

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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On December 22, 1978, the Department of State Highways and Transportation became the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The State Transportation Commission was created in 1978 by an amendment to the state constitution to provide policy direction to the department.

The primary functions of MDOT are the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the state highway system – the 9,655 miles of Interstate, U.S. and M-numbered highways; the development and implementation of comprehensive transportation plans for the entire state, including all modes of public transit – aeronautics, bus, and rail; providing professional and technical assistance; and the administration of state and federal funds allocated for these programs. The director of the department is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The **State Transportation Commission (STC)** establishes policy for MDOT, its programs and facilities, and other such public works of the state, as provided by law. The 6 members of the commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for 3-year terms. No more than 3 members may be from the same political party. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

The **Aeronautics Commission**, created by Act 327 of 1945, is charged with the general supervision of all aeronautics within the state and is empowered to make and issue rules and regulations and issue funding approval of airport development programs relevant to the location, design, building, equipping, and operating of all airports and other aeronautical facilities; governing the curriculum, equipment, personnel, operation, and management of all flight schools; and making such other rules as it may consider necessary to properly carry out the provisions of the Michigan Aeronautics Code.

MDOT works closely with the STC, the Aeronautics Commission, the Mackinac Bridge Authority in St. Ignace, and the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority in Sault Ste. Marie.

MDOT is composed of 4 bureaus and 9 offices. The 4 bureaus include Finance and Administration, Highway Field Services, Highway Development, and Transportation Planning. MDOT's 9 offices include Aeronautics, Business Development, Commission Audits, Communications, Economic Development, Governmental Affairs, High Speed Rail and Innovative Project Advancement, Operations and Administrative Services, and Passenger Transportation.

The **Bureau of Finance and Administration** provides the internal support for the operation of the department. It is responsible for conducting public hearings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969 and managing the department's capital outlay and highway travel information programs. It also is responsible for accounting services, fiscal reporting, fiscal planning, budgeting, cash management, contract administration, bond financing, property leasing, purchasing, stores control, and all related financial functions.

The **Bureau of Highway Field Services** and the **Bureau of Highway Development** are responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of a statewide system of trunkline highways, welcome centers and roadside rest areas and for providing administrative and technical assistance in the design, construction, and maintenance of city and village streets and county roads.

The **Bureau of Highway Development** comprises the Design and Real Estate divisions. The Design Division prepares construction plans and engineering data for state highways, bridges, and related structures. It assures compliance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and MDOT design procedures, principle standards, and specifications and administers the federal and state aid programs for local agencies. The Real Estate Division oversees the following for the state trunkline system: real property appraisal, acquisition, condemnation, clearance, relocation, environmental assessments, management and disposal of excess property, and related appurtenances. In addition, it coordinates utility, highway advertisement, non-MDOT construction and utility installation permitting, and oversize/overweight commercial vehicle transport permitting.

The **Highway Field Services Bureau** consists of 2 divisions, Field Operations and Field Services. Field Services provides engineering support, oversight, and technical expertise for projects; develops and implements specifications for construction; and administers the annual capital bridge preservation program and the capital preventive maintenance program for roads. It plans, develops, and implements road and bridge management functionality on a statewide basis. In addition, Field Services develops and implements a quality control/quality assurance testing and materials control plan for the construction program and maintains a continuing applied research and development program relative for the design, construction, and maintenance of the state trunkline system.

The Field Operations Division includes Maintenance and Traffic and Safety. It provides specialized skills, technical support, and training assistance to MDOT's regions. Maintenance develops and implements standards of practice for maintenance of the state trunkline system while working towards statewide consistency. Traffic and Safety serves the public's transportation needs through application of comprehensive highway traffic engineering technology; participates in all phases of the department's effort to reduce traffic crashes and injuries, vehicle delay, fuel consumption, pollution, and operating costs by increasing the safety, efficiency, and capacity of the state trunkline system.

The **Bureau of Transportation Planning** develops and implements a comprehensive transportation planning process which results in transportation investments that are consistent with the financial, social, economic, and environmental policies of the STC. Major responsibilities include strategic planning and policy development, multi-modal planning, program management, maintaining federal aid eligibility, planning for security and mobility, economic development, strategic information technology/tools, asset management, and operations-oriented process support.

**Regional Offices** — MDOT field operations are conducted from 7 regional offices and 22 transportation service centers. The regional offices are located in Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Gaylord, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and Southfield, the latter serving metropolitan Detroit.

**Rest Areas** — The department operates 67 freeway rest areas and 81 roadside parks across Michigan on Interstate, M-, and U.S. routes.

**Welcome Centers** — The department operates 14 Welcome Centers across Michigan. These Welcome Centers ensure that Michigan residents and visitors have a positive and lasting impression of our state.

