



## Spotlight on Pankaj Rajadhyaksha



This month, we are delighted to introduce you to **Pankaj Rajadhyaksha**, a distinguished member of our Policy Board. Pankaj has been a dedicated resident of Holland Charter Township for many years and has been an integral part of the MACC's leadership since 2009. His commitment extends to both the MACC Policy Board and the MACC Executive Committee, where he has played pivotal roles. Throughout his tenure, Pankaj has assumed the role of Chair of the Policy Board on two occasions, demonstrating his leadership abilities. During a crucial transition period, he graciously volunteered as the Executive Director for six months,

showcasing his dedication. Pankaj was instrumental in the inception of the Shared Services Group and served as its chair for approximately three years, further solidifying his contributions to our organization. In his professional life, Pankaj boasts nearly two decades of experience in the local banking industry, and over the past decade, he has transitioned to the dynamic field of mergers and acquisitions. Beyond his career, Pankaj is an active member and serves as the president of the Zeeland Ambucs, as well as contributing his expertise to the Lakeshore 504 Loan Committee. What truly inspires Pankaj about the MACC is the opportunity to give back to the community. His involvement allows him to gain a deeper understanding of local challenges while finding comfort in the knowledge that MACC members consistently provide exceptional value to taxpayers and serve as responsible stewards of their respective communities. Pankaj's commitment to the MACC and his community is a testament to the positive impact individuals can make when they dedicate themselves to public service.

## **Green Commute Week Results**

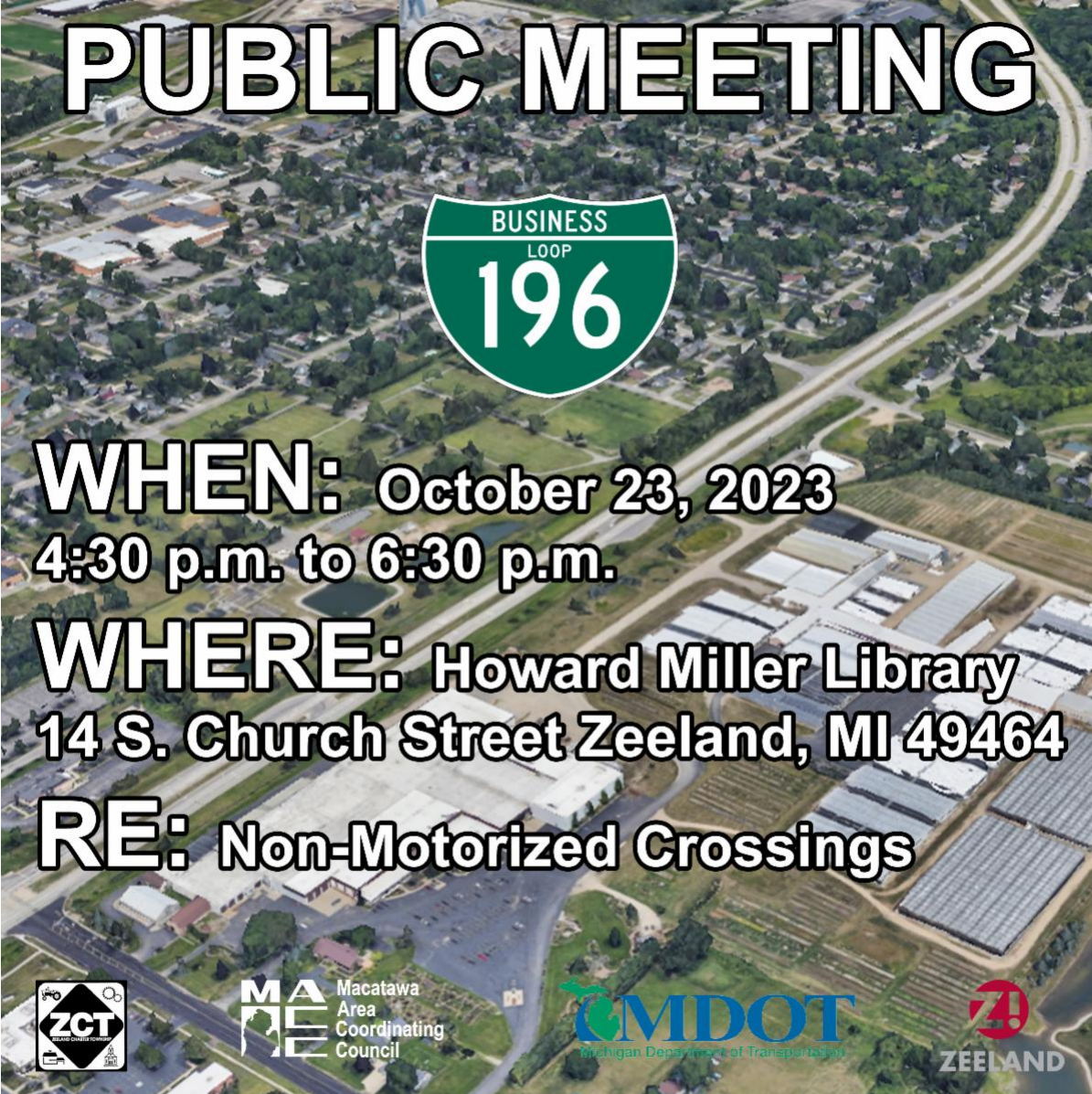


Green Commute Week was a resounding success this year, taking place from September 10 to September 16. Our promotion efforts spanned various platforms, including Nextdoor, Facebook, our website, WHTC radio, the Holland Sentinel newspaper, and eye-catching yard signs strategically placed at over 40 prominent locations throughout the MACC region. The response was remarkable, with over **200** enthusiastic participants joining in this year's Green Commute Week. Together, they collectively logged an impressive **2,153** "green commute" miles. These miles were achieved through diverse eco-friendly modes of transportation such as cycling, walking, running, utilizing public transit, carpooling, and other alternatives to conventional driving. Notably, these green commute miles translated into a reduction of **1,658** pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment. To celebrate this achievement, on September 18, we had the pleasure of randomly selecting 11 lucky winners who each received a \$50 gift card, redeemable at either Meijer or one of the five outstanding local bicycle



shops. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Green Commuters who actively participated and made this year's event a shining success. Your dedication to sustainable commuting is making a real difference in our community!

## Business Loop I-196 Meeting







**PUBLIC MEETING**

**WHEN:** October 23, 2023  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

**RE:** Non-Motorized Crossings

  Macatawa Area Coordinating Council  Michigan Department of Transportation  ZEELAND

Following our successful Business Loop I-196 Non-Motorized Crossing Study held at the Howard Miller Library and Community Center on March 1, 2023, in Zeeland, we're thrilled to invite you to another important gathering on October 23, 2023. This event is in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and marks the culmination of our comprehensive study. We're eager to share the exciting outcomes

with the community. Join us for an engaging open house-style event scheduled from **4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on October 23, 2023**. We encourage you to make time for this meeting, where we'll unveil our joint efforts involving MDOT, the City of Zeeland, and Zeeland Charter Township. Together, we are committed to transforming the vision of a pedestrian and bicycling bridge, along with connecting pathways, into a tangible reality. Your presence and input are invaluable as we chart the course towards this exciting project.

## **AMPO Cleveland Conference**



In September, the MACC selected one of its employees to serve as a representative for the greater Holland/Zeeland area at the annual Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This three-day event was bustling with activity, featuring a lineup of engaging speakers, a diverse array of 24 exhibitors, various events, enlightening breakout sessions, and enjoyable social gatherings. The conference drew over 500 attendees from all corners of the country, making it an ideal platform for networking and staying informed about the latest trends in urban planning, grant opportunities, and technical insights. The conference covered a wide range of topics, from pressing issues such as climate and resiliency to the practical aspects of designing complete streets and fostering citizen engagement. Looking ahead, the 2024 Conference is set to take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the MACC is already making plans to send a representative to this exciting event.

## Federal Grant Application



On September 28th, the MACC took a significant step by submitting a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation under the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) funding opportunity. In this endeavor, the MACC is actively seeking **\$5.8 million** in federal funds. This substantial financial support is earmarked for the construction of a vital non-motorized bridge spanning Business Loop I-196 in Zeeland. Additionally, these funds will be directed towards the development of a comprehensive network of multi-use pathways,



seamlessly connecting the proposed bridge to the existing multi-use path infrastructure in the region. Furthermore, the MACC has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing safety in the greater Holland/Zeeland area. In July 2023, the organization submitted another crucial grant application under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding opportunity, with a request for **\$240,000**. We anticipate to hear back about the SS4A grant this month, and the RCN grant early next year. This funding is designated for the development of a regional Safety Action Plan, a pivotal prerequisite for future construction projects eligible under this funding program. It's important to note that this funding opportunity remains valid for the next three years. These grant applications represent our collective efforts to secure the necessary resources to make the greater Holland/Zeeland area safer and more accessible for all residents. Your support and continued collaboration are instrumental in achieving these essential community goals.

## Upcoming Meetings

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

**October 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

MACC Conference Room  
301 Douglas Avenue  
Holland, MI 49424

### POLICY BOARD:

**October 23, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

Dragonflies Discovery Preschool  
Conference Room  
30 152nd Avenue  
Holland, MI 49424



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