



Regional Prosperity Initiative White Paper

In 2013, Gov. Rick Snyder announced a new [Regional Prosperity Initiative](#) (RPI). The RPI establishes a common set of geographic boundaries to be used by all state agencies. The initiative is intended to be a catalyst for the development of a local economic vision in the 10 RPI areas. The governor has asked that each state department organize their services according to these new region boundaries, with the goal of enhancing coordination among departments, leveraging efficiencies and providing better customer service. Ultimately, the RPI is intended to encourage local private, public, and nonprofit partners to work together to create vibrant regional economies.

The governor's 2014 Executive Budget Recommendation included a voluntary competitive grant process for RPI, which the Legislature approved. Later that year, grants were awarded to the majority of the prosperity regions as coordination commitments were signed between local governments, workforce development agencies, and colleges and universities. The governor's 2015 and 2016 budgets included additional funding for distribution to the 10 prosperity regions. Several of the regions have begun efforts to develop their economic vision for the future. MDOT has participated in these discussions and will continue to do so, as needed.

All state agencies can contribute to implementing the regional visions, but transportation provides the lifeblood for economic opportunities. As such, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was viewed as a significant part of this initiative.

The RPI process also encourages cooperation between the metropolitan planning organizations and regional planning agencies within the RPI regional boundaries.

In 2014, an MDOT team was assigned to develop and analyze alternatives to meet the objectives of this initiative. The team developed an alternative where the existing seven MDOT regions would align with the 10 prosperity regions. 11 sub-teams were created to identify core issues related to MDOT's existing business processes and potential solutions involved in the realignment. During a period of approximately 10 months, these RPI teams developed, reviewed, and analyzed various options for consideration to achieve MDOT's statewide RPI objectives.

In 2016, MDOT is implementing operational changes to the organization, with customer service as the primary driver. MDOT was able to accomplish the objectives of the governor's initiative with minimal impact on employees and at minimal cost to the agency.

One of the central themes of the organizational change is "One MDOT." MDOT is one agency, united in its purpose and vision. The department's goal is to break down boundaries and barriers, not only between customers and the services they desire, but also internally between service groups within the organization. Continued success as MDOT moves through implementation of these changes will require focused and positive leadership throughout the organization.

Moving forward, MDOT will continue to provide services across boundaries where doing so will result in a more effective and efficient outcome. The map below shows MDOT's current structure aligning with the RPI regional boundaries.

