

Benefits of Michigan Creating a Rail Crossing Grade Separation Program

Problem: Michigan's historically congested rail crossing locations. Local communities have dealt with decades of long waits and safety concerns at blocked crossings.

Solution: Create a new Local Grade Separation Program to improve safety and expedite the movement of vehicles and pedestrians by eliminating at-grade highway-rail crossings.

Companies are more likely to invest in a community after an at-grade crossing is removed because they now will be able to reliably move goods and their employees will be able to reach the workplace on time. Schools near highly congested rail crossings will also greatly benefit.

- ☑ This new, state-administered grade separation grant program's goal will be to improve safety and mobility at highly congested highway-rail intersections.
- ☑ Michigan cities, townships and counties are eligible to apply on any local road, with emphasis on crossings with a history of collisions, high density freight train and vehicular traffic crossings, mobility impacts to the regional transportation network, and closure of additional highway-rail crossings in the community in exchange for a grade separation grant.
- ☑ The minimum local match would be 20% of the total project's construction and right-of-way costs. MDOT will fund and manage the design fees. This match can be reached through any local partnerships.

Background

- ✓ *MDOT currently does not administer a local railroad grade separation program, unlike other states in the Midwest.*
- ✓ *Average freight train lengths exceed 1 mile long among the largest railroads – a number that grows every year with larger freight rail volumes.*
- ✓ *There are more than 4,000 highway-rail grade crossings in the state.*
- ✓ *Michigan was ranked 15th worst in the nation in 2018 for the number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities at highway-rail crossings.*

Rail/Road Grade Separation Projects



Roadway Underpass



Roadway Overpass

Local Grade Separation Program

Supporting Organizations:

- Beaumont Hospital**
- CN**
- Conference of Western Wayne**
- CSX**
- FCA**
- Fraternal Order of Police**
- Lake State Railway**
- Michigan Association of Police Organizations**
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce**
- Michigan Environmental Council**
- Michigan Manufacturers Association**
- Michigan Pupil Transportation Association**
- Norfolk Southern**
- Police Officers Association of Michigan**
- Professional Firefighters of Michigan**
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments**
- Trenton (city)**
- Wixom (city)**