

## **Michigan Department of Transportation**

### **State Rail Plan – Request for Proposal**

#### **Questions and Answers**

**Question 1.** The State Rail Plan is classified as a Tier III contract and MDOT guidance indicates there is a 19 page limit for Tier III proposals. Does this limit apply?

**Answer 1.** No, the 19 page limit does not apply to State Rail Plan proposals.

**Question 2.** Should the proposal be presented in single- or double-sided pages?

**Answer 2.** Proposals may be submitted in either format.

**Question 3.** Are there previous statewide rail plans and are they available?

**Answer 3.** MDOT prepared a State Rail Plan in the mid-1970s, along with several project-specific amendments/addenda during the 1980s. These documents are not readily available from MDOT, although the State of Michigan Library does have a set. Given the age and nature of those documents, they may not be useful in the preparation of a current proposal.

**Question 4.** Does MDOT have an established statewide group of shippers, railroads, etc. or will such a group need to be formed?

**Answer 4.** MDOT does not currently have such a group, but works closely with the Michigan Railroads Association and individual carriers and shippers as necessary. As stated in the RFP, these parties and others need to be involved in preparation of the State Rail Plan, although an established, formal group is not required.

**Question 5.** Does MDOT track or coordinate plans to convert abandoned rail corridors into trails or other uses?

**Answer 5.** MDOT has the first right of refusal to acquire rail corridors that are to be abandoned, but is not responsible for tracking or coordinating all such transactions. In some recent examples, local governments or agencies have negotiated directly with railroads for future use of such corridors. MDOT is involved in non-motorized transportation and is developing a series of regional plans.