Public Involvement Opportunities

**What?** The state’s current long-range transportation plan, the *MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward* (MITP) 2005-2030, is being revised. The plan inputs, forecasts, and strategies will be evaluated against current trends and the horizon year will be extended to 2035.

**Why?** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is making this revision to maintain the 20-year planning horizon required by federal transportation planning regulations found at 23 CFR 450 Subpart B. Since reauthorization of the federal highway program could change the requirements and since such legislation is still pending in Congress, this revision is an interim step to keep the plan current and will follow a more streamlined approach than a more complete update. A full update will be scheduled at a future time in response to any new requirements that may result from reauthorization of the federal highway program.

**How?** The MITP’s vision is a transportation system that is purposeful, prioritized, coordinated, safe, advanced, integrated, and appropriate to the setting. Since the MITP was adopted, MDOT has been monitoring achievements through performance measurement and public input as an ongoing planning activity. In August 2011, MDOT conducted its second Attitudes & Perceptions of Transportation in Michigan survey as a follow up to the MITP. The vast majority (94 percent) of respondents continue to feel the vision is important to the future of transportation in Michigan. In October 2011, Governor Rick Snyder presented his infrastructure message, highlighting Michigan's critical needs and calling for the revitalization of Michigan's deteriorating infrastructure. The governor's message focuses on four primary needs, two directly related to transportation:

- A modern transportation system that moves people and goods efficiently, reliably and safely.
- A multimodal system serving the movements of a new generation of Michiganders that is more active, urban-based and tech savvy.

The message is consistent with the MITP vision, goals, and public attitudes and perceptions.

This revision will be developed by providing updates in the form of white papers to our existing technical reports as needed, inclusion of new plans since MITP adoption, and reaffirming strategies. At the same time, the MITP’s trends and demographic data will be revised to extend the plan’s horizon to 2035, providing the minimum 20-year horizon required by federal regulation.

**When?** The development of this revision will include opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement. Consultations with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, tribal governments, non-metropolitan local officials, resource agencies and statewide public meetings also will take place. These will be scheduled in the spring and summer of 2012 (see timeline on next page). The final draft of this revision is scheduled for approval by the State Transportation Commission in September 2012.
Products: 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision document, white papers, updates to the MDOT Web site, and links to facilitate public comment during the transportation planning process.

When and how do you provide input?

Technical Report White Papers

MDOT will be seeking early and continuous involvement. The department will prepare white papers to evaluate and reaffirm current assumptions and address any changes in plan inputs, forecasts and strategies contained in the existing plan. As these white papers are developed they will be made available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/slrp. Questions and concerns raised by the public will be reviewed and addressed to establish a visible, continuous feedback loop for incorporating input into the draft 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision document.

This is the same process used to develop the current state long-range plan. Comments will be welcomed throughout the revision process via the Web site, e-mail, U.S. mail, telephone and fax. MDOT will provide responses as appropriate through written and oral communications.
Draft 2035 MI Transportation Plan Revision Document

MDOT will seek comments on the draft 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision document through written comments and at six public meetings to be held throughout the state during this 30-day public review and comment period. The public will receive notice 15 calendar days prior to each public meeting. Notification for each public meeting time and location will be made by news releases posted to the MDOT listserv, public Web site, and Facebook and Twitter sites and distributed via e-mail and U.S. mail. The department will continuously develop and update a comprehensive contact mailing list.

MDOT will also post the draft 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision document and all final technical report white papers to the Web at www.michigan.gov/slrp and make hard copies available upon request. Additionally, copies of the draft plan will be available for public review at each of MDOT’s seven region offices and all Transportation Service Centers. The comment period will remain open for a period of 30 days from announcement of the draft document availability. Comments will be received through the Web site, e-mail, U.S. mail, telephone and fax. Comments received will be considered for developing the final 2035 MI Transportation Plan.

2035 MI Transportation Plan Adoption

Following a 30-day public review and comment period for the draft document, MDOT will review and consider all comments received and will provide responses as appropriate. The final 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision document will be presented for adoption at the State Transportation Commission in September, a public meeting.

The MDOT Web site will enable users to access the revision products and provide comments electronically 24/7. MDOT will use its comprehensive mailing database, e-mail and other resources to notify the public of specific comment opportunities throughout development of the plan, including such milestones as the launch, reassessment of the current document, white paper review, draft document review and final document approval. This low-cost notification method will allow for a wide range of citizens to play an active role in the planning process. Targeted outreach methods will be used to ensure underserved populations statewide have an opportunity to provide comments on the 2035 MI Transportation Plan revision products. A special effort will be made to distribute notifications to community leaders who represent traditionally underserved populations throughout the state.

To obtain additional information about specific opportunities to provide comments or to view the existing MI Transportation Plan, including existing plan documents, and updates as they become available, please visit the State Long-Range Transportation Plan Web site at: www.michigan.gov/slrp, or contact Susan Gorski, MDOT project manager, at 517-335-2958 or gorskis@michigan.gov.