

Historic Preservation Project Requirements



Historic Transportation Facilities

Eligible historic preservation and rehabilitation activities are limited to historic transportation facilities. Some examples are railroad depots, steam engines, brick streets that are contributing elements within historic districts, and historically significant bridges.

National Register of Historic Places

The project site/facility must be listed, or be eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. The eligibility and listing process are handled through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC).

Historic Preservation Easement

The use of federal funding on a historic facility requires the owner to execute and record an historic preservation easement with the county Register of Deeds and the Office of the Great Seal. Details for maintaining historic preservation projects are defined in the historic preservation easement.

Qualified Professional

Project development must involve a professional historian, historic architect, architectural historian, or archeologist in a principal capacity who possesses the qualifications outlined in the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (published in 48 Fed. Reg. 44738-44739).

Operations and Maintenance

Federal law requires that a transportation asset created/preserved using federal funding be operated and maintained in perpetuity. Should a project cease to be maintained or become unavailable for its intended purpose, the federal government has the right to require the recipient to provide an alternate facility accomplishing the same purpose or to reclaim the remaining value of its share of the asset.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) passes the maintenance responsibility to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grantee via the project agreement (a contract). TAP grantees are expected to meet these responsibilities financially and operationally. The grantee may pass this responsibility on to another agency/entity via a third-party agreement or permit, either for routine upkeep or for temporary appurtenance service.

Other entities that may perform their own operations and maintenance, which may cause removal or destruction of any portion of the project (e.g., utilities or private development), shall be required to restore the disturbed area in a historically appropriate manner complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (codified in 36 CFR Part 67).

Public Resolution

In addition to the normal TAP program requirements for a public resolution, historic preservation projects are required to have additional detail regarding operations and maintenance. The resolution must indicate that the operations and maintenance will be performed in a historically appropriate manner complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (codified in 36 CFR Part 67).