



Spotlight on Tom Bird



In this month's Spotlight, we are featuring at-large Policy Board Member and Chair, **Tom Bird**. A resident of Park Township, Tom has served on the Board representing the Ottawa County Road Commission for the past 12 years, and recently retired from that role due to term limits. His passion goes beyond transportation issues, as he has lived in West Michigan for 25 years, including living on Lake Macatawa for about 16 years, so he is keenly aware of the importance of watershed preservation. A Veteran of the United States Air Force, his education includes Electrical Engineering at Drexel University and additional studies at the University of Delaware, majoring in Engineering Administration, resulting in a 30 year career in telecommunications, predominately along the East Coast. After selling

several businesses, he and his new wife, Rita moved to the Holland area to start their lives together, and to enjoy the many benefits of our engaging communities. Together, they have five children and five grandchildren. While living here they started a family business building and operating car wash facilities throughout the state, from which they recently retired. Tom enjoys classical music and gardening, as well as handyman projects. A lifelong challenge of living with ADHD resulted in embracing the motto, "If you're not living at the edge, you're taking up too much space." Tom stated, "serving on the MACC has been a great privilege. I eagerly look forward to many more years of engagement with our wonderfully diverse and collaborative community."

Survey



We are surveying the general public on what transportation-related issues matter to them most. This will help us compose our 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. **Please take a few minutes** to help us understand the priorities of area residents. The survey can be found **here**:

Long Range Transportation Plan



The MACC is working on updating its Long Range Transportation Plan. We are required to update the plan every four years. This document plans transportation needs for our area's growth until 2050. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the statement of the ways the region plans to invest in the transportation system. The plan includes strategies and actions that lead to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods. The MACC's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is developed with

input from community stakeholders, the general public, the MACC Transportation Technical Committee, MDOT, and MACC staff. The MACC through its stakeholder list makes special efforts to engage traditionally underserved as well as other interested parties in the development of the plan.

BL I-196 Public Meeting



Public Meeting

WHEN: March 1, 2023 5:00-7:00 P.M.

WHERE: Howard Miller Library
14 S. Church Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

RE: Nonmotorized Crossings (BL I-196)








The MACC is hosting a public meeting regarding their I-196 Business Loop [Chicago Drive] Pedestrian Crossing Study. This will be a joint meeting with MDOT, who will be discussing their I-196 Business Loop Road Rehabilitation Project. The study will develop a transportation strategy that allows non-motorized traffic to access the Macatawa River Greenway Trail (MRGT) along with other regional pathways, parks, and business districts.

The MRGT is a regionally significant trail system that connects Lake Michigan to points east of Zeeland. The purpose of the study is to determine the best locations for regional trail systems crossing the I-196 BL. MACC staff is seeking the public’s input as to where pedestrian crossings are the most critical and what type of crossings are needed.

The meeting will take place **Wednesday, March 1 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at the **Howard Miller Public Library** Banquet Room, located at 14 South Church Street in **Zeeland**. Public comment is critical to successful determination of crossing locations and types.


Upcoming Meetings

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

March 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
MACC Conference Room
301 Douglas Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

POLICY BOARD:

March 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
Olive Township
Olive Township Hall
6480 120th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424



Macatawa Area Coordinating Council
301 Douglas Avenue
Holland, MI 49424
(616) 395-2688

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Macatawa Area Coordinating Council | 301 Douglas Avenue, Holland, MI 49424

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