

MACC POLICY BOARD

February 27, 2023

12:00 pm

Zeeland Charter Township Hall
6582 Byron Road, Zeeland, MI 49464

MINUTES

Policy Board

- Jacob Bonnema
- Nathan Bocks
- ✦ Thomas Bird
- ✦ Amanda Cooper
- Ken DeWeerd
- Linda Howell
- Jim Gerard
- John Kleinheksel
- ✦ Kevin Klynstra

- Jeff Franklin
- Al Nienhuis
- ✦ Terry Nienhuis
- ✦ Tom Oonk
- ✦ Pankaj Rajadhyaksha
- Mike Sabatino
- ✦ Jim Storey
- Russ Te Slaa
- Kurt Van Koevering

- ✦ Executive Committee

BOARD PRESENT: Tom Bird, Nathan Bocks, Jacob Bonnema, Ken Deweerdt, Jim Gerard, Linda Howell, John Kleinheksel, Kevin Klynstra, Mike Sabatino, Jim Storey, Russ TeSlaa, Kurt Van Koevering, Melissa Veldheer, Luke Walters

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Camenga (Videographer), Eric Dykstra (MACC), Louisa Hall (MSU), Tyler Kent (MDOT), Jason Latham (MACC), Alec Miller (MACC), Judy Visscher (MACC)

I. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*****It was moved by Mr. Klynstra, supported by Ms. Howell to approve the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.**

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

III. MACC MARKETING PRESENTATION – Ms. Hall presented a summary of her marketing research project (done as part of her Masters degree requirements) she conducted for the MACC. Word of mouth and social media tend to be the most frequent method of raising awareness of local government and MPO's, and MACC issues/projects in particular. Green Commute and the Watershed project have the most familiarity. Agenda topics, meeting duration and time of meeting have the most influence in determining public attendance at MACC meetings. Evening meetings are preferred. There was no cost to the MACC for this research data.

IV. AREA DEMOGRAPHICS PRESENTATION – Mr. Eric Dykstra presented current demographic data for the MACC area, comparing 2010 and 2020 census data. Details on population changes, ethnicity, urban areas, housing density, and poverty rates were shared. Discussion on impacts from transportation projects on disadvantaged populations and neighborhoods ensued. Mr. Dykstra said any maps needed by members can be tailored to their needs. Mr. Bonnema mentioned that new federal grant opportunities should be available soon.

V. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

A. Approve DLZ traffic count quote - Mr. Miller shared details on the quotes received from vendors for this yearly project, along with information on the traffic count locations.

*****It was moved by Mr. Bocks, supported by Mr. Van Koevering to approve the \$14,600 DLZ traffic count quote. Motion carried.**

B. FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Amendments – Mr. Miller shared details on these amendments.

*****It was moved by Mr. Bocks, supported by Mr. Sabatino to approve the FY 2023-2026 TIP amendments as listed. Motion carried.**

D. MDOT/FHWA Comments – Mr. Kent shared information on the upcoming public meeting scheduled for March 1, 2023 (Mr. Latham will provide further details), the section on Byron road east of Zeeland, BL-196 project closures, and the I-196 west bound rehabilitation. This last project will likely last April through October. Mr. Latham clarified that the public hearing/open house will be a joint meeting between MDOT and the MACC. MACC portion of the meeting will focus on a proposed pedestrian crossing on BL-196. This will be an open house, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, at the Howard Miller Public Library in Zeeland.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

A. Financial Report – Mr. Latham shared highlights: this is the first month that expenses for the BL-196 pedestrian crossing have been incurred. Time spent on the annual traffic counts project has occurred; expenses will show up next month.

B. MACC Executive Committee Report – Mr. Latham shared highlights of the recent Executive Committee meeting: BHS insurance recommended that we add liability coverage for our sponsoring of the annual Community Fireworks. The long range transportation plan (LRTP) update is due in 12 months; staff will be meeting with MACC members and other community entities to pull new data/directions together for the update. Revised chapters will be brought to Policy for approval throughout the next year. Jason's performance was also reviewed, and found satisfactory.

VI. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

A. Host sharing about their community – Ms. Veldheer shared last quarter's highlights for Zeeland Charter Township: a new Fire Chief and other fire department officers, finishing a force main lift station project, Drenthe Grove Park playground upgrade, new/updated bike paths, several industrial projects, and new/expanding housing projects.

B. Member questions or comments – Mr. Storey shared information on a new Allegan high speed broadband initiative in the county. He provided details, and requested that the MACC or MACC Executive Director send a letter of support for the grant application. Construction could possibly start later this year if approved.

*******It was moved by Mr. Storey, supported by Ms. Howell to send a letter of support as described. Motion carried.**

Mr. Storey also discussed the potential of Allegan County going into clean air non-attainment status, and what that might entail. He would like staff to investigate the placement of the air monitor. Staff will give an update at a future meeting.

Mr. Bonnema shared a concern about area fire departments lacking foam fire-fighting equipment. He is supporting an effort to install three “foam” trailers strategically placed around the county. He would like each member to support this effort.

Mr. Van Koevering shared that a pedestrian walkway at the 96th Avenue bridge is being bid out — is there any MDOT funding available for this? Mr. Latham will check into it.

VII. OTHER ISSUES AND ADJOURNMENT

******It was moved by Mr. Bocks, supported by Mr. Sabatino to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

Next Meeting: March 27, 2023, OliveTownship