WARRANTIES

Ensuring quality and value for Michigan's roads and bridges.

In 1997, legislation was enacted requiring the development of warranties on state trunkline projects. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) started working on a warranty program and began using them on paving projects in 1997. At that time, each MDOT region had the responsibility of administering their warranties, which led to various monitoring methods. By 2000, MDOT had more than 500 warranties in place and recognized the need to develop uniform criteria for administering and reporting on warranties. In 2001, MDOT formed the Statewide Warranty Administration Team to develop a uniform process for administering warranties. MDOT developed the Statewide Warranty Administration Database (SWAD) as a management tool that included key elements of each warranty to track each warranty's status, upcoming inspection dates, and expiration dates, as well as generate historical statistics regarding the warranty program. The SWAD tracking program was implemented in 2003.

DOTs with the most significant pavement warranty experience.

DOT	WARRANTED PAVEMENT COMPONENTS	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Michigan	Pavement Pavement preservation Pavement markings	10+ 10+ 10+	1,000+ (Standard practice; breakdown by type not available)
Florida	Pavement Pavement marking	3 2	700+ (Standard practice) 10
Ohio	Pavement Pavement preservation Pavement marking	6 6 3	156+ 33+ 44+
Wisconsin	Pavement	15+	80+
Illinois	Pavement	5	27
California	Pavement Pavement preservation	5 4	10+ 12+
Minnesota	Pavement Pavement preservation Pavement marking	4 2 3 3 3 3	20 1 4 4 4 2
Colorado	Pavement Pavement preservation	7 9	15 1
Mississippi	Pavement Bridge deck overlays	4 3	11+ 3
Indiana	Pavement Pavement preservation	10+ 3	10 2

Source: Anderson et al., 2006

In 2011, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) released NCHRP Report 699. The table on the left is an excerpt from that report. As shown, Michigan was the leader among DOTs in the use of warranties.

Furthermore, the report states that "MDOT is the most experienced agency implementing warranty contracting, having constructed over 1,000 warranty projects since 1997." To date, MDOT has constructed more than 3,600 warranties and has been recognized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the development of a "central office clearinghouse" containing the data on the hundreds of warranties it holds.

MDOT maintains a statewide warranty alignment team consisting of representatives from each region and a representative from the central office, and continues to make upgrades to SWAD as needed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of warranty administration.

MDOT
Michigan Department of Transportation