

Local Input Welcome on MDOT's Post-Construction BMPs

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By now, you are probably familiar with Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are used to reduce water pollution from storm water runoff. BMPs can be structural, non-structural, action-oriented, or preservation-oriented. BMPs can be further categorized by whether they are intended for use during or after construction, or suitable for both. The focus of this article is post-construction BMPs (PCBMPs).

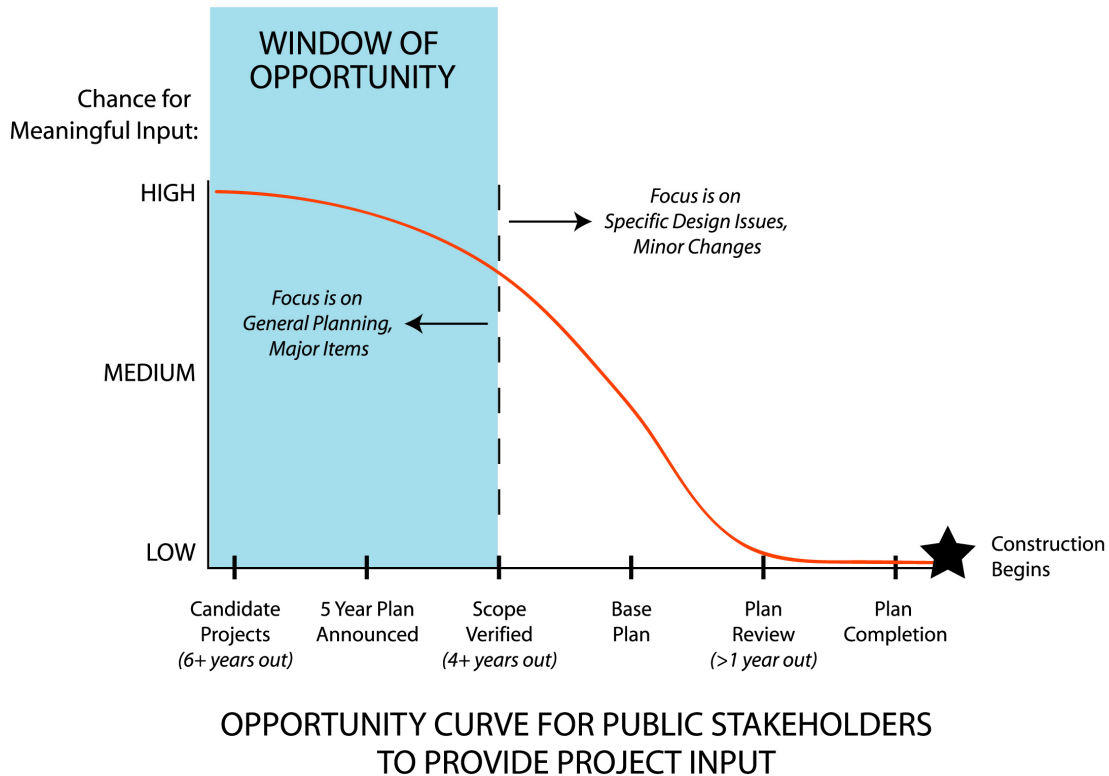
The intent of PCBMPs is to treat, store, filter or infiltrate storm water runoff onsite before it can affect the water quality of the receiving stream. MDOT determines if a site should have a PCBMP by asking the following questions:

1. Is this a new outlet? If so, can MDOT, to the maximum extent practicable, put in a PCBMP to protect water quality?
2. Is this an impaired water body? If so, can MDOT, to the maximum extent practicable, put in a PCBMP to protect water quality?

While these guidelines are permit-driven, MDOT fully supports and encourages the use of PCBMPs on State and local road projects. Evaluation of the need for PCBMPs begins three to five years before construction with MDOT's Early Coordination (EC) and Context Sensitive Solution (CSS) processes. These include the identification of existing water quality conditions that can be helped by PCBMPs, and allow MDOT to budget and plan accordingly for these improvements within a given project.

It is during the CSS and EC processes that MDOT encourages input from local communities and watershed groups. MDOT recognizes that these parties can offer much more specific input on local water quality issues. When local communities and groups share this information with the assigned MDOT Project Manager, there is an even greater chance for making PCBMPs a priority.

MDOT will not always have the resources to seek out input. Therefore, it is up to local communities and watershed groups to be proactive and speak up in the beginning of these processes if they have unique water quality issues that could be addressed through a PCBMP. The opportunity for design input and revisions drops as the process moves closer to plan set creation, as shown in the graphic below.



With all of this in mind, here are the steps you can take to increase the likelihood that PCBMPs to help meet your water quality goals will be included on MDOT projects:

- 1.) Review MDOT’s Five-Year Transportation Program, which is updated annually, to identify projects in your region.
 - > www.michigan.gov/mdot
 - > click on “projects and programs”
 - > click on “Strategic Planning”
 - > click on “Five-Year Program”
- 2.) Determine what water quality issues could be addressed by adding post-construction BMPs to the project.
- 3.) Consult the list of approved BMPs in Chapter 9 of MDOT’s Drainage Manual to determine possible solutions to your particular issue. BMP selection guidelines always seek to preserve the natural drainage system and control source pollutants.
 - > www.michigan.gov/mdot
 - > click on “Publications”
 - > click on “Order Publications from MDOT”
 - > click on “045 – Design Drainage Manual”
 - > click on “9. Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).”
- 4.) Prepare a plan for proper operation, inspection and maintenance to keep the BMP working as intended, including items such as:
 - a. Maintenance activities and schedule
 - b. Responsibility chart
 - c. Equipment requires
 - d. Cost opinions

- 5.) Share this information with the assigned MDOT Project Manager to see if it can be incorporated into the project during the next Five-Year plan update.

Also consider implementing a similar early planning process for your own projects. Review what construction is planned 3-5 years from now and determine how it might impact sensitive areas. Ask what steps can be taken to protect water quality. The sooner you start, the easier it is to incorporate effective solutions.

Adding context-sensitive, PCBMPs to MDOT projects (or any project) may not be a quick process, but improving water quality is definitely worth the extra effort. For more information about Post-Construction BMPs, visit:

cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps and click on “5. Post-Construction”

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