

**TWIN CITIES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
POLICY COMMITTEE
BYLAWS**

Updated April 2012

ARTICLE I: COMMITTEE NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.1: NAME

The name of this committee shall be the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study (TwinCATS) Policy Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Policy Committee.

SECTION 1.2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Policy Committee shall be to provide policy level guidance, direction and necessary approvals to all aspects of the continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process carried out by the lead planning organization responsible for coordinating the transportation planning process in the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Urban Area as it relates to TwinCATS. Deliberations, findings and approvals of the Policy Committee shall be made after due consideration of the recommendations of the TwinCATS Technical Advisory Committee.

The Policy Committee shall constitute the forum for cooperative transportation decision making by elected or appointed officials of the general purpose governments and agencies organized to develop area wide transportation plans and programs. The Policy Committee shall:

- Approve policy for a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process.
- Review and adopt the Long Range Plan (LRP) and update as necessary.
- Act on recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee.
- Review and adopt the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and review the allocation of federal eligible projects within the each year the TIP.
- Ensure the LRP and TIP conform to the to the Michigan Transportation Conformity Air Quality State Implementation Plan (SIP), as required by Regulation 23 CFR 450.312(d) and as determined in accordance with the U.S. EPA conformity regulation (40 CFR Part 51).
- Review and approve the Unified Planning Work Program that details work activities and proposed budget.
- Adopt and implement a Public Participation Process that outlines the promotion and utilization of public involvement and is described in the Participation Plan.
- Ensure the efficient and effective use of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Metropolitan Planning (PL) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funds.
- Annually certify that the Transportation Planning Process is meeting the requirements of 23 Code of Federal Regulations 450.334(a).

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

SECTION 2.1: MEMBERSHIP

Policy Committee voting membership shall consist of one duly appointed representative from each of the following jurisdictions:

- City of Benton Harbor
- City of Bridgman
- City of St. Joseph
- Village of Grand Beach
- Village of Shoreham
- Village of Stevensville
- Benton Charter Township
- Lake Township

- Lincoln Charter Township
- Royalton Township
- St. Joseph Charter Township
- Sodus Township
- Berrien County Board of Commissioners
- Berrien County Planning Commission
- Berrien County Road Commission
- St. Joseph River Harbor Authority
- Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Board
- Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA)
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Planning
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Region
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Transportation Service Center.
- Cornerstone Alliance

Policy Committee non-voting members shall include a representative from the following:

- Berrien County Coordinated Transportation Coalition
- Federal Highway Administration, Michigan Division
- Federal Transit Administration
- Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Regional Interagency Consumers Committee
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- TCATA Local Advisory Committee

SECTION 2.2: ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

The legislative or policy-level body of each governmental unit and agency identified in Section 2.1 may appoint an alternate representative for its respective Policy Committee member. The alternate representative may vote in the absence of the duly appointed Policy Committee member at the Policy Committee meeting. In no case shall more than one vote for each governmental unit or agency be cast on any given item of business.

SECTION 2.3 ATTENDANCE

If any voting member or his/her designated alternate fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, Policy Committee staff shall notify the governmental unit or agency and request appropriate action to ensure its representation.

SECTION 2.4: OFFICERS

From among its Voting Membership, the Policy Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall be elected bi-annually at the first Policy Committee meeting following January 1. Said officers shall serve until the next election of officers. In the event an office is vacated prior to expiration, said office shall be filled by a vote of the voting members at the next Policy Committee meeting following the office being vacated.

SECTION 2.5 DUTIES OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Chairman shall preside over all Policy Committee meetings and shall assure that the transaction of business is carried out in an orderly and efficient manner, in accordance with these bylaws. The Chairman, with approval of the Policy Committee, may appoint special subcommittees as necessary and shall serve as an ex-officio member of any such subcommittee.

In the event of absence or incapacity of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall carry out the duties and responsibilities of presiding over the Policy Committee meeting. If both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are incapacitated or absent, the Policy Committee shall appoint a temporary acting chairman to carry out the responsibilities and activities of the Policy Committee.

SECTION 2.6 NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The Chairperson shall, at the meeting preceding the first meeting of an odd numbered calendar year, appoint a nominating committee to present nominations for the officers of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Nominations for all offices may be presented from the floor before voting occurs at the first meeting of the calendar year.

SECTION 2.7 STAFF

The staff of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for TwinCATS, shall act as staff and Recording Secretary and shall publish and maintain the official record of the proceedings and actions of the Policy Committee.

ARTICLE III: RULES OF PROCEDURE

SECTION 3.1: MEETINGS

Policy Committee meetings shall be held on a regularly scheduled basis on the Third Monday of each month, except in January which shall be scheduled on the Fourth Monday. Said meeting shall take place at a time and location established by the Policy Committee.

In January, the schedule of regular meetings will be distributed to the Policy Committee members, made available to the public, and published on the SWMPC website

SECTION 3.2 NOTICES OF MEETINGS

Notices of all regular meetings including agenda and minutes of the previous meeting shall be e-mailed to the members no later than five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Members who do not maintain e-mail addresses shall receive notices of regular meetings via postal mail. Notices of special meetings may be communicated to members by telephone and/or e-mail.

SECTION 3.3 OPEN MEETINGS ACT

All meetings shall be held at convenient and accessible locations and times in accordance with federal requirements. The meeting locations will also be at sites which comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are accessible via public transit. All meetings will be held in accordance with the Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976 known as the "Open Meeting Act".

SECTION 3.4 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the SWMPC Staff or Policy Committee Chairperson or by a majority vote of the membership of the Policy Committee.

SECTION 3.5: QUORUM

For purposes of conducting official Policy Committee business, the voting members present for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3.6: VOTING

Business items brought before the Policy Committee for official action shall be voted on for approval and a simple majority of those present and qualified to vote shall constitute the official action of the Policy Committee regarding the matter, except as provided in Section 4.2.

SECTION 3.7: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

At the Chairman's discretion, an informal, practical parliamentary procedure may be followed, provided however that in cases where it is so warranted, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be utilized.

SECTION 3.8 SUBCOMMITTEES

The Policy Committee shall establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary and appropriate. Subcommittees shall be established by the approval of the voting membership. Minutes of each subcommittee meeting will be recorded and distributed to the Policy Committee members at the next Policy Committee meeting.

SECTION 3.9 MEETING CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS

In the event a regular meeting needs to be rescheduled, SWMPC staff will set a substitute meeting date. All cancellations or changes in the date of scheduled meetings, or special meetings, of the Policy Committee shall be communicated to the members as promptly as practical via e-mail, US mail, or telephone, and be noticed to the public and published on the SWMPC website.

ARTICLE IV: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 4.1: ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL OR NEW AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Policy Committee may, upon request, admit additional agencies, organizations or entities to membership on the Policy Committee. Said agencies, organizations or entities may be admitted as either voting or non-voting members, as deemed appropriate by the Policy Committee. Said admission shall require amendment to these bylaws.

SECTION 4.2: AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

Any voting member of the Policy Committee may submit a proposed amendment to these bylaws. Prior to any action by the Policy Committee, the proposed amendment and an explanatory written statement must be sent to each member, both voting and non-voting, at least 30 calendar days before the Policy Committee may consider action on the proposed amendment. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for approval of any bylaw amendment.


ARTICLE IV: EFFECTIVE DATE OF BYLAWS

These bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the TwinCATS Policy Committee. The approval date of these bylaws shall be the date of the approval action. Each Policy Committee member shall be given a copy of the approved bylaws.

Approved: April 16, 2012



TwinCATS Policy Committee Chairman



TwinCATS Policy Committee Recording Secretary