

**Michigan Department of Transportation
 Rail Strategic Plan – FY 2025-2029
 2024 PA 121, Section 704**

November 26, 2025

Sec. 704.

From the funds appropriated in part 1, the department shall prepare and transmit a report that includes the department’s current rolling 5-year rail plan and detail the department’s obligations for programs funded under the appropriation in part 1 for rail operations and infrastructure. The report must include a breakdown of the appropriation by program, year-to-date obligations under each program itemized by project, and an estimate of future obligations under each program itemized by project for the remainder of the fiscal year. The department shall submit the report to the standard report recipients on or before December 1, 2025.

The Michigan Department of Transportation’s Office of Rail is pleased to present its Rail Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029. While future available revenues are unknown and some funding needs are not known in advance, this plan provides a listing of anticipated projects and spending representing future obligations and priorities.

The Rail Operations and Infrastructure appropriation line funds several individual programs and activities, including passenger rail operating assistance, capital and maintenance activities on the 665 miles of state-owned freight and passenger rail lines, and enhanced economic development through investments in rail infrastructure. Most of the funding for this appropriation line comes from the Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF). Authority is also provided to spend federal, local, and private dollars, as well as monies in the Rail Freight Fund, should funding from any of those sources be available.

The current FY2025 breakdown by program is included in the chart:

Rail Operations & Infrastructure Program	FY2025 CTF Funding
Passenger Operating	\$ 27,911,754
Passenger Maintenance	\$ 12,668,132
Passenger Infrastructure	\$ 28,145,707
Freight Infrastructure	\$ 10,199,928
Freight Economic Development (FEDP) and Freight Preservation - Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Grants	\$ 27,239,932
Federal Grant Match and Other Miscellaneous	\$ 7,923,747
Total	\$ 114,089,200

Details of the above investments for FY2025, as well as estimated categorical projections for FY2026 through FY2029 for the multiple CTF-funded program areas are contained on the following pages. While there will almost certainly be adjustments based on changing revenues and appropriations, emerging needs, or other factors, this represents the estimated projection at this time. For purposes of this report the FY2025 CTF appropriation is based on the FY2025 appropriation. For 2026-2029, the appropriation is assumed to remain consistent with the FY2026 enacted budget. In reality, this amount could be higher or lower based on actual CTF revenues received in FY2026 to FY2029 and the unknown impact of the recently enacted transportation funding package. Note, overall project obligations may include prior year and/or work project funding. For the purposes of this report only the portion of obligations incurred in each fiscal year of the rolling 5-year rail strategic plan are represented.

Under the provisions of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA), states are responsible for providing operating assistance for Amtrak routes under 750 miles. That includes all three Michigan services – the Wolverine, Blue Water and Pere Marquette. MDOT contracts with Amtrak and is responsible for costs not covered by ticket and other revenues.

The Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) and the Michigan Rail Enhancement Grant Program (MREP) support rail-related economic development and rail freight system preservation. FEDP receives, reviews, and approves applications throughout the year. While the goal is to always be able to assist with qualifying projects that relate to job creation and increased rail usage, this plan includes placeholder amounts based upon historic boilerplate requirements and reasonable projections. MREP provides funding to projects selected and approved upon review of eligible applications through a competitive process.

Details about funds already obligated, together with the Department's best estimates for future activity, are reflected on the following pages. The bulk of the funding will continue to be used to support passenger and freight rail service in Michigan.

Fiscal Year 2025 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	FY2025 Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$25,915,850	\$0	\$25,915,850
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,995,904	\$0	\$1,995,904
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,092,238	\$0	\$12,092,238
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$575,894	\$0	\$575,894
Passenger Infrastructure	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Handrail Design for Six Michigan Line Bridges	\$111,953	\$0	\$111,953
Passenger Infrastructure	Jackson County	Design Slope Stabilization Options on Michigan Line	\$146,282	\$0	\$146,282
Passenger Infrastructure	Jackson County	Structure Study for Blackman Road Rail Bridge Additional Funding	\$2,937	\$0	\$2,937
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Bearing Replacement Design Services on Michigan Line	\$150,553	\$0	\$150,553
Passenger Infrastructure	Kalamazoo County	Coal Tower Demolition Project on Michigan Line	\$929,517	\$0	\$929,517
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	NEPA, Project Management, PE & Design (2020 CRISI Grant)	\$708,424	\$53,160	\$655,264
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Project Management, Final Design & Construction Services (2019 SOGR Grant)	\$2,553,789	\$2,460,711	\$93,078
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Utility Relocations on Michigan Line (2019 SOGR Grant)	\$194,490	\$97,245	\$97,245
Passenger Infrastructure	Kalamazoo to Ann Arbor	PE & NEPA for Michigan Line Bridges (2021 SOGR Grant)	\$2,142,913	\$1,536,000	\$606,913
Passenger Infrastructure	Jackson County	Jackson & Mechanic Street Bridge Construction (2018 SOGR Grant)	\$129,090	\$0	\$129,090
Passenger Infrastructure	Washtenaw & Jackson Counties	Procure Rail Train for Michigan Line (2020 SOGR Grant)	\$7,314,299	\$1,737,476	\$5,576,823
Passenger Infrastructure	Washtenaw County	Install Active Warning Devices at 7 Private Crossings on Michigan Line	\$6,194,921	\$0	\$6,194,921
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Procure 7 Turnouts for Michigan Line	\$1,925,282	\$0	\$1,925,282
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Procure 42 Gate Mechanisms for Michigan Line	\$2,148,242	\$0	\$2,148,242
Passenger Infrastructure	Wayne County	Procure Wayne Diamonds for Michigan Line	\$2,529,489	\$0	\$2,529,489

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	FY2025 Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Procure Ties for Michigan Line	\$6,848,119	\$0	\$6,848,119
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant Hydraulic & Design Services for Chilson & Eagle Creek Bridges	\$58,668	\$0	\$58,668
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant CE & Inspection Services for Freight Line Projects	\$368,170	\$0	\$368,170
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	Consultant NEPA Review for Clam River Bridge Project	\$40,004	\$0	\$40,004
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant As-Needed High-Load Hit Inspections	\$546,439	\$0	\$546,439
Freight Infrastructure	Hillsdale County	Consultant Design & Environmental Clearance Review - Hallett Street Bridge	\$445,750	\$0	\$445,750
Freight Infrastructure	Hillsdale County	FY25 Work Project Request - Hallet Street Bridge Replacement	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Emmet County	GLC - Bridge Repairs Bear Creek	\$6,162	\$0	\$6,162
Freight Infrastructure	Clare County	GLC - Muskegon River Bridge Interim Repairs	\$14,401	\$0	\$14,401
Freight Infrastructure	Clare County	Consultant Pre-Construction Services for Muskegon River Bridge Reconstruction	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
Freight Infrastructure	Livingston County	GLC - Ann Pere Connection Track Extension	\$490,382	\$0	\$490,382
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Manistee River Bridge Replacement Project (2022 CRISI Grant)	\$5,846,321	\$5,846,321	\$0
Freight Infrastructure	Wayne County	Consultant Grant Management - Livernois Yard Project (2023 CRISI Grant)	\$49,952	\$0	\$49,952
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Genessee County	FEDP - Bridgeman Terminal Services - Development of a Rail Transloading Facility	\$362,650	\$0	\$362,650
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Berrien County	FEDP - Edw. C. Levy Co. - Development of a Rail Transloading Facility	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Oakland County	FEDP - Ferrous Processing and Trading Co. - Track Construction and Track Rehabilitation	\$167,109	\$0	\$167,109
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Alpena County	FEDP - Edw. C. Levy Co. - Sidetrack, Turnouts, Loading	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Livingston County	FEDP - Louis Padnos Iron & Metal - Additional Funding	\$205,978	\$0	\$205,978
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Kalamazoo County	FEDP - 400 Island Avenue, LLC - Extend Rail Spur Village of Parchment	\$355,603	\$0	\$355,603
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Lenawee County	FEDP - Michigan Agricultural Commodities - Purchase and Install Rail Loading Equipment	\$508,411	\$0	\$508,411

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	FY2025 Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Kalamazoo County	FEDP - Aggregate Resources, Inc. - Cement Transloading Facility	\$422,946	\$0	\$422,946
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Allegan County	FEDP - Hamilton Northwestern Railroad - Rail Transload Facility	\$800,872	\$0	\$800,872
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Schoolcraft County	FEDP - UP Paper - Track Rehabilitation	\$50,389	\$0	\$50,389
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Arenac & Iosco Counties	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Bridge Repairs	\$343,002	\$0	\$343,002
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Saginaw County	MREP - Huron & Eastern Railway Company, Inc. - Track Improvements	\$2,154,402	\$0	\$2,154,402
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Genesee County	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Track Improvements	\$1,546,086	\$0	\$1,546,086
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Wayne County	MREP - Norfolk Southern Railway Company - Yard Rehabilitation	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Menominee County	MREP - KK Integrated Logistics - Yard Improvements and New Rail Unloading Equipment	\$1,291,968	\$0	\$1,291,968
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Clare County	MREP - Great Lakes Central Railroad Inc. - Clare Yard Improvements	\$2,250,692	\$0	\$2,250,692
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Luce County	MREP - Grand Elk Railroad, Inc. - Track and Bridge Rehabilitations	\$2,554,859	\$0	\$2,554,859
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Wayne County	MREP - Canadian Pacific Railway - Detroit Windsor Tunnel Improvements	\$4,553,250	\$0	\$4,553,250
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Saginaw County	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Saginaw Rail Yard improvements	\$671,715	\$0	\$671,715
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$37,442	\$0	\$37,442
Miscellaneous	Jackson County	Platform Repairs at Jackson Station	\$171,129	\$0	\$171,129
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$518,709	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant FRA Grant Application Assistance & Grant Management	\$532,901	\$0	\$532,901
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$88,565	\$0	\$88,565
Miscellaneous	Niles/Glenwood	Project Support - Amtrak Niles/Glenwood Double Track PE/NEPA	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$6,475,000	\$0	\$6,475,000

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	FY2025 Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Miscellaneous	Three Amtrak Services	Corridor ID Federal Grants - Step 1 - Service Development Plans for Three Amtrak Services	\$915,844	\$915,844	\$0

Fiscal Year 2026 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2026 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$28,646,245	\$0	\$28,646,245
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,452,085	\$0	\$1,452,085
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	Utility Relocations on Michigan Line (2019 SOGR Grant)	\$53,000	\$26,500	\$26,500
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Construction Clam River Bridge	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Livingston County	GLC - Construction Chilson Creek Bridge Replacement	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) & Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Projects - TBD	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$25,000,000
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$37,500	\$0	\$37,500
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$3,500,000
Miscellaneous	Three Amtrak Services	Corridor ID Federal Grants - Step 2 - Three Amtrak Corridors	\$15,267,486	\$13,740,737	\$1,526,749
Miscellaneous	New Amtrak Route	Corridor ID Program - Step 2 - Study New Proposed Route Grand Rapids to Detroit	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$9,614,421	\$0	\$9,614,421

Fiscal Year 2027 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2027 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$24,280,065	\$0	\$24,280,065
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Hillsdale County	IN - Construction Hallett Street Bridge Replacement	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) & Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Projects - TBD	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$25,000,000
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$37,500	\$0	\$37,500
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$15,565,935	\$0	\$15,565,935

Fiscal Year 2028 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2028 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$28,867,930	\$0	\$28,867,930
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$10,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) & Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Projects - TBD	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$25,000,000
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$37,500	\$0	\$37,500
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$10,978,070	\$0	\$10,978,070

Fiscal Year 2029 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/Other	FY2029 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$39,575,319	\$0	\$39,575,319
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak corridors	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Passenger Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$10,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) & Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Projects - TBD	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$25,000,000
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$37,500	\$0	\$37,500
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$270,681	\$0	\$270,681

Freight Corridors Operated by:

GLC – Great Lakes Central

H&E – Huron and Eastern

IN – Indiana Northeastern

LSRC – Lake State Railway Company