



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

November 14, 2024

Chief Internal Auditor
State Budget Office
Office of Internal Audit Services
111 S. Capitol Avenue
7th Floor, Romney Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Rick Lowe:

In accordance with the State of Michigan Financial Management Guide, Part VII, enclosed is the Michigan Department of Transportation corrective action plan in response to the Office of the Auditor General performance audit report on the Highway Work Zone Safety and Mobility covering the period March 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023 (Project 591-0167-24).

Questions regarding the corrective action plan should be directed to Jason Gutting, P.E., Bureau of Field Services Director, at 517-243-3682; or Jack Cotter, CPA, CGMA, Commission Auditor, at 517-335-5920.

Sincerely,

E-SIGNED by Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.
on 2024-11-14 13:08:09 EST

Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.
Director

Enclosure

cc: Executive Office
Office of the Auditor General
Senate Fiscal Agency
House Fiscal Agency
Senate Transportation Standing Committee
Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee
House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee
State Transportation Commission Chair

Office of Commission Audits
Gregg Brunner, MDOT
Jason Gutting, MDOT
Lindsey Renner, MDOT
Erick Kind, MDOT
Sonja Scheurer, MDOT

Michigan Department of Transportation
Highway Work Zone Safety and Mobility Audit (591-0167-24)
Issued by the Office of the Auditor General
August 2024
Department Final Corrective Action Plan

Summary Response Matrix

[Provide finding numbers in applicable category:]

	Complied	Will Comply	Partially Complied	Will Not Comply
Agrees		1, 2, 3, 4		
Partially Agrees				
Disagrees				

Final Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Finding Number 1

Finding Title: Utilization of crash data needed to improve work zones.

Is this an IT-related finding: No.

Department Response

Management Views:

MDOT agrees with the recommendation.

Planned Corrective Action (Management Response):

MDOT agrees with the recommendation. As referenced in the audit report, the investigating officer attributed at least 87% (8,148 of 9,294) of work zone crashes and 90% (27 of 30) of work zone fatalities to the driver. Similarly, the investigating officer did not attribute a cause on the remaining 13 percent of work zone crashes and 10 percent of work zone fatalities, respectively. While one crash or fatality is too many, MDOT continues its efforts in the Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) initiative with the primary focus to influence driver behavior, improve safety, and eliminate serious injuries and deaths on roadways.

MDOT will continue to utilize crash data, including available UD-10 reports (traffic crash report), for traffic control of its work zone projects, and will partner with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and update, as necessary, its policies and procedures by January 2026 with statewide coordination and training implemented by March 2026.

Anticipated Compliance Date:

March 27, 2026.

Responsible Individual(s):

Bureau of Field Services/Construction Field Services Division (Jason Gutting/Lindsey Renner).

Finding Number 2

Finding Title: Formal field review process needs improvement.

Is this an IT-related finding: No.

Department Response

Management Views:

MDOT agrees with the recommendation.

Planned Corrective Action (Management Response):

MDOT agrees with the recommendation. MDOT's review process includes coordination and collaboration among central and region staff. This is done by providing reviews, guidance, and recommendations from central staff while also ensuring the decision-making and oversight is done by those closest to the project and in the best position to assess and evaluate onsite and day-to-day work zone operations. Consistent with the OAG's finding, MDOT's forms and procedures will be updated to more clearly reflect this in the review process.

MDOT will evaluate and assess requirements for field reviews by December 2024 and partner with FHWA to review and update its policies and procedures by January 2026. The updated policies and procedures will incorporate the updated review process, with statewide coordination and training implemented by March 2026.

Anticipated Compliance Date:

March 27, 2026.

Responsible Individual(s):

Bureau of Field Services/Construction Field Services Division (Jason Gutting/Lindsey Renner).

Finding Number 3

Finding Title: Enhancements needed to training requirements.

Is this an IT-related finding: No.

Department Response

Management Views:

MDOT agrees with the recommendation.

Planned Corrective Action (Management Response):

MDOT agrees with the recommendation. MDOT has begun outreach with FHWA regarding training requirements and will incorporate statewide follow-up and coordination in this review. This will be followed by the development of training materials and courses, which will involve a request-for-proposal and vendor selection. Upon completion, MDOT will partner with FHWA to finalize the review and update of its training policies and procedures with implementation by March 2027.

Anticipated Compliance Date:

March 31, 2027.

Responsible Individual(s):

Bureau of Field Services/Construction Field Services Division (Jason Gutting/Lindsey Renner).

Finding Number 4

Finding Title: Oversight of compliance with operational guidelines needs improvement.

Is this an IT-related finding: No.

Department Response

Management Views:

MDOT agrees with the recommendation.

Planned Corrective Action (Management Response):

MDOT agrees with the recommendation. MDOT will partner with FHWA to review and update its procedures and operational guidelines with implementation by January 2026.

Anticipated Compliance Date:

January 30, 2026.

Responsible Individual(s):

Bureau of Field Services/Construction Field Services Division (Jason Gutting/Lindsey Renner).