

The Committees

NATS Technical Advisory Committee

The NATS TAC comprises of planners, engineers, managers, and operators of transportation agencies, local units of government, the MDOT, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and as such provides technical assistance to the SWMPC staff on transportation issues. They make recommendations on actions to the Policy Committee. Current membership as of 2009 is as follows:

Agency	TAC Member
Federal	
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Sarah Koepke
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Stewart McKenzie
State	
MDOT	
*Lansing	Ray Lenze
*Southwest Region	Darrell Harden
*Coloma TSC	Paul South/Sarah Woolcock
Multi-modal	Fred Featherly
Modeling	Jennifer Osbourne
MDEQ	Bob Rusch
Regional	
SWMPC	staff
MACOG	Jessica Mitchell
County	
Berrien	
*Planning Commission/Community Development	John Gruchot/Katie McIlwee Montoya
*Road Commission	Brian Berndt
Cass	
*Planning Commission	Vacant
*Road Commission	Joe Bellina
Areawide	
*Four Flags Chamber of Commerce	Ron Sather
*Jerry Tyler Airport	Neil Coulston
*Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance	Shelley Klug
Local	
*City of Niles	Juan Ganum Neil Coulston Joe Ray
*City of Buchanan	Willie Brown
*Village of Edwardsburg	John Monaghan

*Buchanan Township	Vacant
*Bertrand Township	Vacant
*Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper/Jim Kidwell
*Howard Township	Irving Frost
*Milton Township	Paul Boggs
*Ontwa Township	John A. Brielmaier
*Niles Dial-a-Ride	John Pleveich/Kelly Getman-Disette

* Voting member

NATS Policy Committee

The NATS Policy Committee is composed of elected officials of local government, board members of transportation-related agencies, and designated officials from the MDOT and the FHWA. These officials are responsible for establishing local transportation policies, overseeing the planning process, and providing a forum for cooperative decision-making. The Policy Committee is provided technical advice through the expertise of the TAC.

Current Policy Committee membership as of 2009 is as follows:

Agency	Policy Member
Federal	
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Sarah Koepke
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Stewart McKenzie
State	
MDOT	
*Lansing	Ray Lenze
*Southwest Region	Darrell Harden
*Coloma TSC	Paul South/Sarah Woolcock
Regional	
SWMPC	staff
MACOG	Jessica Mitchell
County	
Berrien County	
*Board of Commissioners	Don Ryman John Lamore
*Planning Commission/Community Development	Art Reed
*Road Commission	Chuck Collins
Cass County	
*Board of Commissioners	Johnie Rodebush Debbie Johnson
*Road Commission	Cliff Poehlman
Areawide	
*Four Flags Chamber of Commerce	Dick Fintze Vacant
Local	

*City of Niles	Georgia Boggs Vacant Vacant
*City of Buchanan	Meg Mullendore
*Village of Edwardsburg	John Monaghan
*Buchanan Township	Jane Mitchell
*Bertrand Township	Vacant
*Niles Charter Township	Richard Cooper/ Jim Kidwell
*Howard Township	Irving Frost Vacant
*Milton Township	Robert Benjamin
*Ontwa Township	John A. Brielmaier
*Niles Dial-a-Ride	John Pleveich/Kelly Getman-Disette

* Voting member

Bi-State Coordinating Committee

The Bi-State (Michigan/Indiana) Coordinating Committee consists of representatives from the Niles and South Bend areas. Its function is to ensure the coordination of activities across state lines and to resolve conflicts as they arise. Current membership is as follows:

Michigan

- Commissioner, Berrien County
- Commissioner, Cass County
- Mayor, City of Niles
- Supervisor, Bertrand Township
- Supervisor, Howard Township
- Supervisor, Milton Township
- Supervisor, Niles Township
- Supervisor, Buchanan Township
- Supervisor, Ontwa Township

Indiana

- Commissioner, Elkhart County
- Commissioner, St. Joseph County
- Mayor, City of Elkhart
- Mayor, City of Mishawaka
- Mayor, City of South Bend
- Councilman, City of Elkhart

Ex Officio

- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Federal Officials (as necessary)

Amendment Procedures

At times, circumstances warrant changes to an approved plan. If a change is considered to be major, including but not limited to, goals and objectives, data updates, air quality conformity, and major project changes or additions (as described in Appendix A, *Amendment Procedures*), a formal amendment is required. This procedure requires that public notice of the proposed amendment be distributed at least seven days prior to the respective Policy Committee meeting, TAC and Policy Committee reviews, formal action on the amendment, and submission to both MDOT and FHWA.

If changes are minor or administrative in nature, then the LRTP may be amended administratively following procedures as described below. LRTP amendment procedures will be decided on a case-by-case basis. SWMPC staff may elect to follow a full amendment process or engage in consultation to determine the process that should be followed in any given situation.

Administrative amendments by staff are expressly permitted in the following cases:

- There are minor project changes, as described in *Amendment Procedures* (see Appendix A).
- If the TIP has been administratively amended, the LRTP may be correspondingly administratively amended.

Administrative amendments are to be reported to the TAC and Policy Committee at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting following the administrative action.

These general policies may be reviewed and amended from time to time and are intended to be flexible to accommodate special circumstances not foreseen at this writing. When doubt exists about the circumstances in any given case, a consultation process should be used to obtain guidance on interpreting the circumstance.