

Foreword

The purposes of this manual are:

- To define the policies and procedures for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) Office of Research and Best Practices' (ORBP's) research program and its various functions;
- To ensure that all research is conducted, managed, documented and implemented in conformance with the legal requirements and policies of ORBP, MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);
- To ensure that the program and projects generated by ORBP are provided for the benefit of MDOT, its employees, other transportation agencies and transportation system users; and
- To guide research administrators, managers and investigators in the successful and efficient initiation, conduct and implementation of the research work program.

This manual is intended for MDOT employees and for individuals and agencies conducting contract research. The first chapter explains the purpose of the manual and provides important information on its scope, distribution and use. The remainder of the manual describes the organizational structure of research administration and the strategic framework, management and implementation of research studies.

The Research and Implementation Manual will give guidance to cooperatively achieve the strategic development of MDOT's problem statements. The problem statements will expertly frame research to achieve targeted, implementable results. This will lay the foundation for MDOT to reach the goals and vision described in the "MI Transportation Plan, Moving Michigan Forward." We will continue to develop and refine MDOT's research programs to maximize our resources while considering every research project as an investment opportunity.