

**MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MINUTES  
August 10, 2011**

The August meeting of the Michiana Area Council of Governments Policy Board was held on August 10, 2011 in the MACOG Conference Room on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the County-City Building in South Bend, Indiana. Frank Lucchese, Chairman, called the meeting to order. It was noted there was a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Lucchese, Elkhart County Commissioner  
Robert Kovach, St. Joseph County Commissioner  
Judy Stone, Marshall County Council  
David Wood, Mayor, City of Mishawaka  
Mark Root, St. Joseph County Council  
John Letherman, Elkhart County Council  
Larry Thompson, Mayor, City of Nappanee  
Steve Luecke, Mayor, City of South Bend  
Kevin Overmyer, Marshall County Commissioner  
Mark Senter, Mayor, City of Plymouth  
Ron Troyer, Elkhart County Council

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dick Moore, Mayor, City of Elkhart  
Woody Emmons, Mishawaka City Council  
Allan Kauffman, Mayor, City of Goshen  
Ron Truex, Kosciusko County Commissioner  
Robert Sanders, Kosciusko County Council  
Oliver Davis, South Bend City Council  
Ernest Wiggins, Mayor, City of Warsaw

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Arvis Dawson, City of Elkhart  
George Herendeen, MACOG Attorney  
Michael Aylesworth, IDEM  
Rita Kopala, Lakeville  
Jackie Hilderbrandt, MPA Architects  
Hodge Patel, Congressman Donnelly's Office  
Nathan Fenstermacher, Congressman Donnelly's Office  
Ken Herceg, Ken Herceg & Associates, Inc.  
Sandra Seanor, MACOG  
Jessica Mitchell, MACOG  
James Turnwald, MACOG  
Zach Dripps, MACOG  
Rosemary Barbara, MACOG  
Erin Turinetti, MACOG  
Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG  
Karen Mackowiak, MACOG  
Carla Keirman, MACOG

**MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2011 MEETING**

There were no additions or corrections to the July 13, 2011 minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KOVACH AND  
SECONDED BY LARRY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE  
MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED.

## **REPORTS**

**CHAIRMAN** – No Report

**FINANCIAL** – Rosemary reviewed the July 2011 MACOG Financial Report and asked for any questions. There being none, she asked for the Policy Board’s approval of the July 2011 Financial Report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JUDY STONE AND SECONDED  
BY RON TROYER TO APPROVE THE JULY 2011  
FINANCAL REPORT. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**SECRETARY** – No report.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Administrative Modifications, Amendments, Major Amendments to the FY2012-2015  
Transportation Improvement Program.

## **FORT WAYNE DISTRICT**

### **INDOT Initiated – Resolution 35-11**

A. Elkhart Co. Parks Amendment Exempt Project in Elkhart County, IN  
Resolution 35-11 Add Project Phase: CN  
Des #: 1173236 **Location: Pumpkinvine from CR 35 to 1,200’ w of CR 37**  
**Other Type Project SFY: 2012**  
Total: \$ 12,500 Federal: \$ 10,000 (RTP) Local: \$ 2,500 (PE)  
Total: \$ 37,500 Federal: \$ 30,000 (RTP) Local: \$ 7,500 (RW)  
Total: \$137,500 Federal: \$110,000 (RTP) Local: \$27,500 (CN)

Jessica Mitchell presented Resolution 35-11 containing Fort Wayne District initiated TIP administrative modifications. There being no questions on this resolution, Jessica requested the Policy Board’s approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOHN LETHERMAN AND  
SECONDED BY ROBERT KOVACH TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 35-11. THE MOTION CARRIED.

## **LAPORTE DISTRICT**

### **Locally Initiated – Resolution 36-11**

A. St. Joseph County Administrative Modification Exempt Project in St. Joseph County, IN

Resolution 36-11 Decrease Federal Funding by \$13,825 Phase: PE1  
Des #: 0902236 **Location: Adams Road from Elm Rd to Cherry Rd (Granger Paths)**  
**Bike/Pedestrian Facilities SFY: 2011**  
Total: \$138,338 Federal: \$110,670 (MACOG TE) Local: \$27,668

St. Joseph County Administrative Modification Exempt Project in St. Joseph County, IN  
Resolution 36-11 Increase Federal Funding by \$13,825 Phase: RW  
Des #: 0902236 **Location: Adams Road from Elm Rd to Cherry Rd (Granger Paths)**  
**Bike/Pedestrian Facilities SFY: 2012**  
Total: \$94,663 Federal: \$75,730 (MACOG TE) Local: \$18,933

James Turnwald presented Resolution 36-11 containing LaPorte District Initiated TIP administrative modifications. There being no questions on this resolution, James requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT KOVACH  
AND SECONDED BY DAVID WOOD TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 36-11. THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **INDOT Initiated – Resolution 37-11**

A. Culver Amendment Exempt Project in Marshall County, IN  
Resolution 37-11 Decrease Federal Funding by \$22,737 Phase: PE  
Des #: 1006376 **Location: Culver Community Schools SRTS Infrastructure**  
**Transportation Enhancement SFY: 2011**  
Total: \$22,737 Federal: \$0.00 Local: \$22,737

Culver Administrative Modification Exempt Project in Marshall County, IN  
Resolution 37-11 Increase Federal Funding by \$22,737 Phase: CN  
Des #: 1006376 **Location: Culver Community Schools SRTS Infrastructure**  
**Transportation Enhancement SFY: 2012**  
Total: \$250,000 Federal: \$250,000 (SRTS) Local: \$0.00

James Turnwald presented Resolution 37-11 containing LaPorte District Initiated TIP administrative modifications. There being no questions on this resolution, James requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN OVERMYER  
AND SECONDED BY JUDY STONE TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 37-11. THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **Other Actions**

**Resolution #38-11 - Endorsement of 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment**

- **2013 Transit Transfer Center (Elkhart) - Illustrative Project \$3,248,600**
- **2018 Transit Transfer Center (Goshen) – Illustrative Project \$1,000,000**

Sandra Seanor explained MACOG has applied for funds through FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative to construct a Transit Transfer Center in Elkhart. The Transfer Center would allow for transit connections from Goshen to Chicago (via NICTD). The City of Elkhart Economic Development Commission owns the property in downtown Elkhart and would like to

develop the Transfer Center as an Urban Parkway to be completed by 2012. In 2018, or before, MACOG anticipates developing a smaller Transfer Center in Goshen. There being no questions on Resolution #38-11, listing both projects in the Long Range Plan Sandra requested the Policy Board's approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE LUECKE AND  
SECONDED BY RON TROYER TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 38-11. THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **Resolution #39-11 - Endorsement of 2011 Coordinated Plan Update**

Mary Beth McAdams described changes in the 2011 Update of the Coordinated Plan.

- Niles Dial-A Ride and Transpo coordinated to provide a weekday transfer point at Auten Road and State Road 933.
- A Comprehensive Operations Analysis of Transpo's bus service was conducted in 2010 and will continue the analysis in 2011. This may result in route changes during 2011-2012.
- The Elkhart East/West route was introduced in the fixed route transit system.
- Effective July 1, 2011, the Elkhart COA changed their fare structure.

Meetings will be held in the MACOG Region to review and update the goals and priorities from the original 2007 Coordinated Plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE LUECKE AND  
SECONDED BY ROBERT KOVACH TO APPROVE  
RESOLUTION 39-11. THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **STAFF UPDATE**

##### **Triennial Review**

Sandra Seanor explained that the FTA completed a Triennial Review of the MACOG Transit System. 24 areas are reviewed to assess grantee compliance and for the second time in a row there were no deficiencies or negative comments. As a result, MACOG remains eligible for Federal assistance. The Reviewers complimented the transit and accounting staff.

Sandra asked the Policy Board to endorse and accept the FY 2011 Triennial Review.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN OVERMYER TO ACCEPT  
AND ENDORSE THE FY 2011 TRIENNIAL REVIEW. KEVIN  
THANKED THE MACOG STAFF FOR THEIR DILIGENCE  
AND COMPLIANCE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED  
BY JUDY STONE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

##### **Final ERC Certification Class of 2011**

The final ERC Certification Class for 2011 will be held on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. Certification must be renewed every 2 years to continue to apply for and manage federal-aid projects.

## **Heston-Stock Ditch Update**

Karen Mackowiak briefly updated the Heston Stock Ditch Watershed Management Plan. Water sampling at 13 sites over the past several months has revealed elevated levels of phosphorus at both Pleasant and Riddles Lakes in the Lakeville area and E.coli is present throughout the watershed at various levels. Concerns of the Steering Committee include the impact of the US 31 Construction Project and the lack of conservation tillage practices. Proposed goals are to increase the use of agricultural conservation practices and enforcement of current rules regarding stormwater runoff and erosion control on all construction sites.

## **Summer Committee**

Sandra Seanor explained that the Indiana State House and Senate put together a Transportation and Infrastructure Summer Study Committee. Rep. Soliday asked Sandra to speak to the committee on behalf of the Indiana MPOs on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He wants to understand where the State is now and where it should be in 5 years and then in 2035. The Study Committee is looking for recommendations on what funding sources should be examined.

Lori Miser, Executive Director of the Indianapolis MPO, will speak to the Committee on the same date, mainly regarding transit.

Steve Luecke stated he was asked by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) to provide information at the meeting so he would be testifying as well.

## **Grants Submitted**

MACOG staff is developing an application for the 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant that will be due in October.

TIGER III Grant pre-applications are due October 3<sup>rd</sup> and applications are due October 31<sup>st</sup>. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. If a Local Public Agency needs assistance in applying for funds, please let MACOG know as soon as possible.

## **Signage Inventory RFP**

Sandra stated the sign inventory RFPs will be going out soon for proposals on the four-county signage inventory, data collection and maintenance program.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for MACOG technical and planning sign inventory assistance and retroreflector purchase requests have gone out to the LPAs.

## **ADA Transition Plan**

An ADA Transition Plan Packet was distributed. Zach Dripps explained the packet was created to assist LPAs in becoming ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The first step is to pass 3 resolutions; 1) ADA accessibility guidelines for standards for pedestrian facilities and public right-of-ways 2) adopt an ADA Coordinator and procedures and 3) adopt an ADA Transition Plan. Examples of the resolutions were provided in the packet.

Examples of 2 notices that need to be posted were also provided. 1) Notice Under the ADA and 2) Notice of Grievance Procedure Under the ADA.

Zach asked LPAs to review and update as necessary, the list of ADA Coordinators included in the packet.

MACOG has started the preliminary inventory using aerial photography through Google or MACOG GIS files with the goal of determining what areas do not meet ADA standards. Areas that are not compliant can be easily identified thus reducing the need to send someone out in the field to do a detailed evaluation.

There are approximately 25,000 intersections in the Region, 2,600 have been reviewed by MACOG through the work of one intern. MACOG plans to hire 2 interns to complete the work over the next 3 to 4 months. Data from the inventories and detailed evaluations will be used to create the ADA Transition Plans.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will host a workshop at MACOG from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm providing information and best practices about ADA Transition Plans. Lunch will be provided. ADA Coordinators and technical staff should plan to attend.

Sandra informed the Policy Board that MACOG has completed the ADA Transition Plan for the City of Nappanee.

Steve Luecke asked if there were deadlines for the Milestones provided in the packet. Sandra explained the Milestones were generated for the MPOs by FHWA. MACOG would like to be completed by the Spring of 2012.

Kevin Overmyer asked about walkways around governmental buildings. MACOG is not going to do architectural surveys. The buildings should already be identified in GIS and can be tagged in the database. GIS Coordinators should already have a governmental building dataset that can be used to create an inventory.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Steve Luecke noted the letter received from Audra Blasdel, INDOT, pausing all project calls for 2015 including the award of the Group IV funding and anticipating a state-wide reduction in federal funds of 17%. Steve asked Sandra what that means to our Region moving forward, particularly South Bend's Michigan Street Bridge.

Sandra stated INDOT is committed to the projects that are currently underway and commitments have not been made beyond 2016. The concern is the "tone" in Washington DC towards a significant reduction in funding. Sandra cautioned against planning projects too far in the future as the funding could be reduced or eliminated.

Robert Kovach mentioned the cuts in the Capital Avenue project. The number of lanes was reduced and the surface was changed from concrete to asphalt. He cautioned that INDOT had cut a previously approved project.

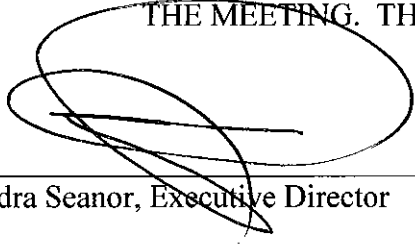
### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.


**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the following action was taken:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID WOOD AND  
SECONDED BY KEVIN OVERMYER TO ADJOURN  
THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED.



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Sandra Seanor, Executive Director



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Frank Lucchese, Chairman