



County Engineers' Workshop: Improving Project Delivery



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Director of Engineering

Outline



MITA
Overview



Successful Contracting
Practices



New State Funding
&
Industry Readiness



Questions?

MITA History

Associated Underground
Contractors (AUC)
Founded in 1946

Michigan Road Builder's
Association (MRBA)
Founded in 1928



Michigan Infrastructure &
Transportation Association
Founded in 2005



Construction of US-2 - (1928)

Photo courtesy of Bacco Construction



Construction of I-96 - (1962)

Source: [Wikipedia Making Michigan Move](#)



I-94 Calhoun County - (2022-2024)

Photo courtesy of Anlaan Corporation

MITA People

500+ members in the construction industry

- Road & Bridge
- Sewer & Water
- Utility
- Railroad
- Excavation
- Specialty Construction



-Prime contractors
-Subcontractors
-Trucking
-Equipment
-Suppliers
-Fabricators



Hugo A. Gallegos of GM & Sons, Inc. & his family at MITA's annual summer conference



G2 consultants, associate members at MITA's annual conference

-Engineering
-Law
-Insurance
-Many other industry professional firms and companies

MITA Vision



MITA & its members, through a unified voice, seek safe, reliable infrastructure and transportation systems through stable, sustainable funding methods. This is accomplished by educating the public and elected officials, creating career opportunities within the industry, and ultimately improving the lives of all Michigan citizens through public safety.

Work zone safety

Worker health & safety

Workforce development



MDOT Photography Unit



MDOT Photography Unit



Thousands attending the road rally in Lansing on September 3, 2025



Work Zone Awareness Week press event in memoriam cones honoring fallen road workers



MITA Connections

MITA is the Michigan state chapter of ARTBA

Every MITA member is an ARTBA member

National advocate and voice of industry

- IIJA
- HTF distributions
- NHPP formulas

Economic and market tracking for construction industry nationally



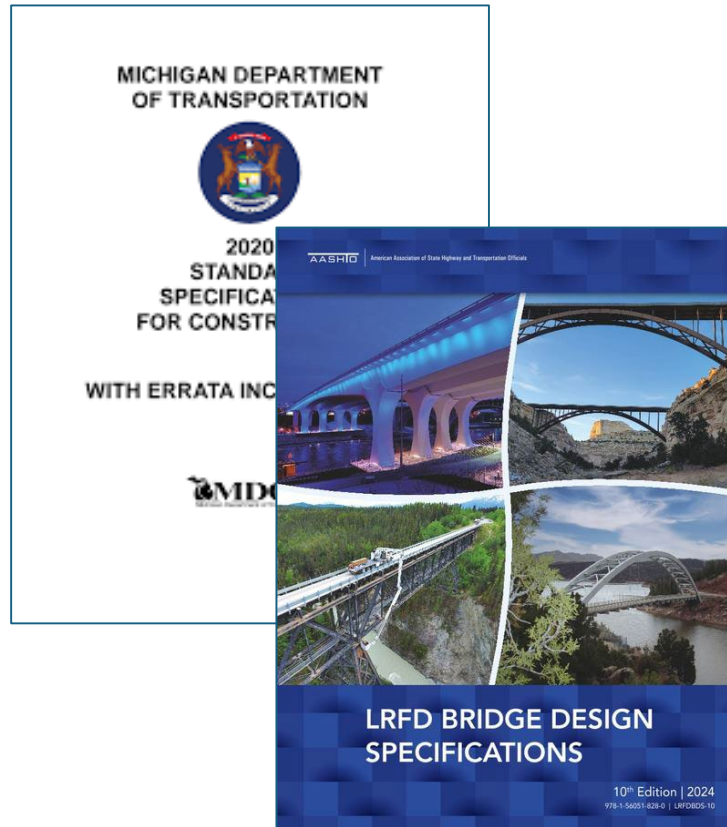
Improving Project Delivery

Successful Contracting Practices

Proper Project Planning



Using Trusted Standards & Specifications



Collaborating & Communicating



Gina Red-Craig (2024 MDOT Partnership award recipient)

Unsuccessful Contracting Practices

Charlie
Munger's
mental
model of
inversion



Chaos Planning



Reinventing the Wheel



Silence & Solitude



Unsuccessful Contracting Practice

Chaos
Planning



- *Don't* conduct proper project site testing and *don't* include the data in bid documents.
- *Ignore* permit cost and timeline needs
- Include *vague or incomplete* information about your expectations for acceptable outcomes or processes.
- Anticipate your project to rely heavily on contract modifications.
- Make significant post award adjustments to scope and work.



Successful Contracting Practice

Proper Project Planning



- Conduct proper project site testing and include the data in bid documents.
- *Anticipate* permit cost and timeline needs
- Include *calibrated and specific* information about your expectations for acceptable outcomes or processes.
- Plan your project to *avoid* relying heavily on contract modifications.
- Plan to *avoid* making significant post award adjustments to scope and work.



Unsuccessful Contracting Practice

Reinventing
the Wheel



- Create a *new and unique* specification from scratch for a common pay item.
- Create a specification that deviates from manufacturer's recommendations and standard industry practice.
- Specify and *constrain* to singular methods or items, when other methods or items can readily and safely be used.



Successful Contracting Practice

Using Trusted Standards
& Specifications



- Use trusted *existing* standards and specifications for pay items where you can.
- Create specifications that leverage manufacturer's recommendations and standard industry practice.
- Specify in a *well-calibrated* manner and don't unnecessarily eliminate methods or items that can readily and safely be used.



Unsuccessful Contracting Practice

Silence &
Solitude



- Have candid side chats *only* with your engineering consultant friends.
- Change contract provisions project to project *without* pointing them out.
- Rely on contract enforcement and legal actions to bring clarity.
- View contractors and building partners as the *opposition or lesser party*.



Successful Contracting Practice

Collaborating &
Communicating



- Have candid side chats with your contractors and building partners.
- Change contract provisions *infrequently* and point them out during bidding.
- Rely on active discussions and sufficient back and forth to bring clarity.
- View contractors and building partners as *genuine partners* who want your project to succeed.



Successful Contracting Practices

“We’re all in this together!”

If **one of us** fails, the public loses trust and faith in **all of us**.



Michigan Funding

2025 Transportation Funding Package

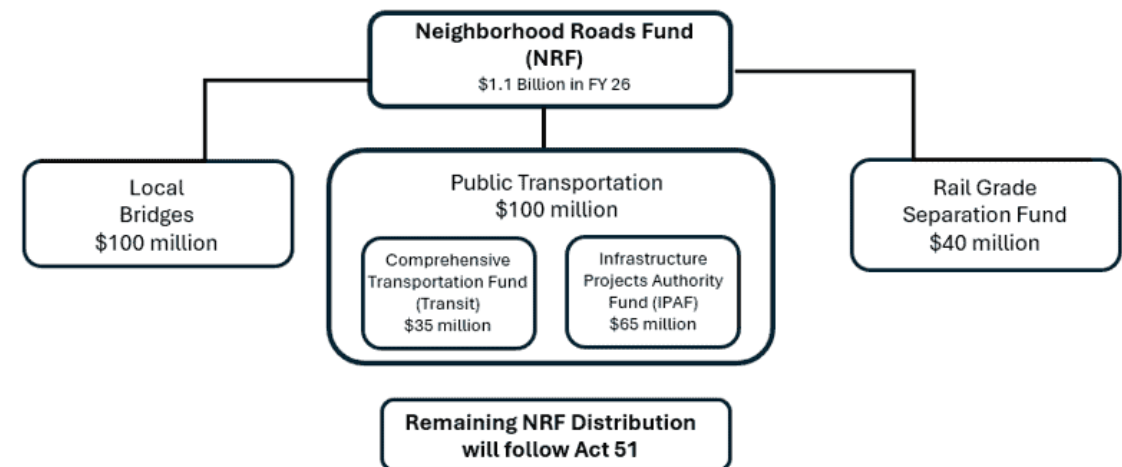
- Tax swaps: **Sales tax** -6% → **Gas tax** +20¢/gallon
- Marijuana wholesale tax **+\$420M**
- Corporate income tax **+\$700M**

Neighborhood Road Fund

Michigan Transportation Fund

Individual Income tax

BILL	SOURCE	FUND	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
HB 4183	20-cent Gas Tax Increase	Michigan Transportation Fund	\$1,059.5 million	\$1,059.5 million	\$1,059.5 million	\$1,059.5 million	\$1,059.5 million
HB 4961	Individual Income Tax earmark	Michigan Transportation Fund	(\$600 million)	(\$600 million)	(\$600 million)	(\$600 million)	(\$600 million)
HB 4961	Corporate Income Tax earmark	Neighborhood Roads Fund	\$688 million	\$776 million	\$864 million	\$952 million	\$1,040 million
HB 4951	24% Wholesale Marijuana Tax	Neighborhood Roads Fund	\$417 million	\$419.5 million	\$419.5 million	\$419.5 million	\$419.5 million
TOTAL			\$1,564.5 million	\$1,655 million	\$1,743 million	\$1,831 million	\$1,919 million



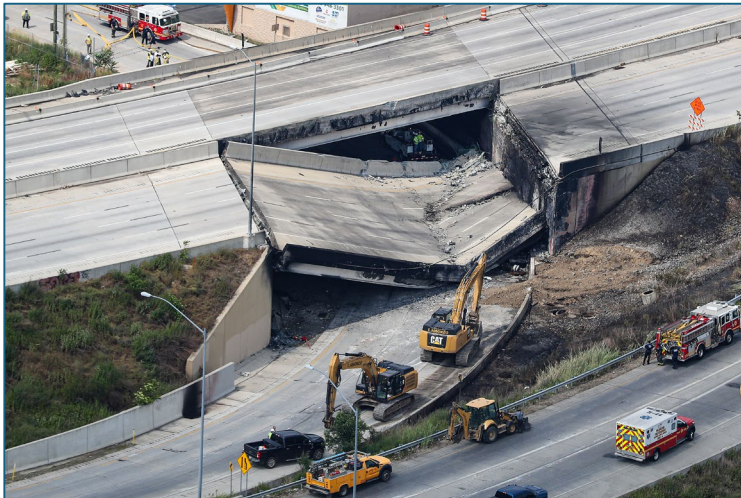
Michigan's Contracting Industry

Industry is Ready!

Follow the principles mentioned
today and we can do this!

I-95 in Philadelphia, PA

June 11, 2023



Tanker fire causes highway collapse

June 23, 2023



Traffic reopens over temporary fix

May 24, 2024



All lanes and ramps reopen



Free to all contractors to view
posted projects.

Discipline-specific members get
direct alerts.

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discuss.

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Hot Link Functionality

Access to Number of
Views



Questions?

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