



# **State Transportation Commission Adopted Policies**

**Compiled Aug. 5, 2025**

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**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10001**  
**Commission Approvals and Reporting**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10001	<b>Effective Date:</b>	2-24-00
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10001, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	7-31-25

The Department shall ensure that applicable documentation is timely provided to the Commission for Commission approval if such approval is required by constitution or statute.

The Department shall apply its resources to ensure that reports and documentation required of the Commission by statute, regulations, rules, contracts, or grants are completed accurately and timely for required submission by the Commission.

Any guidance or procedures established by the Director shall be consistent with policies established by the Commission. If the Commission changes any policy, the Director shall revise any existing guidance or procedures, if necessary, to comply with the revised policy.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10002  
Transportation Safety**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10002	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	1000.02, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	4-24-25

Safety shall be a primary consideration for every project, program, and operation undertaken or sponsored by the Department. The Department shall consider the safety of all road users, including those who walk, bike, drive, ride transit, and travel by other modes.

The Department shall prepare and submit to the Commission an annual report on the impact of and substantive changes to its transportation safety programs and activities including but not limited to, work zone safety, Intelligent Transportation Systems, bike and pedestrian safety, assistive devices, and rail grade-crossing safety.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10003  
Commission Oversight**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10003	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	1000.03, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	4-24-25

The Department will periodically report on its mission, vision and all significant objectives, goals, potential and actual barriers to success pertaining to major projects, programs, initiatives, pilot projects, and key performance indicators, as may, from time to time, be determined/identified/specified by the Commission.

The Department will establish a system to report on and provide analyses and summaries of actions taken or to be taken to maintain and/or improve its operational effectiveness.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10004**  
**State Transportation Commission Open Meetings**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10004	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7-27-00
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10004, dated 7-27-00	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	11-7-24

Meetings of the Michigan Transportation Commission shall be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and all other acts, present and future, which are applicable to the Commission.

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, a person may electronically record or broadcast the proceedings unless unreasonably disruptive to the order of the meeting. Also, a person may address the Commission subject to the following provisions:

1. For an accurate record in the meeting minutes, each person shall submit a completed Public Comment Card to the Commission Advisor or Commission Secretary prior to speaking.
2. The Chairman may limit the time a person may speak.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10005  
Commission Policy Proposals –  
Input from Public/Interest Groups**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10005	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	1000.05, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	4-24-25

The Commission may solicit comments from the public and interest groups affected by proposed policies before the Commission acts on any proposed policy. However, the Commission may adopt a policy without regard to whether comments have been solicited. The failure to solicit comments shall neither delay nor invalidate any policy-making action taken by the Commission pursuant to Const. 1963, ART. 5, SS 28.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10006**  
**Standard Specifications for Construction**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10006	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	CP 10006, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	1-30-25

The publication STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION shall be revised and republished by the Department, as needed. The Department may revise or supplement, in part, the published STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION if the changes present no significant departure from the overall policy of maintaining sound construction and bidding practices.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Bureau of Field Services, Construction Field Services Division



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10009  
Highway Travel Information Program**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10009	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10009, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	11-7-24

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) shall provide a comprehensive travel information program. The objectives of the program are to maximize tourism within the State of Michigan and provide information and services to the traveling public.

Information dispensed to the traveling public through this program should include, but not be limited to:

- Materials that promote tourism within the State of Michigan
- Destinations, attractions, activities, and events
- Points of interest and state landmarks
- State and local maps
- Available accommodations

MDOT reserves the right to determine which materials are deemed appropriate for fulfilling the needs of the traveling public.

MDOT shall cooperate with the appropriate state and local agencies, both public and private, for the purpose of distributing travel literature and information about the State of Michigan. Under these terms and conditions, MDOT will be responsible for determining the appropriate facilities and specific details about the literature program. This program will provide information to the traveling public, free of charge.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Bureau of Finance and Administration.



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10011  
Legislative Outreach**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10011	<b>Effective Date:</b>	6-8-94
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10011, dated 6-8-94	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	8-1-24

Consistent with directives from the Governor's Office, the Department shall communicate with incoming legislators and committees whose activities affect transportation issues or operations.

The Office of Governmental Affairs shall be responsible for such communications that should include, but not be limited to, programs and procedures to:

- introduce new legislators to the Department,
- keep legislators informed of transportation issues, both statewide and local, and
- assist the legislators in promoting transportation goals.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Office of Governmental Affairs



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10012  
State Rail Policy**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10012	<b>Effective Date:</b>	3-29-07
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10012, dated 8-10-04	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	7-31-25

The Department shall not enter into any agreement or arrangement where the state has or will have the potential to own or control additional active freight rail lines, except where the facility in question is directly connected to an existing state-owned rail facility with active rail service, enhances the value and/or marketability of the existing state-owned rail system, and the agreement or arrangement is approved by the State Transportation Commission.

Department-owned rail corridors that do not have existing operating contracts shall be preserved for future rail use or other transportation purposes, including interim use as trails, in accordance with P.A. 295 of 1976, or disposed of according to Department procedures.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Office of Rail



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10013**  
**Right of Way Acquisition, Management, Clearance, and Sale**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10013	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7-28-22
<b>Supersedes:</b>	CP 1000.13, dated 6-8-24	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	4-24-25

**PURPOSE:**

When performing real estate activities, the Department must develop and maintain well-designed control activities that require the Department to demonstratively act in the best interest of the State, adhere to federal and all other governmental requirements, and exercise due diligence in its activities, including, but not limited to:

- A. Recordkeeping. The Department shall maintain current, complete, and accurate inventory records for all real property interests, including those real property interests that the Department determines to be excess real property, and all authorized right of way (ROW<sup>1</sup>) use agreements.
- B. Acquisition of all real property, or such rights therein, as may be needed for transportation purposes. The Department will implement well-designed control activities that ensure that Department employees enforce all federal and other governmental requirements relating to conflicts of interest.
- C. Clearance of improvements and personal property acquired by the Department within all ROWs.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this policy, all property acquired as part of the right-of-way acquisition process shall be treated as ROW property. ROW use agreements may include License Agreements, Lease Agreements, Rental Agreements, or Maintenance Use Agreements.

- D. Declaration of excess real property interests. Real property interests shall be declared excess real property when, as determined by the Department, they are no longer needed for transportation purposes.
- E. Relinquishment of real property interests. Excess property interests no longer needed for transportation purposes may be disposed of by direct sale, public auction, or exchange. Additionally, the department may make ROW use agreements available under a License Agreement, Lease Agreement, Rental Agreement, or Maintenance Use Agreement.
1. Attestation Requirement - Prior to finalization of all transactions other than those transactions with government agencies, the Department is required to request and receive an attestation from all such prospective purchaser(s) to determine if such prospective purchaser(s) is a current, or was employed within the last year as a, Department employee, State employee, State Transportation Commissioner, and/or a family member<sup>2</sup> of any, thereof (Related Party) and shall assess the propriety of the sale. Related Parties may not use information not yet publicly known to facilitate any transaction with the Department, regardless of who benefits from the information.
  2. Reporting Requirement: The following types of transactions involving excess property interests shall be reported to the State Transportation Commission:
    - a. All direct sales;
    - b. Public auction sales of less than appraised value.
    - c. Exchanges valued at \$250,000 or more; and
    - d. Relinquishments of easements, including ROW use agreements, valued at \$250,000 or more.
  3. Additional requirements for direct sales to a governmental agency:
    - a. Public purpose - The instrument of conveyance shall be restricted to a specific public use for a period of at least 10 years and will include a 10-year reversionary covenant.

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<sup>2</sup> Family members (including adoptive relationships) include any child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, former spouse, sibling, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, or first cousin.

- b. Transportation purpose - The instrument of conveyance shall be restricted to a transportation purpose into perpetuity and include a permanent reversionary covenant.
4. Additional requirements for transactions involving a Related Party.
- a. Direct sales to a Related Party of improvements and personal property to be removed from the right of way can only be made after a property has first been offered at public auction.
  - b. The Department may not finalize a direct sale or a ROW use agreement involving a Related Party until at least five business days after the Department reports the intended sale to the State Transportation Commission.
  - c. If the transaction party is a Department employee and/or a family member thereof, the Department must obtain prior approval from the Director.
  - d. If the transaction party is a Commissioner, the Department shall timely forward to the State Transportation Commission the attestations described in item E.1 above. The subject Commissioner must obtain prior approval of the transaction from the State Transportation Commission at a regular or special meeting of the State Transportation Commission.
  - e. All direct sales and ROW use agreements involving a Related Party are subject to the attestation requirements described in item E.1 above.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Real Estate



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10014  
Utility Accommodation**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10014	<b>Effective Date:</b>	4-20-23
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10014, dated 3-31-11	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	8-1-24

To regulate the accommodation of municipal utilities, private utilities, lines, and facilities within state highway right-of-way, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) shall develop and follow publicly available guidance that outlines the basis for the evaluation and approval by MDOT for requests to construct, maintain, or operate such municipal utilities, private utilities, lines, and facilities upon, over, across, or under state highways. The guidance must be in compliance with all relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Federal and state laws acknowledge it is in the public interest for utility facilities to be accommodated on state highway right-of-way. See 23 CFR, Part 645, and MCL 247.183. MDOT has statutory authority to regulate utility accommodations within highway right-of-way through a permit process governed by state laws. Such use and occupancy shall not adversely affect highway traffic and safety or impair highway aesthetic quality, as determined by MDOT, and shall not conflict with federal, state, and local laws, or regulations.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Development Services Division



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10080**  
**Bonding Guidelines**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10080	<b>Effective Date:</b>	8-26-99
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10080, dated 8-26-99	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	4-24-25

The Department shall develop bonding guidelines to standardize and rationalize the issuance of long-term debt for the purpose of building transportation facilities, including, but not limited to: capital projects, infrastructure, and equipment. The ability to issue such long-term debt is authorized under Act 51 of 1951 as amended, and Section 9 Article IX of the Michigan Constitution. Under Act 51 of 1951, the State Transportation Commission must review for approval all proposals to issue long-term debt for capital financed transportation projects. The Department shall limit the ratio of restricted revenue to its maximum annual debt service to not less than a 4:1 ratio.

The Department shall establish general bonding guidelines that include long-term revenue projections, projected inflation, the economic needs of the State, and other pertinent information for the State Transportation Commission to use in reviewing long-term debt proposals for approval. If the Department updates its bonding guidelines, it shall provide any substantive revisions to the State Transportation Commission for its information.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Bureau of Finance & Administration



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10083**  
**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Procedures**

**Currently Under Review**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10083	<b>Effective Date:</b>	9-23-99
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NEW	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	Under Review

The Department shall establish a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR Part 26. In as much as the Department receives federal financial assistance from the US DOT, and has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26, the Department shall formulate this DBE program consistent with federal regulations and guidelines, soliciting input from transportation industry members and other impacted individuals and groups prior to adopting a program plan.

**Federal DBE Program Commitment**

It is the policy of the Commission to pursue the US DOT objectives of the DBE program found in 49 CFR 26.1, which are:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of US DOT-assisted contracts in the Department's highway, transit, and airport financial assistance programs;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for US DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the Department's DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with the applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet federal eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to participation of DBEs in US DOT-assisted contracts;

6. To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program; and
7. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

These policies shall be implemented by the Department as follows:

1. Department Responsibilities

- a. The Director of the Department shall be responsible for implementation of the DBE program. The director shall designate a liaison officer to administer the program.

2. Goals

- a. The Department shall annually recommend DBE goals to the Commission. The Commission reserves the discretionary authority to review and change said goals prior to adoption of the goals by the Commission.
- b. The Department shall use race neutral and race conscious means to meet the recommended overall goal(s). The Department shall set one combined goal for DBE where federal-aid funds are involved.
- c. Contract goal(s) shall be set for specific US DOT-assisted construction, consulting, procurement, and service contracts or grants with subcontracting opportunities. Prospective recipients of Department contracts must assure the Department of their intent to meet the established goal(s) in order to be eligible for award.
- d. The Department shall not use quotas in any way in the administration of the DBE program.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Office of Equal Opportunity



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10099**  
**Aesthetics**

**Currently Under Review**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10099	<b>Effective Date:</b>	9-28-00
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NEW	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	Under Review

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) (Department) shall protect, preserve and enhance its existing aesthetic resources wherever possible. This will include appropriate maintenance of trunkline roadsides, right-of-way, landscaping and aesthetic improvements, as well as protection of scenic areas and historic, cultural, architectural and environmental resources wherever possible.

As design, construction, improvement or repair of state trunkline roads, bridges and other facilities is undertaken, their aesthetic and visual quality, and that of the adjacent right-of-way, shall be routinely considered. Consideration of the aesthetic issues shall take into account relative factors such as the project context; existing cultural, topographic, architectural and vegetative features; how best to make a positive

community contribution; safety; maintenance; and initial and long-term costs and benefits. The Department shall review the projects listed in the Five-Year Road and Bridge Program for projects which provide opportunities to make aesthetic improvements.

A corridor approach to aesthetic treatments shall be undertaken where appropriate, working in conjunction with local authorities along the trunkline. Local participation in aesthetic work shall be required through public involvement, financial or in-kind participation and maintenance agreements.

The Department shall keep abreast of national efforts in aesthetic development relating to transportation facilities, in an effort to continue MDOT's national leadership in this area, and shall provide training in "context-sensitive" design and aesthetic awareness for its personnel.

The Department shall develop guidelines for implementation of this policy.

Adopted by the Michigan State Transportation Commission on September 28, 2000.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Bureau of Transportation Planning



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10135  
Performance Warranties**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10135	<b>Effective Date:</b>	4-25-02
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NEW	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	7-31-25

The Michigan Department of Transportation (Department) shall continue the development of highway warranties that encourage contractor innovation, as feasible, with an associated and appropriate level of contractor accountability for the performance of the highway. The enhanced opportunity for contractor input and control should be balanced by a greater assumption of warranty liability by the contractor. In general, contractor liability should be with regard to matters over which the contractors have an opportunity to exercise control, including circumstances in which contractors are given the opportunity to enhance a standard highway design to assure that it will meet the Department's desired performance standards.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



State of Michigan

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Commission Policy 10136**  
**Noise Abatement**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10136	<b>Effective Date:</b>	10-17-19
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NEW	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	1-30-25

Federal law (23 CFR 772.5) defines three types of federal or federal-aid highway projects concerning noise abatement:

- **Type I (Mandatory):** Involves noise abatement for new highway construction or significant physical alteration to an existing highway, such as changes in horizontal or vertical alignment, or an increase in through-traffic lanes.
- **Type II (Voluntary):** Involves noise abatement on an existing highway where there is no Type I project.
- **Type III:** Projects that do not fall under Type I or Type II and do not require a noise analysis.

MDOT shall establish and implement criteria for utilizing noise abatement measures in relation to Type II (Voluntary) projects.

MDOT shall submit an annual report to the Commission detailing all Type II (Voluntary) activities undertaken during the year. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the location, cost, and prioritization criteria.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Environmental Services Section



State of Michigan

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Commission Policy 10214**  
**Complete Streets**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10214	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7-26-12
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10214, dated 7-26-12	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	7-31-25

**Background and Purpose**

Complete streets are roadways that are planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle. Complete transportation networks prioritize safe transportation related outcomes by serving and connecting people, communities and the economy.

Michigan Compiled Law 247.660p(2)(a) (Public Act 135 of 2010, as amended) requires the Michigan State Transportation Commission to adopt a complete streets policy for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The policy intends to outline guidance for the promotion of complete streets principles in planning, design, and construction or reconstruction of:

1. roadways, or
2. an interconnected network of transportation facilities being constructed or reconstructed and designated for a transportation purpose that promotes complete streets.

MCL 247.660p(2)(b) also required the Commission to develop a model complete streets policy or policies to be made available for use by municipalities and counties. MCL 247.660p(2)(b) was complied with prior to the sunseting of the Complete Streets Advisory Council in 2016.

This policy intends to provide complete streets guidance to MDOT that a) is sensitive to the local context and recognizes that needs vary according to urban, suburban, and rural settings,

b) considers the functional class of the roadway and project costs and allows for appropriate exemptions, and c) considers the varying mobility needs of all legal users of the roadway, of all ages and abilities.

## **Requirements**

MDOT shall pursue a proactive and consistent approach to complete streets and shall comply with MCL 247.660p. Within the constraints of reasonably available resources, this approach will aim to a) achieve mutual commitment, partnerships, flexibility and collaboration between MDOT and local agencies, transportation agencies, and the public and b) help identify opportunities to finance, plan, design, construct, rehabilitate, operate, and maintain complete street networks as recognized by MDOT and each transportation infrastructure jurisdiction.

1. MDOT shall demonstrate:
  - a. Sensitivity to the local context and recognition that needs vary according to urban, suburban, and rural settings.
  - b. Consideration of the functional class of the roadway and project costs and that it allowed for appropriate exemptions.
  - c. Maintenance of community engagement practices throughout its project planning process.
  - d. Consideration of the varying mobility needs of all legal users of the roadway, of all ages and abilities.
2. To demonstrate whether the complete streets program has achieved effectiveness, MDOT shall maintain robust systems of information, communication, documentation, collaboration, reporting, training and underlying procedures and guidance that focus on objective measures and evolution of complete streets principles.
3. Through coordination with applicable local agencies and consideration of vulnerable road users, MDOT shall put forth reasonable efforts to facilitate cost-effective, safe, accessible, resilient, and interconnected transportation networks that consider serving all travel modes through integrated, intermodal transportation systems.

This policy is intended to complement and be considered in conjunction with Commission Policy Number 10238 (Context Sensitive Solutions).

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Executive Bureau



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10237**  
**Border Crossing Policy**

**Identifier:** 10237 **Effective Date:** 5-26-05  
**Supersedes:** 10237, dated 10-28-04 **Last Reviewed:** 1-30-25

Goods and people moving across Michigan’s borders significantly impact the economies of Michigan and Ontario, and the economies of the United States, Canada, and other nations. Recognizing Michigan’s vision and common goals with Ontario to establish and maintain a transportation border that facilitates and encourages efficient, reliable, safe, and secure transport of goods, people, and services in a cost-efficient and timely manner, the Michigan Department of Transportation shall:

1. Work to assure adequate multimodal transportation capacity at Michigan’s border crossings to facilitate, advance, and provide for the efficient, reliable, safe, and secure movement of people and goods between Michigan and Ontario.
2. Provide for the protection of and upgrade the transportation facilities on our borders through collaborative initiatives to provide an appropriate level of fluidity, redundancy, and resilience among crossings to mitigate supply chain disruptions and ensure continued economic competitiveness and prosperity of North America.
3. Study needs for improving and expanding the transportation structures and infrastructures across all modes and identify advancing technologies through persistent research and analysis in order to continue to strengthen transportation linkages and adapt to the demand of international supply chains.
4. Work to enhance cooperation, coordination, and communication with U.S. and Canadian border inspection and transportation agencies, local and regional governments, crossing operators, crossing users, neighborhoods, and other stakeholders affected by border crossings, in order to facilitate continued improvement to both the mobility and safety of border crossings.

5. Collaborate with federal, state, local, provincial, and private sector partners to proactively address topics of mutual interest that impact border crossings.
6. Work to increase federal funding for border transportation infrastructure capacity and safety improvements, and to use funding effectively to achieve the intent of this policy.

Adopted by the Michigan State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Office of Rail



**State of Michigan**

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Commission Policy 10238  
Context Sensitive Solutions**

**Currently Under Review**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10238	<b>Effective Date:</b>	5-26-05
<b>Supersedes:</b>	NEW	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	Under Review

The Governor’s Executive Directive 2003-25 defines context sensitive design as “a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach involving stakeholders for the development of a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, cultural, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.”

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will pursue a proactive, consistent, and Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process in keeping with its mission to provide the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life. A successful CSS program will require mutual commitment on the part of both transportation agencies and stakeholders to identify appropriate opportunities to plan, develop, construct, operate, and maintain infrastructure in accordance with CSS principles without undue costs or scheduling burdens.

The Department will incorporate an appropriate level of CSS into its Transportation Program consistent with CSS principles which include:

- Early and Continuous Public Involvement
- Effective Decision Making
- Reflecting Community Values
- Achieving Environmental Sensitivity and Stewardship
- Ensuring Safe and Feasible Integrated Solutions
- Protecting Scenic Resources and Achieving Aesthetically Pleasing Solutions

MDOT will develop or revise procedures and guidelines to expand the use of CSS for state transportation projects. The procedures and guidelines will:

- Promote partnerships with local governments, state agencies, business, community groups, and transportation system users and providers to better coordinate resources.
- Use flexibility within state and federal design standards, and develop alternate state standards where appropriate, without compromising safety and mobility.
- Encourage early and continuous dialog with stakeholders on defining the transportation problems and solutions during project planning and development.
- Use integrated transportation solutions to enhance access to jobs, support economic development activities with local government and other state agencies, and preserve the environment.
- Consider the need for integrated transportation options in the early planning and development process for transportation improvements, especially for state highway, bridge, and safety projects which construct, reconstruct, or relocate a roadway, bridge, or intersection.
- Promote the use of CSS principals with local land use and transportation agencies.

The Department will report back to the Commission six months after adoption of this policy, to give a progress report on implementation. After the initial report to the Commission, the Department will present an annual review of implementation progress to the Commission.

Adopted by the Michigan State Transportation Commission on May 26, 2005.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** Bureau of Highway Development



State of Michigan

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Commission Policy 10240**  
**Tribal Affairs Policy**

<b>Identifier:</b>	10240	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7-23-20
<b>Supersedes:</b>	10240, dated 7-23-20	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	7-31-25

This policy ensures that the Department operates in accordance with federal law and reaffirms the recognition of and fully supports the government-to-government relationship that exists between the State of Michigan and federally-acknowledged Michigan Indian tribes. It aligns with the Department’s mission to provide the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life. Through this policy, the Department will pursue a proactive and consistent process in tribal affairs and extends commitments with Michigan’s federally-acknowledged Indian tribes to recognize their sovereignty and right of self-governance.

The following policy sections pertain to the consultation process and will remain flexible to meet the particular needs and circumstances of each consultation.

1. The Department shall appoint an individual (Tribal Affairs Coordinator) to be responsible for department-wide coordination of the Tribal Affairs Program, operating under the guidance of the Director and the Chief Administrative Officer. The Tribal Affairs Coordinator shall annually report departmental interaction with the governments of the federally-acknowledged Indian tribes to the Governor’s Advisor on Tribal-State Affairs. Additionally, the Tribal Affairs Coordinator will participate in the annual summit, the annual Tribal-State Forum, and monthly tribal-state conference calls.
2. The Department shall prepare and shall update existing Tribal Affairs Program procedures/guidelines consistent with directives from the Governor’s office, which shall identify the roles and responsibilities of the department and coordinator in the function and administration of these government-to-government relationships.

In accordance with federal and state laws, regulations, and policies, the department will incorporate early and continuous government-to-government consultations with federally-recognized tribes into the development of processes and products on any issue that may impact tribal interests including, but not limited to, the following:

- State Long-Range Transportation Plans
  - Pending and/or Proposed Policies, Rules, Legislation, and/or Regulations
  - Five-Year Transportation Program
  - State Transportation Improvement Program
  - Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding
  - Project Accord Agreements
  - Asset Management
  - Access Management
  - Context Sensitive Solutions
  - Tribal Affairs Annual Report
  - Indian Reservation Roads Inventory
3. The Department shall perform government-to-government consultation with federally-recognized tribes following the steps outlined below:
- Step One – Identification: MDOT will use the following mechanisms to identify activities appropriate for consultation:
    - State Initiated Identification
    - Tribal Government Initiated Identification
    - Other Resources
  - Step Two – Notification
  - Step Three – Input
  - Step Four – Follow-up

Identification definitions and further details on consultation steps are outlined in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Tribal Affairs Program Procedures/Guidelines.

4. The Tribal Affairs Coordinator will be responsible for facilitating the implementation of the Tribal Affairs Program Procedures/Guidelines. The Department shall provide the

State Transportation Commission with an annual review and report, including an outreach plan.

5. The Department will provide annual training on Tribal-State relations for department employees with direct Tribal interaction or those working on matters that have direct implications for tribes, as further defined in the MDOT Tribal Affairs Program Procedures/Guidelines.

Adopted by the State Transportation Commission.

**Responsible Area:** MDOT