



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

Dear Local Road Authority Partner:

## ANNUAL LOCAL GRADE CROSSING SURFACE PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Rail is now soliciting competitive applications from local road agencies who partner with railroads to improve the condition of railroad crossing surfaces within their communities. There is no cost or obligation for local road agencies to participate in this program. If selected, projects are covered by 60% state funding with a 40% railroad match.

This program is specifically for the repair or reconstruction of railroad crossing surfaces and only covers work items that are to be performed by the railroad company. By law, roadway approach repairs remain the responsibility of the road agency, and the establishing legislation specifically excludes costs for roadway approach work from crossing surface project awards.

The Local Grade Surface Program uses an online application tool to process applications in compliance with the State's requirement for collecting and certifying electronic signatures. **Applicants will be required to accept the Agreement to Electronically Sign State of Michigan Documents prior to completing the application (MDOT Form 2071).** Details and instructions are on our website at the link provided.

Guidance for the 2026 Program follows below:

- Applications may only be submitted online by local road authorities.
- **Applications must include detailed railroad estimates, proof of 40% railroad match, and updated traffic counts.**
- Eligible project costs include materials, labor and equipment for railroad work items: preliminary engineering costs and roadway approach work are not eligible.
- **Applications must be received by close of business on September 30, 2025.**
- Project selection will be in compliance with the criteria established by law.
- **Applications will be evaluated and projects should be selected/announced by late November.**

It should be noted there are significant public advantages if a proposed project includes coordinated adjacent road work. Therefore, road agencies are encouraged to seek opportunities to combine adjacent roadway surface improvement projects with any pending railroad crossing surface applications, as this project category will receive priority consideration in the 2026 Program. *It is incumbent upon railroads and road agencies to work together to ensure that applications are complete and accurate.*

This program is administered in compliance with enabling legislation, details of which can be found in Act 51, MCL 247.661(1)(d). Application materials and instructions are available online at [Michigan.gov/MDOTRail](https://Michigan.gov/MDOTRail), and a list of railroad contact information is attached for your reference. Please feel free to contact the Local Grade Crossing office directly at 517-897-2103 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristian N. Foondle, Rail Safety Manager  
Rail Safety & Administration Section

Enclosure: Railroad Crossing Contact List

# RAILROAD CROSSING CONTACT LIST

Adrian & Blissfield Railroad (ADBF)	Chris Bagwell (989) 251-7220
AMTRAK (Kalamazoo - East)	Troy Mason (312) 544-5152
AMTRAK (Kalamazoo - West)	Matt Swiontek (312) 420-6241
Ann Arbor Railroad (AA)	Steve Ayala (419) 206-8172
Canadian National (CN)	Thomas Brasseur (248) 452-4854
Conrail (CR)	Larry Henshaw (856) 231-2182
Coopersville & Marne Railway (CM)	Tom Byle (616) 293-3126
CSX Transportation (CSX)	Brad Armstrong (513) 853-1221
Delray Connecting Railroad (DC)	Joseph Campeau (313) 749-5209
Detroit Connecting Railroad (DCON)	Chris Bagwell (989) 251-7220
Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad (ELS)	Tyler Delvaux (906) 399-7972
Grand Elk Railroad (GDLK)	Joe Grupczynski (269) 365-7513
Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad (GRE)	Luke Ziesemer (989) 529-0022
Grand Trunk Western (GTW)	Thomas Brasseur (248) 452-4854
Great Lakes Central Railroad (GLC)	Mike Livermore (618) 304-4703
Hamilton Northwestern (HNW)	Mike Hnatiuk (989) 615-1037
Huron & Eastern Railway (HE)	Luke Ziesemer (989) 529-0022
Indiana Northeastern Railroad (IN)	Troy Strane (517) 278-4614
Indiana & Ohio Railway (IO)	Stephen Lowe (513) 505-0613
Jackson & Lansing Railroad (JAIL)	Chris Bagwell (989) 251-7220
Lapeer Industrial Railroad (LIRR)	Chris Bagwell (989) 251-7220
Lake State Railway (LSRC)	Mark Pennell (989) 529-6640
Lake Superior & Ishpeming (LSI)	Jason Jarvis (906) 475-5252
Marquette Rail (MQT)	Luke Ziesemer (989) 529-0022
Michigan Shore Railroad (MS)	Luke Ziesemer (989) 529-0022
Michigan Southern Railroad (MSO)	Derek Metts (904) 265-3490
Mid-Michigan Railroad (MM)	Luke Ziesemer (989) 529-0022
Mineral Range Railroad (MR)	Christopher Jones (608) 745-8009
Norfolk Southern Railway (NS)	Cherita Hunter Jones (865) 440-9845
West Michigan Railroad (WMI)	Mike Hnatiuk (989) 615-1037

**SPECIAL NOTE:** in compliance with MCL 462.309(4), any change in elevation of a grade crossing greater than 1 inch requires advance mutual agreement between the railroad and road agency. Please be sure to review all proposed work and coordinate with the railroad accordingly.