

State Transportation Commission

June 29, 2006

Director Kirk T. Steudle, P.E.

Michigan Department of Transportation

Overview

- 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System
- Local Jobs Today Update



50 Years of the Interstate System



1956 - 2006



Michigan's contribution:



**36 years and
1,241 miles
in the making!**

Michigan's contribution:



“There was an air of excitement and expectation running all through the Department. Engineers like to build things, and here we had the opportunity and challenge of building highways on a bigger scale than we had ever known.”

- John P. Woodford

MDOT Director

- Much of the Interstate system and other Michigan highways follow the original Native American trails through Michigan.



1956

- Superhighways were financed through a newly established highway trust fund supported mainly by a three-cent-a-gallon federal tax on gasoline.



1957

- Michigan's first funded Interstate freeway was a four-mile stretch of what was known as the Brighton-Farmington Expressway – old US-16.
- Extending from US-23 to the east Livingston County line.
- Opened August 1, 1957



1960

- Early I-75 near the Mackinac Bridge, Saginaw and Flint.



1960-61

- I-94 becomes the nation's longest continuous stretch of Interstate freeway open to traffic during 1960.
- 1961 will find all 189 miles of I-96 and I-196 from Detroit to Muskegon open to traffic or under contract.



1963

- Early I-75 between Sault St. Marie and the Mackinac Bridge, and south of Flint.



1964

- Last of the construction on I-75 between Grayling and Bay City.



1973

- Michigan's longest highway, the 395-mile I-75, is completed with the opening of the final 28-mile section east of Houghton Lake.
- The Interstate extends unbroken from the Ohio border near Monroe north to the Canadian border at Sault Ste. Marie.



1974

- I-275 and I-96 are under construction.



1974

- Portions of I-69 are opened from the Indiana border north to Flint.



1975

- I-196 is completed between I-96 near Grand Rapids and I-94 near St. Joseph.



1977

- A 12-mile section of I-96 extending east from Southfield Freeway in Detroit is opened to traffic, completing the 193-mile freeway connecting Muskegon and the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit.



1977

- I-275 and I-696 are under construction.



1980s

- I-696 is completed in Detroit.
- I-275 is completed in Detroit.



1990

- I-69 now includes portions east of Lansing and between Flint and Port Huron.
- The last section of I-69 is under construction between Charlotte and Lansing.



1992

- Four miles of I-69 are opened west of Lansing, completing the 203-mile freeway from the Indiana border north and east to the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron.
- The opening of I-69 completes Michigan's 1,241-mile Interstate system after 36 years of construction.



Michigan leading the nation



- Michigan led the nation in the 1960s in building its share of the 41,000-mile nationwide system.
- The Interstate freeways have had a profound effect on the nation. They have altered the landscape, influenced industrial and urban planning, living patterns and commercial development .



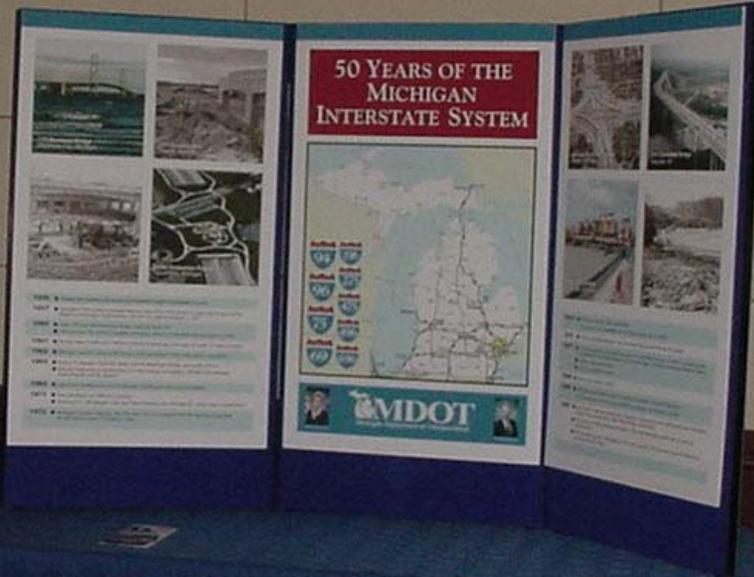
MDOT is dedicated to maintaining the existing system



Although Michigan has completed its portion of the Interstate system as it was originally envisioned, new links on the system have been proposed, and may someday be constructed.



MDOT



Displays at the Capitol

FHWA



MDOT joins the convoy



MDOT joins the convoy



The next 50 years



“So celebrate remembering the past and where we’ve been and celebrate remembering there’s more to do again.”



Local Jobs Today Update

- Formal letter sent by County Road Association of Michigan on June 9
 - ◆ Projects returned by June 19
- Projects currently being identified by CRAM & MML
- MDOT will review

