



Public Involvement Plan

Introduction

Michigan's 2035 MI Transportation Plan (MITP), the State Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRP), is being reaffirmed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Approved by the State Transportation Commission (STC), this policy document identifies overarching goals and objectives for Michigan's transportation program and sets the priority by which prospective projects are approved. The SLRP lays out the state's long-term vision, strategic direction, and priorities for transportation over the next 25 years. These priorities are translated into projects and planned out for the near-term in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). All projects listed in the STIP contribute to achieving one or more of the objectives stated in the SLRP.

The MITP reaffirmation process will determine if the assumptions, data, and strategies contained in the current 2035 MITP are still accurate for extending its 25-year planning horizon to 2040. This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) highlights the important role the public plays in the long-range planning process and indicates the specific opportunities and methods during development for getting involved in the process.

About the Public Involvement Process

It is important that everyone who wishes to has a voice in reaffirming the long-term strategies and vision that is the foundation of the MITP. The quality of life and economic vitality of Michigan is linked to a robust transportation system. With broad and diverse public input, it is important to establish a defined and integrated **vision** of Michigan's transportation system. The current plan has established a preferred vision for the transportation system that is:

- Purposeful, prioritized, coordinated, safe, advanced, integrated, and appropriate to the setting.
- Accomplished by monitoring transportation achievements through:
 - Performance Measures and Public Input.
- Aligned with [MDOT's Vision Statement](#) of being an agency that is progressive and innovative, and one that inspires public confidence.

This PIP documents how the public can be involved at key decision points in the reaffirmation of the MITP. Through targeted webinars, regional planning agency outreach, white paper reviews, public meetings, Web updates, and 24/7 online comment forms, everyone wishing to engage in the process will have ample opportunity to play a role.

Reaffirming the Plan

Federal transportation regulations 23 CFR 450 Subpart B requires that a state transportation long-range plan maintain a minimum 20-year planning horizon. The existing 2035 MITP was adopted by the STC in September 2012. The most recent federal transportation funding bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), was enacted in July 2012. As the rulemaking from MAP-21 pertaining to state long-range plans is incomplete, MDOT has opted to reaffirm the existing 2035 MITP. MDOT will complete a full update after final rules are published.

Reaffirmation of the plan will include the following:

- Review the current plan and reevaluate assumptions.
- Adjust plan if necessary to meet federal requirements.
- Extend the current plan by five years, projecting it out to 2040.
 - Extending the plan will maintain a 20-year planning horizon and align with Metropolitan Planning Organization's long-range plans.
- The 2040 MITP will maintain principles of the original plan while becoming updated to reflect Michigan's transportation system of today and the future.
- Establishment of early and continuous public involvement opportunities that provide timely information about transportation issues and decision-making processes to citizens, affected public agencies, and key stakeholder groups.
- Use of visualization techniques to describe the proposed plan and supporting studies.
- Use of electronic media to make information accessible to the public.

Public Involvement

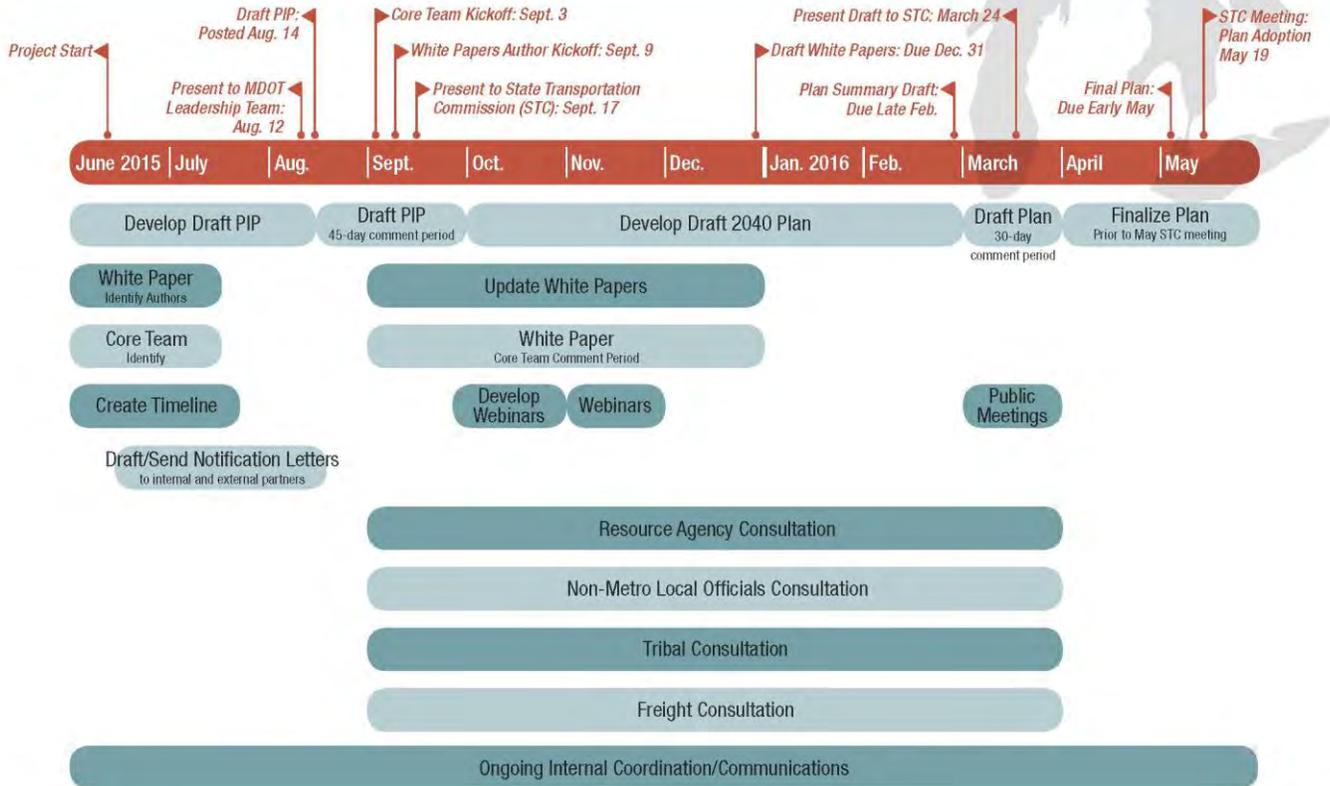
A number of tools and mechanisms will be used for the primary purposes of making partners and the public aware of the plan update, obtaining input on topics and issues, and obtaining feedback on the draft plans. All public involvement pertaining to the MITP reaffirmation will be in accordance with federal regulations found in 23 CFR 450.210.

- All notices will be made at least 15 days prior to the scheduled event.
- MDOT will use its public website, GovDelivery e-mailing lists, and Facebook and Twitter accounts for notification.
- The project team will pay special attention to identifying and involving the underserved, minority, and low-income population by: 1) holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times; 2) making materials available in alternative formats and languages upon request; and 3) providing translators where there is an identified need.
- All comments can be submitted 24/7 during designated comment periods to Bob Parsons via e-mail, U.S. mail, or MDOT's Facebook and Twitter accounts. (See contact information section.)

Timeline and Milestones

2040 Michigan Transportation Plan (MITP) Project Schedule
 May 2016 Adoption

Moving Michigan Forward
 2040 State Long-Range Transportation Plan



Public Involvement Milestones		
Milestone	Timeframe	How to Comment
Public Involvement Plan (PIP)	Aug. 14, 2015, through Sept. 30, 2015	U.S. mail, e-mail, and MDOT Twitter and Facebook accounts.
White Papers	Posted as completed from October 2015 to February 2016	U.S. mail, e-mail, and MDOT Twitter and Facebook accounts.
Public Webinars	November 2015 (Times and dates are to be determined.)	May comment during live webinar session. All webinars will be recorded and posted to the SLRP webpage. Comments on those recordings can be made using U.S. mail, e-mail, and MDOT Twitter and Facebook Accounts.
Public Meetings	March 2016 (Times and dates are to be determined.)	Attendees may provide comment at public meetings.
Draft Plan 30-Day Comment Period	March 1, 2016, through March 30, 2016	U.S. mail, e-mail, and MDOT Twitter and Facebook accounts.
Plan Adoption State Transportation Commission	May 2016	U.S. mail, e-mail, and MDOT Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Webinars

The purpose of webinars is to provide the public and stakeholders an overview of the existing plan. Additionally, MDOT will discuss proposed steps to be undertaken during this reaffirmation. Webinars will:

- Be tailored to specific audiences, such as resource agencies, stakeholder groups, Native American tribal governments, and the general public.
- Provide general information about the MITP and highlights from the various white papers.
- Allow the public to provide input through two-way connections with all participants.
- Will be held during November 2015. Weeks to be determined.
- Include notifications at least 15 days prior to the scheduled events distributed through statewide media news releases, e-mails, resource agencies, regional planning agencies, and MDOT social media efforts.
- Online registration will be provided on the MITP website at www.michigan.gov/slrp.
- A link to the webinars will be provided on the MITP website at www.michigan.gov/slrp.



Draft MITP and White Papers

The draft MITP and its accompanying white papers will be available for a 30-day public comment period. Draft MITP and white papers will be:

- Posted online at www.michigan.gov/slrp.
- Available in printed form upon request or for viewing at MDOT region offices or Transportation Service Centers.
- Available for a 30-day comment period, March 1, 2016, through March 30, 2016.

All comments will be acknowledged, logged, considered by the team, and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.

Public Meetings

A completed draft of the 2040 MITP will be presented in six public meetings held throughout the state. Public meetings will be:

- Conducted during the 30-day MITP comment period, March 1, 2016, through March 30, 2016.
- Open house-style events followed by a formal presentation of the proposed transportation plan.
- Announced at least 15 days prior to the meeting via the SLRP webpage, statewide media news releases, e-mails, resource agencies, and MDOT Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Located at strategic sites throughout Michigan that will promote a diverse audience.
- For those who cannot attend public meetings, the presentation will be posted to the SLRP website (www.michigan.gov/slrp).

The final plan is scheduled for approval by the [STC](#) in spring 2016 at a public meeting where comments will be welcomed.

Contact Information

Mailing Address	E-mail Address
Bob Parsons	parsonsb@michigan.gov
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Response to Comments on the Public Review of Draft Involvement Plan

The public and stakeholders had an opportunity to voice their opinion through the public engagement process by providing comments on the PIP. The 45-day PIP comment period was provided from Aug. 14, 2015, through Sept. 30, 2015. During this comment period, only two comments were received (Appendix A): one inquiring about the reaffirmation versus a full update, while the other cited a perceived lack of coverage of ferry systems in the 2035 plan

The comments received did not result in any changes to the PIP.



Appendix A: Comments on Draft Public Involvement Plan



Bocks, Josh (MDOT)

From: Bocks, Josh (MDOT)
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 2:06 PM
To: 'rmurphy@mml.org'
Cc: Schultz, James (MDOT)
Subject: 2040 State Long-Range Plan
Mr. Murphy,

I have received your email question regarding the state long-range plan. As the project manager I will do my best to explain the rationale behind the decision to reaffirm. However, if you would like further discussion please do not hesitate to give me a call at 517.241.3874.

The MITP is a corridor-based policy plan, whose strategies and actions are general (as opposed to projectspecific or region-specific) and can remain relevant over time. This holds true even if unanticipated changes occur or if the planning horizon changes. The strategies and actions outlined in the plan closely follow the strategic goals and standards set forth by MDOT at all levels, including the four goal areas developed as part of the 2030 MITP and retained in the 2035 MITP. The MITP is also recognized as a performance-based plan as it includes 19 core performance measures and seven subordinate measures. The 2035 MITP is highlighted as a case study in the Federal Highway Administration publication: [Model Long Range Transportation Plans: A Guide for Incorporating Performance-Based Planning, August 2014](#).

The decision to reaffirm the existing plan instead of a full plan update is based on the delay in federal rule making. The most recent transportation authorization bill, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), was enacted in July 2012. Rulemaking is currently in the proposed stage, with several rules still not published. *The Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning*; proposed rule has been published; however, it has yet to be finalized. It is important to note that there are two categories of changes under MAP-21 requirements for planning. The first category are those changes that are unrelated to performance management and the second category are the changes that are performance management related. Unrelated to performance management is the new emphasis on nonmetropolitan transportation planning. In the proposed rule, this requirement would become effective two years after the final rule is published, where the performance management changes effective dates will be determined after each are finalized.

While Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to update their plans every four to five years, no such requirement exists for the Statewide Transportation Plan or for rural plans. Although not required, MDOT should maintain concurrency with the MPOs to incorporate and address any significant changes from the last iteration of the MITP, and to address recent changes from a statewide perspective.



While MDOT is not required to update the Statewide Transportation Plan on a set schedule, a plan amendment would be developed to maintain consistency with metropolitan planning processes and maintain the required 20-year planning horizon.

The reaffirmation of the 2035 MITP to extend the planning horizon to 2040 will require technical review, consultation, and public involvement phases. The technical review phase evaluates assumptions, inputs, and strategies from the plan. A consultation phase will take place with tribal governments, regulatory and resource agencies, and non-metropolitan local officials. Lastly, a public involvement process will be carried out in compliance with state and federal requirements. These three phases will result in an accurate and appropriate update of the MITP and its associated technical/white pages.

In short, though the rules are anticipated to be finalized by year end, we have decided that a reaffirmation is the best approach. FHWA has concurred that it is an acceptable approach as well. The final rule making timeline has been extended previously and we are in a situation where we felt that we simply couldn't wait any longer. Additionally, once final rules are in place, State DOT's will still have a 2 year window to complete long-range plans using the old rules. Thus, even if the rules are finalized while we are in the middle of our reaffirmation, as the current timeline indicates, we will still be in compliance. Furthermore, the plan is that a full update will be undertaken prior to 2020. This will again allow us to maintain the 20 year planning horizon.

Josh A. Bocks

Bureau of Transportation Planning
Michigan Department of Transportation
517.241.3874

From: Richard Murphy
[\[mailto:rmurphy@mml.org\]](mailto:rmurphy@mml.org) **Sent:** Friday,
August 28, 2015 12:20 PM

To: Schultz, James (MDOT)
<SchultzJ3@michigan.gov> **Subject:** State LRP
update question?

Jim –

I had a question while looking at the Draft PIP for MDOT's 2040 LRP update – maybe you're the right person to talk to, or could point me to someone else?



Specifically, this statement in the draft PIP –

“As the rulemaking from MAP-21 pertaining to state longrange plans is incomplete, MDOT has opted to reaffirm the existing 2035 MITP. MDOT will complete a full update after final rules are published.”

It looks like FHWA anticipates publishing those rules by the end of this calendar year (before the end of the SLRP affirm/extend process?) -- who could speak to which portions of the plan MDOT is planning to update now vs. in a “full update”, and when that full update process would be expected?

Thanks,

Murph.

Richard Murphy
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www.mml.org



Bocks, Josh (MDOT)

From: Bocks, Josh (MDOT)
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Haller, Kyle (MDOT); Parsons, Bob (MDOT)
Cc: Ryan, Tim (MDOT); Gorski, Susan (MDOT)
Subject: SLRP Public Comment
Team,

I received a call from a lady at the Beaver Island Transportation Authority. She received our letter seeking comment on the PIP. She is going to email Bob Parsons a formal comment. Her primary interest is not really in the PIP but rather she reviewed the 2035 plan and feels that it lacks coverage of the Ferry Systems. Bob, please be expecting this email. Let's all be brainstorming how we can touch more on the Ferry System in this reaffirmation. Thanks.

Josh A. Bocks

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