

Asset Management Facts (A.M. Facts)

Managing Traffic Data Assets

In 2013, the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Asset Management Division collected, reviewed, and processed more than 3,200 traffic counts, including nearly a third of which came from local roads. This provided continuous data on volume, vehicle classification, and truck weights to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on a monthly basis, and assisted with decisions on numerous projects through the traffic information that was provided to decision-makers. MDOT's philosophy when collecting traffic data is to "collect quality data once, use it many times."

MDOT's traffic data is used by more agencies than just MDOT, and can be searched, viewed, downloaded or printed. Traffic volume information can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdot-tmis, while the Annual Average Daily Traffic maps can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/adtmmaps.

Here are some recently proposed data principles developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and supported by MDOT. They are focused on data as an asset, and that data is valuable, available, reliable, authorized, clear, efficient, and accountable.

- **Data is an asset.** Data is a core business asset that has value and is managed accordingly.
- **Data is open, accessible, transparent, and shared.** Access to data is critical to performing duties and functions. Data must be open and usable for diverse applications and open to all.
- **Data quality and extent is fit for a variety of applications.** Data quality is acceptable and meets the needs for which it is intended.
- **Data is secure and compliant with regulations.** Data is trustworthy and is safeguarded from unauthorized access, whether malicious, fraudulent or erroneous.
- **There is a common vocabulary and data definition.** Data dictionaries are developed and metadata established to maximize consistency and transparency of data across systems.
- **Data is not duplicated.** Data is collected once and used many times for many purposes.
- **Decisions maximize the benefit of data.** Timely, relevant, high-quality data are essential to maximize the utility of data for decision-making.

MDOT is required to maintain a traffic monitoring program to meet the reporting requirements of the FHWA, United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) title 23, 420.105(b).

A.M. Facts was developed by the Asset Management Division of the MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning to provide an overview of the many processes and projects the Asset Management Division is responsible for and oversees.