

From Bruce Kadzban, Local Agency Program Section Administrator

## Design Exception and Design Variance Forms

Direct questions and inquiries regarding this Advisory to:

MDOT  
Development Services Division  
Local Agency Program  
[www.michigan.gov/mdotlap](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotlap)

Ryan Doyle, PE  
MDOT Local Agency Program  
Cell 989-220-9447  
[DoyleR3@Michigan.gov](mailto:DoyleR3@Michigan.gov)

Local Agency Programs (LAP) is pleased to announce that the Design Exception (DE) and Design Variance (DV) forms have been updated and are now available on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) webform page or at the following links:

- Design Exception ([DE26-LA](#))
- Design Variance ([DV26-LA](#))

While retaining the same general questions, the revisions make the forms more pertinent to local agency projects and remove language relevant to MDOT trunkline-only projects.

In addition, the approval process for each form has been updated:

- Design Exception: Forms will be reviewed by the LAP Engineer or Specialist, as well as their LAP Unit Team Leader. Once the forms are approved for signatures by both, the LAP Engineer or Specialist will place the form in OneSpan. Upon signature completion, the LAP Engineer or Specialist will place the final document in Projectwise (Supporting Documents folder). **Design Exceptions are not to be submitted for signatures in OneSpan by local agencies or consultants.**
- Design Variance: Forms will be reviewed by the LAP Engineer or Specialist, as well as their LAP Unit Team Leader. Once the forms are accepted for signatures by both, the local agency will obtain the required local agency/consultant seal and e-signatures. The form will then be sent to the LAP Engineer or Specialist for the required MDOT stamps. The final document will be placed in Projectwise (Supporting Documents folder).

While most of the forms detail why the design element standard can't be met, it is just as important (and required) to state what can be done to mitigate the risk of the deficient design element. Please ensure that current and proposed mitigation is thoroughly documented on the forms to limit necessary revisions.

Please contact Ryan Doyle ([DoyleR3@Michigan.gov](mailto:DoyleR3@Michigan.gov)) with questions or for more information.