



DRAINAGE MANUAL

September 2026

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRAINAGE MANUAL

Engineering Manual Preamble

This manual provides guidance to administrative, engineering and technical staff. Engineering practice requires that professionals use a combination of technical skills and judgment in decision-making. Engineering judgment is necessary to allow decisions to account for unique site-specific conditions and considerations to provide high-quality products, within budget, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare. This manual provides the general operational guidelines; however, it is understood that adaptation, adjustments and deviations are sometimes necessary. Innovation is a key foundational element to advance the state of engineering practice and develop more effective and efficient engineering solutions and materials. As such, it is essential that our engineering manuals provide a vehicle to promote, pilot or implement technologies or practices that provide efficiencies and quality products, while maintaining the safety, health and welfare of the public. It is expected when making significant or impactful deviations from the technical information from these guidance materials that reasonable consultations with experts, technical committees and/or policy-setting bodies occur prior to actions within the timeframes allowed. It is also expected that these consultations will eliminate any potential conflicts of interest, perceived or otherwise. MDOT leadership is committed to a culture of innovation to optimize engineering solutions.

The National Society of Professional Engineers Code of Ethics for Engineering is founded on six fundamental canons, provided below.

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

- Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.
- Perform services only in areas of their competence.
- Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
- Avoid deceptive acts.
- Conduct themselves honorably, reasonably, ethically, and lawfully to enhance the honor, reputation and usefulness of the profession.

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