# Resolution 2025-04

# Michigan Infrastructure Council Legislative Report for Fiscal Year 2025

**WHEREAS,** the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) was established by Public Act 323 of 2018 to foster a culture of asset management across the state, promoting coordination and integration among various asset classes and regions; and

**WHEREAS,** Public Act 323 mandates that the MIC submit an annual comprehensive report to the governor and legislature, outlining its multiyear program, work plan, budget, and funding recommendations; and

**WHEREAS,** the attached 2025 Michigan Infrastructure Council Legislative Report provides a detailed overview of the Council's ongoing and planned initiatives to advance asset management in Michigan. These initiatives encompass a wide range of activities, including:

- The AM Champions Program, which empowers public sector employees, local officials, and private sector representatives to implement effective asset management strategies.
- The MIC Project Portal (MiDIG), a centralized platform for sharing information and resources related to infrastructure upcoming construction projects to support improved coordination
- The creation of regional infrastructure coordination hubs to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
- The development of asset management technical assistance programs that provides both technical and financial assistance to communities pursuing asset management initiatives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Michigan Infrastructure Council hereby approves the attached 2025 Legislative Report for submission to the Governor and Legislature by September 30, 2025.

**Adopted this 4th day of September 2025.**

# 2025
# Michigan Infrastructure Council

# DRAFT

# Legislative Report

Required by Public Act 323 of 2018 Section 4(1)(a)

Prepared for
Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature

Michigan Department of Treasury

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# Executive Summary

Michigan's critical infrastructure, which includes essential systems for water, roads, energy, and broadband, are vital to our quality of life, economy, and connectivity. As these systems age and demands on them evolve, it's critical to adopt effective, life-cycle-based management approaches and long-term strategies. This ensures that our current infrastructure remains reliable and cost-effective while we plan for the future.

Throughout the last century, infrastructure owners have learned countless lessons about how to cost effectively manage these systems. This community of knowledge and established best practice serves as the basis for MIC's Asset Management (AM) Champions training program. This program aligns with the International Standards Organization (ISO) 55000 standards for effective asset management systems and provides strategies for implementing organization wide asset management programs. As outlined in the workplan and budget, the MIC plans to expand the program to have an elected officials focused course, and to expand the size of the classes to accommodate increased demand for the training in recent years.

The MIC also continues to make great strides in improving the ability for public and private infrastructure owners to coordinate future projects so we can plan better, dig once, and achieve more through our statewide planning portal, MiDIG. With many infrastructure systems approaching the end of their useful life, we have a great opportunity to update underground infrastructure beneath our roadways simultaneously and expand broadband networks in a single construction cycle saving money and better utilizing an already strained workforce. Working with our regional partners statewide in our RICH Pilot, the MIC is exploring ways to expand well established regional transportation planning processes to include the adoption of MiDIG to streamline coordinated efforts and minimize disruptions for communities.

This year also marked the launch of the MIC's technical assistance program in partnership with the Michigan Infrastructure Office. Through this program we were able to support our AM Champions statewide with customized asset management readiness workshops and accounting services to apply for newly available federal tax credits. With a growing number of program graduates and increased demand for direct asset management assistance, the MIC is looking to significantly expand this program in the future to support our stakeholders by continuing to develop their local asset management strategies.

In conclusion, the last year has been one of rapid growth for the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC), fueled by the release and vision of our inaugural 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy. Through our short-term strategic actions and activities outlined in this report, we hope to take significant strides in the coming years towards achieving our long-term vision.

# Overview

## Michigan Infrastructure Council Act

Pursuant to its statutory obligations under Public Act 323 of 2018, known as the Michigan Infrastructure Council Act, the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) is mandated to annually report a multiyear program, work plan, budget, and funding recommendations to the legislature and governor concerning asset management by September 30.

This document describes the multifaceted approach the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) is taking to create a robust, statewide culture of asset management. These efforts are centered on three key areas:

- Educational Initiatives - providing resources and training to help organizations understand and implement effective asset management practices.

- Coordination Efforts - collaborating closely with the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC), Water Asset Management Council (WAMC), as well as with state agencies, regional planning groups, and the private sector to promote integrated infrastructure asset management and strategic planning.

- Technical Assistance - offering hands-on support to communities as they develop their asset management strategies.

As noted in the MIC's 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy, coordinated asset management practices — that are consistently applied across both the public and private sectors and are reinforced by all levels of government—offer substantial benefits. This integrated approach can not only lead to significant financial savings but also dramatically reduce the risk of catastrophic infrastructure failures and enhance the overall quality of life for Michigan residents.

The MIC believes that shifting to an integrated asset management approach long-term will strengthen Michigan's social bonds, boost the economy, and protect our natural heritage, Great Lakes, and quality of life for future generations. By understanding how our infrastructure will age and how our communities will grow, we can make prudent investments today that will yield dividends for decades.

# Michigan's 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy

The Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) recently marked a major achievement: the release of its first edition of the 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy in January 2025. This document, published in accordance with the Michigan Infrastructure Council Act, serves as a roadmap for Michigan's future. It not only establishes the council's long-term vision for fostering a statewide culture of asset management but also includes a five-year priority action plan, outlining specific programs and activities where the MIC can invest its resources to help achieve that vision in the near term.

1. **Statewide Culture of Asset Management** – Building a statewide asset management culture requires a shared understanding and commitment across various stakeholders. Providing free and accessible training on asset management tailored for elected officials, practitioners, to the general public, is key to accelerating buy in and fostering organizational cultures that embrace asset management.

2. **Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) Pilot** – This pilot will position regional planning agencies as infrastructure coordination hubs bringing together asset owners across all asset classes to support long-term integrated infrastructure planning activities. The program will be assisted by MIC's MiDIG software helping create a statewide standard for project coordination and communications.

3. **Unified Planning and Regulatory Framework** – Another goal in the strategy is to create a unified framework that would align asset management, regulatory processes, and data systems at the state, regional, and local levels. By transforming processes such as planning, grants, loans, and permitting to reinforce and incentivize proper asset management, we can decrease unnecessary regulatory burdens.

4. **Rethinking Rates and Revenues** – Sustainable rate structures and funding mechanisms are essential for management of infrastructure systems. Educating stakeholders that a well-designed system ensures predictable cash flow for ongoing maintenance and investment, reduces reliance on one-time funding sources and enables proactive, long-term infrastructure planning.

5. **Efficient and Green Public Infrastructure Systems** – Public infrastructure systems such as drinking water, wastewater, streetlighting, and street signals are traditionally energy intensive. Through effective energy efficiency efforts and the utilization of on-site renewables to off-set energy peaks, these systems can lower their cost to operate while improving the resiliency of our electric grid and freeing up dollars to invest in asset management.

6. **Leaders in Emerging Technology** - Emerging technologies are essential to modern infrastructure management - enabling smarter, safer, and more efficient systems. By integrating innovations into asset management, Michigan can enhance service reliability, improve workforce productivity, and be a leader in the deployment of smart infrastructure.

The Council is eager to continue its work in developing programs and activities in these strategic action areas. Since its release, MIC members and staff have traveled across the state, promoting the strategy at various conferences and seminars, while also identifying key partners who are already leading efforts in these areas to collaborate with.

By working together, we can ensure Michigan's infrastructure is managed effectively, leading to significant savings, fewer catastrophic events, and a better quality of life for everyone. This collaborative approach will help us build a more resilient state.

# Asset Management Education

Traditional infrastructure management often operates in silos, with separate teams overseeing different infrastructure asset classes. Integrated asset management breaks down these barriers by fostering collaboration among various infrastructure owners serving communities. This approach ensures a unified strategy that considers the interdependencies between different infrastructure projects and systems during both planning and operations. The journey to improving infrastructure systems begins with equipping practitioners with the knowledge and understanding of asset management and dismantling organizational silos to lead to better decision-making

## Asset Management Champions Training Program

The MIC's Asset Management Champions training program is a comprehensive course that serves as the cornerstone of MIC's multi-year asset management initiative. Since 2021, the MIC Asset Management (AM) Champions Program has trained over 600 infrastructure practitioners in Michigan (see appendix 1) on the principles and planning processes of infrastructure asset management. There are champions spread across the state in approximately 70 of Michigan's 83 counties. Program participation exceeded 110 participants in 2025, adding to the network of asset management champions helping Michigan unlock the full potential of its infrastructure, leading to economic growth and improved quality of life for communities.

Graduates of the program learn and network across sectors, fostering collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds. This provides practical tools to aid in comprehensive planning for effective infrastructure decision-making for elected officials, planners, engineers, GIS specialists, superintendents, city managers, finance directors, township supervisors, and many others. The AM Champions Program offers free training to public and private sector employees on asset management best practices and how to assess their current organizational practices using the Asset Management Readiness Scale (AMRS).

The AMRS is designed to help infrastructure owners understand, measure, and advance their asset management proficiency. This scale provides a common methodology that can be applied across transportation, water, utilities, and communications assets to produce quantifiable outcomes, enabling the creation of improvement goals and systematic re-evaluation. This self-assessment tool serves as the foundation for the program, providing participants with data to strive towards self-improvement in overall asset management practices. Through this tool and comprehensive education, the program aims to develop infrastructure leaders who are empowered to champion organizational change at the local level.

## Elected Officials and Decision-Makers Primer and Program

The MIC remains actively engaged with asset management champion graduates and acquires onging insights for enhancing our program and expanding our outreach. The feedback was clear: elected officials must gain a deeper understanding of asset management and recognize their pivotal role in the success of asset management adoption. In response, MIC initiated efforts in FY25 to address this critical need.

In 2026, MIC will proudly introduce a comprehensive primer and an eLearning course tailored specifically for elected officials and decision-makers. The active participation of all stakeholders is paramount to the advancement of our infrastructure systems. Ensuring that everyone comprehends and embraces their responsibilities is essential for the success of these improvements, benefiting all Michiganders. The program for elected officials and decision-makers offers a robust foundation in infrastructure asset management, highlighting its significance in their roles and demonstrating how it leads to more informed and effective infrastructure decision-making.

Elected officials and decision-makers are indispensable partners in the development and implementation of successful infrastructure strategies. Their engagement ensures that projects are not only adequately funded and collaboratively planned but also accountable to the public and aligned with the long-term community needs. Given that turnover among elected officials can disrupt the priority of infrastructure initiatives, the involvement of departmental staff is crucial to maintaining continuity and sustaining infrastructure strategies beyond individual administrations.

# Asset Management Coordination

The Michigan Infrastructure Asset Management Pilot, conducted in 2017, clearly demonstrated that enhanced collaboration and coordination among both public and private infrastructure owners is essential. By bringing together partners from drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation, the pilot showed that integrated asset management can significantly boost the efficiency and value of infrastructure investments.

Breaking down traditional silos resulted in tangible benefits, including lower project costs, a higher return on investment, and more effective workforce utilization. This strategic, collaborative approach is vital for delivering sustainable infrastructure built to stand the test of time.

Public Act 323, Section 4 (e)(iii) requires the MIC to "Identify and designate a process to plan, analyze, and coordinate asset management across assets and asset owners at the regional level."

Key initiatives like the MIC Project Portal (MiDIG) and the Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) pilot program, are working towards the legislature's vision for a more coordinated and collaborative approach to managing future infrastructure systems.

## MIC Project Portal (MiDIG)

The MIC Project Portal (MiDIG) was conceptualized in 2019 through conversations with public and private infrastructure owners across the state. Throughout the state there was consensus that the lack of standardized processes and planning tools for sharing project information across jurisdictions was significantly hindering their ability to coordinate infrastructure projects.

To support our stakeholders' needs and deliver on our legislative intent, the MIC began developing an integrated infrastructure planning tool (MIDIG) for use by all private and public infrastructure owners and managers across the state. Launched in 2024, MiDIG is available for free to infrastructure owners and planners across all asset classes.

This shared geographic information system (GIS) interface serves as a statewide infrastructure capital improvement plan. Users can either manually draw or upload planned projects and set their notification preferences within the system. When another infrastructure owner submits a project that overlaps with another user's project, both project contacts are notified and connected in a project specific chatroom where users can coordinate their work to help increase the number of "dig once" projects statewide.

## Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) pilot

Following the release of MiDIG, the MIC launched the second phase of its coordinated infrastructure efforts: the Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) pilot program in 2025. This pilot engages seven regional planning agencies across both the Lower and Upper Peninsulas (see appendix 3), representing a diverse mix of rural and urban communities.

The program's design mirrors the successful Michigan Infrastructure Asset Management pilot, with regional planning agencies supporting the collection and standardization of municipal capital improvement plans in a GIS format for submission to the statewide MiDIG system. By leveraging the existing planning expertise and community relationships of Michigan's robust regional agencies, the MIC aims to accelerate the adoption of MiDIG and increase the prevalence of "dig once" projects statewide while also helping communities further their asset management data collection efforts.

For decades, these regional governments have been instrumental in transportation and economic development planning. By supporting the evolution of these processes to include integrated infrastructure planning, we hope to ensure the long-term sustainability of our infrastructure and a high quality of life for all residents.

At the conclusion of the pilot, the MIC plans to provide a framework that can be shared with regions across the State. After analyzing the success of the pilot, the MIC hopes to work with the legislature to allocate dedicated funding for these asset management activities recognizing the significant return on investment of integrated infrastructure planning.

# Asset Management Technical Assistance

This year, in partnership with the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO) Technical Assistance Center, the MIC began offering asset management technical assistance for communities seeking support for federal grant development and additional development opportunities for graduates of our Asset Management Champions program. Through this partnership, the MIC held individually tailored asset management readiness workshops for seven infrastructure organizations across the state (see appendix 2) that were hosted with AM Champion graduates at these agencies.

1. Huron County Road Commission
2. Allegan County Road Commission
3. City of Rochester Hills
4. City of Sault St. Marie
5. Traverse City
6. City of Manton
7. City of Alpena

Utilizing a team of asset management experts and MIC representatives, these workshops brought together all the departments in an organization to discuss their current asset management practices. Utilizing the asset management readiness scale (AMRS) featured in the AM Champions program, the workshops assessed organizations practices in key areas of asset management implementation and provided roadmaps for improvement for future consideration.

The MIC and MIO have also partnered to launch the Elective Pay Accounting Services program within the MIO Technical Assistance Center. Through this program, state agencies, local governments and not-for-profit organizations are provided free accounting services from licensed accountants for the submission of elective pay tax credit applications. The Elective Pay program allows organizations that do not typically have federal tax obligations, such as local governments and public schools, obtain clean energy tax credits through a direct payment instead of tax refund.

This program has helped the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several townships in Michigan's upper peninsula save up to 40% of the cost of installing solar panels on their property, significantly lowering repayment timelines of clean energy investments.

# Asset Management Budget

The Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC) is funded through an annual appropriation from the Michigan Legislature to the Department of Treasury. Public Act 121 of 2024 provided the MIC with an annual appropriation of $3,858,000 with the following boilerplate:

*Sec. 949m. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the Michigan infrastructure council shall plan, conduct, and contract for asset management improvement activities, including, but not limited to, any of the following:*

*(a) Infrastructure data collection activities.*

*(b) Asset manager training.*

*(c) Development of a 30-year asset management plan for this state.*

*(d) Assistance in asset management improvement projects, including maintaining an asset management portal.*

*(e) Any other projects that promote improved asset management for infrastructure in this state.*

In addition to the 2025 Fiscal Year allocation, the MIC also utilized a Fiscal Year 2024 Work Project for $750,000 to support asset management readiness workshops and grant readiness in partnership with the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO).

## Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2027

| Budget Items | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | Total 3-Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administration | $740,000 | $900,000 | $900,000 | $2,540,000 |
| Outreach/Engagement | $40,000 | $25,000 | $20,000 | $85,000 |
| MIC/MIO Elective Pay Accounting Services | $250,000 | $250,000 | - | $500,000 |
| Joint Conference/Meeting | $25,000 | $40,000 | $20,000 | $85,000 |
| WAMC Strategic Plan | $35,000 | - | - | $35,000 |
| AM Champions Program | $175,000 | $350,000 | $350,000 | $875,000 |
| AM for Elected Officials | $40,000 | $135,000 | $50,000 | $225,000 |
| Local Technical Assistance | *$325,000 ** | $900,000 | $1,000,000 | $2,225,000 |
| Utility Rate Training | $100,000 | $100,000 | $100,000 | $300,000 |
| Project Portal | $330,000 | $250,000 | $200,000 | $780,000 |
| Regional Planning Pilot | *$1,100,000 ** | $550,000 | $550,000 | $2,200,000 |
| **MIC Budget Total:** | $3,160,000 | $3,500,000 | $3,190,000 | $9,850,000 |
| **2024 Work Project** | **FY25** | **FY26** | **FY27** | **Total 3-Year** |
| MIO/MIC Asset Management Workshop | $525,000 | $225,000 | - | $750,000 |

**Work Project Request Pending for FY25*

## Asset Management Funding Recommendations

Determining an exact and agreed upon statewide funding amount for infrastructure asset management is an inherently complex task. Based on what we've learned from conversations with stakeholders, surveys, and workshops across the state, it's clear that many of our public infrastructure systems currently do not have a formal asset management program. Many of these organizations don't even have a current, accurate list of their critical assets - which is a basic and necessary step for effective asset management.

We estimate that about 50-75% of public infrastructure owners, especially those with smaller systems, do not have a formal asset management plan or have a plan that is outdated and requires major updates. To help these communities, targeted funding is essential so they can build the necessary capacity, get the right tools, and create the foundational plans for effective and sustainable asset management. Through MIC's Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) pilot and local technical assistance programs, we will work to continue to understand these needs and communicate them with the legislature to address any gaps in current funding.

# Conclusion

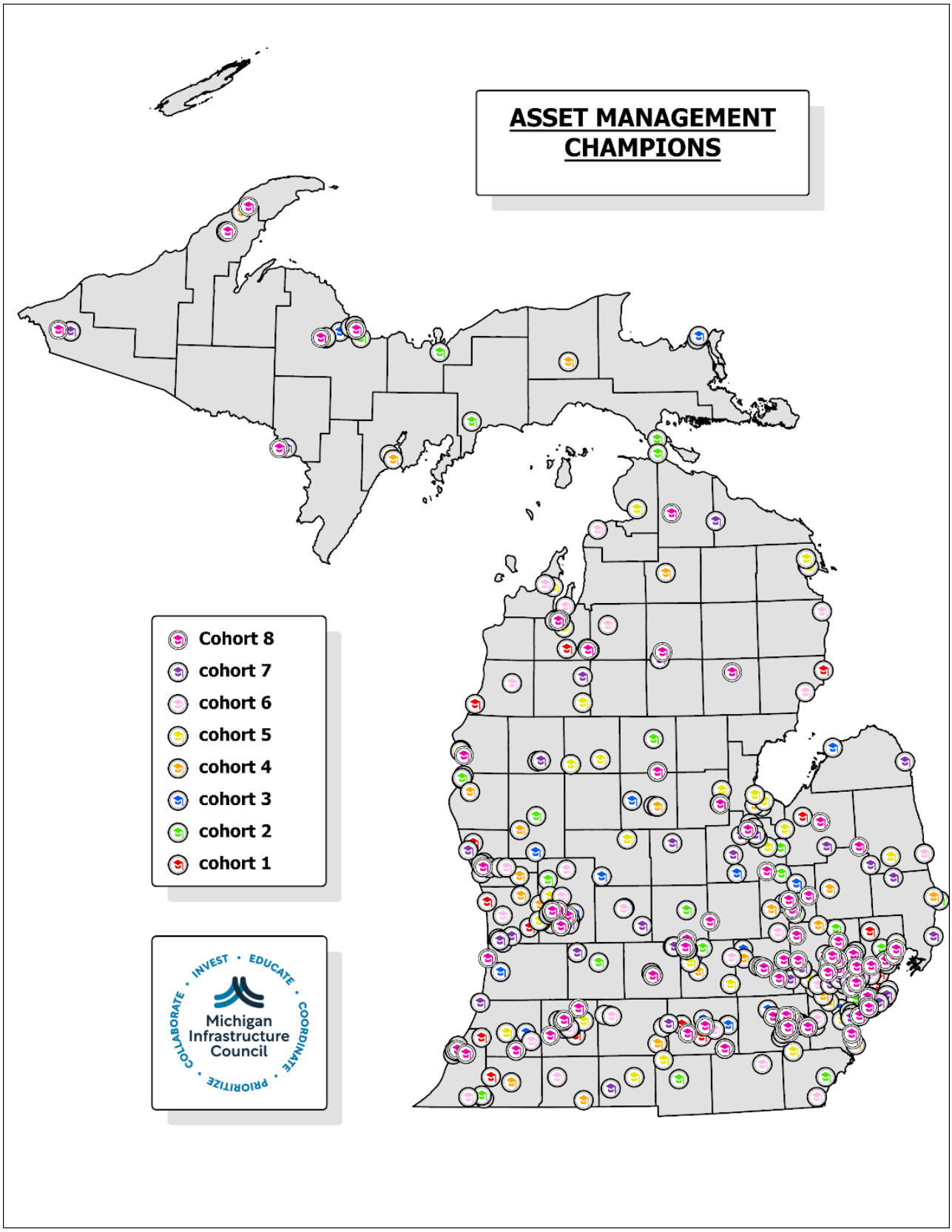
The MIC is pleased to report substantial progress in fulfilling the legislative intent outlined in the Michigan Infrastructure Council Act.

Our comprehensive asset management programs have laid a solid foundation for coordination, data-driven infrastructure planning and strategic asset management statewide. By fostering collaboration, promoting knowledge sharing, and providing essential tools and resources, we are empowering infrastructure owners and their staff to make informed decisions that optimize their investments and the value they deliver to their communities.

As we move forward, the MIC remains dedicated to expanding our reach and serving as a statewide resource for infrastructure improvement efforts. We are confident that our continued work will contribute to a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable future for Michigan's infrastructure.

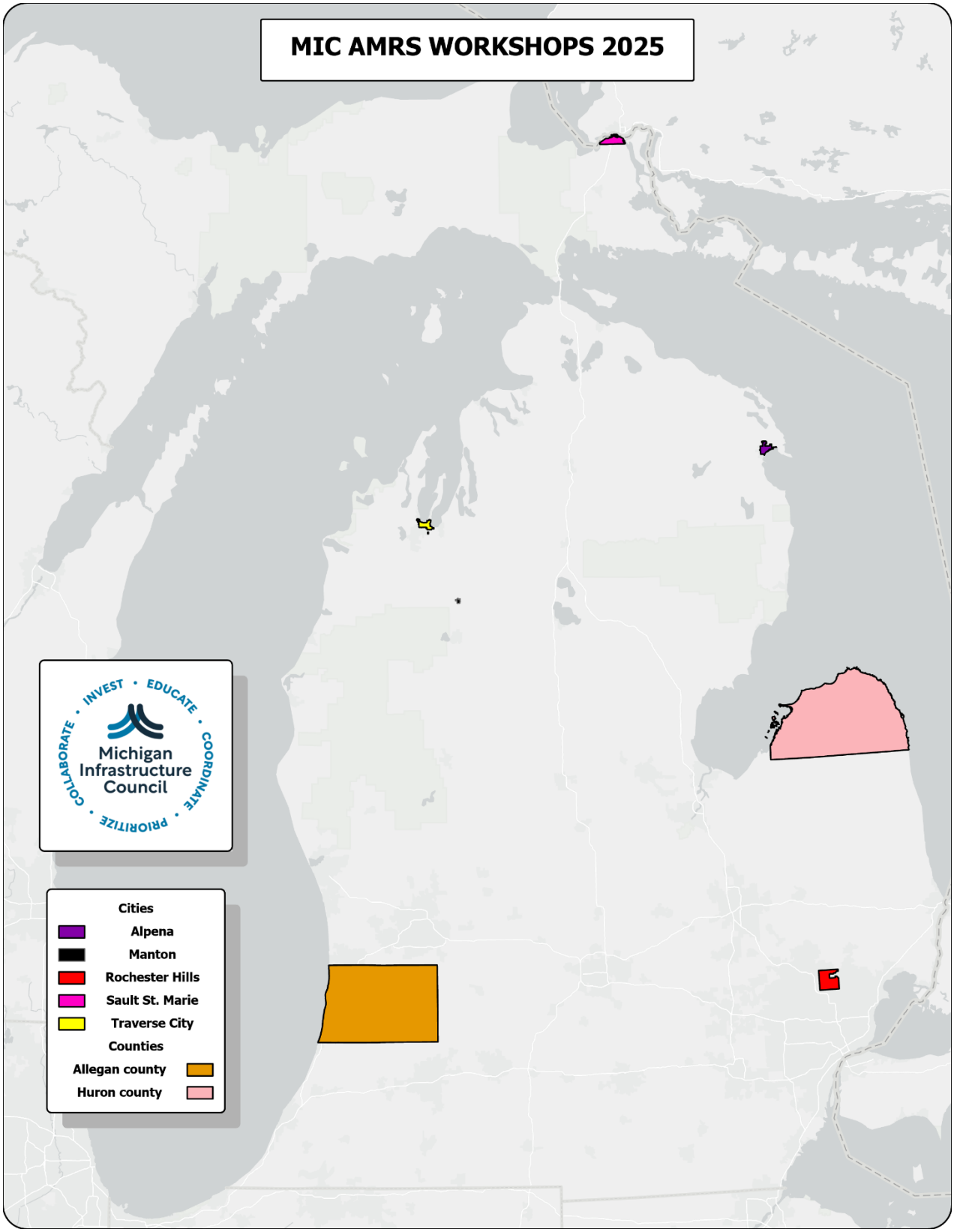
## Appendix 1: Asset Management Champions

Map of Graduates and Current Participants



## Appendix 2: Technical Assistance Program

Map of Asset Management Readiness Workshop Participants



## Appendix 3: Regional Infrastructure Coordination Hubs (RICH) Pilot

Map of Pilot Regional Participants