



December 7, 2022  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact Information**

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## **MACOG & Transpo Propose Network Changes in CONNECT Draft Recommendations Report**

South Bend, IN - Are we willing to pay for transit access that can transform people's lives and the quality of place? The Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) and the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (Transpo) want the community to help decide if the draft recommendations make transit more useful by responding to the **two funding scenarios** that result in short-term improvements and future investments.

The **short-term network** depicts key changes to improve service in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart and Goshen based on the existing budget, while the **additional funding network** shows transformative regional access through a higher level of investment in transit.

With the release of the CONNECT Transit Plan's **Draft Recommendations Report**, MACOG and Transpo are entering the final round of public conversation in the development of the 10-year plan for transit in the region.

MACOG Executive Director James Turnwald said, "By prioritizing ridership across the region, both the Interurban Trolley and Transpo would serve more people and businesses benefiting from greater access, higher frequency and less waiting along key routes. The CONNECT Transit Plan's draft recommendations provide a roadmap of how best to optimize the current networks and transform the system over time. The report also identifies other critical gaps, like the lack of job access to manufacturing centers located outside the city proper. Vanpooling could be a stopgap measure deployed by MACOG to assist employers and industrial workers with fleet vehicles driven by employees who share rides to and from work."



“The Short-Term Transpo Network proposes increasing ridership by simplifying or extending routes and increasing or decreasing bus frequency using existing resources. With no additional budget for service, it would be impossible to add significant new hours of service, or Sunday service, without major cuts to route coverage or frequency of service.” said Transpo General Manager & CEO, Amy Hill. “Looking ahead, the Additional Funding Transpo Network would provide transit service seven days a week and reach new areas of South Bend and Mishawaka currently not accessible by bus.”

Over the next two months, MACOG and Transpo invite the public to learn more about these key recommendations by reading the report, coming to a public meeting, visiting with staff at major bus stops, and taking the public survey (available at the project website). The study team will be engaging the public in multiple ways from December 1 through February 7 to get responses from riders and the general public.

### **Draft Report Virtual Presentation & Live Stream**

Monday, December 12, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Via Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84895766637>

+1 646 876 9923, Webinar ID: 848 9576 6637

### **Mishawaka Open House**

Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, Eisen Room

209 Lincolnway E Hwy, Mishawaka, IN 46544

Monday, January 9, 2023, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

### **South Bend Open House**

St. Joe County Public Library, Community Learning Center, Ballroom A&B

305 S. Michigan St. South Bend, IN 46601

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

### **Elkhart Open House**

Elkhart Public Library

300 S. Second St. Elkhart, IN 46516

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

### **Goshen Open House**

Goshen Public Library, Auditorium

601 South 5th St. Goshen, Indiana 46526

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Feedback and survey responses will be presented to the MACOG and Transpo Boards in the Final Recommendations Report expected in March 2023. To learn more about the project or to attend an event, visit [www.connecttransitplan.com](http://www.connecttransitplan.com). Questions and comments may be emailed to [connecttransitplan@macog.com](mailto:connecttransitplan@macog.com).



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**About the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG):** The Michiana Area Council of Governments is a metropolitan planning commission serving Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties in northern Indiana. The voluntary organization of local governments studies and attempts to resolve, for the benefit of each member and the region, areas of interlocal issues, which includes but is not limited to transportation, transit, economic development, environment and other issues that impact the region. To learn more, go to [www.macog.com](http://www.macog.com).

**About the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (Transpo):** Transpo, the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation, provides public bus transit services to residents and visitors throughout St. Joseph County. Transpo is led by a general manager, and a nine-member, bipartisan board appointed by the Mayors of Mishawaka and South Bend and the Common Councils of Mishawaka and South Bend. With 20 local fixed routes and an ADA-compliant paratransit service, Transpo provides over 1.5 million fixed route and 84,000 paratransit trips per year. Visit [www.sbtranspo.com](http://www.sbtranspo.com) or call 574.233.2131 for more information. Follow SBTranspo on Twitter and Facebook.

