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Office of the Auditor General

Report Summary

Performance Audit

Aggregate Quality Process

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

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MDOT's Bureau of Field Services, Construction Field Services Division, regional offices, and transportation service centers are responsible for ensuring the quality of aggregate material used during highway construction projects. Aggregate is a substance composed of mineral crystals or mineral rock fragments used in pavement. MDOT procedures require aggregate to be quality assurance tested at established frequencies (see Exhibit 1). As of January 28, 2021, MDOT had 613 aggregate suppliers. Aggregate suppliers can apply to become prequalified to reduce required testing frequency. To become prequalified, a supplier must have a quality control plan, internal or contracted quality control testing, and qualified staff.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 1: To assess the sufficiency of MDOT's efforts to ensure aggregate quality.			Sufficient, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MDOT did not retain weekly shipment summaries for 18 (45%) of 40 prequalified aggregate suppliers (Finding 1).	X		Agrees
MDOT did not test non-prequalified aggregate at the required frequency for 9 (18%) of 50 construction projects, and in 12 (29%) of 41 construction projects, MDOT did not perform physical property testing on the material (Finding 2).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective	Conclusion
Objective 2: To assess the effectiveness of MDOT's efforts to administer the Aggregate Supplier Program.	Moderately effective

Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
For 36 (90%) of 40 prequalified aggregate supplier quality control laboratories and 10 (59%) of 17 quality assurance laboratories, MDOT did not have required biennial inspections (<u>Finding 3</u>).	X		Agrees
For 10 (71%) of 14 prequalified aggregate suppliers, MDOT did not have an initial laboratory inspection and for 7 (50%) of 14 quality control plans, the prequalified supplier did not have the required elements (<u>Finding 4</u>).	X		Agrees
MDOT did not perform Independent Assurance Tests on aggregate technicians for 6 (35%) of 17 construction projects using non-prequalified aggregate materials (<u>Finding 5</u>).		X	Agrees

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Phone: (517) 334-8050

Office of the Auditor General
201 N. Washington Square, Sixth Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA
Auditor General

Laura J. Hirst, CPA
Deputy Auditor General