



**Special Meeting of the MPO Policy Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

*Submitted for approval on June 17, 2026*

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**Members Present:** Michael Aspacher, Steve Fine, Kevin Fuller, Jim Jacobs, John Jennewine, Nick Komives, Laura Koprowski, Royce Maniko, Mike Melnyk, John Musteric, Tim Pedro, Mike Pniewski, Steven Salander, Matt Snow; **Members Excused:** Neil MacKinnon, Bob Mack, Pat McColley, Mary Westphal, Chelsea Ziss; **Staff Present:** Dave Gedeon, Lisa Householder, Sandy Spang, Sean Sammon, Jennifer Allen

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – A special meeting of the MPO Policy Board was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in the Lake Erie West Boardroom. Chair Mike Pniewski called the meeting to order, noting a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from March 18, 2026, were corrected under Roundtable Discussion to read Waymo plans to expand its autonomous vehicles testing in Detroit in 2027. A **motion** was made by Royce Maniko and **seconded** by Kevin Fuller to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Scoring Review** – Mike Pniewski explained the purpose of the meeting. An ad hoc committee of the MPO Policy Board was appointed in 2025 and tasked with reviewing the STBG scoring criteria to ensure an equitable process. The ad hoc committee met several times. As a result of those meetings, they proposed changes to the scoring criteria. The proposed changes were presented to and accepted by the TAC at their March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. *Resolution No. 2026-07, Approving the Surface Transportation Block Grant Revised Scoring Criteria*, which was included in the agenda packet, was presented to the MPO Policy Board at their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, due to comments and concerns that were submitted to Lake Erie West staff, the board voted to table the resolution; give staff two weeks to address the comments; and hold a special meeting to vote on the scoring criteria.

Nick Komives, City of Toledo, recommended revisions to the scoring criteria under consideration and offered background information, followed by specific recommended changes to the scoring criteria currently under consideration. A copy of this document was included in the agenda packet. Chair Pniewski reviewed and discussed the recommended changes proposed by Toledo before entertaining a motion. A **motion** was made by Mike Aspacher and **seconded** by Steve Fine to accept *Resolution No. 2026-07, Approving the Surface Transportation Block Grant Revised Scoring Criteria*, as submitted. Chair Pniewski opened the floor for discussion.

Nick Komives provided additional comments and asked the board to consider Toledo's proposed scoring criteria for Question No. 19. A **motion** was made by Mr. Komives and **seconded** by Royce Maniko to accept Question 19 as proposed by Toledo and outlined in the supplemental document. Chair Pniewski opened the floor for discussion. Mike Aspacher expressed support for the work of the ad hoc committee and their proposed revisions. He stated that the review of the scoring criteria was warranted to ensure an equitable process. The resulting modifications will help to improve scoring for smaller communities and won't negatively affect Toledo. Tim Pedro asked if \$2-5 million dollars of the STBG funding could go to major reconstruction projects. Chair Pniewski stated

applicants could receive points for reconstruction funding if they align with the four evaluation criteria (i.e., Economic Development, Livability & Interconnectivity, Project Readiness & Funding, and System Use & Performance).

Sandy Spang directed everyone's attention to the projector screen, which displayed a map of federal aid eligible roads with a Pavement Condition Rating (PCR) of 64 or less, requiring significant construction, rehabilitation, or reconstruction rather than routine maintenance. Dave Gedeon stated that the proposed scoring criteria won't affect projects that are already in cue. Laura Koprowski expressed concern that bad roads damage the internal equipment on TARTA buses. Mr. Gedeon noted the goal of the transportation plan is to get roads in a state of good repair. All road projects are added to the Transportation Plan.

Komives offered final comments. Afterwards, there was no further discussion by the board. **Chair Pniewski called to vote on the motion that was on the floor to accept Toledo's proposed changes to Question 19. The motion was denied.** Chair Pniewski recommended that the MPO Policy Board continuously review and improve the STBG process and make modifications where needed. He entertained a **motion**, which was made by Royce Maniko and **seconded** by Kevin Fuller to amend *Resolution No. 2026-07 to include a Section 3 that reads: THAT the revised Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) scoring criteria will be reviewed by a newly appointed ad hoc advisory group of the MPO Policy Board following the approval of awarded projects from the 2026 STBG round.* **Komives voted against approving the resolution and amendment. The motion passed.** It was noted that the work of the previously appointed ad hoc committee is now completed, and the committee is officially disbanded.

**Public Comment** – There were no representatives from the public present for comments.

**Lake Erie West Update** – Sandy Spang gave an update on USDOT's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant. Funding from the grant could be used for rail separation projects and truck parking. A NOFO has been released. The application deadline is May 26, 2026.

**Roundtable** – There was no roundtable discussion.

**Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in the Lake Erie West Boardroom.

**Adjournment** – The chair called for an adjournment the meeting.

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Michael P. Pniewski, Chair, MPO Policy Board  
Lake Erie West Regional Council

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David G. Gedeon, Director of Transportation  
Lake Erie West Regional Council