

**Michigan Department of Transportation**  
**Rail Strategic Plan – FY 2026-2030**  
**2025 PA 22, Section 707**

February 25, 2026

**Sec. 707.**

- 1) Before March 1, 2026, 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, 2026, 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 Section 707 Rail Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030. 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 FY2026 breakdown by program is included in the chart:

<b>Rail Operations &amp; Infrastructure Program</b>	<b>FY2026 CTF Funding</b>
Passenger Operating	\$28,688,046
Michigan Line Maintenance	\$12,600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	\$14,540,786
Freight Line Infrastructure	\$10,000,000
Freight Economic Development (FEDP) and Freight Preservation - Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Grants	\$23,225,756
Federal Grant Match and Other Miscellaneous	\$7,190,500
To Be Determined	\$13,343,411
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,588,500</b>

Details of the above investments for FY2026, as well as estimated categorical projections for FY2027 through FY2030 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 FY2026 CTF appropriation is based on the FY2026 appropriation. For 2027-2030, 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 FY2027 to FY2030 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 2026 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	FY2026 Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2026 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$27,235,961	\$0	\$27,235,961
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$1,452,085	\$0	\$1,452,085
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$603,000	\$3,000	\$600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Signal Mechanism Upgrades on Michigan Line	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$1,100,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Install Bridge Handrailing on Six Structures on Michigan Line	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Procure Turnouts for Michigan Line - Additional Funding	\$1,220,972	\$0	\$1,220,972
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Utility Relocations on Michigan Line – Additional Funding (2019 SOGR Grant)	\$85,336	\$42,668	\$42,668
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Consultant Grant Management and Construction Engineering for Curve Modification Project (2020 SOGR Grant)	\$523,182	\$229,607	\$293,575
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Install Rail Train on Michigan Line (2020 SOGR Grant)	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$7,000,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$4,383,571	\$0	\$4,383,571
Freight Line Infrastructure	Battle Creek	Hinman Yard Building Repairs	\$9,661	\$0	\$9,661
Freight Line Infrastructure	Ann Arbor District	Consultant Design & Environmental Services for Rehab of Four Bridges	\$1,486,175	\$0	\$1,486,175
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant Hydraulic & Design Services for Chilson & Eagle Creek Bridges - Additional Funding	\$20,590	\$0	\$20,590
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant Design for Bearing Replacement - Additional Funding	\$76,019	\$0	\$76,019
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	Consultant Construction Engineering for Multiple Freight Properties	\$564,300	\$0	\$564,300
Freight Line Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Construction Tasks Related to Clam River Bridge Replacement	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$1,550,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Clare County	GLC – Independent Cost Estimate for Muskegon River Bridge Replacement	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000

<b>Rail Program</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>FY2026 Project Cost</b>	<b>Federal/ Other</b>	<b>FY2026 CTF State Funds</b>
Freight Line Infrastructure	Isabella County	GLC - Construction Tasks Related to Salt River Bridge Replacement	\$520,015	\$0	\$520,015
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	GLC - Consultant Design for Culvert and Bridge Replacements	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	IN - Construction of Five Bridges	\$831,000	\$0	\$831,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Hillsdale County	IN - Consultant Design and Soil Boring Support for Hallett Street Bridge Reconstruction	\$116,086	\$0	\$116,086
Freight Line Infrastructure	Arenac County	LSRC - Consultant Design Support for Pine River Bridge	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	GLC - Grant Match (2021 CRISI Grant) - Private	\$3,700,000	\$3,700,000	\$0
Freight Line Infrastructure	Wexford County	GLC - Manistee River Bridge Replacement Project (2022 CRISI Grant)	\$79,195	\$79,195	\$0
Freight Line Infrastructure	Wayne County	Consultant Grant Management - Livernois Intermodal Yard Enhancement Project (2023 CRISI Grant)	\$202,479	\$121,488	\$80,992
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$2,345,163	\$0	\$2,345,163
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Village of Akron	FEDP - Cooperative Elevator Co. - Rail Spur at Elevator Processing Plant	\$108,190	\$0	\$108,190
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Village of Reese, Tuscola County	FEDP - Quality Roasting - Two Spur Tracks & Unloading Equipment	\$698,115	\$0	\$698,115
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Elkton	FEDP - Cooperative Elevator Co. - Install Rail Loading Equipment	\$408,131	\$0	\$408,131
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Manistee County	MREP - Marquette Rail, LLC - Manistee Bridge Modernization Project	\$3,558,882	\$0	\$3,558,882
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Saginaw & Midland Counties	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Dean Subdivision Improvements	\$1,732,924	\$0	\$1,732,924
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	St. Clair County	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Blue Water Subdivision Improvements	\$669,608	\$0	\$669,608
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Saginaw & Genesee Counties	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Mt. Morris to Birch Run Pole Line Elimination	\$340,824	\$0	\$340,824
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Genessee County	MREP - Lake State Railway Company - Kearsley Reconfiguration	\$1,893,654	\$0	\$1,893,654
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Gratiot County	MREP - Great Lakes Central Railroad, Inc. - Middleton Tie & Surface	\$2,214,700	\$0	\$2,214,700
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	St. Joseph County	MREP - Michigan Southern Railroad Company - MSO/Michigan Safe Crossings Initiative	\$670,927	\$0	\$670,927

<b>Rail Program</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>FY2026 Project Cost</b>	<b>Federal/ Other</b>	<b>FY2026 CTF State Funds</b>
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Shiawassee County	MREP - Great Lakes Central Railroad, Inc. - Owosso Tie & Surface	\$1,186,532	\$0	\$1,186,532
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Ottawa County	MREP - Coopersville & Marne Railway - Deer Creek Bridge	\$302,000	\$0	\$302,000
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Washtenaw & Monroe Counties	MREP - Ann Arbor Railroad, Inc. - Ann Arbor Sub Tie & Surface	\$1,594,213	\$0	\$1,594,213
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	MREP - Huron & Eastern Railway Company, Inc. - Locomotive Emissions Reduction Project	\$1,061,492	\$0	\$1,061,492
Economic Development and Freight System Preservation	Various Locations	Freight Economic Development Program (FEDP) & Freight Preservation - Michigan Rail Enhancement Program (MREP) Grants - TBD	\$6,785,564	\$0	\$6,785,564
Miscellaneous	Grand Rapids	Provide federally required inspection services at Grand Rapids Station	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
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	Niles/Glenwood	Amtrak - Niles/Glenwood 2023/24 CRISI Match PE/NEPA	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Michigan Technological University & National University Rail Center of Excellence - FRA Research and Education Grant Match	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Miscellaneous	Various Locations	Grant Match Assistance Commitments	\$2,300,000	\$0	\$2,300,000
Miscellaneous	Three Amtrak Services	Corridor ID Federal Grants - Step 2 - Three Amtrak Corridors	\$15,060,000	\$13,554,000	\$1,506,000
Miscellaneous	New Amtrak Route	Corridor ID Program - Step 2 - Study New Proposed Route Grand Rapids to Detroit	\$41,000	\$0	\$41,000
To Be Determined	Various Locations	To Be Determined	\$13,343,411	\$0	\$13,343,411

## 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	\$24,253,204	\$0	\$24,253,204
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$603,000	\$3,000	\$600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$14,650,000	\$0	\$14,650,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Livingston County	Consultant Construction Engineering for Eagle Creek Substructure Rehab, Scouring, and Walkway	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Livingston County	GLC - Construction Chilson Creek Culvert Replacement	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Howell	GLC - Construction of Four Bridges	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Arenac County	LSRC - Construction Pine River Bridge	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000
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	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
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	\$14,091,796	\$0	\$14,091,796

## 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	\$28,917,128	\$0	\$28,917,128
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$603,000	\$3,000	\$600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Howell	GLC - Construction of Four Bridges	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$7,000,000
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	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
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	\$11,427,872	\$0	\$11,427,872

## 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	\$39,703,618	\$0	\$39,703,618
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$603,000	\$3,000	\$600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Ann Arbor District	GLC - Construction for Rehab of Four Bridges	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
Freight Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$7,000,000
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	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
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	\$641,382	\$0	\$641,382

## Fiscal Year 2030 of 5-Year Rail Strategic Plan Obligations

Rail Program	Location	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal/ Other	FY2030 CTF State Funds
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak Services	Provide federally mandated operating assistance and equipment maintenance	\$24,421,147	\$0	\$24,421,147
Passenger Operating	Three Amtrak corridors	Michigan's share of multi-state equipment contract	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Stated Owned Track Maintenance	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$12,000,000
Michigan Line Maintenance	Kalamazoo to Dearborn	Rail Utilities	\$603,000	\$3,000	\$600,000
Michigan Line Infrastructure	Various Locations	TBD - Track/Bridge/Signal Projects	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000
Freight Line 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	\$38,500	\$0	\$38,500
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	\$15,923,853	\$0	\$15,923,853

### Freight Corridors Operated by:

GLC – Great Lakes Central

H&E – Huron and Eastern

IN – Indiana Northeastern

LSRC – Lake State Railway Company