

# Asset Management Facts (A.M. Facts)

## Understanding the new Traffic Monitoring Guide

United States *Code of Federal Regulations* title 23, 420.105(b) defines the congressional and public reporting requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Much of the traffic data collected by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) support these federal requirements.

FHWA issued a new Traffic Monitoring Guide (TMG) in September 2013. As noted in its Executive Summary, the focus is, *“to provide the most up-to-date guidance to State highway agencies in the policies, standards, procedures, and equipment typically used in a traffic monitoring program ... Help improve and advance current programs with a view towards the future of traffic monitoring and with consideration for recent transportation legislation resulting from the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).”* The new TMG continues to stress the importance of a traffic monitoring program that supports all business areas. This includes the need to assess current and past performance and predict future performance.

MDOT has been collecting and reporting traffic data since 1953. In 2013, MDOT’s Data Collection Section of the Asset Management Division collected more than 3,200 traffic counts (1,000 of which were on local roads); conducted more than 1,500 special studies (such as intersection turning movements, Welcome Center usage, bike lane usage, park and ride condition and count, airport takeoffs/landings, gap, delay, and pedestrian studies); maintained monitoring equipment that reports traffic and visitors at MDOT’s 14 Welcome Centers; provided data on volume, class and truck weights to FHWA on a monthly basis; and assisted with the implementation of the Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide by providing truck weight data.

The Data Collection Section continues to modernize and streamline data collection and quality assurance/quality control procedures. The section also is assessing the impacts of the new TMG, including nonmotorized data and the development of equipment and techniques for its collection and reporting. It is reviewing new TMG recommendations on how states should approach and assess their traffic data collection programs and the new requirements for performance-monitoring based on MAP-21 legislation.

These processes are part of the continuing MDOT effort to collect accurate data and provide this information to the public in order to improve customer satisfaction.

A.M. Facts was developed by the Asset Management Division of the Bureau of Transportation Planning to provide an overview of the many processes and projects the Asset Management Division is responsible for and oversees for MDOT.