

Appendix E

News Releases

MDOT to move forward with plans for a reduced 2011-2014 road and bridge program

Contact: Bill Shreck, Director, MDOT Office of Communications, 517-335-3084

Agency: Transportation

April 29, 2010 -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) said today that the state is moving forward with plans to implement a reduced 2011-2014 road and bridge program. At the State Transportation Commission's April 29 meeting, MDOT said it was working with state and local transportation agencies to advance a reduced State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Due to declining state gas tax and vehicle registration revenues, MDOT is faced with a shortfall of at least \$84 million to match available federal funding beginning in 2011. MDOT first announced the possibility of a reduced program in February.

Under the reduced highway program, MDOT will have to delay 100 pavement improvement projects, leaving more than 375 miles of road in need of repair untouched. More than 575 bridge repair projects will be delayed. Capacity Improvement/New Roads funding will be reduced to \$10 million a year. In Ottawa County, portions of the Holland to Grand Haven bypass will be delayed, including work along M-231, I-96 and US-31. Reduced safety funding will significantly impact the replacement of traffic signs and the replacement and retiming of traffic signals.

Commissioners were told that MDOT is submitting two programs to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in order to keep potential projects moving through the federal approval process in time for the 2011 construction season in case matching funds become available. One would be a program reduced by approximately \$600 million per year, while the other would be a \$1.25 billion program that would include the ability to match federal aid. Because its funding crisis remains unsolved, the department needs to begin program development in May to accommodate the six months required to complete the federal planning process and advertise and let projects for bid. MDOT says there will be delays in restoring the full program if the Legislature acts after May 1 to approve a revenue increase for transportation.

"We are required by federal law to balance our program to the funds available, but we continue to look for ways to minimize the impact that a reduced program would have on Michigan residents, job creation and Michigan's economy," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "We continue to seek creative solutions but we face the reality of having to cut \$600 million annually, beginning in 2011, and seeing the revenue from federal fuel taxes paid by Michigan taxpayers going to Ohio and other states that are able to match federal funds."

Even if the department receives the \$84 million it needs to match federal aid for the 2011 program, the state will face substantial decline in its road and bridge conditions and rail freight, passenger transportation and aviation programs. According to a Transportation Funding Task Force report in November 2008, Michigan needs to at least double its current investment in transportation to provide an adequate level of service, let alone an improved one.

MDOT says: Construction work zones need your undivided attention.

Appendix E (cont.)

MDOT asks rural communities to comment on draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Contact: Bill Shreck, MDOT Director of Communications, 517-335-3084

Agency: Transportation

June 23, 2010 -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is holding a series of 10 meetings to encourage public comment on future road and bridge projects in rural areas of Michigan. MDOT has scheduled meetings from Escanaba to Adrian from July 13 to July 22 regarding MDOT's reduced draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The meetings will provide residents of rural communities with an opportunity to discuss a preliminary list of projects for the 2011-2014 fiscal years with local MDOT planners and engineers. A list of the projects is available online at www.michigan.gov/stip.

MDOT is working with state and local transportation agencies to advance a reduced STIP. Faced with a shortfall in state gas tax and vehicle registration revenues used to match available federal funding in 2011, MDOT is submitting two programs for review. MDOT is currently proposing a constrained \$600 million-a-year program. Should \$84 million in state revenues become available to match federal aid, this program would expand to a \$1.25 billion per year. MDOT has released a list of reduced programs and a list of additional projects that the state will pursue if funding becomes available. Both lists have been posted to the STIP page on the MDOT Web site.

"The transportation funding crisis affects every area of the state in communities large and small. This particular series of meetings is designed to ensure that the voices of citizens in non-metropolitan areas are heard, so we encourage interested residents to participate," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle.

The meeting dates and locations are as follows. All meetings are from 4-7 p.m.

Kincheloe - July 13

Kinross Township Hall, 4884 W. Curtis St.

Assistance by: Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning Commission

Traverse City - July 13

NWCOG Conference Room, Michigan Works Office, 1209 S. Garfield Ave.

Assistance by: Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

Kalamazoo - July 13

MDOT Region Conference Room, 1501 E. Kilgore Road

Assistance by: Southwestern Michigan Commission

Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

Saginaw - July 14

MDOT Bay Region Office Conference Room, 55 E. Morley Dr.

Assistance by: East Central Michigan Planning and Development Regional Commission;

GLS Region V Planning and Development Commission

Escanaba - July 14

Room 961, Heirman Center, Bay College

Assistance by: Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission

Gaylord - July 14

MDOT North Region Conference Room, 1088 M-32 East
Assistance by: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

Greenville - July 15

M-Tech Center, 1325 Yellow Jacket Dr.
Assistance by: West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission;
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

Bruce Crossing - July 15

Tulppo's Restaurant, 14967 State Highway M-28
Assistance by: Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission

Adrian - July 20

Adrian City Commission Chambers, 159 E. Maumee St.
Assistance by: Region 2 Planning Commission

Corunna - July 22

Conference Room, Shiawassee County Road Commission, 701 W. Corunna Ave.
Assistance by: GLS Region V Planning and Development Commission

For more information about these meetings and to request accommodations, call Bob Parsons at 517-373-9534. With advance notice of seven days, MDOT can make most of the materials for this hearing available in alternative formats such as large print or audiotape, and can make accommodations for sign language interpretation and/or assisted listening devices.

MDOT says: Construction work zones need your undivided attention.

http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9620_11057-239228--,00.html