

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program



Michigan Placemaking in Action... Pere Marquette Rail-Trail



The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) partnered to construct the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail (PMRT), stretching from Midland to Baldwin. The PMRT route, once part of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad, cuts across a broad sampling of central Michigan countryside, from small-town main streets to forests, rivers and farmland. The trailhead picks up right where the Chippewa and Tittabawassee rivers come together at one of the Pere Marquette's most iconic views: "The Tridge," a three-way bridge that spans the intersecting waterways. Plans are in the works to extend the trail west to Ludington.

- Federal TE investment: \$5,744,291
- Financial contributors to the trail include local governments, foundations, tribal funds, in-kind services, MDNR, and MDOT.

Project Impact:

- An 86-mile transportation corridor is preserved.
- The Pere Marquette is one of the most heavily used trails in Michigan, with more than 175,000 visitors every year.

According to a study conducted by Michigan State University:

- Trail users from out of town spend money in restaurants and retail stores. Many also stay overnight. Eight out of 10 visited a restaurant along the trail.
- 47 percent of households surveyed reported improvement in health due to the use of the trail.
- Businesses have become successful adding trail-related products to their mix. For example, a local bike shop doubled its business with construction of the trail and a local hotel offers complimentary bike usage for hotel guests.
- Almost all businesses within a quarter mile of the trail reported that their employees use the trail.



"Transportation Enhancement projects boost a community's appeal to residents and businesses. Increasingly, new generations demand multi-modal communities, meaning those that offer access to bicycling and walking, which contributes to healthy, active lifestyles, and streetscape projects that improve safety, walkability, aesthetics and economic vitality."

- Kirk T. Steudle, State Transportation Director