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Office of the Auditor General

Report Summary

Performance Audit

Structure Program Division (SPD)

Bureau of Bridges and Structures Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Report Number:
591-0300-25

Released:
March 2026

SPD is responsible for the maintenance of movable bridges; management and administration of the overall Statewide capital budgets for MDOT bridges; deployment and operation of specialized bridge inspection equipment; deployment of emergency and priority structural response resources; support services for region bridge maintenance crews; fabrication, installation, and upgrade of structural freeway signs and priority sign replacements; and administration of the Bridge Load Rating Unit (BLRU) and the Ancillary Structures Unit (ASU). As of June 30, 2025, Michigan had 11,308 bridges, including approximately 4,500 owned by the State and 6,800 owned by local units of governments and other entities.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 1: To assess the sufficiency of SPD's efforts to preserve and maintain State-owned bridges and structures.			Sufficient, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
SPD did not establish written maintenance schedules or ensure maintenance staff documented details of completed maintenance for MDOT's 12 movable bridges (Finding 1).		X	Agrees
SPD did not document its inventory of signs and materials to ensure it identified missing or misplaced items, excessive sign stock, and signs and materials in need of replenishment (Finding 2).		X	Agrees
Observations Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MDOT calculates needing approximately \$400 million per fiscal year in additional funding to avoid the potential closure of 1,212 bridges by 2045 (Observation 1).	Not applicable for observations.		

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 2: To assess the effectiveness of selected security and access controls over the ArcGIS Enterprise Portal and Michigan Bridge Management and Inspection System.			Moderately effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MDOT lacked effective processes for removing access when user accounts were inactive or employees left State employment, ensuring users did not have conflicting user roles, and annually recertifying the appropriateness of users' roles and permissions (<u>Finding 3</u>).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 3: To assess the effectiveness of SPD's BLRU.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.	Not applicable.		

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 4: To assess the effectiveness of SPD's ASU.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.	Not applicable.		

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