

2022 ANNUAL REVIEW

Michiana Area Council of Governments



2022 - YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

2022 was a year of opportunities. Our amazing staff continued to serve our region on critical topics. We continued to assist and respond to the opportunities for Federal funding that were funneled through various Federal and State Agencies. In addition, several new initiatives and programs began or grew within our Region to address challenges and opportunities for our local governments. This work continues into 2023 where we will see more projects moving forward that support a stronger region.



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.

TRANSPORTATION



10 Projects
for a total of \$42.4 million
went to construction



\$19.5 million
was invested on
6 new projects
through INDOT's
Rural Call for Projects



\$33.8 million
was awarded to 15
projects for MACOG
Urban Call for Projects



\$15.1 million
was awarded to 24
communities in the
Community Crossings
Matching Grant

In 2022, the MACOG region saw significant investment in local transportation projects providing important improvements to key infrastructure projects.

- Throughout the year, a total of 10 local projects went to construction for a total award amount of \$42,432,292. Half of the projects were in the rural area for a total of \$16.3 million while the urban area was for \$26.1 million.
- MACOG selected 15 projects to receive federal funds of \$33,785,870. Seven of the projects were new, including bridge replacements, added travel and turn lanes, trail development, sidewalk improvements, and electric vehicle charging stations. These projects were added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- In March, INDOT selected 6 projects from the region to receive \$19,504,436 for construction in FY 2027.
- In two rounds of Community Crossing Matching Grant awards, 24 communities were awarded \$15,106,349 to be used on critical road maintenance projects this year.



FY 2023 - FY 2029

CALL FOR PROJECTS

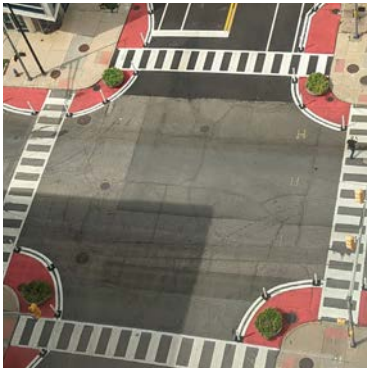


Michiana on the Move

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), MACOG is responsible for producing a 20-year long-range transportation plan, which is updated every four years. The Michiana on the Move 2050 Transportation Plan will serve as this long-range plan and identify current conditions of the regional transportation network, assess future travel needs, and establish priorities that will inform policies and transportation projects to improve our transportation system.



In August and September, MACOG held kick off meetings in Kosciusko, Marshall, St. Joseph, and Elkhart Counties. During these meetings, stakeholders were informed about the planning process and asked to think through different growth scenarios for our region. Stakeholders were also asked to develop regional performance measures and establish benchmarks specific to the region. A variety of approaches were also used to engage our region's public. A website (move.macog.com) was created with information about the plan, links to our survey and interactive comment map, along with social media posts and short informational videos. To further capture survey responses, staff attend a variety of pop up events and shared informational materials at public libraries as well as on yard signs strategically placed throughout the region, with a QR code linked to the project website.



Tactical Urbanism

We had a very successful 2022 Tactical Urbanism season. Warsaw kicked off the season, creating a section of their downtown cycle track. The project created two blocks of bike lane with delineators, planters and temporary striping separating the lane from vehicular traffic. South Bend implemented bump outs at three downtown intersections using delineators, striping, paint and very large planters. Plymouth closed out the season with bump outs at a major downtown intersection using delineators, striping, paint and planters.

MACOG provides assistance and the materials in the tactical urbanism toolbox to implement and evaluate inexpensive, short-term, and scalable projects and how they impact issues like safety. We are looking forward to even more success in 2023!



740,507

trail users were counted from 13 trail count sites with a daily average of 2,969



1,611

traffic locations were counted. 771 with video footage and 840 with road tubes.



158.7

centerline miles of roadway pavement condition was rated for 4 communities.



16

communities were helped to update their Asset Management Plans

TRANSIT




338,606

Interurban Trolley
Passenger Boardings



28,611

Trolley Access Trips


Over 4,000
passes were sold
using the Token
Transit app.

The Interurban Trolley provided nearly 340,000 passenger boardings on the Trolley and over 28,000 trips on Access. In addition to maintaining existing services and developing the CONNECT Transit Plan, staff continued to enhance public transit with these projects.

- This year was the first full year of purchasing passes from their phone using the Token Transit app. In 2022, over 4,000 passes were sold!
- In 2022, MACOG transitioned the Access dispatch software to Via. This will result in shorter pickup windows, automated reminders, and more efficient scheduling.
- The Access service received 6 new accessible vans to replace older vans that had reached the end of their useful lives.


6 New
accessible vans were
purchased to replace
older vans





Reimagining the Future of Transit in the Region

Throughout 2022, MACOG and the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (Transpo) partnered together to develop the CONNECT Transit Plan, the region's first combined 10-year plan for the future of transit. The planning process was divided into three phases: Choices Report, Concept Report, and Recommendations Report.

The Choices Report, released in February 2022, presented an overview of the project's overarching goals, a network analysis of the current fixed-route systems, and the trade off on key choices relating to "ridership vs. coverage" and "walking vs. waiting". Over 550 surveys were completed and over 100 persons participated in Choices' public meetings held in person and via Zoom.

The Concepts Report, released in June 2022, incorporated stakeholder and public feedback into the design of four concepts of what a new transit network could look like for the region. Two concepts show how the region's bus network could be within current funding levels, either focusing on ridership or coverage goals. Two new concepts show how additional funding could improve service, expanding where transit goes and improving the usefulness of service. Over 500 surveys were completed and approximately 150 persons participated in Concepts' public meetings held in person and via Zoom.

The Recommendations Report, released in December 2022, contains the network redesign plan based on increasing ridership system-wide. There were two network systems designed, a short-term network and an additional funding network. The Short-Term Network recommendations are changes based on the existing budget that can be implemented within the next 2 years. The Additional Funding Network represents changes that would require more funding to implement over time. Engagement extended into February 2023, with nearly 500 surveys completed and with over 300 persons participating in Recommendations' public meetings in person and via Zoom.

The Final Plan will be presented for approval to MACOG's and Transpo's boards in March and April 2023. The goal is to begin implementation of the Short-Term Network changes as soon as Summer 2023.



400
People attended
CONNECT Transit Plan
outreach events



1,573
Public Surveys received
on the CONNECT
Transit Plan

SUSTAINABILITY



\$500,000

additional funds awarded from EPA for the Regional Brownfields Program



In May, MACOG received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments. Grant funds would also be used to develop site-specific cleanup and reuse plans.

In November, the City of Warsaw broke ground on a new affordable housing development at the former Arnolt Site. This project received funds from MACOG's 2019 EPA environmental assessment program.

In 2020, MACOG's Volkswagen application secured \$90,000 for 10 Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations. By 2022, 7 of the stations were online providing much needed EV infrastructure in all four counties.

For National Drive Electric Week, we hosted 4 events, including 2 EV displays and 2 lectures on EV technology and infrastructure.



1 New

Brownfield Ground Breaking at the Former Arnolt Site in Warsaw



7 New

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations operating



35

plug-in and all-electric vehicles on display for two electric vehicles displays





Launched New Program

MACOG received funding to launch a new AmeriCorps program in 2022 with up to 15 full-time members each year for the next 3 years. The program and a new MACOG staff position are funded entirely through AmeriCorps State Cost Reimbursement grant and service site match.

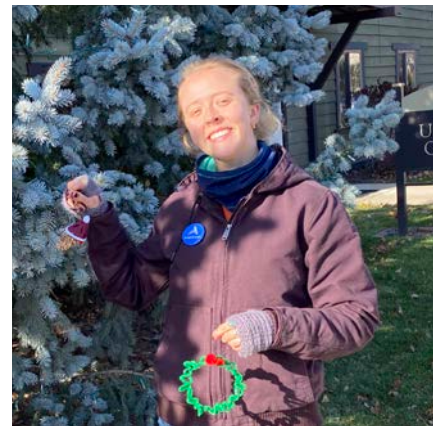
The first cohort launched in the fall of 2022, with additional members starting in the spring and summer of 2023. Members are serving in capacity building in the areas of environmental sustainability and economic resilience to implement key strategies identified by local governments, non-profits, and other stakeholders in northern Indiana. Member recruitment continues and members may serve on a variety of impactful projects such as active transportation, watershed education, expanding broadband access, providing high quality childcare, achieving local tree canopy goals, and implementing other sustainability and economic resiliency initiatives.

Spotlight on 2022 AmeriCorps Members

Acadia, City of Goshen: “Serving in AmeriCorps is allowing me to build my resume while I decide on the next steps of my career.”

Shae, City of Goshen: “My favorite part of my service is being a part of the bigger picture. I love planning events where people come together and can have fun while making a difference.”

Brandon, SJRBC: “My AmeriCorps service with SJRBC has allowed me to pursue my professional aspirations and act as a pioneer of change across the Michiana area.”



First Electric School Buses


South Bend Community School Corporation recently revealed two new all-electric school buses, made possible by \$822,354 from 2 private funding sources, including Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) and the Indiana Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW) Fund managed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. These buses are the first all-electric school or transit buses to be put into service in our region. They will be piloted on 100 mile routes and recharge overnight. While the VW and I&M programs are not currently available, federal funding may be available to other schools through the EPA Clean School Bus program.



St. Joseph River Basin Commission




20
presentations about watershed education were provided



10,000
records of water quality across 600 unique sampling sites were released in a web map



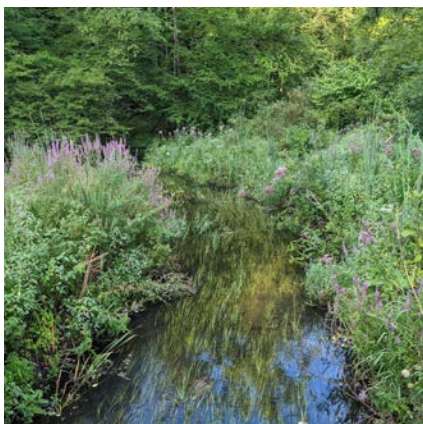

8
water level monitoring devices were purchased to be installed in 2023



- In 2022, the SJRBC began providing water quality monitoring planning assistance and grant assistance to its members.
- Performed a water management needs assessment for Steuben County.
- Welcomed an intern and AmeriCorps member for summer and fall service.



5
Wetland Task Force Meetings had SJRBC represented

8,000
water quality data points were analyzed and trends synthesized - spanning over a decade's worth of data



12 sites
Conducted biological sampling

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



\$2,483,000

Grants Awarded for 3 separate communities: Kosciusko County, Milford, & Middlebury

MACOG was able to assist several communities with preparing grant application and administering grant awards.

At the end of 2021, MACOG assisted Kosciusko County being selected for a new program with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) called Hoosiers Enduring Legacy Program (HELP). This program would guide the County through a 12-month planning process to create a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for community development projects in 3 participating towns (Mentone, Milford, and Pierceton). Throughout this year, MACOG assisted the communities in creating project worksheets and evaluating project ideas to be included in the SIP. In 2023, the SIP will be adopted and the County will receive an additional \$1,000,000 from OCRA to assist in implementing projects. MACOG will guide the Towns and County through State's requirements and process over the next two years.



5 Plans

Completed in 2022



3 Plans

Kicked-off in 2022



1,221

Public Surveys received on 4 different plans

Grant Administrative Services in Rural Communities

The Town of Milford applied for and received \$90,000 grant for a Master Water Utility study from OCRA. This study will examine the Town's current water and wastewater service throughout town and make a series of recommendations for improvement. MACOG was hired to be the Grant Administrator for the OCRA grant, which provides technical assistance to the Town to navigate the OCRA grant requirements and process.

In Middlebury, MACOG is assisting on two different projects. In Fall of 2021, the Middlebury Chamber of Commerce received \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a Rural Business Development grant to create a business incubator to support entrepreneurs in downtown Middlebury. In 2022, the Town of Middlebury received a nearly \$1.4 million EDA Public Works grant to relocate and improve a liftstation to support additional economic development in the industrial park. MACOG has been supporting both of these projects with grant administrative service with the USDA and EDA requirements and processes.



Planning in the Region

In 2022, MACOG completed 5 different plans working throughout the region. MACOG began the year completing 2 Park Master Plans, for the Towns of Wakarusa and Bremen. Later that Spring, the Forward Kosciusko Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the County Council and the participating Towns. This was an 18-month planning process that MACOG worked cooperatively with representatives from the County and Towns as well as Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group.

In addition to the 3 community plans, MACOG completed 2 plans for the entire region. The first is the Regional Digital Inclusion study, which looked at the availability and use of broadband throughout the region. The second is the Collaborating for Regional Resilience and Economic Growth Plan, which focused on building a resilient economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan updated MACOG's 2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

In addition to the completed plans in 2022, MACOG also began work on an additional 3 plans. These planning projects are: a county-wide Park Master Plan in Kosciusko County, a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Plymouth, and a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Culver. These planning projects are scheduled to be completed in 2023.



ADMINISTRATION

Public Engagement

It is important to MACOG to stay connected to the community and give the public as many opportunities as possible to connect with us. With each new year we are working to reach more people and it is encouraging to see through the statistics that we are growing in reach.



Websites

Main page: 41,101 users
www.macog.com

GIS page: 17,546 users
www.maps.macog.com

Crossway Trails: 442 users
www.crosswaytrails.com



22 videos

were published with 667 total views

Most watched video:
Crossway Trails Video with 38 views.



MACOGazette

an electronic bi-weekly newsletter

Total Editions: 26
Total Emailed: 23,671
934 more than 2021

Ended the year with 801 subscribers



107 Events

MACOG hosted or Co-hosted with 8 of them being virtual.

Connected with over 1,500 participants



39

News Releases and 45 MACOG News Articles were published

Social Media

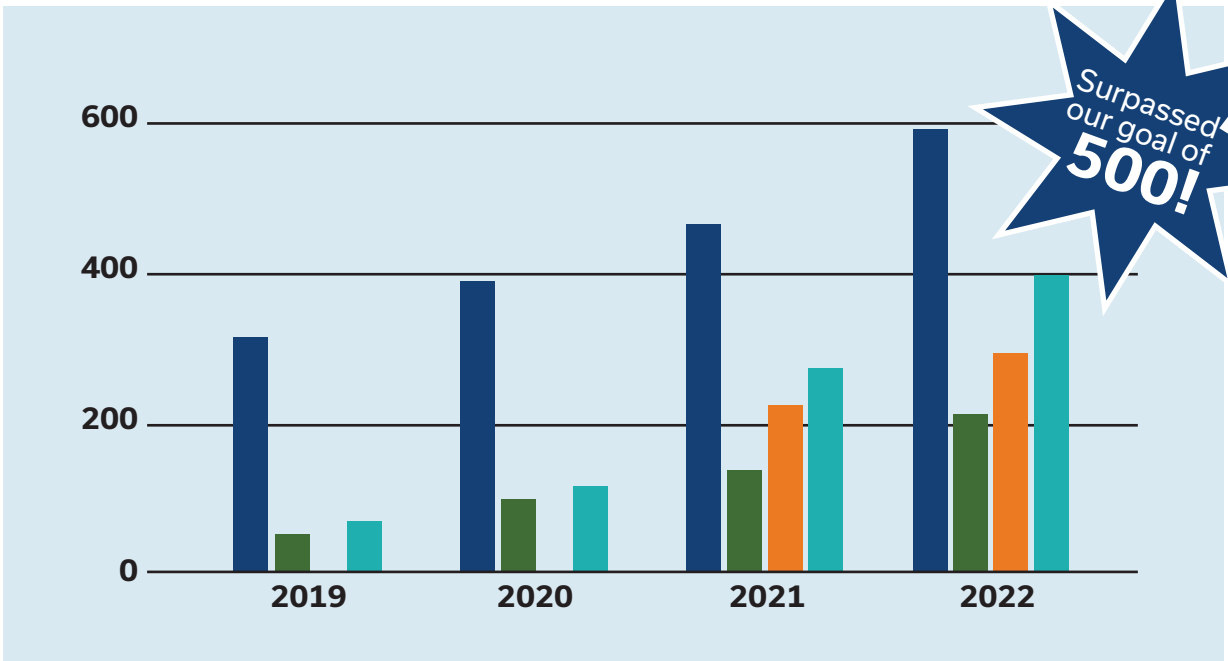
1,062 Likes
between
MACOG Facebook and
LinkedIn pages.
325 more than 2021.

209 Likes
on the Trolley page.
73 more than 2021

292 Likes
on Crossway Trails page.
68 more than 2021

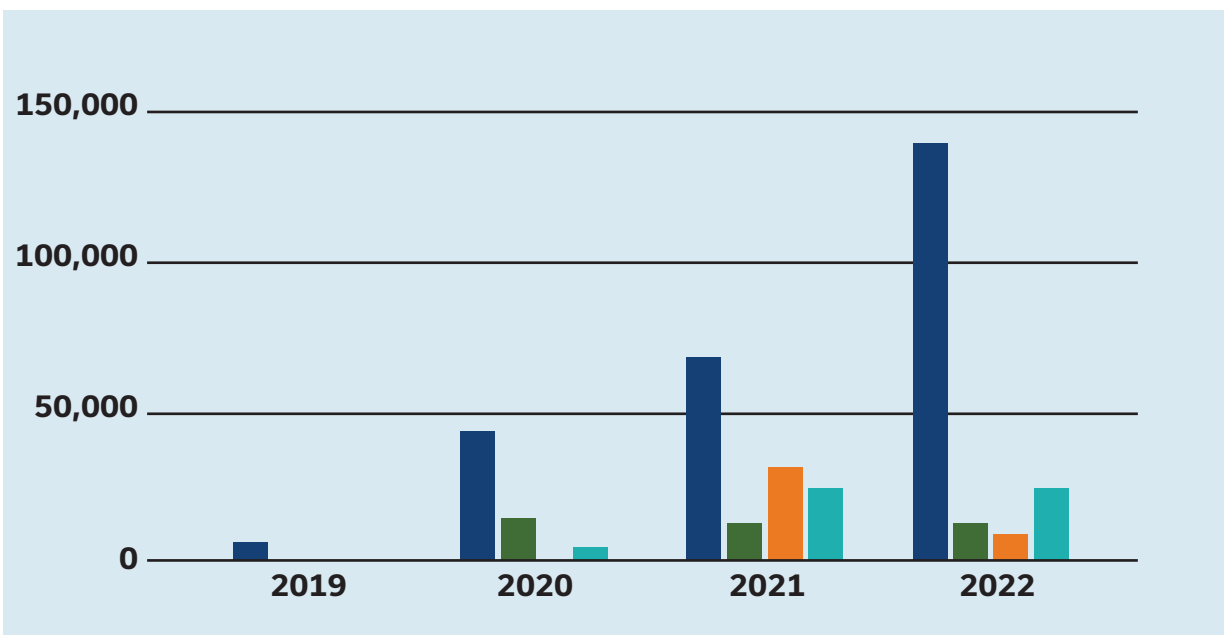
950 posts were made between all 4 pages

Total Followers



■ MACOG ■ Interurban Trolley ■ Crossway Trails ■ LinkedIn

Post Total Reach



Years Of Service Milestone

Leah Thill, Environmental Planner, celebrated 5 years at MACOG! Congratulations!

Whether it be 1 year or 30 years, MACOG is grateful for all of their employees and their hard work.

Leah Thill



YEARS OF SERVICE

1 YEAR

Ally

1 YEAR

Amber

1 YEAR

Ashley

1 YEAR

David

1 YEAR

Dustin

1 YEAR

Kate

1 YEAR

Sofia

2 YEAR

Molly

4 YEARS

Katie

5 YEARS

Leah

6 YEARS

Matt

6 YEARS

Jeremiah

7 YEARS

Donny

8 YEARS

Tierra

8 YEARS

Caitlin

12 YEARS

Carla

13 YEARS

Zach

14 YEARS

James

19 YEARS

Russ

21 YEARS

Debbie

21 YEARS

Greg

24 YEARS

Johnnie

2022 MACOG POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Weirick - Chair
Commissioner, Elkhart County

Kathy Groninger
Council Person, Kosciusko County

Mark Senter - 1st Vice-Chair
Mayor, City of Plymouth

Lori Hamann
Council Person, City of South Bend

Cary Groninger - 2nd Vice-Chair
Commissioner, Kosciusko County

Gregg Hixenbaugh
Council Person, City of Mishawaka

David Wood - Secretary
Mayor, City of Mishawaka

Phil Jenkins
Mayor, City of Nappanee

Mark Root - Treasurer
Council Person, St. Joseph County

Todd Johnson
Deputy District Commissioner, INDOT
Ft. Wayne

Mandy Campbell
Council Person, Marshall County

James Mueller
Mayor, City of South Bend

Matt Deitchley
Deputy District Commissioner,
INDOT LaPorte

Kevin Overmyer
Commissioner, Marshall County

Dwight Fish
Council Person, City of Elkhart

Rod Roberson
Mayor, City of Elkhart

Deborah Fleming
Commissioner, St. Joseph County

Jeremy Stutsman
Mayor, City of Goshen

Douglas Graham
Council Person, Elkhart County

Joseph Thallemer
Mayor, City of Warsaw

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