

Macatawa Area Coordinating Council 2016 Annual Report

Welcome to the MACC

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) is a council of governments in the Holland-Zeeland area. The MACC serves as a forum for local governments to discuss area wide issues. Nine local governments, representing approximately 124,000 residents, serve as members of the council.

Local Governments

- City of Holland
- City of Zeeland
- Port Sheldon Township
- Olive Township
- Park Township
- Holland Charter Township
- Zeeland Charter Township
- Laketown Township
- Fillmore Township

Counties

- Allegan
- Allegan Road Commission
- Ottawa
- Ottawa Road Commission

State

- MDOT

Local Transit/Bus

- Macatawa Area Express

Public

- Four at-large members

Planning & Funding Transportation

In its role as a metropolitan planning organization, the MACC is responsible for keeping the area eligible to receive federal surface transportation funding for roads, shared use paths (bike paths) and local public bus services. The MACC is responsible for allocating federal transportation funding. In the last five years, the MACC has allocated over \$118 million supporting more than 179 projects. Besides directly funding local projects, the MACC provides various transportation planning services described within this report. These activities form one of the core program areas of the MACC.



Protecting Water

The Macatawa Watershed Project, another core program of the MACC, began in 1999. The purpose of the project is to restore the water quality of Lake Macatawa by reducing sediment and phosphorus inputs. The project does this primarily through public outreach and education, assisting local municipalities on stormwater management and working with farmers to implement practices that protect water.

*Encouraging cooperation among neighboring
units of government on area wide issues*

Macatawa Watershed Project: 2016 Accomplishments



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant Awarded April 2016

- April 2016-March 2019; Grant amount: \$473,111; Total project cost: \$672,218
- Implement agricultural best management practices to reduce sediment and phosphorus inputs to Lake Macatawa

Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Grant Awarded May 2016

- May 2016-May 2017; Grant amount: \$7,796.96; Total project cost: \$12,500.71
- Develop a volunteer program to inventory road-stream crossings in the watershed and prioritize them for restoration
- In partnership with the Ottawa and Allegan County Road Commissions, the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner and the Allegan County Drain Commissioner



Great Lakes Commission Grant Progress

- October 2013-December 2016; Grant amount: \$241,822; Total project cost: \$302,278
- Agricultural best management practice implementation to reduce sediment and phosphorus transport to Lake Macatawa: 700 acres of cover crops (picture at right), 760 acres of reduced tillage, 800 acres of gypsum application implemented in 2016
- Farm tour held on August 3, 2016



Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Grant Progress

- December 2013-May 2017; Grant amount: \$120,631; Total project cost: \$134,034
- Developed and submitted Stormwater Permit applications for Cities of Holland and Zeeland, Counties of Ottawa and Allegan, and the Ottawa and Allegan County Road Commissions
- Developed and received approval for a new Public Education Plan

Regional Prosperity Initiative—West Michigan Watershed Collaborative

- Study completed by Public Sector Consultants to evaluate several funding mechanisms to support watershed management plan implementation

Public Information and Education Program

- Participated in 17 community events
- Gave away 150 each of our 3 children's books and 100 Homeowner's Handbooks
- Hosted 11 volunteer activities with over 75 total volunteers (habitat assessment crew pictured at right)



Transportation Program: 2016 Accomplishments

8th Street Road Safety Audit: October 2015 - April 2016

- Road Safety Audit Report recommending safety improvements along 8th Street corridor (Chicago Drive to Hope Ave) presented to MACC Policy Committee and transportation stakeholders, including Michigan Department of Transportation
- MACC staff collected turning movement counts during AM and PM peak hours
- MACC, City of Holland, Holland Charter Township, and Ottawa County Health Department jointly funded a capacity analysis to evaluate corridor improvements

US-31 Resurfacing Project: December 2015 - November 2016

- MACC staff worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation to develop a communication strategy to keep the public informed and up to date on the reconstruction and widening of US-31.



Road Safety Expo: February 2016

- The MACC sponsored a Road Safety Expo with local law enforcement and advocates for bicyclist safety. The event focused on safety education for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists – reminding all participants of the rules of the road.

Green Commute Week: May & October 2016

- Green Commute Week events included an annual commute challenge among local employers, a leadership bicycle ride and breakfast at Windmill Island
- Participants recorded 8,711 miles of walking, biking, carpooling, and using public transportation
- Thanks to a grant from Herman Miller Cares, LED lights were distributed to local schools participating in School Challenges to promote walking and biking to school, bus transportation and carpooling, rather than parents driving students to school



Step It Up Walkability Grant Awarded: February 2016

- National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided training in design/policy to increase walkability
- 5-member team from the City of Holland, Holland Charter Township and the Ottawa County Health Department developed an action plan to improve walkability with strategies through June 2021

Regional Transit Access and Connectivity Grant Awarded: August 2016

- MACC staff will evaluate existing bus access and connectivity to other modes of transportation in the region such as pedestrian facilities, bike routes, and rail
- Working with the Macatawa Area Express Transportation Authority, MACC staff will also identify future improvements such as expanded bus service areas to locations where population densities would support future service
- Opportunities to link the regional transportation network to neighboring transit systems

Transportation Program: Planning for the Future

Short Range Planning

The MACC collects data on traffic volumes and roadway pavement condition in the region. This data is available on the MACC website (<http://www.the-macc.org/resources/>) and is used to evaluate regional trends and prioritize transportation investments. MACC staff also offers technical assistance to local units of government, collaborates with neighboring communities to promote passenger rail through the WESTRAIN Collaborative and educates the public about air quality through the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition.

Long Range Planning

Long range planning is an effort that is informed by the MACC's data collection activities. Implementing the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan requires coordinating with local road agencies and transportation stakeholders, developing performance measures, as well as monitoring and evaluating the regional transportation network. Planning projects include planning for a future phase of M-231 and preparing a regional transit access and connectivity study.

MACC Staff

Steve Bulthuis: *Executive Director*

Elisa Hoekwater: *Transportation Manager*

Kelly Goward: *Watershed Program Manager*

Carolyn Ulstad: *Program Assistant*

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