

Michigan Department of Transportation
Rail Strategic Plan – FY 2025-2029
2024 PA 121, Section 707

February 26, 2025

Sec. 707.

- 1) Before March 1, 2025, the department shall provide to the legislature, the state budget office, and the house and senate fiscal agencies its rail strategic plan. The strategic plan must include, but is not limited to, a rolling 5-year rail plan and a summary of the department's obligations for programs funded under the appropriation in part 1 for rail operations and infrastructure.
- 2) The rolling 5-year rail plan must include, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - a. A listing by county of all rail infrastructure projects on rail lines within this state utilizing state funds, and the estimated cost of each project.
 - b. The actual or projected state expenditures for operation of passenger rail service.
 - c. The actual or projected state expenditures for maintenance of passenger service rail lines.
- 3) The period of the rolling 5-year rail plan must include the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and the immediately following 4 fiscal years.
- 4) The summary of the department's obligations for programs funded under the appropriation in part 1 for rail operations and infrastructure must include a breakdown of the appropriation by program, year-to-year 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.
- 5) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for rail operation and infrastructure, not less than \$20,000,000.00 must be allocated for the support of rail-related economic development projects and rail freight system preservation projects.

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.

The majority of 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	\$ 27,960,426
Passenger Maintenance	\$ 12,600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	\$ 10,977,485
Freight Infrastructure	\$ 10,324,612
Freight Economic Development (FEDP) and Freight Preservation - Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Grants	\$ 24,929,759
Federal Grant Match and Other Miscellaneous	\$ 9,967,442
To Be Determined	\$ 17,329,476
Total	\$ 114,089,200

Details of the above planned 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 Governor’s executive budget recommendation. In reality, this amount could be higher or lower based on actual CTF revenues received in FY2026 to FY2029. 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.

Principally, 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.

Fiscal Year 2025 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak corridors	Provide federally mandated operating assistance	\$26,960,426	\$0	\$26,960,426
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	Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
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	Kalamazoo to Ann Arbor	PE & NEPA for Michigan Line Bridges (2021 SOGR Grant)	\$2,068,000	\$1,548,750	\$519,250
Passenger Infrastructure	Jackson & Washtenaw Counties	Upgrade Crossings on Michigan Line	TBD	TBD	TBD
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$10,200,000	\$0	\$10,200,000
Freight Infrastructure	Emmet County	GLC - Bridge Repairs Bear Creek	\$20,563	\$0	\$20,563
Freight Infrastructure	Hillsdale County	GLC - Design Hallett Street Bridge	\$401,526	\$0	\$401,526
Freight Infrastructure	Clare County	GLC - ICE & GC for Muskegon River Bridge Reconstruction	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
Freight Infrastructure	Livingston County	GLC - Ann Pere Connection Track Extension	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Design Manistee River Bridge Replacement (2022 CRISI Grant)	\$63,178	\$37,907	\$25,271
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - ICE and CE for Manistee River Bridge Replacement (2022 CRISI Grant)	\$444,299	\$442,093	\$2,206
Freight Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Construction Manistee River Bridge Replacement (2022 CRISI Grant)	\$5,675,045	\$0	\$5,675,045
Freight Infrastructure	Isabella County	GLC - Construction Salt River Bridge Super-Structure Replacement	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	IN - Construction Bridge Replacements	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2025 CTF State Funds
Freight Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
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	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) Grants - TBD	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Preservation - Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Grants - TBD	\$20,400,000	\$0	\$20,400,000
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	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Consultant Design and Analysis for Rail Projects	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Rail Bridge Design Services	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	MDOT Staff Support for Rail Projects	\$105,000	\$0	\$105,000
Miscellaneous	Niles/Glenwood	Project Support - Amtrak Niles/Glenwood Double Track	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$7,475,000	\$0	\$7,475,000
To Be Determined	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$17,329,476	\$0	\$17,329,476

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 corridors	Provide federally mandated operating assistance	\$30,100,00	\$0	\$30,100,000
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	Utilities	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Passenger Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Rail Bridge Design Services	\$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	\$9,746,000	\$0	\$9,746,000

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 corridors	Provide federally mandated operating assistance	\$30,100,00	\$0	\$30,100,000
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	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	Rail Bridge Design Services	\$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	\$9,746,000	\$0	\$9,746,000

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 corridors	Provide federally mandated operating assistance	\$30,100,00	\$0	\$30,100,000
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	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	Rail Bridge Design Services	\$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	\$9,746,000	\$0	\$9,746,000

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 corridors	Provide federally mandated operating assistance	\$30,100,00	\$0	\$30,100,000
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	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	Rail Bridge Design Services	\$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	\$9,746,000	\$0	\$9,746,000

Freight Corridors Operated by:

GLC – Great Lakes Central

H&E – Huron and Eastern

IN – Indiana Northeastern

LSRC – Lake State Railway Company