



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

Policy Board

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Gordon Schrottenboer

Russ Te Slaa

Dave Vander Kooi

Todd Wolters

*Executive Committee

MACC POLICY COMMITTEE

**March 22, 2010
Zeeland Township Hall
6582 Byron Road
Zeeland, MI 49464
12:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Greg Robinson (for Kurt Dykstra), Tim Klunder (for Les Hoogland), Terry Hofmeyer, John Kleinheksel, Sandy Cornell-Howe (for Dal McBurrows), Al Myaard, Terry Nienhuis, Jerome Bush (for Keith Potter), Amanda Price, Gordon Schrottenboer, Dave Vander Kooi

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Redmond, Aaron Deiter, Greg Chandler, Steve Bulthuis Mary Fales, Elisa Hoekwater and Stephanie Beyer

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes—Following self-introductions, **a motion was made by Gordon Schrottenboer and supported by Dave Vander Kooi to approve meeting minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried.**

Due to schedule time constraints, items II and III were switched to allow enough time for action items.

A request was made by Steve Redmond to add an agenda item, as item G under Transportation Issues.

A motion was made to add item G to the agenda under the Transportation Issues by Gordon Schrottenboer and supported by Al Myaard. Motion carried.

III. MPO Transportation Issues

A. Western Ottawa Traffic Signal Optimization Study Contract – Steve Bulthuis reviewed the status of the traffic signal optimization study noting that it has grown to include 130 locations in western Ottawa County. In January the MACC entered into an agreement with Ottawa County to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, totaling \$410,560, to conduct this study. The steering committee developed a scope of work and Request for Proposals were sent to six Michigan companies approved by MDOT to perform complex traffic signal operations studies. The committee received one comprehensive proposal from the URS Corporation in Grand Rapids with the cost estimate being under the \$405,000 budget established for the project. Staff is preparing a contract which should be finalized in mid-April. Due to the

aggressive time schedule for this project, data collection will begin immediately and funded from the traffic count/data collection account. There will be cameras stationed in numerous locations attached to telephone poles or tripods collecting turning movements. All data collection is expected to be collected by the end of May. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of the year.

A motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with URS Corporation to complete the tasks contained in their proposal to conduct a traffic signal optimization study for an amount not to exceed \$405,000 was made by Amanda Price and supported by John Kleinhessel. Motion carried.

B. FY2012 Safety/HRRR Program Nominations – Steve reported that two nominations were submitted by the Ottawa County Road Commission for funding from the federal FY2010 Safety and High Risk Rural Roads programs. Both nominations were of the same type of projects with the funding being used for sign replacement in various locations throughout the MACC area. New sign regulations state that a new font style using both upper and lower case lettering on the signs, with the first letter being in upper case are required. The Technical Committee has reviewed these nominations and recommends approval.

A motion supporting the Safety Program and High Risk Rural Roads project applications outlined in the staff memo of March 15 and authorizing staff to administratively move these projects into the MACC's Transportation Improvement Program should they be awarded funding was made by Dave Vander Kooi and supported by Terry Nienhuis. Motion carried.

C. FY2010-2014 Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Call for Projects – Steve announced the call for projects for Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality projects for FY2012-2014. CMAQ funding has been around for several years now. The biggest change for this year will be the allowance of construction engineering costs. Projects are due to MDOT by July 2nd. Steve is requesting projects be submitted by April 23rd. Projects will then be reviewed by the TIP Development and Technical Committees with the Policy Committee providing the final approval. This funding has been utilized extensively by township members for constructing nonmotorized pathways. It was noted that this call is occurring despite the fact that a new transportation bill has not been approved by Congress. MDOT is urging MPOs to conduct the call to be ready when a new bill is enacted.

D. MACC Nonmotorized Pathways on Google Maps – Elisa Hoekwater provided information on the new bike mapping service Google maps recently launched on March 10th by showing how this new tool positively portrays our area's nonmotorized network. This new mapping service provides a drop-down box to give step-by-step directions for bicyclists to travel trails, bicycle lanes and bike-friendly streets. Google bike maps shows regional bike paths and area paths. Holland is on the map! It shows that Holland has made quite an investment in this initiative. We have been coordinating

with neighboring MPO's along the lakeshore and neighbors to the north in Muskegon and the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) eventually hoping to connect paths.

Google maps visually identify the extensive nonmotorized network within the MACC area. To try this new feature, visit <http://maps.google.com/biking>.

E. Green Commute Week Promotion – Elisa reports on the upcoming Green Commute Week to begin May 17th – 22nd. Everyone is being encouraged to ride your bike, walk to work, carpool or take the bus that week. We are anticipating an increase in participation as we invite the Holland-Zeeland area businesses to a “Commute Challenge” and partner with the Holland Youth Advisory Council. Prizes will be awarded for the greatest participation. Ways you can be involved in Green Commute Week:

- Be willing to ride your bike, walk to work, carpool or take the bus for 2 days or more during Green Commute Week and sign up with your employer.
- Ride your bike to the Holland Aquatic Center and receive a free pass.
- Join in the Community Bike ride on Saturday, May 22nd.
- Attend the *Healthy Holland* event on Saturday, May 22nd at the Holland’s Farmer Market.

More information to come as Green Commute Week approaches!

F. MDOT/FHWA Comments – Sandra Cornell-Howe, MDOT, reported that last week the President signed an extension to the transportation legislation that will continue until December 31st. This is very good news as they have been operating under very short extensions which have resulted in project delays. If members have had any project delays due to the lack of funding caused by the short extensions, they should be able to move forward now.

G. FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Steve Redmond, MDOT Grand Region, reviewed a March 22nd memo requesting an amendment to the MACC’s FY2008-2011 TIP to change two trunkline CMAQ Projects for the MACC MPO area in FY2010. The TIP in FY2010 was programmed to design and construct intersection improvements on US 31 at Tyler Street in 2010 and then construct the M-121 intersection project at 72nd Avenue in 2011. With recent changes in circumstances, it is being requested to switch the two projects and construct the M-121 project in 2010 and do only engineering work on the US 31 project in 2010 with construction in a following year. Constructing the M-121 project first allows for coordinating other projects being constructed in that same corridor and having CMAQ funding available. The following table summarizes the amendment:

Name	Limits	Work	Length (miles)	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Agency	Notes
US 31	@ Tyler	Add/modify indirect left/right turn lanes and close existing crossover – preliminary engineering/ right-of-way phases only		64,000	80,000	MDOT	Cost/phase change
M-121	@ 72nd	Add/modify indirect left/right turn lanes and close existing crossover		320,000	400,000	MDOT	Cost/phase change

Upon further discussion, a motion to amend the FY2010 program of the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program as outlined in Mr. Redmond's memo was made by Ms. Price supported by Mr. Schrottenboer. Motion carried.

II. Macatawa Watershed Project

A. Watershed Visioning – Mary Fales gave details relating to the upcoming Macatawa Watershed Visioning meeting scheduled to be held at the Alpenrose Restaurant on March 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Watershed stakeholders, along with the public, will be invited and encouraged to help develop a watershed vision statement by sharing their thoughts and dreams for what the watershed will look like in the year 2050. Pam Landes, (Think Again) who has partnered with the MACC on various other initiatives, will facilitate the discussion. The information received from this meeting will be helpful in developing the new watershed plan.

B. Watershed Newsletter – Mary gave an overview of the March 2010 Newsletter noting that the newsletter comes out periodically with the last one being done in September of 2009. The two main focus points of the newsletter include general education on spring water quality topics (lawn care, composting, car washing) and updating the public on ongoing watershed related projects (conservation priority mapping, agricultural survey, etc). Mary encourages everyone to read the newsletter as there is a lot of good information in it! Extra copies of the newsletter were distributed to each local unit of government for local distribution.

IV. 2010 Census Activities

A. 2010 Census Questionnaire Return Tracking Tool - Steve Bulthuis reported that everyone should have received their U.S. Census form in the mail and encouraged all to complete the form and return it as soon as possible. He reported that \$1.5 billion dollars could be saved if everyone turned in their forms. This year will be the first time that a “tracking tool” will be implemented to track participation at the local level showing how many forms have been collected and how many are outstanding.

B. Other Activities – Steve gave an update on other activities in the area to encourage census participation. There have been banners placed in various locations throughout the city. Displays have been set up, with promotional/educational materials provided at the Herrick District Library locations as well as numerous other locations.

Anyone with questions may call the US Census Assistant Center at (800) 872-6868 or may speak with a representative at the Herrick Library. Other organizations offering assistance are:

- LAUP, Latin Americans United for Progress, can help with questions in Spanish.
- Latino Outreach
- Cambodian & Laotian Outreach
- St. Francis Church (Spanish or English)

V. Administrative Issues

A. MACC Executive Committee Report – Steve Bulthuis summarized the Executive Committee meeting report and noted that there will be some budget amendments next month. Another item discussed was the recommendation made by the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MRRI) to re-route the Pere Marquette eliminating service to St. Joe and Bangor. The MRRI is a multi-phase initiative and the Pere Marquette reroute, identified as Phase V, is not expected to occur for many years.

B. Monthly Financial Report – Steve reported that revenues are at 47.4% and expenditures are at 37% through the first five months of the fiscal year. A couple of items are over budget due to software purchases and other unanticipated costs. Steve expects those items to be cleaned up by midyear budget amendments.

VI. Public Comments – There were no public comments

VII. Members' Comments

A. Host Member: Al Myaard, Zeeland Charter Township welcomed everyone to the Zeeland Township Hall. Al reported on happenings in the township area including:

- Eight building permits totaling 15 this year
- Drenthe Grove Park trying to get some funds, not too successful but continuing with projects
- Planning a fishing pond with native plants around it
- Annual Chicken BBQ on August 21st
- Pave Perry between 64-56th
- 88th Ave will be designated as a “No Truck” route between Riley and New Holland

B. Other Members – There were no other member comments

VIII. Other Issues, Adjournment and Next Meeting

A. It was noted that there would be a study session beginning at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the Long Range Transportation Plan Alternative Scenarios project.

Next Meeting will be scheduled as follows:

**Monday, April 26, 2010
Port Sheldon Township Hall
16201 Port Sheldon Street
West Olive, MI 49460**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.