

FEBRUARY 2024

MA NE NEWS

Spotlight on Eric Dykstra



This month, we feature Eric Dykstra, the MACC's Transportation Planner and GIS Specialist since June 2022. Eric is a native of West Michigan, having lived in Grand Rapids for almost 20 years of his life, and the Holland/Zeeland area for over 13 years. Besides Michigan, Eric spent 9 years living in Richmond, Virginia. Eric has been with his wife Nicole for eight years, and has two children, Rosie (14) and Emmitt (12), who attend Holland Middle School. Eric holds a B.S. in Urban and Regional Studies and a Post-Graduate Certificate in GIS, both from Virginia Commonwealth University. If that wasn't enough, Eric tortured himself by attending more

graduate school at Virginia Tech. Eric has worked in various private, public, and non-profit sectors, and learned the planning trade during his 3.5 years at the Henrico County Department of Planning in Richmond, Virginia. In his free time, Eric enjoys travel, swimming in Lake Michigan, cooking, maps, spending time with his family, sports, music, movies, and creative pursuits. Eric appreciates the MACC for its exceptional team, and how it fosters regional cooperation and collaboration. He looks forward to personal and professional growth at the MACC for many years to come. Eric is a resident of Park Township.

L RTP Open House Results



On January 17, the MACC hosted two public open houses where members of the public could stop by and review our draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. The MACC recorded 30 attendees between the two sessions, an increase of 30% since the last LRTP Open House. If you missed the open house, there is still time to submit your comments to Alec

Miller (amiller@the-macc.org). You may also take our survey by clicking [here](#). These comments are critical for our regional transportation planning efforts, and we appreciate and value them.

Business Loop I-196 Construction



The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing approximately \$17 million to rebuild 4.5 miles of eastbound and westbound I-196 Business Loop (BL) from US-31 in Holland to 88th Avenue in Zeeland. Work is tentatively expected to begin in April, and will run through November. I-196 BL from US-31 to Paw Paw Drive will be reconstructed with existing concrete pavement removal and placement of new hot mix asphalt pavement. From Paw Paw Drive to 88th Avenue, proposed work includes concrete joint repair and hot mix asphalt cold milling and resurfacing.

I-196 BL is a major gateway that connects Holland and Zeeland to the freeway systems around the greater Holland metropolitan area. The roadway was originally constructed in the mid-1950s and much of the original pavement exists today. The road is important for commuters, residents, and several businesses. The road also provides tourists access to several parks along the Lake Michigan shoreline, which are vital for the area's recreational economy.

As part of rebuilding project, the following items will be addressed:

- Pavement condition improvements.

- Sidewalk and nonmotorized crossing upgrades.
- The need for better and more comfortable pedestrian crossings at several intersections was part of a non-motorized crossing study conducted by the MACC, in coordination with MDOT, and other local agencies and organizations.

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Future additional complete streets/non-motorized opportunities may still be incorporated by other organizations after completion of this rebuilding project, as recommended in the study.

Other work includes:

- Shoulder resurfacing east of Paw Paw Drive.
- Median crossover (indirect left-turn) upgrades.
- New signs.
- Traffic signal work.
- New guardrail.

Additional information on the project, including traffic impacts, project flyers, and more, can be found on the MDOT I-196 BL project webpage: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/projects-studies/i-route-construction/i-196-bl-holland>.

For the latest MDOT construction news, please visit the MDOT MiDrive website: www.Michigan.Gov/Drive.

Public Hearing 2/26/2023

MACATAWA AREA COORDINATING COUNCIL

2050



LONG
RANGE
TRANSPORTATION
PLAN

GUIDING THE HOLLAND/ZEELAND AREA INTO THE FUTURE



ADOPTED FEBRUARY 26, 2024

On February 26 at 12:00 p.m., the MACC will host our public hearing for the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. This meeting will take place at the Holland Charter Township Fire Station #1, located at 131 Riley Street. During the public hearing, members of the public can submit any comments to our Policy Board. During this meeting, the MACC anticipates that the Policy Board will recommend approval of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. If you unable to attend the public hearing, you may

view the plan [here](#). Comments can be submitted to Alec Miller at amiller@the-macc.org.

Non-Motorized Plan Kickoff



On **February 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**, we will be holding our first Non-Motorized Planning Committee meeting at the MACC Office, located at 301 Douglas Avenue. This will be the first in a series of regularly scheduled, monthly meetings. These meetings will guide our Non-Motorized Plan update for the greater Holland/Zeeland area, which will be updated for the first time in 10 years. We will be discussing paths, trails, sidewalks, safety, ratings, and much more. We welcome any member of the public that would like to attend. If you have any questions or comments, please email Eric Dykstra at edykstra@the-macc.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming Meetings

NON-MOTORIZED PLANNING COMMITTEE:

February 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

MACC Conference Room
301 Douglas Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:


February 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

MACC Conference Room
301 Douglas Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

POLICY BOARD:

February 26, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Holland Charter Township
Riley Street Fire Station
131 Riley Street
Holland, MI 49424



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

Jason Latham Executive Director jlatham@the-macc.org	Alec Miller Transportation Planner amiller@the-macc.org	Eric Dykstra GIS Specialist edykstra@the-macc.org	Judy Visscher Office Administrator jvisscher@the-macc.org
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