



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

PAUL C. AJEGBA  
DIRECTOR

## ANNUAL PRIORITY PROGRAM & RELATED 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.

Local road agencies play a valuable role in this effort, as traffic counts from your local road system are a critical element of our priority list development procedures: your reporting of **up-to-date traffic counts specifically targeting the vicinity of crossings** helps ensure that we are able to select qualified locations most deserving of review and improvement. If you are contacted by MDOT for participation in the grade crossing enhancement program, please respond by providing requested information in a timely manner and by **sending qualified personnel to participate in the DSTR process per MCL 462.301(1)**.

As an additional Office of Rail program reminder, local road agencies should always contact MDOT's Rail Safety Section at [MDOT-RailSafety@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-RailSafety@Michigan.gov) any time a local road project includes or takes place within the vicinity of a grade crossing. This enables our office to determine if there are any safety or funding issues to be addressed. Funding may be available to assist local road agencies with ordered warning device improvements on locally sponsored projects, with eligibility and participation levels determined in compliance with our published Project Funding Standards.

The Office of Rail also continues to offer **lump-sum incentive payments typically ranging between \$50,000 and \$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](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotrail), or contact my office at 734-657-1626. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding highway-railroad grade crossing safety.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristian N. Foondle'.

Kristian Foondle, Rail Safety Manager  
Rail Safety and Administration