

**Michigan Department of Transportation
Local Grade Crossing Program
Railroad Crossing Closures**

The Local Grade Crossing Program includes an on-going initiative to support the United States Department of Transportation's goal to reduce the number of grade crossings by twenty-five percent. To achieve this goal, the Program works with local road agencies to permanently close roads at railroad tracks, providing funding to support the closures.

Closure Funding

State law allows MDOT to provide cash incentives to local road authorities for crossing closures. Incentives typically range from \$50,000 to \$150,000, based on LGCP's evaluation of the crossing's characteristics. These incentives are directed to a road authority's Act 51 account and may be used towards the cost of closure and/or any transportation purpose within the same jurisdiction.

Benefits

There are several benefits of a closed crossing. First and foremost, of course, is the enhancement to public safety. About half of Michigan's approximately 4800 public at-grade crossings are equipped with automatic warning devices. However, more than half of all recent vehicle/train crashes have occurred at crossings with operating active warning devices. Once an at-grade crossing is eliminated, that crossing will never again be the site of a vehicle/train crash, with its accompanying potential for tragic deaths, personal injuries, property damage, fires, explosions, and/or hazardous material spills. Additional community benefits include reduced traffic speed and volume on the closed street, reduced maintenance costs, and reduced noise levels because the trains no longer need to sound their horns at a closed crossing.

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