

Public Hearing for Administrative
Rules for Roadside Facilities

Oct. 22, 2025



Welcome



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Survey

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires MDOT to provide the opportunity for everyone to comment on transportation programs and activities that may affect their community.

Please take this three-question survey by using the QR code or the link found in the chat.



Public Hearing Format

1. Presentation

2. Public comment

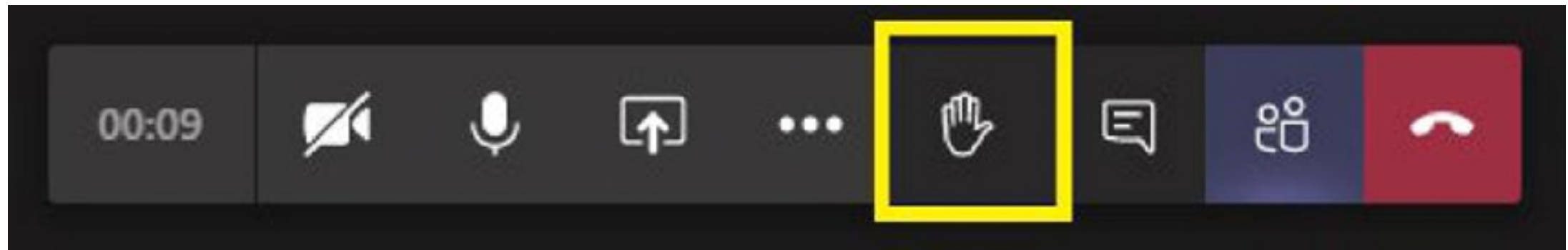
- Use the “raise hand” function after presentation and you will be called on to speak.
- Please limit your comment to three minutes.
- If you’ve joined by phone, we will call on you using the last four digits of your phone number.

3. Written public comments

- Submit written comments at Michigan.gov/ROWRules.
- Email to MDOT-PublicComments@Michigan.gov.

4. Q&A function

- Use the Q&A to ask questions or get more information.
- **Not used for formal public comments.**





Administrative Rules Public Hearing

This hearing provides an opportunity for the public to submit comments for the record on the proposed administrative rules.

Submit comments by Nov. 20, 2025

Why These Rules Matter



Public Safety

Ensures rest areas and roadside facilities remain safe for all users, including families, commercial drivers and tourists.

Helps prevent disruptive or illegal behavior (e.g., vandalism, loitering, unauthorized camping).



Cleanliness and Maintenance

Reduces misuse of facilities (e.g., dumping waste, improper parking, unattended pets).

Supports MDOT staff in keeping facilities clean, functional and welcoming.



Resource Limitations

MDOT is not an enforcement agency; relies on limited staff and resources.

Clear rules help prioritize responses to complaints and misuse.



Proposed Administrative Rules Overview

✓ Allowed Activities	✗ Prohibited Activities
Parking up to 48 hours	Camping or sleeping outside vehicles
Overnight parking (in vehicles)	Alcohol consumption
Leashed dogs in dog runs	Unleashed pets or pets in buildings (except service animals)
Fires in designated areas	Fires outside designated areas
Group activities with permit	Vandalism, excessive noise, fireworks
Commercial activity with prior approval	Unauthorized vending, advertising vehicles for sale
Use of rest areas, parks, carpool lots during open hours	Blocking access or staying beyond 48 hours
Service animals in buildings	Hunting, fishing, swimming, dumping waste or sewage

Goals

- Administrative rules are intended to address behaviors.
- MDOT is not an enforcement agency.
- Addressing public complaints or appropriately responding to situations we become aware of when working at MDOT facilities.
- Ensuring all MDOT facilities are welcoming.
- Working with our own staff and available resources to address concerns and identify needs for all facility users.

Alignment with Other States - Maximum Stay

States	Maximum Stay Allowed
IL, OH, KY, MD, CO	3-4 hours
CA, WA, OR, ID, NE	8-12 hours
TX, WI, KS	24 hours
Michigan (proposed)	48 hours  Most generous

Alignment with Other States - Camping

State	Camping Policy
Florida	Banned
Idaho	Banned
Nebraska	Banned
Ohio	Banned
Oregon	Banned
Kentucky	Implied ban (not explicitly allowed)
Kansas	Permitted for one night only
Michigan (proposed)	Banned  Aligned with majority

Enforcement

- Violations may result in a **misdemeanor** under **Rule R 247.633**
- Penalties may vary
- **MDOT's approach**
 - MDOT is **not an enforcement agency**
 - Enforcement is **complaint-driven**
 - Goal: **Promote compliance**, not punishment

Coordination with State Agencies

To ensure the proposed rules are practical, enforceable and responsive to broader public needs, MDOT has coordinated with:

- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**

To address public health and human services considerations at facilities.

- **Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)**

To align with housing and homelessness response strategies.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

CAMPING,
PARKING OR STORING
VEHICLES/CARGO/TRAILERS
FOR MORE THAN 48 HRS,
HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING, SWIMMING
P.A. 286 OF 1964 MCL 247.809

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE
SERVICES CALL
211 FOR HOUSING &
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
988 FOR MENTAL HEALTH &
CRISIS SUPPORT

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN
IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 911,
OR IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE
INFORMATION ABOUT TRAFFICKING
CALL TOLL FREE 1-888-373-7888

Public Outreach and Engagement



Public Outreach

News releases distributed statewide and shared with media outlets.

Signs posted at all MDOT roadside facilities statewide.



Agency and Community Coordination

Collaboration with:

- **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**
- **Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)**



Outreach to **local governments and community organizations** to share information and gather input.

Timeline



*JCAR is a committee made up of five state senators and five state representatives from Michigan's Legislature.

Public Comment

In addition to the public hearing, comments on the proposed rules can be submitted via:

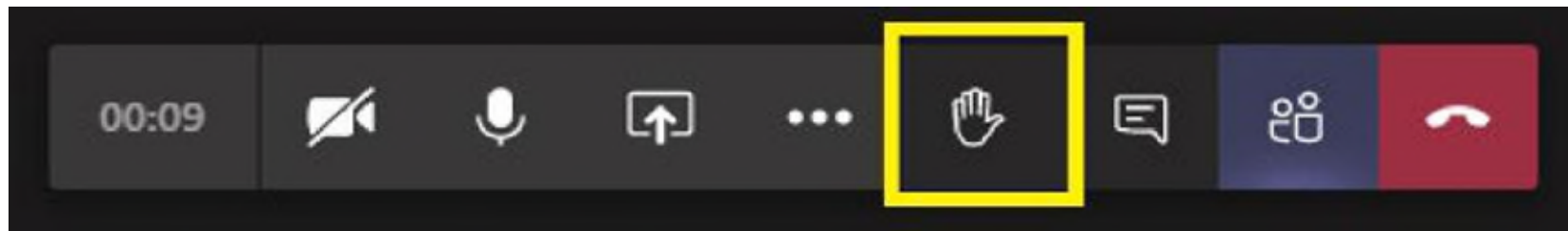
- At Michigan.gov/ROWRules
- Email to MDOT-PublicComments@Michigan.gov
- Left at any MDOT-owned rest area
- US Mail:
Monica Monsma
Michigan Department of Transportation B245
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Please provide your comments by Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025.



Public Comment

- Use the “raise hand” button and you will be called on to speak.
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For More Information

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- Email MDOT-PublicComments@Michigan.gov

