



Stakeholder and Non-Metropolitan Local Officials Consultation Activity Summary

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) sought the involvement of stakeholders, non-metropolitan local officials, resource agencies and tribal governments for the *2035 MI Transportation Plan (2035 MITP)*. This summary discusses the nature of the outreach and information gathered through the consultations held with stakeholders and non-metropolitan local officials. Separate reports are available describing the Government-to-Governments Consultation with Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes and state and federal resource agencies.

The *2035 MITP* is a revision to the State Long-Range Transportation Plan, *MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward (2030 MITP)* adopted June 2007. MDOT employed outreach techniques that both communicated the revision process and product information and gathered stakeholder input by consulting with numerous state, regional, and local agencies. MDOT also reached out to thousands of citizens and numerous stakeholder interest groups representing the diverse needs and concerns of Michigan's residents and businesses. Through biennial household surveys, letter notification, Web site, e-mail, Webinars and online surveys, MDOT gathered input from its many customers on issues of statewide importance. These contributions reaffirmed the vision, goals, objectives, strategies; focus on Corridors of Highest Significance, and decision principles guiding program development established for the *2030 MITP*.

MDOT's Non-Metropolitan Local Officials Consultation Process

United States Department of Transportation 23 CFR Part 450.206(c) states "In carrying out statewide transportation planning, the State shall consider, with respect to non-metropolitan areas, the concerns of local elected officials representing units of general purpose government." Under this rule, the consultation process for local elected officials must be "separate and discrete" from the federally mandated public involvement process (see 23 CFR Part 450.212 Public Involvement).

The term "**non-metropolitan local official**" is defined as "the elected and appointed officials of general purpose local government, in non-metropolitan areas, with jurisdiction/responsibility for transportation." This may include counties, cities, towns, townships, and villages. The non-metropolitan planning process, or Rural Task Force as it is known in Michigan, was developed by representatives of MDOT, the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM), the Michigan Municipal League (MML), and the Michigan Transit Association (MTA). This process was developed to ensure that all transportation modes were represented and that the highest and best needs of each county were determined by the people closest to the transportation system.

MDOT's Stakeholder Consultation Process

Key concepts concerning effective stakeholder engagement are described in the Michigan Department of Transportation [Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement](#), January 2009.



A stakeholder is a person, group, or entity that has an investment, share, or interest in state-long range transportation planning, including non-metro local officials, regional planning agencies, Councils of Government, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Chambers of Commerce, social services agencies, environmental groups, business owners, freight-related stakeholders, road-building/pavement groups, transit organizations, airport organizations, trade unions, members of the public, mobility advocates, bicyclists, and others.

Outreach

To solicit input from stakeholders and non-metropolitan local officials at the beginning of the planning effort notification letters were sent out during the week of March 19, 2012 to kick-off MDOT's *MI Transportation Plan* revision. Included was the draft Public Involvement Plan for their review and comment. MDOT had updated its stakeholder database developed during the 2030 MITP development with updated stakeholder information from other sources including those databases from the State Rail Plan and Complete Streets. In addition e-mail notifications were also sent to those who have signed up to receive information on MDOT activities via e-mail notice.

In June a series of Webinars and surveys were conducted to gather input for the *MI Transportation Plan* revision. This effort was designed to solicit input and primarily an opportunity for MDOT to listen to stakeholder and non-metropolitan local officials concerns and issues.

The draft plan and White Papers were made available for the final 30-day comment period based on the technical review and update and input from the consultation process. The final step communicates to stakeholders and non-metropolitan local officials the final plan and how their input influenced and shaped the final plan.

Key Themes Heard

Through the consultation process, stakeholders and non-metropolitan local officials identified three emphasis areas:

- Maintain/preserve the existing transportation system,
- Enhance multi-modal connections, and
- Better system reliability and predictability are prime issues for freight stakeholders.

Comments were also received on the topic of the need for additional funding to expand bus service (including bus rapid transit), train service, carpool services, bike paths, and infrastructure essential to safe pedestrian travel.