



# MACOG Gazette

Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties, IN

## 2011 MACOG Traffic Count Recap

MACOG counts traffic at over 3,500 locations in all four of our member counties: (Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, and St. Joseph) and in the surrounding counties of Fulton, LaPorte, and Starke Counties. This year, MACOG added Cass and Pulaski Counties to the locations the traffic count staff assesses on a bi-yearly basis. As mentioned in the Fall Gazette, local and state engineers and planners use the data from these counts to design and plan projects.

As of the end of 2011, MACOG staff counted traffic at more than 1,370 sites for our state and local partners during the year. This total includes 942 sites in our member counties and 428 additional sites in Starke, Fulton, Pulaski and Cass Counties. Staff also completed turn movement studies at the following locations this year:

- Bowen Drive and Miami Street (South Bend)
- Chippewa Avenue and Fellows Street (South Bend)
- County Road 15 and County Road 45 (Elkhart County)
- County Road 18 and Old County Road 17 (Elkhart County)
- 8th Street at Center Street (Goshen)

Turn movement studies are conducted at intersections, where traffic count staff tally the number of vehicles proceeding right, left, or straight through the intersection and classify each type of vehicle. Data is then used in the development of intersection improvement projects, including the construction of turn lanes, traffic signal modernization, and pedestrian safety projects. For MACOG traffic count data, go to [www.macogis.com](http://www.macogis.com) and click the "Regional Traffic Counts" link.



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# Possible Changes to Metropolitan Planning Organization Population Thresholds

The surface transportation reauthorization bills currently under consideration in the US House and Senate recommend that Congress change the population thresholds of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in urbanized areas from 50,000 to 100,000 or 200,000. MPOs are key to local decision-making in the federal transportation infrastructure process. Indiana's 14 MPOs represent 26 urban counties and 13 rural counties. Many of these MPOs are also Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs). The 14 Indiana MPOs see great value in both large and small MPOs. Therefore, the proposed changes are a matter of serious concern for Indiana's urban elected officials, particularly those in small metropolitan areas.

Indiana's local public agencies (LPAs) rely heavily on their MPO staff to carry out comprehensive multijurisdictional transportation planning processes, leading

to intelligent investment decisions, and thereby, regional economic vitality, reduced congestion, increased safety and security, enhanced mobility, and improved livability. This proven planning and decision-making process is based on intergovernmental collaboration, local stakeholder and public input, and local consensus-based decision-making of the MPO's Policy Board. The Indiana MPO Council, along with the MPOs of several other states, believes that Congress should maintain the current MPO population thresholds, which require the establishment of MPOs at 50,000 and provide local elected officials additional planning, programming and project selection authority through their MPOs. Additionally, rural elected officials should be encouraged to join in the planning process. In Indiana, many MPOs have joined together with INDOT to become Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), serving both urban and rural partners in the same capacity as MPOs.



## Jargon Jumble

CAA - Clean Air Act

CEAP - Conservation Effects Assessment Project

CO - Carbon Monoxide

FFY - Federal Fiscal Year

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FTA - Federal Transit Administration

HC - Hydrocarbons

INDOT - Indiana Department of Transportation

LPA - Local Planning Agency

MOVES - Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

MREDD - MACOG Regional Economic

Development District

NO<sub>x</sub> - Nitrogen Oxides

RPO - Rural Planning Organization

TIP - Transportation Improvement Program

# Six Month Project Letting List

The following projects will be let in the MACOG region between January and July 2012. Letting a project means that it will be advertised for contractors to bid on. The completion of these projects, once obligated, will involve more than \$37,971,549, including \$28,838,903 in federal-aid funds and \$9,132,646 in local dollars.

Local Public Agency	Project	Project Type
Elkhart	Prairie Street Bridge #363	Bridge Rehabilitation
Goshen	Winona Trail Bike and Pedestrian Underpass	Bike and Pedestrian
Elkhart County	County Road 20 at County Road 111	Signal Installation
Middlebury	Middlebury Greenway	Bike and Pedestrian
Kosciusko County	Old US 30 at Zimmer Road	Local Road Project
Kosciusko County	Old US 30 from Zimmer Road to Walnut Creek Road	Road Construction
Elkhart County	Bridge #189 on County Road 40 over Stony Creek	Bridge Rehabilitation
Elkhart County Parks and Recreation	Pumpkinvine Bike and Pedestrian Facility from York Drive to State Road 13	Bike and Pedestrian
Bourbon	Triton Schools Safe Routes to School Project	Bike and Pedestrian
South Bend	Northside Bikeway Trail	Bike and Pedestrian
St. Joseph County	Ironwood at Auten	Intersection Improvement
Culver	Culver Community Schools Safe Routes to School Project	Bike and Pedestrian
South Bend	Near Northeast Neighborhood Trail	Bike and Pedestrian
Plymouth	South Gateway Improvements	Enhancement
New Carlisle	Michigan St. (US 20) Landscaping and Beautification	Enhancement
South Bend	Edison Rd. at Gordon Dr.	Center Turn Lane Project
St. Joseph County	Adams Rd. from Elm to Cherry	Bike and Pedestrian
St. Joseph County	Bridge #65, Tyler Road over Yellow Bank Creek	Bridge Replacement
St. Joseph County	Gumwood Road, Phase 1, from Marshall County Line to Brick Road	Bike and Pedestrian

## MREDD Meeting

The MACOG Regional Economic Development District (MREDD) met on November 16<sup>th</sup> following MACOG's Policy Board meeting. The MREDD board meets periodically during the year to discuss existing economic conditions and coordinate economic development activities throughout the region. The event featured speakers Bill Wilson of Project Future, Kim Nance of the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation, and Dorinda Heiden-Guss of the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County. Each presented economic status reports, growth, and development projects within their respective counties. The keynote speaker, Morton J. Marcus, former director of the Indiana Business Research Center and professor at Indiana University's Kelly School of Business, presented his thoughts on the status of economic development and growth in Michiana and the State of Indiana as a part of the Midwest, the nation, and the global economy.

# FFY 2011 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

The following projects from the MACOG Transportation Improvement Program were obligated this federal fiscal year (October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011). Obligation means funds have been committed to the project by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This happens before the project is let, when it is advertised for bidding to contractors. You may have seen many of these projects in the process of construction in 2010 or 2011. For more detailed information, please visit the MACOG website ([www.macog.com](http://www.macog.com)) and look under Transportation Planning for the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. Below are the projects that were newly obligated in the 2011 Federal Fiscal Year.

Sponsor	Project Description	Project Type
City of Elkhart	City Wide Sign Replacement	Sign Replacement
City of Goshen	City Wide Sign Replacement	Sign Replacement
Kosciusko County	Western Route - Old US 30 at Fox Farm Road Roundabout	Local Road Project
Kosciusko County	Western Route - Old US 30 from Walnut Creek to Fox Farm Rd	Road Construction
Marshall County	Bridge #225 Pierce Street Rehabilitation	Bridge Rehabilitation
Mishawaka	Emmons Grade School Safe Routes to School	Bike and Pedestrian
Mishawaka	School Flasher Upgrade at Various Locations	Local Safety Project
Mishawaka	Dragoon Trail at Logan St.	New Signal
Mishawaka	Dragoon Trail from Russell Ave to Spring St.	New Guardrail
Mishawaka	Dragoon Trail from Russell Ave. to Clover Rd.	Delineators
Nappanee	Lincoln Street Extension/Reconstruction	New Road Construction
Plymouth	Oak Road from US 30 to 600' North of Holham Drive	Added Travel Lanes
St. Joseph County	Bridge #71 over Heston Creek on Linden Road	Bridge Replacement
St. Joseph County	Cleveland and Fir Road Intersection	Intersection Improvement
St. Joseph County	Mayflower Road - 0.6 mi North of State Road 23 to 0.4 mi South of Grand Trunk Railroad	New Guardrail

## MACOG Certification Review

From May 29<sup>th</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup>, MACOG staff will host representatives from FHWA, FTA, INDOT and other planning partner agencies to conduct our quadrennial Certification Review. This review, required of all Metropolitan Planning Organizations with a population of over 200,000, is conducted every four years to ensure sound planning is occurring in the Region. Before the review, MACOG Staff will be completing all required desk review materials and preparing for the Certification Team. The Certification Team reviews the MPO's processes and procedures and evaluates compliance with respect to planning regulations and guidelines. An open house will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to hear public comment about the MACOG planning process. A full report will be published on the MACOG website ([www.macog.com](http://www.macog.com)) later this year.

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# Air Quality Conformity

Periodically, the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Transportation and Air Quality releases updates to its emissions modeling tool, which estimates pollution from highway vehicles. Using hydrocarbons (HC), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, the model accounts for changes in vehicle populations and activity and local variations, such as temperature, humidity, and fuel quality. Planners use this model when planning projects and creating 20-year Transportation Plans and four-year Transportation Improvement Programs to ensure that federally-supported highway and transit activities are consistent with existing policy and do not worsen air quality. Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties were designated non-attainment areas for ozone in 1977, meaning that they did not meet ground-level ozone standards. As of 1994, the counties are considered maintenance areas for ozone after meeting certain standards for redesignation. The emissions model upgrade, called MOVES2010 (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator), replaces the previous model, incorporates changes based on recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences, and has the ability to estimate vehicle exhaust and evaporative emissions as well as brake and tire wear emissions.

## MACOG 2012 Policy Board Officers and Members

Yearly, MACOG adds new elected officials to its Policy Board. The current board members for 2012 are:

Dick Moore, Chairman	Mayor, City of Elkhart
David Wood, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman	Mayor, City of Mishawaka
Judy Stone, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson	Marshall County Council
Larry Thompson, Secretary	Mayor, City of Nappanee
Bob Kovach, Treasurer	St. Joseph County Commissioner
Pete Buttigieg	Mayor, City of South Bend
Oliver Davis	South Bend City Council
Allan Kauffman	Mayor, City of Goshen
John Letherman	Elkhart County Council
Frank Lucchese	Elkhart County Commissioner
Kevin Overmyer	Marshall County Commissioner
John Reisdorf	Mishawaka City Council
Mark Root	St. Joseph County Council
Robert Sanders	Kosciusko County Council
Mark Senter	Mayor, City of Plymouth
Joseph M. Thallemer	Mayor, City of Warsaw
Ron Troyer	Elkhart County Council
Ron Truex	Kosciusko County Commissioner

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## Meetings

MACOG holds two monthly meetings that are open to the public. Most meetings are held in the 11th Floor MACOG Conference Room of the County-City Building in South Bend.

### Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)

1st Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m.

### Policy Board

2nd Wednesday of every  
month at 10 a.m.

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# Ice & Snow: Take It Slow

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for automobile travel. Motorists should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. MACOG and INDOT want you and your family to stay safe on the roads this winter. By following these tips and advice from INDOT, you will be ready for winter driving. And don't forget, if the weather is bad, "Ice & Snow, Take it Slow, or Just Don't Go."

## Be Prepared

- **Knowledge:** Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions.
- **Clear:** Remove any snow on your vehicle's windows, lights, and signals.
- **Inspect:** Check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts and hoses.
- **Time:** Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely.

## Proceed with Caution

- **Speed:** The faster you're going, the longer it will take to stop.
- **Distance:** Give yourself space - it takes extra time and distance to bring your car to a stop on slick and snowy roads. Using a normal following distance of two seconds, for every additional condition, you should add a second to that distance. So in icy and snowy conditions, drivers should slow to at least a four second following distance.
- **Brake:** Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly and never slam on the brakes.
- **Control:** When driving on icy, snowy or wet roads, do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- **Vision:** Be aware of what's going on well ahead of you.



For more helpful tips, please visit INDOT's Winter Driving Safety page at <http://www.in.gov/indot/2439.htm>.

# Tips for Conserving Energy This Winter

It takes a lot of energy to heat your home during the winter. By following steps to reduce the energy devoted to home heating, you can lower your CO emissions by hundreds to thousands of pounds. As temperatures drop, there are a few things you can do to save both fossil fuel and money before reaching for that thermostat.



- Make sure your heating system is in good condition. Before turning it on, change the system's air filter.
- Keep the thermostat at 68°F. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you conserve 5% of your energy use.
- Check window and door frames for cracks or leaks where cold air could be seeping in. You can seal these up with caulk.
- Turn down your hot water heater. Make sure it's set to "normal" or 120-degrees. Any hotter is just a waste of energy.
- Invest in a programmable thermostat. By setting your heat at a lower temperature while you're away or sleeping, you'll see big energy savings without sacrificing comfort.

For more tips for reducing energy consumption, please visit <http://www.in.gov/oucc/2397.htm>.

# Conservation Practices - A Key to Improved Water Quality

Conservation practices work! As much as 50 percent of sediment has been reduced as a result of changes in tillage in the Great Lakes. At least 15 percent of crop residue must remain on the land in order for the practice to be considered “conservation”. For years, programs have been available to aid producers in transitioning from conventional tillage to reduced or no-till practices. The transition has often been slow, despite funding opportunities through the Federal Food Conservation and Energy Act—“The Farm Bill.” Yet, according to US Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) for the Great Lakes, slightly more than half of cropland has either “a high or moderate need for additional conservation practices to lessen sediment and nutrient losses.”

According to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture there has been a decline of nearly 6,500 acres in conservation tillage of soybean production between 2009 and 2011, while conventional tillage has increased nearly 7,500 acres in the St. Joseph River Basin counties. Conventional tillage for corn has increased over 37,000 acres, while conservation tillage has declined by almost 36,000. The erosive soils have not changed on this acreage, just the market value of the commodity. Funding opportunities for producers coupled with preservations of fertile top soils and reduced impacts to the environment confirm the benefits of conservation practices. However, the benefits of conservation tillage practices for producers do not stop there. The CEAP study further confirmed that conservation tillage results in a 36 percent reduction in phosphorus and 37 percent decline in nitrogen loading to neighboring waterways. Conservation practices DO work!



## FY2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifies major projects in the region that are scheduled to be built in the next four years using federal funds. It also identifies the amount and type of anticipated funding, whether federal, state, or local. Annually MACOG updates the TIP and allows for public comment. This year’s public review and comment period will be from March 1<sup>st</sup> until April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. The public will have the opportunity to attend an Open House at MACOG to review the plan and ask one-on-one questions. The Policy Board will meet in Spring 2012 to review and consider the Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. Please watch for future notices concerning the date of the Open House. For more information, please contact MACOG at (574) 674-8894.

### MACOG Staff

<b>Sandra Seanor</b>	Executive Director	<b>Mary Beth McAdams</b>	Transit Manager
<b>John-Paul Hopman</b>	GIS/Network Modeling Manager	<b>Karen Hamm</b>	Transit Manager
<b>Russ Ragimbekov</b>	GIS/Network Modeling Coordin.	<b>Karen Mackowiak</b>	Water Quality Manager
<b>Jim Galvas</b>	Senior Planner	<b>Rosemary Barbara</b>	Fiscal Accounting Manager
<b>Greg Slater</b>	Senior Planner	<b>Debbie Gardner</b>	Fiscal Accounting Manager
<b>James Turnwald</b>	Senior Planner	<b>Carla Keirman</b>	Office Manager
<b>Zachery Dripps</b>	Regional Planner	<b>Shirley Czerna</b>	Assistant Office Manager
<b>Erin Turinetti</b>	Regional Planner	<b>Johnnie Woggon</b>	Transit Adm. Program Specialist
<b>Erin Gullikson</b>	Regional Planner		

