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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MACOG & Transpo Release CONNECT Concepts to Reimagine the Future of Transit in the Region

South Bend, IN - What should the future of public transit look like in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, and Goshen? The Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) and the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (Transpo) want the community to help decide by responding to **four concepts** of what a new transit network could look like for the region. **Two concepts** show how the region's bus network could be run differently within current funding levels. **Two new concepts** show how additional funding could improve service, expanding where transit goes and improving the usefulness of service.

With the release of the CONNECT Transit Plan's **Concepts Report**, MACOG and Transpo are starting the second of three rounds of public conversation to guide the development of this 10-year plan for the future of transit in the region.

MACOG Executive Director James Turnwald said, "Public transit can play an integral role in economic transformation. The CONNECT Transit Plan's network concepts show the ways in which transit service can better meet the changing demands of various populations and employment opportunities should more investment be made in the Interurban Trolley and Transpo systems over time."

"The CONNECT Transit Plan will shape the future of transit over the next ten years. The Concepts Report is forward-looking by providing four scenarios that take into account current funding levels and potential future investments that can expand local access and regional connectivity to key destinations across South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart and Goshen." said Transpo General Manager & CEO, Amy Hill. "Being able to look at these network scenarios



helps everyone better understand how existing riders and potential new riders can access and benefit from public transit now and into the future.”

Over the next two months, MACOG and Transpo invite the public to learn more about these four concepts 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 June 21 through July 31 to get responses from riders and the general public.

Concepts Report Presentation Virtual Meeting with Live Stream

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Via Zoom ([Link](#))

Goshen Open House

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Maple City Conference & Events Center

222 S 3rd St, Goshen, IN 46526

South Bend Open House

Thursday, July 14, 2022, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

St. Joseph Public Library - Downtown, Community Learning Center A&B

304 S. Main St. South Bend, IN 46628

Mishawaka Open House

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Library, Main Branch

209 Lincolnway E, Mishawaka, IN 46544

Elkhart Open House

Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Pierre Moran Pavilion

119 W Wolf Ave., Elkhart, IN 46516

Feedback and survey responses will be presented to the MACOG and Transpo Boards in August to determine the direction of the CONNECT Transit Plan as it moves into the Draft Plan phase this fall. To learn more about the project or to register for an event, visit

www.connecttransitplan.com. Questions and comments may be emailed to 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.

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 or call 574.233.2131 for more information. Follow SBTranspo on Twitter and Facebook.

