51,018 visits this past year and with this new page we hope even more will visit and be able to gain more knowledge on the Michiana region and its happenings.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Michiana Area Council of Governments joined Facebook this year. The page keeps followers up-to-date on recent news and happenings. Through hashtags such as #FactFriday, #DriveSafeMichiana, and #WhereisMACOGtoday, we are able to keep our followers intrigued and informed. As of the end of 2018 around 200 people like and follow MACOG on Facebook. Follow along at [www.facebook.com/macogplan](http://www.facebook.com/macogplan).





# ADMINISTRATION

**The variety of projects, programs, and plans completed by MACOG requires a strong support network. A capable administrative team keeps the organization moving forward. Through financial oversight, customer service, IT support, and employee management, the MACOG Staff works to provide quality support for the Policy Board and the Region.**

MACOG recognizes the effort it takes to keep the organization running. The initiatives and procedures performed by administrative staff is directly reflected in the quality outcomes of plans and programs conducted by MACOG.

## NEW MACOG STAFF

MACOG added two additional positions to the office this past year. A Graphic Design and Communications Manager was found to be needed and Katie Dominguez, a designer who recently moved from Washington State filled the position. An Active Transportation Planner was also needed and Alaina Parrish rose to the top to fill the new position. She is a recent graduate of Ohio State University. Both positions have been great additions.

## YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

We had several employees celebrate milestones in their years of service with us. Johnnie Woggon, the Transit Administrative Specialist, celebrated 20 years with MACOG. Russ Ragimbekov, the Information Technology Manager, celebrated 15 years, and James Turnwald, the Executive Director of MACOG celebrated 10 years of service. Whether it be one year or 30 years, MACOG is grateful for all of their employees and their hard work.

### *Years of Service*

1  
year

Leah

1  
year

Ryan

2  
years

Matt

2  
years

Jeremiah

3  
years

Donny

4  
years

Tierra

4  
years

Caitlin

6  
years

Lori

8  
years

Carla

9  
years

Zach

10  
years

James

12  
years

Dave

12  
years

Sam

15  
years

Russ

17  
years

Debbie

17  
years

Greg

18  
years

John-Paul

20  
years

Johnnie

26  
years

Shirley



## AWARDS

### Outstanding Public Involvement

MACOG along with the City of South Bend - Municipal Government, were recognized with an “Outstanding Public Involvement” award at the Indiana MPO Conference! This award is given to an agency that has made a significant contribution toward involving the public in transportation planning programs/projects. The City of South Bend launched a demonstration project to test out traffic-calming tools and worked closely with the local community to decide strategies. MACOG participated on South Bend’s team to implement this project.



### 2018 Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award

MACOG along with many great organizations, were awarded by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, the 2018 Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award for all our efforts on the Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail.

This is presented annually for projects that exemplify intergovernmental cooperation by local units of government. It was an honor to work on the Indiana Michigan Valley Trail. Thank you Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and congratulations to all.

# 2018 MACOG POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

David Wood - Chair  
Mayor, City of Mishawaka

Phil Jenkins - 1st Vice-Chair  
Mayor, City of Nappanee

Ernest Wiggins - 2nd Vice-Chair  
Council Person, Kosciusko County

Judy Stone - Secretary  
Council Person, Marshall County

Mark Root - Treasurer  
Council Person, St. Joseph County

Jo M. Broden  
Council Person, City of South Bend

Pete Buttigieg  
Mayor, City of South Bend

Joe Canarecci  
Council Person, City of Mishawaka

Dwight Fish  
Council Person, City of Elkhart

Deborah Fleming  
Commissioner, St. Joseph County

Cary Groninger  
Commissioner, Kosciusko County

Todd Johnson  
Deputy District Commissioner,  
INDOT Fort Wayne

John Letherman  
Council Person, Elkhart County

Tim Neese  
Mayor, City of Elkhart

Kevin Overmyer  
Commissioner, Marshall County

Rick Powers  
Deputy District Commissioner,  
INDOT LaPorte

Mark Senter  
Mayor, City of Plymouth

Jeremy Stutsman  
Mayor, City of Goshen

Joseph Thallemer  
Mayor, City of Warsaw

Suzanne Weirick  
Commissioner, Elkhart County

## MACOG STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Turnwald

### DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Zach Dripps

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Carla Herwarth  
Russ Ragimbekov  
Shirley Czerna  
Katie Dominguez

### ACCOUNTING

Debbie Gardner  
Lori Ratliff

### TRANSPORTATION

Caitlin Stevens  
Ryan DeLine  
John-Paul Hopman  
Alaina Parrish

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Matt Meersman  
Leah Thill

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Donny Ritsema, AICP

### TRAFFIC DATA

Greg Slater  
Dave Burgoyne  
Sam Trimboli

### TRANSIT

Tierra Harris  
Jeremiah Cox  
Johnnie Woggon



# 2018 ANNUAL REVIEW

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