



2019 ANNUAL REVIEW

Michiana Area Council of Governments

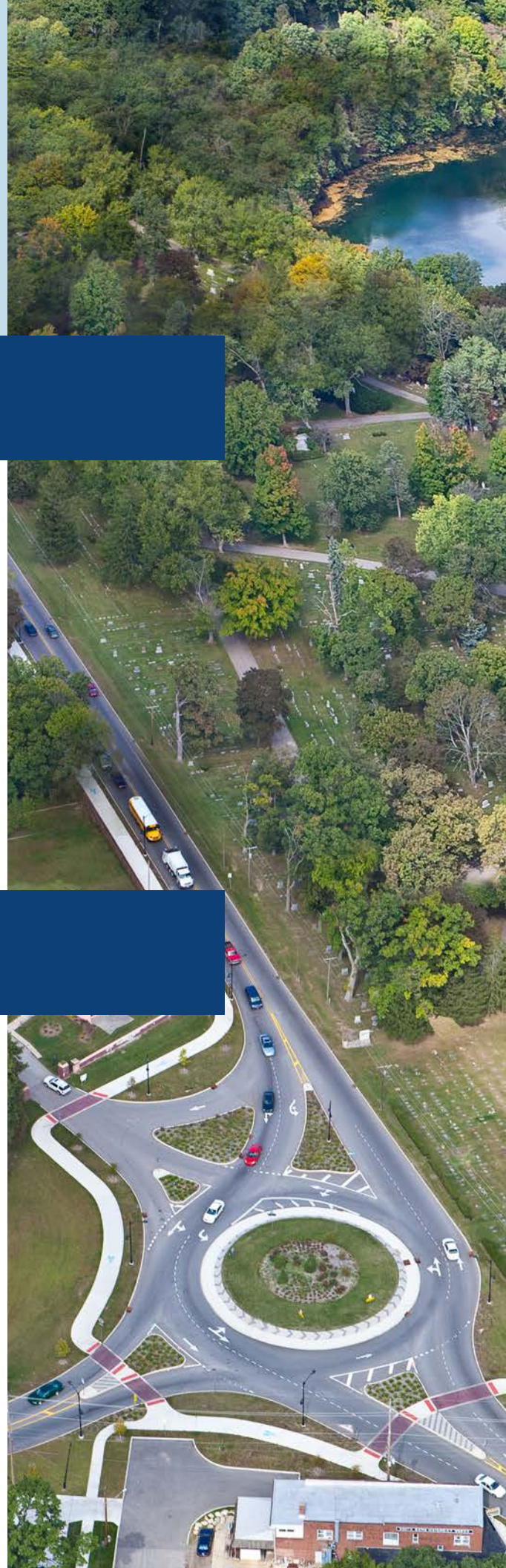


VISION

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.

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.



REGIONAL IMPACT AT A GLANCE

TRANSPORTATION

TIP Funded Projects Completed in 2019

6 PROJECTS

\$11 MILLION



URBAN

\$8.7 million



RURAL

\$2.3 million

2019 Construction Awards

JANUARY 2019



Ninth St. Multi-Use Path from College Ave. to Purl St.
Goshen

Cassopolis Sidewalk from Windsor Ave. to Bristol St.
Elkhart

FEBRUARY 2019



Kercher Rd. from Dierdorff Rd. to US 33
Goshen

JULY 2019



East Market St. between Hickory St. and Bronson St.
Warsaw

SEPTEMBER 2019



Bendix Dr. from Lathrop St. to the I-80 Bridge (Nimtz Pkwy)
South Bend

NOVEMBER 2019



Bridge 62 over Yellow Bank Creek on Walnut Road
St. Joseph County

**FY 20-24 TIP
LOCALLY
PLANNED
PROJECTS**



53 TOTAL PROJECTS

**\$122,565,960
IN TOTAL FUNDING**

**19 BRIDGE
PROJECTS**

**15 ROAD
PROJECTS**

**12 BIKE/PED
PROJECTS**

**3 SAFETY
PROJECTS**

4 INTERSECTION PROJECTS

128
first responders

TRAINED
in Traffic Incident Management

Distributed

58

new
bike racks
throughout
the region.

MACOG

counted traffic at

2,035
locations



Video footage was
used to count

881
locations

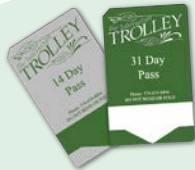
TRANSIT

the Interurban
TROLLEY

Had over 
441,000
passenger boardings.


This is a **9% INCREASE** over 2018's total and the **HIGHEST RIDERSHIP** since 2014

Sold 
47,407
DAY PASSES
AND USED 73,218 TIMES


3,300
14 AND 31
DAY PASSES
WERE SOLD
AND USED 24,900 TIMES

Interurban Trolley
ACCESS 
Provided over
40,300
passenger trips to
544
different residents
 **6% over 2018 & highest ever**

SUSTAINABILITY

— Awarded —
\$600,000
 for the next **3 years**
through EPA Brownfields Grant

— A RECORD —
21 VEHICLES
— PARTICIPATED —
at the National Drive Electric Week Event



— SECURED —
\$456,000
for vehicle replacements
2 Diesel Trucks
3 Diesel Buses
8 Propane Buses

250 people — attended —
12 SOLAR workshops

3 NEW
SOLSMART COMMUNITIES
Elkhart County - GOLD
Marshall County - GOLD
City of Plymouth - GOLD

20 NEW SOLAR projects

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

160 
WINONA LAKE RESIDENTS AND **640** 
participated in an online survey AND **RESIDENTS** engaged at pop-up events
ADOPTED IN JULY 2019
THE WINONA LAKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WAS...

Nappanee Parking Study had
124 PARTICIPANTS in the online survey
& **40 stakeholders** attend a workshop


WORK BEGAN ON BRISTOL'S COMP PLAN

152 RESIDENTS & **562 NHS STUDENTS**
 participated in a survey for the
Middlebury Comprehensive Plan

35 Stakeholders
 attended a
 Workshop

50 PEOPLE participated at
 pop-up events

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

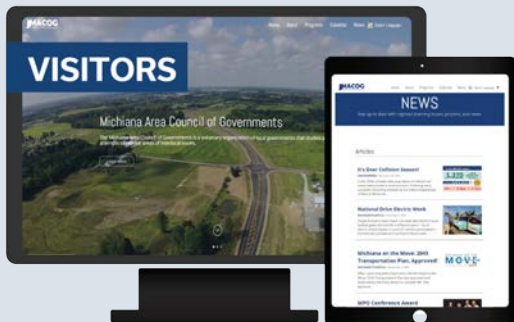


	2018	2019
likes	191	315
posts	138	418
engagement	1,918	6,470

25 News Releases
7 Public Notices
46 MACOG News Articles

MACOGAZETTE

2,800 PRINTED
 QUARTERLY
250 EMAILED



www.macog.com	www.maps.macog.com
INDIVIDUALS 11,962	INDIVIDUALS 49,310
SESSIONS 21,953	SESSIONS 147,221



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Public Meetings or Outreach	Number of Events	EJ Areas*	Estimated Participants
	59	23	2,440
MACOG Hosted Events	Number of Events	Invited	Participants
	5	1,897	446

*EJ = Environmental Justice



TRANSPORTATION



UPDATING SIGNATURE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The Policy Board adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on May 8, 2019. The TIP is a federally required, short-range (FY 2020-2024) plan that provides information regarding the schedule of multi-modal transportation projects that are receiving federal funds or are regionally significant in the MACOG region. This includes nearly \$123 million in total funding on 53 locally planned projects.

Following a yearlong planning process, the Policy Board approved the Michiana on the Move: 2045 Transportation Plan (Move 2045) in October. Development of the plan included comprehensive public outreach through surveys and pop-up events, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with local, regional, and state partners. Overall, the Move 2045 plan serves as a guide for our region's transportation investments. Over the next 20 years, more than 200 transportation projects have been identified based on the plan and taking into consideration the values, goals, and vision of what our region strives to achieve.

200+
projects

have been identified

MICHIANA ON THE
MOVE
transportation plan **2045**



MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SAFETY INITIATIVE

Pursuing the goal toward safety enhancement throughout the region, MACOG has focused on establishing cohesive and ongoing Traffic Incident Management (TIM) trainings and outreach. TIM consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the impacts of traffic incidents and improves safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders.

In 2019, with collaboration of various partnerships, MACOG was able to organize three trainings, which included participants from all four counties in the region and a TIM Train-the-Trainer class. So far, 128 first responders within the MACOG region have been trained.



A BIKE FRIENDLY REGION

MACOG has continued work on a regional complete streets planning process over the past two years, to ensure that the transportation network is safe and accessible for all users. Following technical assistance from the National Complete Streets Coalition in 2017, MACOG reached a new milestone this year - the completion and endorsement of a Regional Complete Streets Policy. *(Baseline performance measures used for evaluation of the Complete Streets Policy will be available on our website.)*

MACOG implemented a Bicycle Parking Improvement Project for the region using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds and the NIPSCO Environmental Action grant. First, we began by creating an inventory of existing bicycle racks throughout the region. Then local governments submitted applications to request additional bicycle racks for their community. We received requests for 121 bike racks from 11 communities! MACOG was able to provide 58 new bike racks for all 11 communities. The bike racks will be installed by the spring of 2020.





MACOG has long supported the League of American Bicyclists' Bike Friendly programs for communities, universities and businesses. In October, MACOG applied to the Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) program. This program recognizes businesses who are actively working to accommodate and encourage bicyclists. In January 2020, they announced MACOG as a Bronze-Level BFB. We are one of 1,366 businesses nationwide recognized for its efforts toward a more Bicycle Friendly America.



REVEALING OUR BEST KEPT SECRET

Our region celebrated the naming of our trail system this year, the Crossway Trails. The Crossway Trails brand unifies nearly 800 miles of trails, bike lanes, and other routes in our region - in an effort to encourage and promote their use to both residents and visitors. MACOG collaborated with local Convention and Visitors Bureaus and local governments in 2018 to begin a regional trail branding and wayfinding planning process.



In 2019, the planning process continued, utilizing feedback on names, colors, and logo styles to narrow down to three potential options that reflect the identity of our trail network. The final brand, Crossway Trail was approved in July – representing the connection and crossing of our trails between our many communities and the state line.

MACOG also worked with local partners in St. Joseph County, South Bend, Mishawaka, and Niles to create a new brand for the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail. On November 9, partners from both States gathered at the Stateline to celebrate the completion of the last phase to connect Niles to Mishawaka and to unveil the new logo.





TRANSIT

HIGHEST RIDERSHIP IN 5 YEARS

The Interurban Trolley, a five-route fixed-route bus system in Elkhart and Goshen, had over 441,000 passenger boardings for 2019. This is a 9% increase over 2018's total and the highest ridership since 2014. Much of the increase is due to the improved connection to Mishawaka on the Yellow Line and increase development and activity in northern Elkhart on the Blue Line. The complimentary paratransit service, Interurban Trolley Access, provided over 40,300 passenger trips to 544 different residents. This is an increase by 6% over 2018 and highest ever.



MORE FREQUENT RIDES

The Day, 14-Day, and 31-Day passes offer riders a great way to save money, a simpler boarding process, and encourage more frequent rides. Overall pass usage increased from last year from 12% of all fares to 36% this year. In 2019, the Trolley sold 47,407 Day Passes that were used 73,218 times, which is an average of 1.5 times per pass. Additionally, a combined 3,300 14- and 31-day were sold and used 24,900 times.



The Interurban Trolley's partnership with Goshen College where all students, faculty, and staff ride the trolley free saw increases in ridership in 2019. From Goshen College, there were over 3,300 rides from 126 unique riders, this is a 71% increase from 2018.





NEW TROLLEYS & VANS

In 2019, MACOG received additional vehicles for both the Interurban Trolley fixed route and the Interurban Trolley Access service to replace current aging vehicles in the fleets. The Interurban Trolley's fleet now consists entirely of low-floor, modern transit buses with the addition of two buses. The Interurban Trolley Access service received four vans, which include a new in-floor ramp feature to add to the ease and accessibility of the service.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

Staff attended five events throughout the year to promote the Interurban Trolley. Three of the events targeted Ivy Tech and Goshen College students to promote the student passes. We also had a table at two events focused on Elkhart Community Education resources and Veterans Services. Additionally, the Interurban Trolley expanded outreach into social media and launched a Facebook page in November. This expansion allows people to like, share, and learn information about the Interurban Trolley as well as an additional platform to submit comments and complaints and receive response from Staff members.



The Interurban Trolley sponsored its 14th Annual "Can Do!" food drive between December 9 and December 14, 2019. During this time, over 890 non-perishable food items were collected and donated to The Window in Goshen and Faith Mission of Elkhart.

CAN DO!

FOOD DRIVE

THIS YEAR

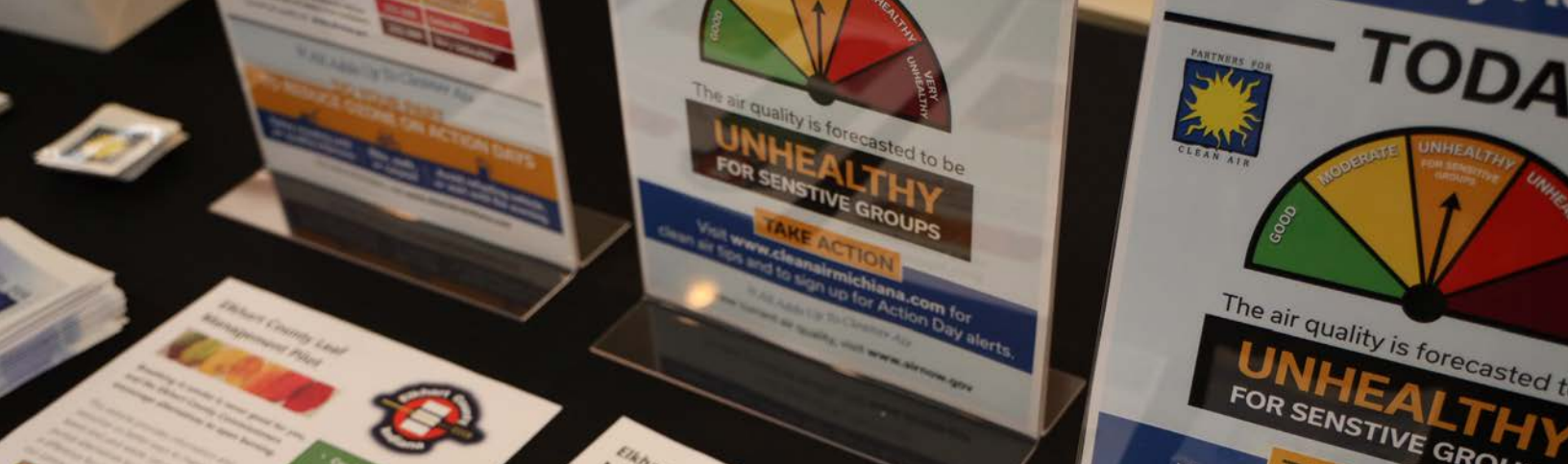
2019

891

non-perishable food items

were collected for the Faith Mission of Elkhart and The Window, Inc in Goshen.

THANK YOU!



SUSTAINABILITY

MOVING FORWARD TO ASSESS BROWNFIELDS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded MACOG and coalition partners Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties \$600,000 in funding for a regional Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant to address potentially contaminated properties. Over the three year project period, funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and planning for cleanup and reuse on sites that may be contaminated with hazardous substances or petroleum. Access to funds and environmental consultants will help to catalyze brownfields redevelopment across the region.

A project page was launched where stakeholders can follow the progress of the grant and learn about public engagement opportunities (<http://www.macog.com/brownfields.html>). In 2020, MACOG will continue to request input from communities and stakeholders on sites of interest in the region to develop and prioritize an inventory of potential brownfields in need of assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

MACOG also hosted a technical training for local governments in partnership with the Indiana Brownfields Program and Kansas State Technical Assistance to Brownfields program. MACOG helped increase the technical knowledge of local government staff to improve local capacity to address brownfields.



SHOWCASING THE BENEFITS OF CLEANER FLEETS

MACOG continued progress through the Green Fleet Program in partnership with South Shore Clean Cities, completing Green Fleet Audits and pursuing many grant opportunities. We were able to secure the following grants for a total of \$456,000:

- Elkhart County Highway Department received an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) DieselWise grant to replace two diesel trucks.
- Penn Harris Madison received funding from the EPA to replace three diesel buses with cleaner diesel buses.
- Wa-Nee Community Schools received funding from the Indiana Office of Energy Development and the Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund to purchase & pilot up to eight propane buses.



The Green Fleets Program hosted a propane education workshop, highlighting Wa-Nee Community School's propane buses that were piloted and their fueling infrastructure. Additionally, a record 21 vehicles participated in the third annual National Drive Electric Week event coordinated in partnership with South Shore Clean Cities at the University of Notre Dame. The event showcased a range of plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles available. Local electric vehicle drivers brought their vehicles to candidly share with the public their experiences driving and owning electric vehicles.

BUILDING A SOLAR-READY REGION

Elkhart County, Marshall County, and the City of Plymouth met national benchmarks for encouraging the growth of solar energy and removing barriers to solar market development. All three communities have received SolSmart Gold designation, the highest level that can be earned. They join over 300 cities, towns, and counties across the country including the City of Goshen, City of Nappanee, and City of South Bend who were designated in 2017, for a total of six MACOG Communities designated as "solar-ready, solar-friendly" communities. St. Joseph County continued to make progress towards Gold designation. MACOG staff also provided assistance to local governments entities exploring solar projects, including the Marshall County Recycle Depot, as well as launching a new Solar Energy Resources page for easier access to information, www.macog.com/solar_energy.html.



The Solarize Northern Indiana initiative provided education about solar energy and facilitated the process of going solar for residents, businesses, churches, and others. Nearly 250 people attended 12 workshops in 2019. This year, the initiative focused on bringing workshops to rural areas of the region including Argos, Culver, New Carlisle, and Plymouth. Overall, 20 new solar projects were added to the region.

CREATING WATERSHED RESILIENCE

MACOG staff supporting the St. Joseph River Basin Commission hosted a floodplain workshop to provide training for local floodplain administrators and water managers on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Development in floodplains must be regulated locally for community residents to be eligible for the NFIP. The NFIP provides affordable insurance for flood damage, which is not typically covered by homeowners or renters insurance.

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission, in partnership with LaGrange County implemented a new approach to allocating drain maintenance costs, which creates an incentive for soil and water conservation. They utilized land cover and soil type data, instead of just land area, to determine service fees. The process also allows for better management practices, such as cover crops, to be considered. Communities upstream of our Region who take action to reduce runoff will benefit our communities with reduced flooding and improved water quality.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



IMAGINING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

The Town of Winona Lake selected MACOG to develop their first ever comprehensive plan. MACOG conducted monthly steering committee meetings and several focus group workshops to help the Town develop a vision, core values, strategies, and an action plan to create a thriving community. A significant push for this plan was to include community input and feedback through the process.

Nearly 160 residents completed an online survey to identify the challenges and wishes for the Town to address. Additionally, the Town used a vision “Polaroid” frame that asked residents to share what they love about Winona Lake or what they imagine Winona Lake to be like in 2030. They took this to public locations and activities which drew in over 640 residents. Through a nearly year-long process, the Town Council adopted their plan in July.

SUPPORTING DOWNTOWN GROWTH IN NAPPANEE

Nappanee’s downtown is becoming a vibrant and growing place, attracting new residents and businesses. This growth has resulted in increased concerns on the availability of parking. The City of Nappanee asked MACOG to conduct a study of the parking in downtown. MACOG and the City of Nappanee conducted an inventory to understand the current parking situation. Analyzing this data, MACOG observed that some portions of the Downtown saw peak occupancy over 85 percent.



Accompanying this information, MACOG issued a public survey to gain residents', employees', and business owners' perspectives on parking issues and potential solutions. The City of Nappanee also wanted to get more input, so they hosted a workshop for local business owners and residents to present the analysis and discuss potential solutions. There were 124 participants to the online survey and almost 40 downtown stakeholders and residents attended the workshop. Collaborating with business owners and the City, unique strategies are being developed to encourage employees to park in specific lots while leaving prime spaces open for customers.



A GUIDE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As a Regional Economic Development District recognized by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, we are required to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. This plan was updated in 2019 with the assistance of the South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership to incorporate their regional strategy with our public-sector partners. This plan outlines the goals for our region; to be known as a world-class leader in education and community partnerships, ensure our businesses and residents have access and connections to high quality infrastructure systems, and create high-performing and resilient communities. An updated CEDS will help our municipalities create bold and transformative developments in innovation and workforce diversity to make our region an attractive place to want to live, work, and play.



BECOMING CERTIFIED GRANT ADMINISTRATORS

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs administers the Community Development Block Grant program for the State of Indiana. These funds help eligible communities address challenges relating to water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure systems, public facilities, and quality of life. Communities wanting to use these funds need certified grant administrators to assist them through the process. To better serve our region, two of MACOG staff members completed the training in 2019 and now may assist our rural communities with more funding opportunities.



ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

MACOG was recognized for their Regional Complete Streets Process with an Award for Outstanding Planning Project at the 2019 MPO Conference. Starting in 2017, MACOG received technical assistance from the National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC) to take steps towards creating a safe and accessible transportation system for all users at both the local and regional level. Since that time, our region has seen the adoption of two local Complete Streets Policies in the City of Plymouth and Town of Culver, as well as a Regional Complete Streets Policy, which impacts transportation projects receiving MACOG-attributable funds. MACOG continues to advocate for complete streets in the region and will provide assistance to communities who are interested in drafting and implementing their own policy.

MACOG received a Promoting Regionalism Award from the Indiana Association for Regional Councils (IARC) for the Regional Trail Branding initiative. The process of developing a regional trail brand, Crossway Trails, has brought together a diverse set of stakeholders who may not normally collaborate on projects, including representatives from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) region. The process demonstrated that many different disciplines can and should be involved in regional efforts such as trail branding, and may encourage a similar cross-discipline approach to other projects.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

MACOG wrote and implemented an updated Public Engagement Plan. The purpose of the Public Engagement



Plan (PEP) is to outline the regional planning process and describe opportunities to get involved. This includes information about the strategies deployed to engage the public and stakeholders, and the specific timelines and requirements for public comment during the development and adoptions of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) plans and programs and the Interurban Trolley.

To achieve an effective public engagement strategy, we identified goals to implement in our public engagement efforts and now have tools and techniques to increase involvement as well as a more organized method to evaluate and measure our public engagement success.



NEW MACOG STAFF

This year we hired one new staff member. Molly Chenoweth joined MACOG mid-year to fill the Fiscal Administrative Coordinator position. She has several years of experience and has been a great and helpful addition.



YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

We had several employees celebrate milestones in their years of service with us. Tierra Harris, a Transit Planner, celebrated 5 years with MACOG, along with Caitlin Stevens, the Principal Transportation Planner. Zach Dripps, the Deputy Director, 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 Alaina	4 years Donny	13 years Dave
1 year Katie	5 years Tierra	13 years Sam
2 years Leah	5 years Caitlin	16 years Russ
2 years Ryan	9 years Carla	18 years Debbie
3 years Matt	10 years Zach	18 years Greg
3 years Jeremiah	11 years James	19 years John-Paul
		21 years Johnnie



2019 MACOG POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Phil Jenkins - Chair
Mayor, City of Nappanee

Ernest Wiggins - 1st Vice-Chair
Council Person, Kosciusko County

Judy Stone - 2nd Vice-Chair
Council Person, Marshall County

Jeremy Stutsman - Secretary
Mayor, City of Goshen

Mark Root - Treasurer
Council Person, St. Joseph County

Jo M. Broden
Council Person, City of South Bend

Pete Buttigieg
Mayor, City of South Bend

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

Joseph Thallemer
Mayor, City of Warsaw

Suzanne Weirick
Commissioner, Elkhart County

David Wood
Mayor, City of Mishawaka

MACOG STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Turnwald

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Zach Dripps

ADMINISTRATIVE

Carla Herwarth
Russ Ragimbekov
Katie Dominguez

ACCOUNTING

Debbie Gardner
Molly Chenoweth

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
Donald Cornelis
Butch Righetti
James Manuszak
Robert Wells
Larry Stafford

TRANSIT

Tierra Harris
Jeremiah Cox
Johnnie Woggon



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