



Spotlight on Jason Latham

This month, we feature Jason Latham, the MACC's Executive Director since February 2022, bringing over 30 years of transportation administration experience. Originally from Columbia, Maryland, he started his career at the Maryland State Highway Administration for 9 years. He then spent 19 years at the Michigan Department of Transportation in various roles before serving as the Managing Director of the Berrien County Road Commission for three years. Jason also manages his family farm, Flat Tire Farm, supplying peaches and apples to the Batavia, Illinois farmer's market for over a decade. In his spare time, he enjoys family life with his wife, son, daughter, and two dogs. Jason appreciates the MACC for its exceptional team, and how it fosters regional cooperation and collaboration. He looks forward to personal and professional growth at MACC for many years to come.

We Want Your Input!



**MA
ACC** MACATAWA AREA COORDINATING COUNCIL

2050 TRANSPORTATION PLAN OPEN-HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE!

Come review our region's plan for transportation and let us know what's most important to you.

Wednesday January 17, 2024
MACC Office
301 Douglas Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

Noon - 2:00 p.m. and
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

We truly hope you make plans to attend our 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) open house on **January 17, 2024**. We will have our office open for public comments from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. During these times, you can learn about the MACC, learn about our 2050 LRTP, see proposed road improvements in our region, give input on future land use and development, and suggest ideas to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

SS4A Progress Report

In October, the MACC was awarded a Safe Streets For All (SS4A) federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation in the amount of **\$300,000**. This grant will be used to develop a comprehensive, regional Safety Action Plan that will identify construction projects in the greater Holland/Zeeland area that would benefit from safety adjustments. The anticipated timeline is as follows:

December 2023: Kickoff Meeting Between Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the MACC

January 2024: Signed Agreement in Place

February 2024: Request for Proposals Issued, SS4A Committee Organized

April 2024: Consultant Selected, Safety Action Plan Starts

April 2025: Safety Action Plan Completed

July 2025: Apply for First Round of Implementation Grants

July 2026: Apply for Second Round of Implementation Grants

This is an exciting time for our region, and this is a great opportunity for our region to compile a list of safety projects that can transform our transportation network to make it safer for all, with the eventual goal of towards **ZERO** deaths! For more information about Safe Streets For All, please visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Student Showcase

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SHOWCASE

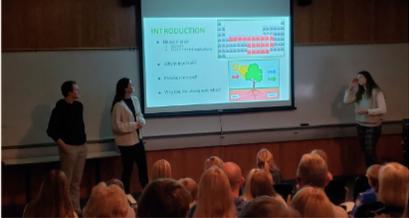
DECEMBER 7 | 10AM-12PM

MAAS CONFERENCE CENTER
246 COLUMBIA AVE, HOLLAND

Come celebrate the brilliant minds of Hope College and Holland Christian Forest School's 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in their latest research endeavors! The ODC Network warmly invites you to join us for this special event, complete with free refreshments. Your RSVP by December 5th would be appreciated.








Make sure and RSVP for Hope College's Student Showcase, which presents a diverse range of research from both Hope College students and elementary schoolers at Holland Christian's Forest School. This event takes place **December 7 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.**, and highlights the hard work invested this semester by students who have delved into topics such as sedimentary phosphorus effects on the Macatawa Watershed and heavy metal impacts of cigarette litter. The Forest School students have explored fishing success, fungi ages, macroinvertebrate and crayfish populations, trash types in the watershed, and the relationship between stream flow rates and turbidity. The free event at Hope College's Maas Conference Center is open to the public, and the

organizers are requesting an RSVP for refreshment planning. Join this collaborative showcase of academic exploration and discovery. To register for this exciting event, please click [here](#).

Magic at the Mill



Celebrate the holiday season with the enchanting "Magic at the Mill" at Windmill Island Gardens in Holland, MI, returning for its second year from **December 1 to 16**. This ticketed event features a mesmerizing display of 1,000 LED blossoms in a 'tulip field,' synchronized to holiday music, creating a magical light and music show on Friday and Saturday nights. The windmill and park grounds will be illuminated, offering family-friendly attractions like a carousel, holiday tunes from the street organ, and open gift shops. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (3-15), and free for children under 2. Purchase in advance for specific time slots on December 1-2, 8-9, and 15-16, with Sinterklaas available for meet and greet and photo opportunities from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm each night. Ensure your entire party is present at entry, as tickets for extra guests will not be sold at the door. Refunds are not available for unused tickets, and due to safety concerns, dogs and outside food and beverages are not permitted. The rain-or-shine event will only be canceled in severe weather conditions, with notification sent via email. Don't miss this festive and magical experience—secure your tickets before they sell out!

Upcoming Meetings

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

December 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

MACC Conference Room

301 Douglas Avenue

Holland, MI 49424

POLICY BOARD:

January 22, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Zeeland Charter Township

Zeeland Charter Township Hall

6582 Byron Road

Zeeland, MI 49464



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