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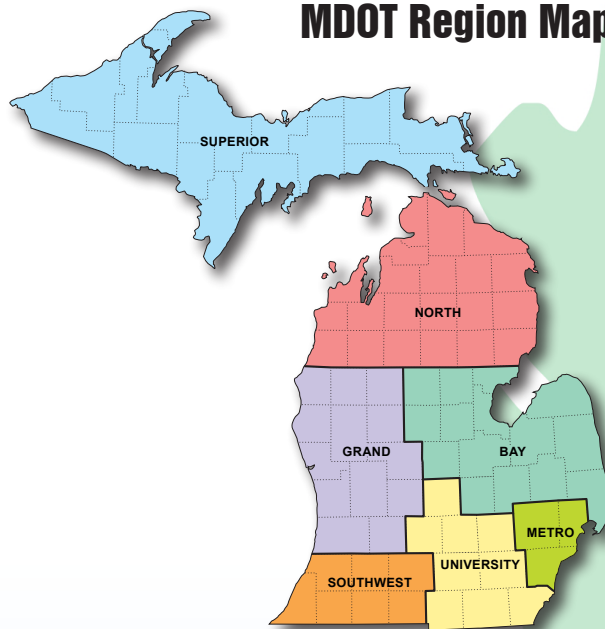
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MDOT Region Map



For more information on Adopt-A-Highway, contact the MDOT region office that serves your county.



Serving and connecting people, communities and the economy through transportation

This brochure is also available online at www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway.

If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA.

Prepared by: GRAPHICS\BUREAU\STATEWIDE SERVICES\MAINTENANCE\
Adopt A Highway\Brochures\Safety Rules\2026 Updated 1/26 CJ

Safety Rules

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



MDOT

Updated 2026



Welcome to the Clean Team!

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased you've joined the Adopt-A-Highway team. Together, we'll keep our roadsides clean and attractive.

It's a big job and we want the experience to be as safe as possible. Please read these safety rules carefully before each pickup.

Volunteers must not:

- Use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during a cleanup
- Pick up trash on bridges or overpasses
- Pick up trash on a median
- Pick up what appears to be hazardous material (notify your local Adopt-A-Highway coordinator if you encounter hazardous objects or holes, guy wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground)
- Attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries can result from broken or jagged objects)

In case of emergency:

- Be prepared for serious injury. Every crew should have an adequate first-aid kit
- Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route to it from the work area
- Every crew member should have transportation immediately accessible
- Carry a cell phone

All volunteers must:

- View the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway safety video prior to participation in a cleanup (the video is available from your Adopt-A-Highway supply locations or online at www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway)
- Wear an MDOT-provided Adopt-A-Highway safety vest
- Park all vehicles clear of the roadway and on the same side of the road where volunteers are working
- Be 12 years of age or older to participate in a cleanup
- Furnish adequate supervision by one or more adults 21 years of age or older for groups that have participants 12-17 years of age
- Pick up litter only during daylight hours
- Not pick up trash on the road surface and shall stay off the road at least 5 feet from the pavement edge
- Obey all safety rules and guidelines
- Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to each cleanup and go over Safety Rules and Guidelines for Volunteers and Safety Procedures for litter pickup
- Be in good health with good sight and hearing

For your safety:

- Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs
- Wear leather shoes or boots, a hat and safety glasses
- Wear clothing that will not divert attention of motorists during cleanup activities
- Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during cleanup activities
- Work in small groups
- Face oncoming traffic when picking up litter and look up often to ensure that no vehicle is encroaching your work area
- Do not work in construction zones
- Stop working in bad weather, especially when there is poor visibility and wet or icy roads
- During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids - take breaks and avoid overexertion; sunscreen is recommended
- During cold weather months, dress warmly with layered clothing
- Stay off loose stones and steep slopes
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, ticks and poisonous plants
- Do not remove hazardous substances or dead animals (notify your local Adopt-A-Highway coordinator and tell him/her the location of the item)
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles
- Use proper lifting and bending techniques
- It is unlawful to use emergency crossovers; instead, drive to an exit to turn vehicles around
- Place bags near the shoulder, not on the shoulder