



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

Annual Priority Program and Safety Enhancement Opportunities

Dear Local Road Authority Partner:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is responsible for statewide implementation of the highway-railroad grade crossing enhancement program. Each year, in accordance with federal and state law, MDOT's Office of Rail reviews the current database of all public at-grade crossings and develops a prioritized list of locations that are eligible candidates for warning device improvements.

Diagnostic Study Team Review (DSTR) meetings are then scheduled and conducted at these locations, with projects resulting from these meetings typically funded entirely with federal or state program dollars. If you are contacted by MDOT for participation in the grade crossing enhancement program, you are obligated to send qualified personnel to participate in the DSTR process per MCL 462.301(1).

TRAFFIC COUNT UPDATES: After a few years of deferred collection due to Covid and the implementation of crossing inventory program modifications, we are resuming our traffic count compilation efforts with a new and improved procedure. Please watch for further information about this very important process throughout this year. Your timely reporting of up-to-date average annual daily traffic (AADT) counts, specifically targeting the vicinity of crossings, helps ensure that we can select qualified locations most deserving of review for potential enhancement opportunities.

As an additional Office of Rail program reminder, local road agencies should always contact MDOT's Rail Safety Section at MDOT-RailSafety@Michigan.gov any time a local road project is planned within the vicinity of a grade crossing, so that our office can determine if there are any safety issues to be addressed.

The Office of Rail continues to offer lump-sum incentive payments typically ranging between \$50,000 - \$200,000 to road agencies electing to permanently close local roads at existing highway-railroad grade crossing locations. For more information about the Office of Rail, local grade crossing safety programs, and funding policies, please visit our website at www.Michigan.gov/mdotrail, or contact my office at 517-648-7588. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding highway-railroad grade crossing safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristian N. Foondle
Rail Safety Manager
Office of Rail, Rail Safety & Administration