



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

June 2, 2016

Ms. Denise Donohue, Director  
County Road Association of Michigan  
417 Seymour Avenue, Suite 1  
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1143

Mr. John LaMacchia II, Legislative Associate  
Michigan Municipal League  
208 North Capitol Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1354

Dear Ms. Donohue and Mr. LaMacchia:

**Fiscal Year 2018 Federal High Risk Rural Roads Program**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased to announce the solicitation of applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) program. Federal funds for the HRRR program are derived from the HRRR Special Rule under 23 USC 148(g)(1). The FY 2018 federal budget for this program is estimated to be \$6,000,000. This amount may be subject to revisions. We are asking the County Road Association of Michigan and the Michigan Municipal League to distribute this notice to their member agencies.

Local agencies are allowed to submit more than one project for consideration. Federal safety funds shall not exceed \$600,000 per project or a maximum amount of \$2,000,000 per Local Agency for the fiscal year (including any selected FY 2018 HSIP projects). Any non-selected projects submitted under this HRRR call for projects will be automatically rolled over to the general FY 2018 HSIP safety call for projects. Selected HRRR projects are to be obligated in FY 2018; the Local Agency will not be allowed to delay a selected HRRR to a different fiscal year.

**Applications are to be electronically submitted or postmarked by Friday, September 2, 2016.**

Refer to the enclosed Exhibits for information regarding eligibility and submitting candidate Safety Project Applications.

Our goal is to maintain a fiscally constrained program while maximizing the use of available federal funds. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pamela Blazo, Safety Programs Engineer, at (517) 335-2224 or at [blazop@michigan.gov](mailto:blazop@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Tracie J. Leix, P.E.  
for Matthew W. DeLong, Administrator  
Development Services Division

Enclosures

Ms. Denise Donohue and Mr. John LaMacchia II  
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cc: Dave Morena, FHWA  
Matt DeLong, MDOT  
Pam Boyd, MDOT  
Mark Harbison, MDOT  
Pamela R. Blazo, MDOT  
Steve Shaughnessy, MDOT  
MDOT Region Engineers  
MDOT TSC Managers  
MDOT LAP Listserv Members  
Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
Rural Task Forces

Exhibit 1 – High Risk Rural Road definition and Project Eligibility Requirements

A HRRR is defined as; 1) any roadway functionally classified as rural major or minor collector or a rural local road that the crash rate for fatalities and incapacitating injuries exceeds the statewide average for those functional classes of roadway, or 2) any roadway functionally classified as rural major or minor collector or a rural local road that will likely have increases in traffic volumes that are likely to create a crash rate for fatalities and incapacitating injuries that exceeds the statewide average for those functional classes of roadway.

MDOT has used the following data to determine the required statewide average crash rate:

74,531	Total miles of roadway functionally classified as rural major or minor collector or rural local road.
7,094	Total number of fatalities or incapacitating injuries, located on roadways classified as described above, for the time period 2010 – 2014.
0.10	Statewide average frequency of such crashes per mile of such roadway over a 5 year time period.

**Project Eligibility Requirements:**

1. The roadway is functionally classified as **rural** major collector, rural minor collector or rural local road.
2. Within the most recent five year time period of available crash data, **at least one crash, resulting in fatalities (K) or incapacitating (A) injuries, has occurred within the proposed project limits. For projects longer than 10 miles in length, multiple such serious crashes have occurred such that there is at least one such crash for every 10 miles of roadway segment.** Proposed projects with higher crash concentrations of ‘K’ and/or ‘A’ crashes may receive a higher priority than other projects.
3. The proposed project must demonstrate a direct correlation to correct an area related to the fatal or incapacitating injury crashes. The proposed project limits must be relevant to the roadway features attributable to the crashes, and are subject to approval by MDOT.

### Exhibit 2 – Funding Participation

- Projects will be funded at 90 percent federal funds and 10 percent local funds.
- Portion eligible for federal aid:
  - Project’s Construction Phase (‘A’ Phase.)
  - Preliminary Engineering, **ONLY** if criteria of Preliminary Engineering Section outlined below is met.
- Portion not eligible for federal aid:
  - Right-of-way costs.
  - Preliminary engineering, unless criteria of Preliminary Engineering Section outlined below is met.
  - Construction engineering.
  - Decorative items, not safety related in nature.
- Selected projects will be ‘Lump Summed’ at the lesser of the original estimate plus \$20,000, or the original estimate plus 20 percent. Projects may, at MDOT’s discretion, be funded by a “Pro-Rata” method.
- Projects will be let by MDOT or performed by Local Force Account, as approved by MDOT’s Local Agency Program (LAP) office: information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) ~ Doing Business ~ Local Agency Program ~ Force Account and Local Agency Reimbursement System (LARS) Information.
- All social, economic and environmental impacts within the project limits must be mitigated before federal funds can be appropriated and obligated. Project applications which are expected to have significant public controversy and/or require an environmental assessment will not be considered until these outstanding issues have been resolved.
- Local Agencies within Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) areas must coordinate with their MPO to ensure inclusion of their project in the area’s Transportation Improvement Program for the fiscal year for which the project was selected. LAP will supply a list of selected projects to the MDOT Planning group, but it is the local agency’s responsibility to ensure these projects are included in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

**Preliminary Engineering (up to 10% of the estimated eligible construction costs)**

Preliminary engineering for selected safety projects may be programmed for one or more of the following:

- Transparency (5 percent) location (funded at 90 percent federal funds/10 percent local funds)
  - Identified in the 2009 through 2015 Transparency (5%) Reports.
  - Proposed scope of work must address the noted location deficiencies.
  - Projects that are on the Transparency (5%) Report must be clearly identified and a copy of the 5% report included with the application
  
- MDOT Local Safety Initiative (LSI) identified location (funded at 50 percent federal funds/50 percent local funds)
  - Proposed scope of work must address the noted location deficiencies reviewed and identified by the LSI Program.
  - Copy of MDOT LSI written suggestion list must be included with application.
  
- Traffic Signal Optimization
  - Funded at 80 percent federal funds/20 percent local funds.
  - Must complete and implement traffic signal optimization study to analyze and adjust timing of signal controllers.
  - Signals should be studied to allow for a minimum of one second all red phase, and the yellow change interval phase evaluated to meet current guidelines.
  - Maximum of \$5,000 total cost will be allowed per signal location for the analysis and adjustment of signal controllers.
  - Signal component upgrades are not permitted under this category.
  - It is anticipated that this work would be done via force account work by the local agency. Physical adjustments of timing will be programmed under an 'A' Phase.

### Exhibit 3 – Design Requirements

- The proposed projects must demonstrate a direct correlation to correct an area related to the fatal or incapacitating injury crashes. The proposed project limits must be relevant to the roadway features attributable to the crashes, and are subject to approval by MDOT.
- Meet current standards and warrants, current Americans with Disabilities Act and Buy America requirements.
- Designed in accordance with 3R, 4R, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, or the AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads Standards. Use of the Capital Preventative Maintenance guidelines and fixes will not be permitted.
- Traffic signal upgrade projects shall include the installation of signal back plates with reflectorized strips.
- High friction surface projects shall use or follow the intent/material requirements of the most current MDOT Special Provision.
- Corridor (or local agency-wide) permanent signing or pavement marking projects must be of a higher standard than the minimums required by the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and/or standards. These type of projects shall include additional signing improvements beyond upgrading sign reflectivity requirements; i.e., adding reflective sheeting to sign posts, larger signs, etc., and permanent pavement markings shall include improvements such as being recessed or high quality ‘durable’ markings.

#### Exhibit 4 - Submitting Candidate Safety Project Applications

Applications submitted electronically must be received no later than **Friday, September 2, 2016**.

- The Local Safety Program Call for Applications Funding Year 2018 Electronic Submittal Form is located at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) ~ Doing Business ~ Local Agency Program ~ Safety Program ~ FY 2018 HRRR Call for Safety Electronic Submittal.
- Electronic submittals are limited to 15MB.

Applications sent hardcopy must be postmarked no later than **Friday, September 2, 2016**.

- Projects postmarked after Friday, September 2, 2016, at MDOT's discretion, may or may not be reviewed for selection.
- It is recommended that your application be submitted by certified mail or other traceable delivery service.

Applications are reviewed and selected by a committee. The six required submittal documents are listed below. All MDOT forms and spreadsheets mentioned can be found online at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625\\_25885\\_40552---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625_25885_40552---,00.html) in the Application Process section of the page.

1. Cover Letter
  - Provide a brief overview discussion as to the proposed project, crash pattern that has been experienced and how the proposed scope of work will remedy the past crash history.
2. MDOT Form 1627
3. MDOT Time of Return (TOR) Analysis\*
  - Only the MDOT TOR spreadsheet will be accepted\*. A copy of the data input page and results page must be included in the application submittal.
  - **ALL** projects submitted for the HRRR program require a TOR analysis.
  - Common Crash Reduction Factors (CRF) are listed in the TOR Spreadsheet
    - ◆ Additional CRFs may be used. If submitting a TOR utilizing a CRF not listed on the TOR form, include a copy of the source used to obtain the CRF.
4. UD-10s
  - Include for all crashes that are used to compile the TOR or Highway Safety Manual analysis/computation. Note: The HSM requires all crashes to be input, including animal crashes. Animal crashes are NOT to be submitted with the application.

- Use the most current 3 to 5 year period of available data (2010-2012 through current availability).
  - Include only those UD-10 crash reports that relate to the proposed scope of work, except include all UD-10 reports relating to Fatal (K) or Incapacitating (A) injury crashes within the project limits.
5. Detailed cost estimate or Michigan Engineers Resource Library (MERL) estimate.
  6. Map showing project location(s).

Applications, to provide additional support, may (not required) also include:

- Crash analysis used to determine the proposed project's scope.
- Crash concentration maps in the proposed project's limits.
- MDOT LSI written suggestion list (required if requesting participation for Preliminary Engineering)
- Photos of existing project site conditions.
- Preliminary proposed plan view, cross-sections, and/or profiles.
- Ability to deliver a construction package for obligation within this fiscal year.
- Project coordination with other construction projects.
- Highway Safety Manual Analysis\*

\*Highway Safety Manual Analysis

A Highway Safety Analysis may replace or supplement the TOR Analysis.

FY 2018, HSM Analysis Requirements:

- Use the MDOT HSM spreadsheet located at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625\\_25885\\_40552---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625_25885_40552---,00.html) in the Application Process section of the page.
- An electronic copy of the analysis or screenshots of the input and output tabs must be included with the application submittal.
- Calibration factors for use as part of HSM analysis have been compiled by MDOT and are included in the spreadsheet. Local Agencies performing hand calculations will need to refer to the [www.michigan.gov/highwaysafety](http://www.michigan.gov/highwaysafety) website for calibration factors and distribution values.
- For any questions an agency might have regarding the HSM Calibration factors, please contact Dean Kanitz, MDOT Traffic and Safety Unit, at 517-335-2855.

Additional information available for application development:

- Visit [www.michigan.gov/highwaysafety](http://www.michigan.gov/highwaysafety) or link to it from the MDOT Local Agency Safety Program Website.
  - Traffic Crash Data maps per Region (Traffic Crash Data)
  - HSM Calibration Factors/Distribution Values (Safety Links, Traffic Standards and Typicals, Safety Programs, Highway Safety Manual)

- Safety Guides (Safety Links, Traffic Standards and Typical, Safety Programs, Safety Guides)

Please send all eligible projects and supporting information by **Friday, September 2, 2016**, to the following:

Mrs. Pamela R. Blazo, P.E.  
Safety Engineer, Local Agency Programs  
Development Services Division  
425 W. Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 30050  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7550

#### Project Application Examples

- Corridor wide shoulder and center line rumble strips, improved permanent signing (such as chevrons on curves or intersection signing), pavement markings (such as the addition of edge line markings), clear vision corners or reflectorized backplates
- High Friction Surface applications at spot locations
- Elimination, replacement or installation of guardrail/Removal of fixed objects
- Traffic and pedestrian signal optimization, installation, and upgrades
- Access management
- Intersection safety improvements (Lighting, Stopping Sight Distance, Clear Vision Corners)
- Horizontal and vertical curve modifications
- Sight distance and drainage improvements
- Bridge railing replacement or retrofit
- Mid-block pedestrian crossings; improvements to school zones

This list is not all inclusive and other types of safety improvement projects can be submitted for consideration.