

RESOLUTION NO 24-17
MICHIANA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE COMPLETION OF US 31
AS A STOPLIGHT FREE LIMITED ACCESS FREEWAY

WHEREAS, the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the urbanized counties of Elkhart and St. Joseph and the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the rural counties of Kosciusko and Marshall; and

WHEREAS, the MACOG region includes unique characteristics and complexity in each of its member counties and is comprised of 1,921 square miles and serves a population over 590,000; and

WHEREAS, MACOG is responsible for ensuring that transportation planning within the region is continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated between MACOG and other public organizations through the planning process, as outlined in the metropolitan planning rule jointly issued in the Federal Register by the Federal Highway Administration on October 28, 1993, and;

WHEREAS, facilitating regional transportation planning by engaging the public and fostering strong partnerships with other agencies, local governments, and communities is a priority in the MACOG planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, a history of regional collaboration has been established between MACOG, its member counties, neighbor MPOs, local governments, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations; and

WHEREAS, the region relies heavily on a faster, safer, and more reliable transportation connection with our State Capital and the need to improve US 31 has been recognized for decades; and

WHEREAS, the completion of US 31 as a stoplight free limited access freeway between South Bend and Indianapolis is critical to the region's future economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, there remain over 200 direct access driveways, two (2) at-grade railroad crossings, and 100 intersections on the unimproved parts of US 31; and

WHEREAS, the advantages to completing the US 31 improvements are well documented, and include travel and safety benefits, as well as economic development benefits; and

WHEREAS, HB 1002 has provided the appropriate funding stream to finish top priority capital improvements such as US 31; and

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WHEREAS, completing the remaining sections of the US 31 corridor is projected to generate 1,190 jobs, \$366 million in economic output, and \$212 million in personal income to residents of this State;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the MACOG Policy Board:

That we support the Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, and the Honorable Joseph McGuinness, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation, in completing the US 31 corridor between SR 38 in Hamilton County and US 30 in Marshall County as a stoplight free limited access freeway.

RESOLVED THIS 14th day of June, 2017

Michiana Area Council of Governments



Kevin Overmyer, Policy Board Chair