



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Any questions relative to the Research Problem Statement must be submitted by e-mail to: [mdot-research@michigan.gov](mailto:mdot-research@michigan.gov). Questions must be received by **February 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. EST**. All questions and answers will be placed on the MDOT RFP Web site as soon as possible after receipt of the questions and at least three (3) days prior to the due date listed above. The names of organizations submitting questions will not be disclosed.

The prime contractor must be a Michigan university. An organization located outside of Michigan may be included in the research team, but cannot be the primary contractor. A consultant located in Michigan may be included in the research team, but cannot be the primary contractor. MDOT is an equal opportunity employer and MDOT DBE firms are encouraged to participate as a subcontractor. The participating DBE firm, as currently certified by MDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity, shall be listed in the Proposal.

### MDOT AND ORBP FORMS REQUIRED AS PART OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

- 5100D – Request for Proposal Cover Sheet
- 5100G – Certification of Key Personnel
- 5100I – Conflict of Interest Statement
- ORBP Research Proposal Budget Form Worksheet
- ORBP Schedule of Research Activities Form
- ORBP Deliverables Table
- ORBP Implementation Project Recommendation Form

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH & BEST PRACTICES  
MDOT RESEARCH PROGRAM  
2010 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

**PROBLEM TITLE**

Transportation Patterns of Older Drivers in Rural Michigan

ORBP NO.  
OR10-037

STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO.

CRITICAL ISSUE CODE

MDOT PROJECT CATEGORY

**PROBLEM TO ADDRESS**

**BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED AND WHY IT IS AN ISSUE FOR MDOT**

Older drivers (those 65 and older) have been shown to be especially susceptible to injury in crashes, and are more likely to be involved in a crash per million vehicle miles driven. Research has shown that drivers adjust driving patterns in order to address the issues as they age, however in rural areas both Nationally and in Michigan, alternative transportation options are limited. Some areas of Michigan have no alternatives available for citizens who do not drive to get to medical appointments, social gatherings, religious services.

**RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND TASKS**

**LIST THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

1. Survey older drivers, those age 65 and above, to determine their driving patterns, awareness of alternative options available, purpose of trips in the following counties: Iron, Marquette, Hillsdale, Mason, Huron, and Alpena and the regionalized services they provide.
2. Survey older adults to determine the awareness of existing services, do they use them, why or why not, both positive and negative in the counties listed in task #1.
3. Determine all available services for alternatives to driving, and all older drivers training available in the counties listed in task #1.
4. What services would adults age 65 and older use/like for alternative transportation if they were no longer able to drive?
5. Identify the cultural and psychological issues associated with older transportation user preferences regarding mass transit systems.

**LIST THE MAJOR TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH THE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

**ESTIMATED PERSON HOURS**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Literature review  | 150 |
| 2. Review and evaluate 2010 Census data for demographics for the selected areas of Michigan. Current population, population trends, aging population projection.  | 150 |
| 3. Survey older adult drivers & non drivers to find out what their transportation patterns are currently, what services, if any, they are aware of in their community, what alternative transportation services they would embrace and accept. Identify cultural and psychological issues associated with mass transit systems. | 700 |
| 4. Compile the transportation services available in the selected areas of Michigan.   | 200 |
| 5. Prepare final report.  | 100 |

**ESTIMATED COST AND TIMELINE**

ESTIMATE THE COST OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY (Please provide a cost range [min. and max.] associated with the person hours by task above)  
Tier II (\$100,000 - \$250,000)

PROVIDE A PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT (At minimum, the expected duration of the project)  
10/1/2011 to 9/30/2012

REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE (At minimum, the date by which results are needed to be applicable)  
9/30/2012

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

(For each FY, list suggested minimum and maximum budgets as targets. Indirect Cost Rate is for ORBP use only.)

TOTAL BUDGET (BY FY)	FY1	FY2	FY3	FY4	INDIRECT COST RATE
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**DELIVERABLES**

WHAT DELIVERABLES SHOULD BE RECEIVED AT THE END OF THIS PROJECT? (e.g., usable technical product, design method, techniques, training, workshops, report, manual of practice, policy, procedure, specification, standard, software, hardware, equipment, training tools, etc.)  
Report on the assessment of current travel patterns of older adults, current alternatives to driving in the selected counties, and an initial recommendation on how current services could be altered to be more attractive to seniors while addressing cultural and psychological issues identified in the study.

MDOT INVOLVEMENT (What will MDOT provide for this project and when)  
Coordination with other stakeholders, list of transit providers and contacts in the selected counties.

**URGENCY, PAYOFF POTENTIAL AND IMPLEMENTATION**

HOW URGENT IS THIS RESEARCH? IS IT IMPORTANT THAT IT BE DONE SOON? IF SO, WHY?

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DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AT MDOT

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DESCRIBE HOW MDOT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT AND WHO THE BENEFICIARIES WILL BE. INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF HOW MDOT DIVISIONS, OTHER THAN THAT OF THE PROBLEM SUBMITTER, WILL BENEFIT AND HOW.

MDOT will benefit as the major transportation source for Michigan citizens. Current systems are not able to accommodate an increase in persons who no longer drive. This could let us know where the services for the most vulnerable citizens are located, or do not exist, and what the citizens would prefer to utilize to get around. This project could provide information that the passenger transportation area will be able to utilize to set investment priorities for funding projects in rural areas. It would also be very helpful to the local transit agencies as they determine how to provide the most needed service with limited funds.

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**POTENTIAL OBSTACLES**

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WHAT RISKS OR OBSTACLES MAY MAKE CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT DIFFICULT? WHAT STRATEGIES WILL YOU USE TO OVERCOME THEM?

The risk of such a project is that the state currently does not have any funds to provide to the local agencies to enhance their current service levels - so compiling a report of what additional services are needed may create negative feedback for the state. The strategy to overcome this would be to market the report as a tool to assist the locals in prioritizing the use of their current, (limited) funding, and to give stakeholders data that can be used when seeking funding increases both locally and at the state and national levels. Also promote as a starting point, and if this report provides valuable information, the project can be expanded to compile this information for the entire state.

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**POSSIBLE INVESTIGATOR(S)**

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DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS IN AN INVESTIGATOR

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